

FROME TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Town Matters Committee

Wednesday 22 February 2017 at 7pm
Frome Medical Practice, Enos Way, Frome BA11 2FH

Present:

Councillors: Richard Ackroyd, Ali Barclay, Colin Cobb, Gary Collinson, Toby Eliot, Peter Macfadyen (chair), Al O’Kane, Mel Usher, Nick White

In attendance:

Cllr Linda Oliver, Paul Wynne (Town Clerk), Peter Wheelhouse (Economic Development and Regeneration Manager), Kate Hellard (Community Projects Officer), Rebecca Krzyzosiak (Marketing and Communications Administrator)

14 members of the public

Minute Ref	Agenda Item	Action
2017/1/TM	<p>The meeting started at 7.04pm</p> <p>1a. Apologies for absence Received from Jean Boulton, Sheila Gore, Cath Puddick and Heather Wride.</p> <p>1b. Declaration of members’ interests None was received.</p> <p>1c. Minutes from the last meeting on 30 November 2016 Tricia Golinski asked about the improvements at Frome Train Station. Peter explained that Jane Llewellyn was now heading up the project and was following up with Somerset County Council about the delay in the receiving the legal documents.</p> <p>The minutes of the Town Matters Committee meeting held on 30 November 2016 were approved as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.</p> <p>Proposed by Richard Ackroyd, seconded by Colin Cobb, agreed unanimously.</p>	
2017/2/TM	<p>2. Questions and comments from the public Charles Wood explained the concept of Shape Mendip Lottery. He noted that Active and In Touch was one of the organisations that were within a chance of receiving funding from the scheme.</p>	
2017/3/TM	<p>3. Whatcombe Fields – a chance to hear about what’s going on and plans for the future</p>	

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	<p>Peter Macfadyen explained that the Whatcombe Fields committee members who were to give the presentation were unable to attend. He noted that if anyone had any questions they should be directed to Ian Mitchel. The date of the next AGM was to be decided shortly.</p> <p>A member of public asked what was happening, rumours had started that work was being done in the field.</p> <p>Ian explained that the AGM could not take place until the accounts had been audited. The work that had taken place was maintenance, cutting brambles etc. He explained they had to keep the land in a state that is useable as agricultural land as they are reliant on £4k a year from DEFRA. Peter Macfadyen thanked Ian attending.</p>	
<p>2017/4/TM</p>	<p>4. For decision: Support for bus services from Frome to Bath</p> <p>Peter Wheelhouse explained it was the 267 bus service on Monday – Thursday evenings that were under threat following the decision by Bath & North East Somerset Council (B&NES) to reduce their subsidy from May this year. First Bus maintained that this part of the service was not financially viable due to the low passenger numbers and would have to drop it from the timetable if no subsidy was forthcoming. Peter noted that the report proposed a series of options for Cllrs to consider. The discussion that followed focussed primarily on the subsidy question.</p> <p>Robust data on actual passenger numbers varied depending on the source of the data. Data from BANES indicated that on average only four passengers per evening used the service from Frome and five back. Primary users were students and those working in Bath.</p> <p>County Cllr Linda Oliver said she was working to protect the service. She said conducting our own research was important to identify the true profile of users and this in turn could help to establish future alternative community transport options.</p> <p>Linda and Clive Abbott (parish Cllr Norton St Phillip) noted that villagers use the bus to come into Frome to its theatres, pubs, cinema etc. so, if Frome contributed to the subsidy it would be good for economic development.</p> <p>Linda reported that BANES had committed £2k to cover Hinton and Midford which are in BANES, not Mendip.</p> <p>Tracey Harding from FAVBUG said the groups had done their own research too. She highlighted that without a continuation of the bus service many young people would not be able to complete their exams or qualifications. Getting the train instead of the bus would mean other transport would be needed to complete the journey. Also, those who relied on the service to get to and from</p>	

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	<p>work would no longer be able to keep their job as the bus was their only means of transportation.</p> <p>Mel Usher said that First Bus had already put in a large amount to keep the bus going and suggested a form of words to enable the service to continue until the end of August. Colin Cobb said he agreed with Mel and that it was important that all involved Councils worked together and that continuing the subsidy was not a long-term solution.</p> <p>The recommendation was to agree to:</p> <p>A one-off payment of up to £1200 to enable the 267 weekday evening service to run for another 6 months until the end of August 2017. These funds would be taken from the general reserve on the understanding that during the period to the end of August other options for transport were explored and reported back to council.</p> <p>Proposed by Tricia Golinski, seconded by Richard Ackroyd, agreed by majority.</p>	
<p>2017/5/TM</p>	<p>5. Presentation from Karen Deverell from Mendip YMCA, about their work in Frome including Routes Café and the Frome Foyer</p> <p>Cllr Nick White arrived 8pm. Colin Cobb left at 8.30pm</p> <p>Karen explained that the YMCA Mendip Charity ran the Coleford Youth Club, Frome Youth and Community Centre, Windmill Hill Youth Club (Glastonbury), Shepton Mallet Youth Club and Street Young People’s Centre.</p> <p>She thanked FTC for their support over the last 3 years which had made a difference to the charity’s work. Karen also highlighted thanked Louise (fundraiser) for her help with bigger bids, funders and applications.</p> <p>Karen said that the Routes foyer/café was about 15 years old. It was gifted by MDC with initial funding secured from Homes Community Agency. FTC were also very supportive at the time. Routes now provided a safe, warm, and welcoming drop-in centre working with other partner organisations and continued to be used well. It changed over time and was now a café style.</p> <p>Karen highlighted the stats of Routes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 379 individual young people supported • 2721 interventions • Main categories of support: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental health and emotional support 644 • Benefits, welfare, financial literacy advice 586 • Housing & Homelessness 332 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocacy 422 • Education, training & employment 412 • Volunteering 325 <p>She said that ROUTES was a gateway to other support including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children's Social Care • SCC Targeted Youth Support • Local schools • Child & Adults Mental Health Service (CAMHS) • Avon & Somerset Police • Somerset Drug & Alcohol Service • GP's & Nurse Specialists • Probation Service • Fair Frome <p>Mental health was becoming an increasing concern.</p> <p>Mel Usher thanked Karen and said that the work was hugely impressive. He had not grasped the breadth of what they did. He asked if Cllrs could have a tour on an evening to see all the buildings. Karen said that should be fine.</p>	
<p>2017/6/TM</p>	<p>6. For Information and discussion: Fundraising support contracts</p> <p>Following on from the YMCA discussion, Louise Jones (fundraiser) said she had worked with Routes to develop a core youth investment fund.</p> <p>Kate Hellard explained that FTC wanted to do was to be able to get organisations grant ready. Louise has worked with 11 groups for a total of 175 hours (25 days). She had also delivered training workshops in Frome to help community groups.</p> <p>Louise said getting organisations grant ready has been her priority for the past year.</p> <p>She explained Kate passed on organisations to Louise who would then try and help them understand the fundraising process, and develop a case for support. Expressing what they do and who benefits from it can act for a basis for the future. Then the next step was identifying a good funding fit. This leads to groups growing in confidence.</p> <p>Rachel Griffin from Purple Elephant, said she had benefitted from Louis's help which had helped to develop a clearer vision for the organisation.</p> <p>Mel noted that to get organisations 'funding ready' required a lot of background work before grants came in. Louise noted that there</p>	

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	<p>were ‘short term gains’ for groups, but she was supporting organisations in writing their applications, not writing for them. There was generally a 4-6 month turn around.</p> <p>Peter Macfadyen thanked Louise and Kate for their work and introduced the item for discussion.</p> <p>In the 2017/18 budget, there is an allocation of £10k to support fundraising for Frome Town Council projects and initiatives. It is intended that this will enable FTC to respond both proactively to issues in the town and react in a timely manner to new funding streams as they arise. This budget could be used in several ways. These ways include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. having a bank of experienced fundraisers on hand which FTC could call on for specific bids according to areas of expertise b. recruiting a part time post of fundraiser c. contracting a fundraiser in a similar way to Louise. <p>Charles Wood said a post like Louise is rock solid and it might be confusing to have something different to that.</p> <p>Cllrs discussed buying in local expertise as and when needed and keeping someone like Louise as a back bone. For example, hiring in a fundraiser who specialises in lottery applications.</p> <p>In parallel to the services of a fundraiser it was considered a good thing for FTC to continue to organise training to get groups ‘funding ready’.</p> <p>Toby Eliot’s table preferred a combination of a bank of experts and retain Louise.</p> <p>Mel Usher’s table preferred tapping into the skills of green consultants and entrepreneurs who could bring money in to the town.</p> <p>Richard’s table preferred having one person meant that a good relationship can be formed with groups.</p> <p>Peter Macfadyen suggested he worked with Kate Hellard and come back to a future meeting with some proposals.</p>	
<p>2017/7/TM</p>	<p>7. Update on how the events section of Participatory Budgeting is being rolled out in March</p> <p>On the events part of the project, Kate Hellard explained that the groups wanting to have events funded would pitch their idea to a panel comprising members of the public. She said that there were seventeen organisations registered and 101 members of the public</p>	

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	<p>who had signed up to attend the panel. Cllrs were welcome to attend and the panel would decide which events would be funded.</p> <p>Kate noted that the budget was £30k and the costs of the events ranged from £250-£10k. There would be a point in the day when the successful events could transfer some of their budget to the unsuccessful events.</p> <p>In reply to various questions, Kate said that the event would be filmed, panel members would score each pitch 0-5, the pitches would not be publicised in advance of the day but would be afterwards and all events had been vetted in advance to ensure they were realistic.</p> <p>Toby acknowledged this scoring would be a tricky but very real decision for those on the panel.</p> <p>Peter Macfadyen said it was a long day for 10 year olds, Rachel Griffin said it was 9-3 and was based around the school day.</p>	
<p>2017/8/TM</p>	<p>8. For information: Volunteer Frome Update</p> <p>Kate Hellard informed the committee that Volunteer Frome would launch on 29 March 2017. In addition, there will be a digital launch, a presence at the Frome Town Hall Launch party and at other events in the run up to National Volunteers Week including Voluntea in the Park at the beginning of June.</p> <p>Denise from SPARK would be based at FTH 10am-2pm on Tuesdays to help volunteers and organisations sign up, the rest of the time FTH front of house staff would provide this service.</p>	
<p>2017/9/TM</p>	<p>9. For information: Crowdfund Frome update</p> <p>Kate Hellard informed the committee that Crowdfund Frome would officially launch on the 27 February. There had been a good response from community groups with 28 groups considering the launch of their own crowdfund appeal. There were three ready to go live: NCT, Routes and Frome Town FC.</p> <p>Cllrs asked whether every project with “Frome” in the title would appear on the Crowdfunder website. Rachel Griffin who was supporting Kate with the marketing of the scheme confirmed this and that only those projects who met FTC criteria would be eligible for FTC grant match funding.</p> <p>Nick White suggested that businesses who are crowdfunding on the site should contribute to good causes. Peter Macfadyen suggested that FTC contacts those businesses accordingly.</p>	

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2017/10/TM	The next meeting will be at 7pm on Wednesday 10 May 2017 at Frome Town Hall	
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The Chair closed the meeting at 9.23pm

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