

# FROME TOWN COUNCIL

*making Frome a better place*

Minutes of a meeting of Frome Town Council

Wednesday 25 January 2017 at 7pm  
Rook Lane Chapel, Bath Street, Frome BA11 1DN

Present:

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

In attendance:

Damian Lambert (Neighbourhood Beat Manager), Gary Maule (Police Community Support Officer), Victoria Ward (Neighbourhood Beat Manager), Sam Blanchard (Frome Times), Paul Wynne (Town Clerk), Peter Wheelhouse (Economic Development and Regeneration Manager), Jackie Wheeler (Responsible Finance Officer), Meg Mosley (Marketing and Communications Manager), Sean Powell (Town Hall Steward), Kate Hellard (Community Projects Officer), Laura Poulton (Democratic Services Administrator)

10 members of the public

Minute Ref	Agenda Item	Action
2017/01/FC	<p>The meeting started at 7.03pm</p> <p><b>1a. Apologies for absence</b> Received from Ali Barclay. Kate Bielby would attend later.</p> <p><b>1b. Declaration of members' interests</b> None was declared</p> <p><b>1c. Minutes from the last meeting on 7 December 2016</b> The minutes of the Frome Town Council meeting held on 7 December 2016 were approved as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.</p> <p>Proposed by Gary Collinson, seconded by Colin Cobb, agreed by majority.</p>	
2017/02/FC	<p><b>2. Questions and comments from the public and Cllrs</b> Gill Fone enquired about the status of the redevelopment of the open space at Foundary Barton. Gill was asked to speak with Chris Stringer for an update.</p> <p>Margaret Merrill noted the chain and no stopping sign in the entrance to the Mary Baily Playing Field on Somerset Road was missing. Paul Wynne said he would arrange to have it replaced. Matt Sims stated that there were increasing issues with parking on</p>	<b>CS</b>

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	<p>Somerset Road. Pippa Goldfinger encouraged Matt to visit Somerset County Councils website and use their report function.</p> <p>Shane Collins noted that it was unlikely the surgery at Locks Hill would reopen, however, a public meeting was being arranged. Shane gave details of Somerset Green Party's scheme to encourage customers of EDF to leave based on their investment in nuclear energy.</p> <p>Al O'Kane introduced Gary Maule, Police Community Support Officer to speak about the impact of possible closure of Routes Café. Gary explained that if Routes Café closed there would be a likely increase in homelessness, theft, drug dependency and more. He urged people to donate and to spread the word. Kate Hellard explained that she was in talks with all the relevant organisations about Routes Café and a presentation would be given at the Town Matters meeting in February.</p>	
<p><b>2017/03/FC</b></p>	<p><b>3. For information: Town Hall update</b> Cath Puddick arrived at 7.18pm and Kate Bielby arrived at 7.23pm</p> <p>Meg Mosely gave an overview of the work her and her team had been doing in order to get the Town Hall ready for opening in April 2017. Meg encouraged anyone to get in touch with her with their ideas for a launch event on April 1<sup>st</sup>.</p> <p>Mel Usher noted that Frome Town Hall was the 'Town's Hall', and will be a way for the town to take a role in its own destiny and feel pride for the town.</p> <p>Nick White asked if Meg would apply for a wedding licence? Meg said that she would be applying for the marriage and alcohol licence and expected that weddings and similar functions were likely to be an important income stream in future. She added that doing more at this stage was not possible given that publicity materials needed to include images of how the Chamber would look and at the moment the building refurbishment hadn't finished.</p>	<p><b>MM</b></p>
<p><b>2017/04/FC</b></p>	<p><b>4. For decision: Budget and precept demand for 2017/18</b> Jackie Wheeler provided a summary of the report and explained the recommendations.</p> <p>Pippa Goldfinger asked about the funds for play equipment at Tower View and Packsaddle. Jackie noted that these remained allocated to these open spaces and were part of Participatory Budgeting budget.</p>	

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	<p>Shane Collins asked if FTC had considered taking on responsibility for all street cleaning in the town and not using a contractor. Tim O'Connor explained that the option had been considered however it was more cost effective to use a contractor.</p> <p>The recommendations were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Note the report above including the proposed amounts in the General Reserve and the Earmarked Reserve</li> <li>2. Approve the budget to deliver the work programme for 2017/18</li> <li>3. Approve the precept amount of £1,193,268</li> </ol> <p>Proposed by Peter Macfadyen, seconded by Pippa Goldfinger, agreed unanimously.</p> <p>Mel Usher thanked Jackie Wheeler and her team for their continued hard work.</p>	
	<p><b>5. For decision: Town Hall Income and sale of Palmer Street office</b></p> <p>Jackie Wheeler gave a breakdown of the individual tariffs for hiring rooms in the Town Hall.</p> <p>Colin Cobb asked Jackie to speak with the Steiner School to see if they would be willing for FTC to use their car park in the evenings.</p> <p>Tricia Golinski asked when the electric car charge point would be available. Paul Wynne noted that Cara Naden was currently working on it now and it would be installed shortly after FTC move in.</p> <p>Mel Usher asked that the tariffs for room hire to be reviewed after six months.</p> <p>Colin Cobb explained that there were opportunities to use the Council Chamber for added value on a commercial basis, for example charging more for the use of the AV equipment.</p> <p>The recommendations were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Approve the proposed tariffs for renting Town Hall space</li> <li>2. Write off the Town Hall 2016/17 (Jan to March) budgeted income of £23,655</li> <li>3. Agree to the balance of the proceeds of the Palmer Street office sale be lodged in General Reserves</li> </ol>	<p><b>JW</b></p> <p><b>CN</b></p> <p><b>JW</b></p> <p><b>JW</b></p> <p><b>JW</b></p> <p><b>JW</b></p>

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	Proposed by Colin Cobb, seconded by Al O’Kane, agreed unanimously.	
<b>2017/05/FC</b>	<p><b>6. For decision: Calendar of meetings 2017/18</b> Cllrs agreed to include an additional Town Matters meeting on 2 August and move the Council Matters meeting from the end of August to the beginning of September.</p> <p>The recommendation was to approve the calendar of meetings as amended for 2017/18</p> <p>Proposed Tim O’Connor, seconded by Kate Bielby, agreed unanimously.</p>	<b>LP</b>
	Because the following item discussed staff matters the public and press were asked to leave.	
<b>2017/06/FC</b>	<p><b>7. For decision: Staff matters</b> Cllrs considered the recommendations from the Town Clerk regarding minor staff changes and ways of working. These were agreed unanimously.</p>	<b>PWy</b>

The Chair closed the meeting at 8.21pm