

FROME TOWN COUNCIL

making Frome a better place

Minutes of a meeting of Frome Town Council

Wednesday 21 September 2016 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, Peter Macfadyen, Tim O'Connor, Al O'Kane, Mel Usher, Nick White

In attendance:

Steve Macarthur (Cheese & Grain), Linda Oliver (SCC Cllr), Shane Collins (MDC Cllr) Des Harris (MDC Cllr), Damon Hooton (MDC Cllr), Adam Boyden (MDC Cllr), James Wood (Frome Standard), Sam Blanchard (Frome Times), Tracey Harding (FAVBUG), Bob Ashford (Fair Frome), Paul Wynne (Town Clerk), Anna Francis (Resilience Officer), Laura Poulton (Democratic Services Administrator), Charlie Orr (Projects Administrator)

Approx. 40 members of the public

Minute Ref	Agenda Item	Action
2016/85/FC	<p>The meeting started at 7.02pm</p> <p>1a. Apologies for absence Received from Ali Barclay, Sheila Gore, Cath Puddick and Heather Wride.</p> <p>1b. Declaration of members' interests Pippa Goldfinger declared a personal interest in item 7.</p> <p>1c. Minutes from the last meeting on 13 July 2016 The minutes of the Frome Town Council meeting held on 13 July 2016 were approved as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.</p> <p>Proposed by Richard Ackroyd, seconded by Nick White, agreed unanimously.</p>	
2016/86/FC	<p>2. Questions and comments from the public and Cllrs Pat Taylor asked if FTC could intervene MDC's planned sale of the toilet block in Cork Street and save it as a local amenity. Paul Wynne noted he would request that MDC consider transferring or selling the block at a low price to FTC.</p> <p>Both Kate Bielby and Bob Ashton noted that the Frome Medical Practice were holding a public consultation over whether to close the Locks Hill surgery. They expressed their concern that there was</p>	PWy

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	<p>very little publicity of the consultation and local residents were only given two weeks to respond. Both asked that FTC speak with the medical practice and make further representation. All Cllrs were in agreement.</p> <p>A member of the public asked FTC to congratulate Emily Diamond for winning a bronze medal at the 2016 Rio Olympics. Toby Eliot noted that he had written a letter congratulating Emily and asking her to be involved in next year’s park run. He received a reply and she was keen to be involved.</p> <p>Adam Boyden noted that the fracking licences in the area had not taken up. He had spoken with the Co – op to ask them to prevent the delivery lorries stopping in the middle of the road to reverse into the car park at the new store at Fromefield. He was speaking with MDC about putting in a pedestrian crossing for the houses built on the site of the old Mendip Lodge. He also noted that he was now a member of the shadow cabinet for neighbourhood services who would be looking at car parking charges and fly grazing. Adam asked FTC’s Cllrs to join him in campaigning for adult changing facilities in Frome. Kate Bielby expressed her interest in this.</p> <p>Paul Wynne informed Cllrs of the Government consultation on capping the precept in 2017 for all parish councils. Paul asked Cllrs if they would be happy for him to respond urging the government not to cap the precept.</p> <p>Proposed by Toby Eliot, seconded by Nick White, agreed unanimously.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">PWy</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PWy</p>
<p>2016/87/FC</p>	<p>3. For discussion and decision: Improving music industry skills in Frome</p> <p>Steve Macarthur, General Manager of the Cheese & Grain, introduced the C&G’s proposal to renovate the then derelict Tower into a recording studio and training facilities. Steve explained that they had been successful in their Lottery application for a grant of £300k. They also required a loan of £130k from FTC to complete the project. Steve explained that once funding had been secured they would publicise the design plans for consultation.</p> <p>Gary Collinson asked how many people in the town would benefit from the project. Steve explained that amateur bands, school groups, community groups and charities would all benefit. In addition they would be able to maintain places for apprenticeships and work placements.</p>	

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	<p>Colin Cobb asked that FTC are involved and consulted during the project. Steve said that this would be expected. Colin offered to sit on the project board.</p> <p>Nick White expressed concern that the £130k could be used to help other projects in the town and FTC had already invested a lot of money into the C&G in the past. Mel Usher noted that FTC were one of the leaseholders and couldn't let the building be left derelict. As the loan would be repaid via the income from the solar panels on the C&G roof it would cost FTC no revenue.</p> <p>Cllrs and members of the public were asked to discuss 'Should FTC be supporting this project at the C&G?'</p> <p>Table 1 were mostly in favour and asked if there was a time limit for the grant to be spent. Steve explained that it was unsure currently but understood it was dependent on FTC's contribution. They also asked where the revenue from the studio and workshop hire will go? Steve noted that the C&G is a not for profit company and all revenue goes back into the running of the building.</p> <p>Table 2 had mixed views but felt it was worth completing the renovation of the building in its entirety.</p> <p>Table 3 were mostly supportive but had concerns over how broad the provision would be.</p> <p>Table 4 were broadly in favour and wondered if Frome FM could make use of the space.</p> <p>Table 5 were supportive and suggested that the last part of the budget could be raised via crowdfunding.</p> <p>Table 6 were supportive and felt it was a great use of an historic building and an opportunity for young people. It was generated by the demand from local people and the knock on effect would increase confidence in the town and potentially attract other investments.</p> <p>The recommendations were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide a grant of £130k towards a new Media Centre project at the Cheese & Grain. This grant to be conditional on securing match funding of £300k. 2. Apply for a loan from the Public Works Loan Board for £130k over 20 years. 3. If the DCLG application is successful, draw up a legal agreement between the Council and the Cheese & Grain to transfer the £130k in the form of a grant. 	
		JW
		PWh

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	Proposed by Richard Ackroyd, seconded by Pippa Goldfinger, agreed by majority.	
2016/88/FC	<p>4. For discussion and decision: Supporting Evening Bus Services Between Bath and Frome</p> <p>Anna Francis introduced the context of the current situation facing the evening bus service between Bath and Frome. Linda Oliver also explained that she and members of Frome and Villages Bus Users Group had met with officers at BANES and First Bus to discuss the importance of the service to Frome and the surrounding villages and the subsidy. Linda explained that since the report was written First Bus had promised they would continue the evening services on a Friday and Saturday.</p> <p>Due to the new information Mel Usher proposed two new recommendations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bring the discussion of bus services back to a future Council meeting. 2. Liaise with all the key players; BANES, SCC, FAVBUG and First Bus to get a clear picture of what is needed to save the evening service <p>Seconded by Nick White, agreed unanimously.</p>	<p>AF</p> <p>AF</p>
2016/89/FC	<p>5. For decision: Whether to agree to long term aspirations for a healthy and clean environment for Frome</p> <p>Anna Francis introduced the aspiration for Frome to become carbon free by 2046. She introduced the report written by Climate Works which detailed how to achieve this.</p> <p>The recommendations were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agree the principle that Frome should seek to become healthier and cleaner by 2046 through becoming carbon free. 2. Note that, while this target is achievable through various combinations of the steps set out, Frome alone will not achieve the ambition. We will therefore meet with our MP and other key stakeholders to secure support and funding to achieve these aspirations. 3. Report annually to the Council on progress made. <p>Proposed by Richard Ackroyd, seconded by Tricia Golinski, agreed unanimously.</p>	<p>AF</p>
2016/90/FC	<p>6. For decision: Whether to establish a crowdfunding campaign</p> <p>Mel Usher explained that Crowdfunder UK would assist FTC in setting up a campaign which included a website, background support such as advice to FTC and monitoring of applications.</p>	

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	<p>Kate Bielby noted that the system of crowdfunding would only be suitable for those with a one off project and would leave behind those that are in need of continual grant support. Toby Eliot explained that there would be a report coming to a future Council meeting about multi-year agreements which would support at least some of those in need of continual support.</p> <p>Tim O'Connor expressed his concern that the grants advisory panel would be removed and proposed that it be retained. Seconded by Nick White, motion not carried.</p> <p>The recommendations were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In the circumstances and on the RFO's recommendation, suspend the Financial Regulations regarding competitive quotes and delegate to the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Leader, to sign a two-year contract worth £15,500 with Crowdfunder.co.uk to establish and launch a Crowdfund Frome campaign. This amount to come from the General Reserve. 2. To support community projects via crowdfunding, make available £25k this year (2016/17) and the same amount in 2017/18. This year this amount will come from the grants budget (£22,500) and the General Reserve (£2,500). In 2017/18 the contribution to be determined through the budget process 3. The RFO to decide the most appropriate method of making the grant award 4. Approve the scheme criteria at Appendix 1 5. Delegate the decision of whether to approve FTC contributions and the amount, to the Town Clerk in consultation with three Cllrs <p>Proposed by Mel Usher, seconded by Toby Eliot, agreed by majority.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Toby Eliot proposed that the Town Clerk decide FTC's financial contribution, in consultation with Kate Bielby and Gary Collinson and either the Chair of the Town Matters Committee, the Leader or the Mayor. <p>Seconded by Nick White, agreed by majority.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">JW</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PWy</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PWy</p>
<p>2016/91/FC</p>	<p>7. For decision: Update on Frome Town Hall restoration project and to sell the Palmer Street offices</p> <p>Paul Wynne noted that the refurbishment of the building was going well and the interior was taking shape.</p>	

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	<p>Nick White queried how FTC would ensure best value would be gained from the sale of the offices in Palmer Street. Paul noted that an instructing an estate agent would ensure best value. Colin Cobb noted that as the building would be sold as employment site it would not achieve as much as a residential building. Gary Collinson suggested inserting a clawback in the sale agreement that if the building was sold as residential in the future FTC could benefit.</p> <p>The recommendations were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Note that the project remains on time and on budget and that the Marketing and Town Hall Manager starts at the beginning of October. 2. Delegate to the Town Clerk, in consultation with Colin Cobb, to sell the council offices on Palmer Street. <p>Proposed Richard Ackroyd, seconded by Al O’Kane, agreed unanimously.</p>	PWy/CC
2016/92/FC	<p>8. For information: Accident at the Old Showfield Paul Wynne noted that FTC were awaiting some further information and would keep Cllrs informed.</p>	
2016/93/FC	<p>9. For decision: Land acquisitions Paul Wynne noted that the Environment Manager was proposing to take on land at Packsaddle, Tower View, Millennium Green, another section of Rodden Meadow and land next to TH White.</p> <p>Paul explained that with the current Environment team and budget these additional sites could be managed. However, future acquisitions would need to be subject to a review of resources.</p> <p>The recommendations were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Note the status of the Packsaddle & Tower View transfers 2. <i>In principle</i>, approve FTC taking on the agreement for Millennium Green – delegating responsibility to the Environment Manager to progress this 3. <i>In principle</i>, approve FTC taking on responsibility for the land above Rodden Meadow – delegating responsibility to the Environment Manager to progress this 4. <i>In principle</i>, approve FTC taking on responsibility for the land next to TH White, delegating responsibility to the Environment Manager and the Planning Officer to negotiate terms and conditions 5. Note the comments about resources, budgets and responsibilities 	CS CS CS/JL

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	Proposed by Kate Bielby, seconded by Richard Ackroyd, agreed unanimously.	
2016/94/FC	10. For decision: Vacancy on the Planning Advisory Group Kate Bielby proposed Gary Collinson filled the vacancy on the Planning Advisory Group, seconded by Toby Eliot, agreed unanimously.	
2016/95/FC	The next meeting will be at 7pm on Wednesday 7 December at Rook Lane Chapel.	

The Chair closed the meeting at 9.39pm