

# FROME TOWN COUNCIL

## *making Frome a better place*

Minutes of the meeting of Frome Town Council

Wednesday 16 December 2015 at 7pm  
Rook Lane Chapel, Bath Street, Frome, BA11 1DN

Present:

Councillors: Richard Ackroyd, Alison Barclay, Kate Bielby, Colin Cobb, Gary Collinson, Toby Eliot, Pippa Goldfinger, Tricia Golinski, Sheila Gore, Tim O'Connor, Al O'Kane, Peter Macfadyen, Mel Usher, Nick White, Heather Wride

In attendance:

District Cllr Eve Berry, Bob Ashford (Fair Frome), Caroline Wood (Frome Standard)  
Paul Wynne (Town Clerk), Peter Wheelhouse (Economic Development & Regeneration Manager), Kate Hellard (Community Projects Officer), Laura Poulton (Administration Officer)

14 members of the public

Minute Ref	Agenda Item	Action
2015/115/FC	<p>The meeting started at 7.00pm Al O'Kane arrived at 7.05pm</p> <p><b>1a. Apologies for absence</b> Apologies were received from Jean Boulton</p> <p><b>1b. Declaration of members' interests</b> Peter Macfadyen declared a pecuniary interest in item 8 and Ali Barclay declared a personal interest in item 13.</p> <p><b>1c. Minutes from the last meeting on 25 November 2015</b> The minutes of the Frome Town Council meeting held on 25 November 2015 were approved as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.</p> <p>Proposed Gary Collinson, seconded Colin Cobb, agreed unanimously.</p>	
2015/116/FC	<p><b>2. Questions and comments from the public</b></p> <p>Sue Hughes asked if the posters in the bus shelters in Market Place could be removed as there was an excessive amount. Paul Wynne said he would instruct the Environment Team to remove them. She also enquired about the progress of replacing the tree which was planted to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Paul Wynne confirmed Chris Stringer was in the process of looking into a suitable replacement.</p> <p>Gill Fone asked if anything could be done about the congestion on Stony Street at the Independent Market. Kate Bielby noted that she had recently</p>	<p>CS</p> <p>CS</p>

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	<p>met with the organisers who confirmed they were continuously reviewing placements of stalls.</p>	
<p>2015/117/FC</p>	<p><b>3. Questions and comments from Cllrs</b></p> <p>Peter Macfadyen gave an update following his meeting with Harvey Siggs, Leader of MDC, who agreed to explore the clean streets performance of the Landscape Group. Harvey also advised FTC to withdraw its planning application for the improvements to Market Place. (More information on this is at item 11 in these minutes).</p> <p>Paul Wynne updated Cllrs on the outstanding actions from the last meeting. He noted Chris Stringer had heard back from MDC with regard to the ponding on Button Bridge and was told there were no funds to make any improvements to the current surface. However he noted the Rangers would work with The Landscape Group to keep the bridge as clear as possible. Chris had also heard from Network Rail with a costing for resolving the problem of pigeons on Rodden Bridge. A more detailed breakdown of costs had been requested before FTC committed a contribution. Finally Paul Wynne confirmed Peter Wheelhouse plans to provide an update of FTC's work on Economic Development at the January meeting.</p> <p>Rich Ackroyd noted that the Keep Frome Clean Panel would be holding its final meeting on 6 January to agree its recommendations to Council at the January meeting. Rich also reported that MDC had agreed to transfer the open spaces at Packsaddle and Chapmans Close to FTC on a 99 year lease at a peppercorn rent. However, a decision on Tower View had been delayed until a meeting in February. Rich thanked all those who were involved with the requests.</p> <p>Pippa Goldfinger noted that new architects had been appointed for the development at Southfield Farm and she and Jane Llewellyn were hoping to work with them closely to solve some of the problems of the previous proposal.</p> <p>Mel Usher explained that Frontier Estates had withdrew their application for development at Saxonvale hours before it was due to be considered at the MDC planning board meeting. He thanked all those involved with making Frome's opinion heard, particularly Katy Duke for her work. He noted that a meeting between three tiers of local government had been arranged for January to discuss next steps.</p> <p>Paul Wynne gave an update on behalf of Damon Hooton who noted that Adam Boyden's and Claire Hudson's request for MDC to publicly congratulate Frome and FTC on the recent awards. MDC approved the motion by a large majority. In addition the Scrutiny Board at MDC had begun a working group to investigate primary care provision within Mendip.</p>	

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2015/118/FC	<p><b>4. Short presentation on Fair Frome from Bob Ashford</b></p> <p>Bob thanked FTC for their continued financial and practical support. Bob noted some of their main projects from the past year. He explained that Fair Frome's next focus was to organise a furniture bank and they planned to work with Critchill School to provide training and employment opportunities for students to repair and restore furniture. He noted Fair Frome currently had thirty volunteers and were looking to increase this number and bring in people with particular skills. Bob explained that Fair Frome continues to campaign and raise awareness of issues surrounding poverty. Finally he noted that they were continuously looking at funding to continue their current successes but that a grant from FTC was essential.</p> <p>Mel Usher thanked all the volunteers and staff member Wendy for their continued hard work.</p> <p>Pippa Goldfinger asked to speak with Bob about affordable housing needs and how this overlaps with her work on planning applications in the town.</p>	PG
2015/119/FC	<p><b>5. Verbal update from Richard Ackroyd on the results of the Stonebridge Traffic Survey</b></p> <p>Richard noted that ward Cllrs from all three tiers of Government were meeting with a County Highways engineer to discuss the findings of the survey.</p>	
2015/120/FC	<p><b>6. For decision: To approve the FTC corporate strategy for the period 2016 – 2020</b></p> <p>Toby Eliot introduced the strategy. He noted that they started with a vision which lead them to core themes which were split into; social, economic and environmental sustainability. He explained that their ways of working would be to be bold, engage, enable, campaign, lobby, lead and practice what we preach.</p> <p>Peter Macfadyen thanked all those that were engaged with the development of the strategy. He asked that the document be designed before it is released to the public. Mel Usher noted how interesting it was to read such an optimistic document at this time and asked it be circulated amongst District and County Cllrs.</p> <p>Proposed Richard Ackroyd, seconded Toby Eliot, agreed unanimously.</p>	PWy PWy
2015/121/FC	<p><b>7. For information: Preface to the following discussion on panel recommendations</b></p> <p>Paul Wynne advised that Cllrs consider the recommendations in principle and decide what ones to progress and when at the next meeting of the Council when the Action Plan and budget for 2016/17 would be discussed. This would</p>	

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	allow the panels' recommendation to be viewed in the context of all other demands on resources.	
2015/122/FC	<p><b>8. For decision: Recommendations from the Wellbeing Panel</b></p> <p>Ali Barclay summarised the proposals that the Wellbeing Panel put forward for recommendation.</p> <p>Tim O'Connor asked to ensure that the Trinity area was considered within the wellbeing panel's work.</p> <p>The recommendations were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To commission a baseline study</li> <li>2. To coordinate and deliver a series of street level events</li> <li>3. To increase access to information for residents at a street level</li> <li>4. To create a central information base</li> <li>5. To create a volunteer base to support, coordinate, train and signpost volunteers.</li> <li>6. To continue the Wellbeing Panel</li> </ol> <p>Proposed Pippa Goldfinger, seconded Tim O'Connor, agreed unanimously.</p>	<p>KH</p> <p>KH</p> <p>KH</p> <p>KH</p> <p>KH</p> <p>KH</p>
2015/123/FC	<p><b>. For decision: Recommendations from the Sport and Leisure Panel</b></p> <p>Gary Collinson summarised the proposals the sport and leisure panel put forward for recommendation.</p> <p>Tricia Golinski noted she was pleased to see cycle paths had been included and asked that paths to places such as Commerce Park also be considered. Pippa Goldfinger thanked Gary for his work so far and asked to meet to discuss the s106 agreement to ensure the outdoor exercise equipment could be installed.</p> <p>The recommendations were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. FTC to take a lead role in improving sports facilities in the town</li> <li>2. Increase participation of adults in sport and leisure activity</li> <li>3. Increase the number of young people, particularly girls in sport and leisure activity</li> <li>4. To increase the number of volunteers involved</li> <li>5. Resurface the two, currently unused, courts at Frome College</li> <li>6. FTC to explore the viability of purchasing the land behind the Vallis Road Youth and Community Centre from Somerset County Council</li> <li>7. To create a network of cycle paths across the town. Recommended for the Old Showfield and The dippy in year 1.</li> <li>8. Installation of outdoor exercise and fitness equipment which is accessible at any time of day</li> <li>9. FTC to work with Fusion Lifestyle to increase access to facilities and community sports provision</li> </ol>	<p>PG/GC</p> <p>KH</p> <p>KH</p> <p>KH</p> <p>KH</p> <p>KH</p> <p>KH</p> <p>KH</p> <p>KH</p> <p>KH</p>

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	<p>10. FTC to support and endorse the proposal of the creation of a full size football pitch at the Rugby Club</p> <p>11. Lease of land and creation of Frome Sports Trust at Frome Golf Club</p> <p>12. FTC to look at ways of improving sport and leisure opportunities along the river corridor, including improved access to the river</p> <p>13. To improve the provision of information about sports and leisure activity in Frome</p> <p>Proposed Pippa Goldfinger, seconded Richard Ackroyd, agreed unanimously.</p>	<p>KH</p> <p>KH</p> <p>KH</p> <p>KH</p>
<p>2015/124/FC</p>	<p><b>10. For decision: Recommendations from the Town Centre Panel</b></p> <p>Mel Usher noted that over the past few years retail habits had changed. Out of town retail parks and hypermarkets were not as popular as before and more people are shopping on line and in smaller supermarkets in towns. He explained that people needed a reason to come into the town centre and we needed to use more pop up shops and different events that appealed to the majority and niche groups.</p> <p>Peter Wheelhouse noted that there was a change to recommendation number three as they had been informed that the High Street Digital Hub was no longer a viable option. Instead they proposed to share experience of e-commerce through the 'Discuss and Do' programme.</p> <p>The recommendations were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Commission a specialist report setting out guidelines on future street furniture, signage, soft and hard landscaping, lighting and their maintenance in the town centre and to include a sum of £15k for consideration in the 2016/17 budget for the completion of this report. Implementation to be funded using the existing Earmarked Reserve for Market Place Improvements.</li> <li>2. As part of raising awareness of facilities in the town and improving signage, secure the delivery of new town maps and signage and the removal of ambiguous or obsolete signage</li> <li>3. Share experience around use of e-commerce through 'Discuss &amp; Do' programme</li> <li>4. To reconfirm the Council's commitment to phases 1 and 2 of Market Place improvements to improve footfall and the quality of the environment for pedestrians.</li> <li>5. To promote a strategic review of parking provision in the town including location, number, management and pricing</li> <li>6. Develop an events programme that supports individuals who wish to put on events and that appeals to different sections of the community and set aside a budget of £25k for this purpose.</li> <li>7. Coordinate and promote the town as a visitor destination, location for business and a place to live and work and set aside a budget of £30k for this purpose.</li> </ol>	<p>PWh</p> <p>PWh</p> <p>PWh</p> <p>PWh</p> <p>PWh</p> <p>PWh</p>

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	<p>8. Investigate the provision of new employment space and residential accommodation utilising vacant space above shops</p> <p>9. Develop masterplans for key parts of the town centre including the Market Yard to deliver economic, social and environmental objectives. Meet with MDC to develop joint objectives linking the visions of the Mendip Local Plan, Mendip Economic Development Strategy and Frome Neighbourhood Plan. Set aside a budget of £10k for the Market Yard masterplan work.</p> <p>10. That the relevant recommendation referring to the Town Centre arising from the Keep Frome Clean Panel be adopted for 2016/17</p> <p>11. That the Council continues to play a leading role in the development of the Saxonvale site in an appropriate manner, it continues to commission the right level of skills to fulfil that role and suitable funding be included in the 2016/17 budget. The Panel strongly recommends that all public sector bodies involved in regeneration in the town, including the District and County Councils and potentially the Homes and Communities Agency treat this issue as urgent and of the highest priority.</p> <p>Proposed Richard Ackroyd, seconded Pippa Goldfinger, agreed unanimously.</p>	<p>PWh</p> <p>PWh</p> <p>PWh</p>
2015/125/FC	<p><b>11. For information: Update on current projects</b>          Cllrs noted the report.</p>	
2015/126/FC	<p><b>12. For decision: Market Place remodelling</b>          Peter Wheelhouse explained that at the time FTC had only received one decision notice out of the three they were expecting. He noted that he had received specialist advice which indicated FTC had a very good chance of success.</p> <p>Pippa Goldfinger asked what the likely timescale was for appeal. Peter noted this would be around six months.</p> <p>Nick White asked what the risks would be to FTC by appealing. Peter explained that the cost would be in region of £5k which would be covered by the Town Centre ear marked reserve and, as FTC stood a good chance of success, MDC would probably have to pay FTC's costs.</p> <p>Tim O'Connor asked if the highways works could begin as soon as approval is given. Peter noted that they had very positive responses from Highways Officers with regard to the proposals. However, the lengthy process of permission indicated that work would probably not begin until 2017.</p> <p>The recommendations were:</p> <p>1. Re-confirm their commitment to the Market Place Remodelling Project and authorise discussions with the County Council with a view to</p>	



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	Frome College	Counselling - supervision costs	£560	£560	
	<b>Total</b>			<b>£36,216</b>	
	Proposed Toby Eliot, seconded Peter Macfadyen, unanimously.				
2015/128/FC	<p><b>14. For decision: To approve FTC's response to the draft Local Plan part II</b></p> <p>Peter Wheelhouse explained that the key issues that were identified were a lack of employment land, a lack of a master plan for the Keyford area and a need for open spaces to be protected.</p> <p>Pippa Goldfinger thanked Jane Llewellyn for her hard work and diligence for collating the responses of FTC.</p> <p>Proposed Pippa Goldfinger, seconded Ali Barclay, agreed unanimously.</p>				
2015/129/FC	<b>15. The next meeting will be 20 January at 7pm at Frome Medical Practice</b>				

The meeting closed at 8.55pm.