

FROME TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Town Matters Committee meeting

Wednesday 10 May 2017 at 7pm

Frome Town Hall, Christchurch Street West, Frome BA11 1EB

Present:

Councillors: Richard Ackroyd, Ali Barclay, Jean Boulton, Colin Cobb, Toby Eliot, Peter Macfadyen (chair), Al O’Kane, Cath Puddick, Mel Usher, Heather Wride

In attendance:

Cllr John Clarke (Somerset County Council), Paul Wynne (Town Clerk), Peter Wheelhouse (Economic Development and Regeneration Manager & Deputy Town Clerk), Kate Hellard (Community Projects Officer), Laura Flaherty (Democratic Services)

4 members of the public attended

Minute Ref	Agenda Item	Action
2017/11/TM	<p>1. A short presentation from Fair Housing for Frome Ali Barclay explained that Fair Housing for Frome had been started by Edventure. The aim of the organization is to see what the people of Frome can do to help with the housing crisis in Frome.</p> <p>Ali explained that people were having to leave Frome due to the price hikes. She noted that at their launch event 60 people attended. They discussed practical ways they could help such as creating a list of ethical landlords. The Fair Housing for Frome campaign had been funded by Participatory Budgeting.</p>	
2017/12/TM	<p>The meeting started at 7.07pm</p> <p>2a. Apologies for absence Received from Tricia Golinski</p> <p>2b. Declaration of members’ interests None was received</p> <p>2c. Minutes from the last meeting on 22 February 2017 The minutes of the Town Matters Committee meeting held on 22 February 2017 were approved as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.</p> <p>Richard Ackroyd noted that every household would be receiving the 267 bus timetable.</p> <p>Proposed by Toby Eliot, seconded by Cath Puddick, agreed unanimously.</p>	

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2017/13/TM	<p>3. Questions and comments from the public and Cllrs Bob Ashford, Chair of Fair Frome Trustees, informed Cllrs and the public of the Access for All event on 15 May. Its aim was to highlight access issues around Frome town centre and then recommend improvements.</p> <p>Cllr John Clarke, recently elected as Somerset County Cllrs for Frome East, noted his intention to work more closely with FTC to be better engaged with the community.</p> <p>Toby Eliot reminded everyone that there were tickets still available for the Mayor’s charity bash in aid of Active and In Touch on 19 May.</p>	
2017/14/TM	<p>4. For information: River Frome Nature Rights update Peter Macfadyen explained that there had not been much progress due to the key advisor, Satya, experiencing ill health of a family member. However, a new supporter of the project had been identified to take it forward. An update would be given at a future Town Matters meeting.</p>	
2017/15/TM	<p>5. For decision: The Housing White Paper and brownfield employment land Toby Eliot left at 8pm</p> <p>Peter Wheelhouse explained that the MDC Local Plan does not allocate any land for employment and so the intention is to ensure that employment land is identified as part of the process of developing Part 2 of the Plan. The Neighbourhood Plan highlighted valuable employment sites, which in theory now have more protection by being included in MDC’s Local Plan.</p> <p>As part of the Housing White Paper, the government directed local authorities to make a brownfield register. The register would identify brownfield land in Frome as well as elsewhere in the district and any sites included would get outline planning consent for residential development by default. The concern is that this process may target land that we have identified as valuable employment land through the Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <p>Cllrs and the public were asked ‘how do we best protect brownfield employment land?’</p> <p>Table 1 felt that FTC did not have the power to prevent national legislation. However, something could be done through lobbying and public pressure. Table 2 suggested negotiating with MDC to keep some employment land off the brownfield register. Exploring the possibility of community land trusts could also be used to protect the sites. Table 3 suggested looking at other sites around the town for</p>	

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	<p>employment development instead. We could waste a lot of time trying to protect small sites in and around the town centre and a new greenfield site similar to Commerce Park should be identified and supported. Finding ways of supporting people to work out of their homes was suggested too. Table 4 suggested that certain sites should not be included in the register and that identifying mixed use sites out of the town centre was worth exploring. Table 5 suggested exploring what SCC could do to influence the planning process and that incubator sites for small businesses should be explored in Frome.</p> <p>The second question was ‘If we cannot protect sites, how do we provide for future employment?’</p> <p>Table 1 suggested using FTC’s portion of land at Saxonvale to provide opportunities.</p> <p>Jean Boulton suggested that working with SCC was added to the recommendation.</p> <p>The recommendation was to delegate to the Planning & Development Manager to continue discussions with the MDC Policy Officer about whether any of the brownfield sites identified by MDC for inclusion on a new statutory brownfield register can be allocated through Part 2 of the Mendip Local Plan as employment land before the register is published and to discuss with SCC how they could work with FTC to bring forward land for employment purposes.</p> <p>Proposed by Colin Cobb, seconded by Jean Boulton, agreed unanimously.</p>	<p>JL</p>
<p>2017/16/TM</p>	<p>6. For decision: Frome Literacy in Action</p> <p>Kate Bielby explained that getting involved in literacy was not the traditional work of a parish council. However, 4,000 people struggle with literacy in Frome.</p> <p>Kate explained that the National Literacy Trust were commissioned to identify the challenges in Frome and help set some actions. Their advice was to raise the profile of reading, make it look fun and make it available.</p> <p>Kate noted that the Frome Literacy Action was in a unique position as strong networks to businesses and communities already existed through the work of FTC.</p> <p>Bob Ashford asked if the scheme would help those where English was a foreign language and settling in Frome. He said this was particularly problematic where the parents may struggle with literacy</p>	

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	<p>more than their children. Kate answered that it could be considered. She noted the group were also encouraging people to use the library to give them greater access to books.</p> <p>Mel Usher congratulated everyone who had been involved in the project.</p> <p>The recommendations were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Adopt the approach outlined in the report 2. Adopt the Actions outlined in the report 3. Continue to allocate staff and fundraising resources to continue to develop the work of Frome Literacy Action 4. Report back to the Committee at its meeting on 15 November <p>Proposed by Richard Ackroyd, seconded by Colin Cobb, agreed unanimously.</p>	KB/KH
2017/17/TM	<p>7. For decision: Fundraising Advisor contracts</p> <p>Jean Boulton asked if a clause stating the contract is reviewed within a year had been considered. Kate Hellard explained that there was a review period. Peter Macfadyen suggested adding this to the recommendation.</p> <p>Al O’Kane asked if there was a consultation during the recruitment of the advisor/s. Paul Wynne asked those Cllrs that would like to be involved to get in touch with Kate Hellard.</p> <p>Colin Cobb asked what the difference between internal/external fundraiser was. Kate explained that the external fundraiser would work with community organisations. The internal fundraiser would give advice to FTC on grants available for future projects. Kate noted they could be the same person.</p> <p>Sheila Gore asked how they would fit with the Participatory Budgeting and Crowdfunder initiatives. Kate explained they both allocated FTC budgets, whereas the fundraiser roles were tasked with leveraging money in from grant making bodies.</p> <p>The recommendation was to delegate authority to the Deputy Town Clerk, in consultation with Cllr Macfadyen, the recruitment of two contract fundraisers at £10k per contract per year for 30 months, while making sure there are suitable break clauses and review milestones.</p> <p>Proposed Ali Barclay, seconded Mel Usher, agreed unanimously.</p>	
2017/18/TM	<p>8. For information: Crowdfund Frome update</p> <p>Kate Hellard noted that the first five organisations that had started a Crowdfund campaign had reached their targets.</p>	

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	<p>Kate noted that as the Crowdfund website was open to all, one of the issues that arose was that some campaigns shouldn't be supported by FTC e.g. political campaigns and she was monitoring this. She explained that what had been learnt so far was that community organisations needed more help particularly with marketing and communication to ensure that their Crowdfunder campaigns were successful. She noted that the projects with smaller targets had been more successful.</p>	
<p>2017/19/TM</p>	<p>9. For information: Multi-year agreements Kate Hellard explained that the terms and conditions that apply to all agreements had been discussed and they were finalising contracts. There would be a review of progress at the committee meeting on 15 November.</p> <p>Ali Barclay asked how evidence of partnership working was being measured. Peter Wheelhouse explained that it was a qualitative measure. Organisations would be encouraged to work with other community organisations in the town.</p>	
<p>2017/20/TM</p>	<p>The next meeting will be at 7pm on Wednesday 14 June 2017 at Frome Town Hall</p>	

The Chair closed the meeting at 8.46pm