

# FROME TOWN COUNCIL

*making Frome a better place*

Minutes of a meeting of the Town Matters Committee

Wednesday 30 November 2016 at 7pm  
Frome Medical Practice, Enos Way, Frome BA11 2FH

Present:

Councillors: Richard Ackroyd, Ali Barclay, Colin Cobb, Toby Eliot, Tricia Golinski,

In attendance:

Sheila Gore, Nick White, Neil Cameron (Frome Allotment Association), Bob Ashford (Fair Frome), Terry Bishop (Apprenticeship Co-ordinator, Frome College), Hannah Thompson (Employability Administrator, Frome College), Rose Hiron-Grimes (Business Tutor, Frome College), Adam Boyden, Paul Wynne (Town Clerk), Peter Wheelhouse (Economic Development and Regeneration Manager), Chris Stringer (Environment Manager), Kate Hellard (Community Projects Officer), Cara Naden (Resilience Officer), Laura Poulton (Democratic Services Administrator)

13 members of the public

Minute Ref	Agenda Item	Action
2016/16/TM	<p>The meeting started at 7.02pm</p> <p><b>1a. Apologies for absence</b> Received from Jean Boulton, Al O’Kane, Peter Macfadyen, Cath Puddick, Heather Wride and Mel Usher.</p> <p><b>1b. Declaration of members’ interests</b> None was received.</p> <p><b>1c. Minutes from the last meeting on 28 September 2016</b> The minutes of the Town Matters Committee meeting held on 28 September 2016 were approved as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.</p> <p>Proposed by Tricia Golinski, seconded by Richard Ackroyd, agreed unanimously.</p>	
2016/17/TM	<p><b>2. Questions and comments from the public and Cllrs</b> Cllr Adam Boyden noted that MDC would be revising their economic strategy in the coming weeks, also their policy on fly grazing, they would be reviewing the Wednesday and Saturday markets. Adam noted he would be meeting with Nigel Taylor with regards to car parks and their plans for relining and increasing charges. He also explained that the no.30 bus would be diverted to the medical practice from 3 January 2017. MDC were considering a proposal to recycle plastics that they had not before, consequently</p>	

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	<p>it would mean moving the wheelie bin collections from every two weeks to every three. Adam explained that there would be a pedestrian crossing at the new development at Bath Heights. Adam asked FTC if they could consider expanding the popular skate park at Mary Baily Playing Field. He noted he would contact Chris Stringer.</p>	
<p><b>2016/18/TM</b></p>	<p><b>3. A short presentation from Bob Ashford, Fair Frome and Neil Cameron, Frome Allotment Association</b></p> <p>Neil thanked FTC, Chris Stringer and the Rangers for their support with the work of the Allotment Association. Neil explained that the association look after eight sites around Frome. He noted that the tending to allotments has shown contribute to the social wellbeing of the town and the benefits extend to others by way of the food produced.</p> <p>Neil explained that an employed outreach worker has been with them for the last five years which has meant the association has been able to work in collaboration with schools, enabled the provision of courses for parents which in turn has involved children. They have also been able to install raised beds for those who have mobility difficulties. He also noted that Frome Allotment Association has been recognised nationally by featuring in magazines and they have also been invited by others towns to share their model of operation.</p> <p>Neil requested that FTC continue to support the outreach worker at a cost of £4k a year. Paul Wynne asked Neil to meet Chris Stringer to discuss their proposal.</p> <p>Bob Ashford, Chair of Fair Frome explained the potential of the Allotment Association for supporting Fair Frome’s goal of offering fresh produce at the food bank. He noted that there was an opportunity to utilise the excess fresh produce from the allotments at the food bank with the right resources and support.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CS</b></p>
<p><b>2016/19/TM</b></p>	<p><b>4. For information and discussion: Prosperity Work Plan 2016/17</b></p> <p>Peter explained some of the key projects from the 2016/17 workplan. The Neighbourhood Plan had been adopted and would help to campaign for the right development in Frome. The next steps would be to influence MDC’s local plan Part 2 and green infrastructure plan for Frome. Peter explained that for the regeneration of the town centre, approval in principle had been given for highways improvements by Somerset’s Cabinet member for Highways &amp; Transport. On Saxonvale, a steering group bringing all three tiers of local government has come together to find a way</p>	

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forward in developing the site in the right way. Peter also noted that FTC were pursuing the option of self/custom build housing and were currently working on a feasibility study for land at Little Keyford Lane as well as putting together a self-build register for those interested in self build.

Peter explained the concept of a micro enterprise, which employ less than ten people. He explained that 72% of businesses in Frome are micro enterprises. Peter noted that he would be working in partnership with the Frome Chamber of Commerce to better support those enterprises. Currently, there is commitment to continuing the Frome Business Breakfasts, Discuss and Do, investigating the opportunity for new and alternative work spaces to be provided and safeguarding existing employment sites.

Terry Bishop, Rose Hiron - Grimes and Hannah Thompson from Frome College's Next Steps Hub gave a presentation on the work they have been doing with college students to prepare them for employment and self-employment. They explained some of the initiatives they have created such as a weekly enterprise club, participation in national enterprise competitions, school bank (savers club) and a global entrepreneurship day. They also assist students with a careers café, CV prep, portfolio for careers and will be hosting Tedx Frome in January.

Terry explained that lots of employers are not able to take on an apprentice however could employ a trainee. Therefore, they set up the World of Work programme which provides not only work experience but also an opportunity for students to improve their GCSE grades and prepare for employment. One of the early partners is Center Parcs. The goal is for the participants to either have an offer of an apprenticeship or job at the end of the programme.

Members of the audience were asked:

How can FTC best support:

- a. the development of micro enterprises in the town?
- b. young people into the world of work and self-employment?

In response to Question a, Table 1 suggested ensuring employment space is not lost to housing and making better physical links with sites around and out of town. Table 2 suggested enabling a self-employed person to take on a young person providing both capacity for growth and an opportunity for the young person to secure work experience. Table 3 suggested alternative premises like containers and business-to-business links so they use each

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	<p>other's services. Table 4 suggested holding a business expo once a year, involvement in Participatory Budgeting and providing small amounts of funding to get people started.</p> <p>In response to Question b, Table 1 suggested more links between businesses, long term links between students and employers and real apprenticeships that lead to jobs. Table 2 suggested helping people to make connections with businesses and utilising the 'Next Steps Hub'. Table 3 suggested regular events for people to present their businesses to young people. Table 4 suggested mentoring and having a register of expertise in the town.</p>	
<p><b>2016/20/TM</b></p>	<p><b>5. For information: General update on FTC's wider work in the town, including trees and glyphosate</b></p> <p>Cllrs noted the report. In Chris' report there was a timeline for gully cleansing in the town. It was noted that due to a miscalculation the work would be delayed.</p>	
<p><b>2016/21/TM</b></p>	<p><b>6. For information, discussion and decision: Resilience Work Plan 2016/17 on Transport</b></p> <p>Cara Naden gave an overview of the resilience work plan from 2016/17 that focused on travel. She explained that she was exploring the option of a bus shelter at the Medical Practice. The car club had put together a how to guide to help those using the electric vehicles for the first time. In addition, Cara noted that she was researching locations for more charging stations in the town, and possible ways of reducing membership costs for people on lower incomes. This was also linked to 'Fair Travel' which is a scheme to provide discounted rail and bus tickets particularly for job seekers. She noted that Frome Community Cars had launched and would complement other driver schemes. FTC were helping to trial Frome Connecting Communities in partnership with Mendip Community Transport which had helped bring people into the town centre from neighbouring parishes. It was hoped that it could be self-sustaining and become replicable for other services. Cara noted she was considering ways of reducing air pollution such as encouraging car shares schemes, use of electric vehicles and switch off scheme for idle cars. Cara would also be working with Frome's Missing Links and the local schools to consider alternative ways of children travelling to school than by car.</p> <p>Tricia Golinski asked if the upcoming improvements to the Market Yard car park would include reinstatement of the cycle path? Peter Wheelhouse explained that it was within the plans to be addressed. Tricia also enquired as to the status of Frome train station</p>	

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	improvement project? Peter explained that FTC were still pursuing SCC lawyers to secure the agreement.	
<b>2016/22/TM</b>	<b>The next meeting will be at 7pm on Wednesday 22 February 2017 at Frome Town Hall</b>	

The Chair closed the meeting at 8.50pm

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