

FROME TOWN COUNCIL

making Frome a better place

Minutes of a meeting of Frome Town Council

Wednesday 7 December 2016 at 7pm
Rook Lane Chapel, Bath Street, Frome BA11 1DN

Present:

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

In attendance:

Bob Ashford (Fair Frome), Sam Blanchard (Frome Times), James Wood (Frome Standard), Paul Wynne (Town Clerk), Peter Wheelhouse (Economic Development & Regeneration Manager), Meg Mosely (Communications and Marketing Manager), Kate Hellard (Community Projects Officer), Chris Stringer (Environment Manager), Laura Poulton (Democratic Services Administrator)

15 members of the public

Minute Ref	Agenda Item	Action
2016/96/FC	<p>The meeting started at 7.04pm</p> <p>1a. Apologies for absence Received from Ali Barclay, Gary Collinson, Cath Puddick and Heather Wride</p> <p>1b. Declaration of members' interests Mel Usher declared a personal interest in items 3 and 6.</p> <p>1c. Minutes from the last meeting on 21 September 2016 Pippa Goldfinger asked what had happened about the sale by auction of the toilets at Cork Street. Peter Wheelhouse responded to say that MDC had removed the building from auction. However, he noted that he would be arranging a meeting with the Asset Manager, Keith Pennyfather in the new year.</p> <p>The minutes of the Frome Town Council meeting held on 21 September 2016 were approved as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.</p> <p>Proposed by Pippa Goldfinger, seconded by Kate Bielby, agreed unanimously.</p>	
2016/97/FC	<p>2. Questions and comments from the public and Cllrs A member of the public asked about the effectiveness of the recent pigeon proofing of the railway bridge on Rodden Road. Colin Cobb</p>	

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	<p>explained that since Network Rail had completed the work it had resulted in fewer pigeons. The Landscape Group were responsible for street cleaning and had cleaned the pavement following the completion of the work.</p>	
<p>2016/98/FC</p>	<p>3. A short presentation from Bob Ashford, Chair of Fair Frome</p> <p>Bob listed some of the achievements and projects of Fair Frome in 2016 such as the food bank, community dining (helping 600 people), Fair Food, training, volunteering and campaigning on issues such as the closure of Locks Hill doctor’s surgery and Asda stopping food bank collections in their stores. Bob explained that the food bank had provided 430 food parcels between January and October, providing assistance to 800 people. He explained that distribution had doubled over the year, this was because of the introduction of universal credit, changes to benefit allowances and higher food prices.</p> <p>Bob explained that a new project they would focus on 2017 would be a furniture bank. He noted they were already working with students at Critchill School to upcycle unwanted furniture to give to those in need. In addition, they would be considering accessibility issues for those accessing the town centre.</p> <p>Bob thanked FTC for their continued support. Mel Usher noted that Fair Frome were making a definite impact to support vulnerable people in the town.</p>	
<p>2016/99/FC</p>	<p>4. For decision: Wellbeing – a way forward</p> <p>Mel Usher explained that the report considered ways FTC could extend its remit, helped identify the gaps in provision and found a way of supporting those that specialise in wellbeing.</p> <p>Cllrs and members of the public were asked to discuss:</p> <p>Whether Frome Town Council should consider becoming a direct provider of wellbeing services? All groups answered no. In general, it was felt that FTC should be an enabling body to identify the gaps and to help facilitate services.</p> <p>What should the priority be? Some felt unqualified to answer the question, while felt FTC should support where they could. Those that did give an opinion felt that isolation, housing, young people, deprivation, neighbourhood development and older people were all worth exploring. Some also felt there was an issue around signposting of services particularly for older people.</p>	

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	<p>Toby thanked everyone for their contributions.</p> <p>The recommendations were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Council should initiate, support and strengthen as many voluntary sector undertakings as possible. 2. The Council should not be a direct provider of services unless absolutely necessary. <p>Proposed by Tim O'Connor, seconded by Nick White, agreed unanimously.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. A new senior post to manage the council's wellbeing aspirations be established, subject to more detail at the next council on its remit and budget implications. <p>Proposed by Richard Ackroyd, seconded by Peter Macfadyen, agreed by majority.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. The following areas are priorities for 2017/18 (but not in priority order): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people • Neighbourhood development (decreasing isolation) • Carers • Deprivation within the town • Literacy • Sports development • Volunteering • Older people <p>Proposed by Colin Cobb, seconded by Peter Macfadyen, agreed by majority.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Detailed reports (including successes, timelines and costings) of significant wellbeing schemes supported and funded by the Council to be presented to the Town Matters Committee on an annual basis. Future funding to be dependent on the submission of such reports 7. The Council should understand more clearly the work done by the Health Centre and other statutory organisations, with a view to assisting new opportunities, filling in gaps and working closer with the Health and Community connectors projects 8. The Council, after consultation and agreement the other relevant parties, should arrange, staff and record the findings of the Wellbeing, Sports and other fora and publish an annual "State of Frome Wellbeing" review. 	<p style="text-align: center;">PWy</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PWy</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PWy</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PWy</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PWy</p>
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	<p>Proposed by Toby Eliot, seconded by Jean Boulton, agreed unanimously.</p> <p>6. Each year the Council should set aside at least 10% of its budget for direct voluntary sector support</p> <p>Proposed Sheila Gore, seconded by Colin Cobb, agreed unanimously.</p>	JW
2016/100/FC	<p>5. For decision: Recommendations from Performing Arts Panel</p> <p>Al O’Kane, the project sponsor, explained that the recommendations come from those who attended the performing arts panel meetings. Al explained that FTC would act as a catalyst to bring the recommendations forward.</p> <p>The recommendations were:</p> <p>1. Further develop the Discover Frome website to include an effective town-wide online events calendar once new resources are in place</p> <p>Proposed by Al O’Kane, seconded by Nick White, agreed by majority.</p> <p>2. a.) Over a period of 2 years starting in 2017, employ a marketing intern for 2 six month placements from University of Bath paid for by the Mendip Lodge s.106 agreement contribution and grant monies already secured from Mendip Tourism. The first internship is expected to start in summer 2017. The intern would work on the development of the Discover Frome website and event promotion etc. to support the arts community and the promotion of walking and cycling in the town. The role would complement the roles of Meg Mosley and Rebecca Krzyzosiak b.) Delegate authority to Meg Mosley to finalise a job description and arrangements with the University of Bath in consultation with Cllr Al O’Kane</p> <p>Proposed by Al O’Kane, seconded by Richard Ackroyd, agreed by majority.</p> <p>3. Delegate authority to Chris Stringer, Environment Manager to investigate the practicalities of erecting notice boards in these locations and arrange for implementation as soon as possible utilising existing budgets. Boards to be managed by the arts community.</p>	<p>MM</p> <p>MM</p> <p>MM/AO</p> <p>CS</p>

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	<p>Proposed Al O’Kane, seconded by Colin Cobb, agreed by majority.</p> <p>4. Review rehearsal spaces when marketing intern is in post 5. Review local performing arts mentorship scheme for young people when marketing intern is in post 6. Review one-off event ‘Destination Frome – a Performing Arts Week’ in Sept 2018 when marketing intern is in post</p> <p>Proposed by Al O’Kane, seconded by Richard Ackroyd, agreed by majority.</p> <p>7. Establish a more permanent Forum that can support the development of the Performing Arts</p> <p>Proposed by Al O’Kane, seconded by Peter Macfadyen, agreed by majority.</p>	AO
<p>2016/101/FC</p>	<p>6. For decision: Multi-year agreements The report recommended multi year agreements with the following organisations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harry’s Hydro • Fair Frome • CAB • Mendip YMCA • Purple Elephant • Active and In Touch • Frome Community Education • Frome Festival • Frome Carnival • Mendip Health Connections <p>Tim O’Connor asked what safeguards were in place if an organisation was failing? Peter Wheelhouse explained that a service level agreement would give an opportunity to review the arrangement annually. Tim also asked if FTC would have the ability to start a new agreement within another organisation within the three-year period. It was noted this would be a possibility.</p> <p>The recommendations were:</p> <p>1. Agree to the approach to multi-year agreements set out in the report 2. Agree to the levels of funding set out in the report</p> <p>Proposed by Jean Boulton, seconded by Richard Ackroyd, agreed unanimously.</p>	

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	<p>3. Delegate authority to the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Senior Staff Advisory Group, to negotiate and agree the detail of targets for each recipient</p> <p>Proposed by Peter Macfadyen, seconded by Sheila Gore, agreed by majority.</p>	PWy/SSAG
2016/102/FC	<p>7. For information: Update on the Frome Town Hall refurbishment project</p> <p>Paul Wynne noted that the project was still on track and the handover date remained unchanged.</p>	
2016/103/FC	<p>8. For information and decision: Frome Town Hall and Marketing & Communications Report</p> <p>Meg explained her role as Communications and Marketing Manager. It was in two parts: first, ensuring that the Town Hall is up and running and providing the service to the community that is required. Second, she explained her wider role to make significant improvements to the way that FTC communicated.</p> <p>Meg was thanked for the summary of her work and enthusiasm for the proposals around the Town Hall.</p> <p>The recommendations were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tim O'Connor to become the Frome Town Hall Sponsor 2. Information Centre staff in the Library to move to the Town Hall 3. Agree the general direction of the backfill plan for current services provided by Information staff in the library 4. Note the proposed marketing and communications work for the next four months. <p>Proposed by Colin Cobb, seconded by Richard Ackroyd, agreed unanimously.</p>	MM
2016/104/FC	<p>9. For information: Review of 2016/17 work programme</p> <p>Cllrs noted the report.</p>	
2016/105/FC	<p>10. For Decision: Work programme for 2017/18</p> <p>The recommendation was to approve the work programme for 2017/18.</p> <p>Proposed by Colin Cobb, seconded by Tricia Golinski, agreed unanimously.</p>	
2016/106/FC	<p>11. For decision: Transfer the freehold of some open spaces to the Theodora Ann Le Gros for Open Spaces Trust</p>	

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	<p>Mel Usher asked if it would be possible to transfer Frome Town Hall into a similar trust. Paul Wynne noted that he was currently exploring the option with a solicitor.</p> <p>The recommendation was to transfer the freehold of the following to Theodora Ann Le Gros for Open Spaces Trust in order to protect them for the community:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rodden Meadow 2. Weylands 3. Welshmill 4. The Old Showfield <p>Proposed by Toby Eliot, seconded by Nick White, agreed unanimously.</p>	CS
2016/107/FC	<p>12. For decision: New lease for Cheese & Grain</p> <p>Peter Wheelhouse explained that the new lease would allow the refurbishment of the tower into a recording studio to commence.</p> <p>The recommendations were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approve the heads of terms or delegate authority to the EDRM to negotiate amendments 2. Delegate authority to the EDRM in consultation with Cllr Colin Cobb to finalise the wording of the new lease, complete a licence to occupy to enable construction to proceed and the completion of a sub-lease with the Cheese & Grain. 3. Any legal or other costs that are required to be paid to MDC are financed out of the £130k grant – these are estimated to be no more than £500 <p>Proposed by Peter Macfadyen, seconded by Pippa Goldfinger, agreed unanimously.</p>	PWh PWh/CC

The Chair closed the meeting at 9.22pm