

FROME TOWN COUNCIL

making Frome a better place

Minutes of a meeting of Frome Town Council

Wednesday 13 July 2016 at 7pm
Frome Medical Practice, Enos Way, Frome BA11 2FH

Present:

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

In attendance:

Damon Hooton, Des Harris, Emma George (Glastonbury Town Council), Jon Cousins (Glastonbury Town Council), Wendy Miller Williams (Fair Frome), Paul Wynne (Town Clerk), Peter Wheelhouse (Economic Development and Regeneration Manager), Chris Stringer (Environment Manager), Kate Hellard (Community Projects Officer), Laura Poulton (Democratic Services Administrator)

11 members of the public

| Minute Ref | Agenda Item | Action |
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| 2016/77/FC | <p>The meeting started at 7.03pm</p> <p>1a. Apologies for absence Received from Ali Barclay, Jean Boulton, Tricia Golinski and Al O'Kane</p> <p>1b. Declaration of members' interests None was received.</p> <p>1c. Minutes from the last meeting on 25 May 2016 Chris Stringer confirmed that FTC would be working with the Frome Independent Market to help them with the logistics of the monthly markets such as signage.</p> <p>The minutes of the Frome Town Council meeting held on 25 May 2016 were approved as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.</p> <p>Proposed by Nick White, seconded by Peter Macfadyen, agreed unanimously.</p> | |
| 2016/78/FC | <p>2. Questions and comments from the public Gill Fone asked if something was to be done about the poor state of Cork Street car park. Mel Usher confirmed that from 27 July MDC would be resurfacing and repainting the white lines and railings.</p> | |

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| | <p>Margaret Merrill asked for an update on the repairs to the zip wire and slide at Mary Baily. Chris Stringer confirmed the broken slide part had been replaced the day before and the zip wire was on the list of works to be completed. Margaret also asked about who had made the repairs to potholes on the footpath between Somerset Road and Park Road as they had left trip hazards. Chris confirmed the Rangers would assess them the next day.</p> | CS |
| 2016/79/FC | <p>3. Questions and comments from Cllrs Cath Puddick arrived at 7.13pm</p> <p>Damon Hooton noted that there had been some administrative changes to Home Finder Somerset. Also MDC were continuing to provide a grant of £250k to the Better Care fund. He also confirmed that MDC had agreed to back plans for the South West's devolution bid.</p> <p>Des Harris noted that MDC had made a public statement against hate and asked if FTC would do the same. Paul Wynne asked Cllrs if they would agree to publicising this statement:</p> <p>"This Council deplores and condemns hate incidents and hate crimes. Such acts are totally unacceptable and undermine tolerance and diversity. I am proud of this Authority's record of treating individuals as unique and valuing their differences. I am proud that we treat people with respect. I am proud that we have a culture of acceptance and inclusion."</p> <p>Cllrs agreed for this to be publicised.</p> <p>Shane Collins noted that there were currently no new updates about fracking in the area. He also noted that he had found out that SCC had lost £872k by investing in six fossil fuel companies between February and October.</p> <p>Toby Eliot noted that he and he Deputy Mayor, Al O'Kane were running the Frome half marathon at the weekend in support of the Gateway Club.</p> | PWy |
| 2016/80/FC | <p>4. For discussion and decision: The opportunities presented by Crowdfunding Mel Usher introduced the concept of crowdfunding and how it has been a great tool for getting projects off the ground. In Frome Whatcombe Fields had been saved for the community by crowdfunding the money required to purchase them. Mel explained that Plymouth City Council, for example, had raised over</p> | |

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| | <p>£450k to support 111 different projects so far. He explained that he and Paul Wynne had met with the founder of Crowdfunder and they were keen to work with Frome as the first Town Council in the country. Mel and Paul had negotiated the admin fee down to £15k.</p> <p>The majority of Cllrs expressed their interest at pursuing further research. Tim O'Connor suggested speaking to Anthony Desuso who was an expert in crowdfunding.</p> <p>The recommendation was to explore further the concept of crowdfunding and, if it was still a good option, come back to Council with a proposal.</p> <p>Proposed by Mel Usher, seconded by Nick White, agreed unanimously.</p> | <p>PWy/MU</p> <p>PWy</p> |
| <p>2016/81/FC</p> | <p>5. For discussion and decision - The use of glyphosate herbicides & pesticides</p> <p>Chris Stringer explained that there had been mounting concerns around the effects of the use of the herbicide, glyphosate. He noted that FTC had not used glyphosate in a couple of years however it was used by both MDC and SCC. Shane Collins gave some background on glyphosate and the current scientific research that showed a correlation between the increased use of glyphosate and the increased cases of significant health problems and diseases.</p> <p>Cllrs and members of the public were asked to discuss whether weeds in Frome were a problem. Three groups felt they were and two felt they were not.</p> <p>Emma George, a Glastonbury Town Cllr, talked about their experience and process after they banned the use of glyphosate in June 2015. She explained that GTC compared all viable alternatives to tackling weeds and did a cost analysis. They discovered that the use of hot foam was the most effective in killing the weeds and for time and cost. She explained that they had negotiated with The Landscape Group for them to use the 80 labour hours they calculated they used to tackle weeds in the past to hand weed where the foam had not reached.</p> <p>The groups were then asked what the advantages and disadvantage of the alternatives (hand weeding, burning, hot foam, electrocution, salt solutions). Three groups felt hot foam would be the best although one group was concerned about the use of palm oil. One table preferred hand weeding and burning as they were</p> | |

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| | <p>concerned about the other options getting into the water course. The final group felt all of them were options and possibly in combination with each other. It was also suggested that hand weeding could be done by local champions and neighbourhood teams.</p> <p>The recommendations were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Until further notice, an immediate ban on the use of glyphosate by Frome Town Council 2. For FTC to discuss a town-wide ban of glyphosate in all of the town's public spaces with Mendip District Council & Somerset County Council, the Allotment Association and the neighbouring Parish Councils <p>Proposed Cath Puddick, seconded Richard Ackroyd, agreed unanimously.</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">CS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CS</p> |
| <p>2016/82/FC</p> | <p>6. For decision: Temporary uses of Garsdale site</p> <p>The recommendations were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A planning application is submitted to enable the siting of 6 storage containers and a green skip at FTC's Garsdale site for a period of up to 3 years 2. The EDRM be authorised to conclude a tenancy at will with Fair Frome once planning consent has been secured 3. Fair Frome's tenancy is subject to a peppercorn rent <p>Proposed by Gary Collinson, seconded by Peter Macfadyen, agreed unanimously.</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">JL</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PWh</p> |
| <p>2016/83/FC</p> | <p>7. For decision – Amendments to the Constitution</p> <p>The recommendation was to approve the updated version of each Constitution chapter.</p> <p>Proposed Toby Eliot, seconded by Sheila Gore, agreed unanimously.</p> | |
| <p>2016/84/FC</p> | <p>The next meeting will be at 7pm on Wednesday 21 September 2016 at Rook Lane Chapel</p> | |

The Chair closed the meeting at 8.28pm