

# FROME TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of an Annual meeting of Frome Town Council

Wednesday 24 May 2017 at 7pm

Frome Town Hall, Christchurch Street West, Frome BA11 1EB

Present:

Councillors: Richard Ackroyd, Ali Barclay, Kate Bielby, Jean Boulton, Colin Cobb, Gary Collinson, Toby Eliot, Tricia Golinski, Sheila Gore, Peter Macfadyen, Tim O'Connor, Al O'Kane, Mel Usher, Nick White, Heather Wride

In attendance:

John Clarke, Martin Dimery, Des Harris, Stina Falle, Paul Wynne (Town Clerk), Jackie Wheeler (Responsible Finance Officer), Chris Stringer (Environment Manager), Jane Llewellyn (Planning and Development Manager), Cara Naden (Community Projects Officer), Laura Flaherty (Democratic Services Administrator)

25 members of the public

Minute Ref	Agenda Item	Action
2017/13/FC	<p>The meeting started at 7.06pm</p> <p>1. Election of the Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayors Richard Ackroyd proposed Sheila Gore as Mayor of Frome 2017/18, seconded by Al O'Kane and agreed unanimously.</p> <p>Richard Ackroyd proposed Tim O'Connor and Nick White as Deputy Mayor's for 2017/18, seconded by Al O'Kane and agreed unanimously.</p> <p>Toby Eliot handed the Mayoral chain to Sheila and she took the seat as Chair.</p>	
2017/14/FC	<p>2a. Apologies for absence Received from Pippa Goldfinger and Cath Puddick</p> <p>2b. Declaration of members' interests None was received</p> <p>2c. Minutes from the last meeting on 8 March 2017 Paul Wynne provided an update on the Cork Street toilet block after he was asked to speak with the Chief Executive, Stuart Brown. Stuart had told Paul that a proposal for the future of the toilet block was to be put forward at the next CAMG meeting on 20 June. Paul was given the impression the toilets would be removed. Mrs Taylor had also received an email from Stuart Finney with conflicting information. Paul said he would contact Stuart Brown again for further clarification.</p>	PWy

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	<p>Paul also noted that Peter Wheelhouse had spoken to Tracey Aarons at MDC regarding making the derelict sites on Saxonvale safe. Peter had been told that MDC were not going to take enforcement action. However, Peter was in contact with the landowners will encourage them to make the site safer.</p> <p>Mrs Taylor appealed to Cllrs to not remove the railings at the entrance to Cork Street as part of the market place remodelling project. Not only for safety but also because of the images of St Aldhelm. Mel Usher told Mrs Taylor that her views had been listened to. The image of St Aldhelm would be retained and the final scheme was yet to be presented to Council for comment. Al O’Kane note that removing the railings and retaining the bollards would probably be safer for pedestrians.</p> <p>The minutes of the Frome Town Council meeting held on 8 March 2017 were approved as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.</p> <p>Proposed by Richard Ackroyd, seconded by Peter Macfadyen, agreed unanimously.</p>	
2017/15/FC	<p><b>3. Questions and comments from the public and Cllrs</b> Tricia Golinski noted that FTC were changing car club providers from Co Wheels to E Car Club. The change means there would be an electric car available to hire again.</p> <p>John Clarke, SCC Cllr, proposed to change the name of the meeting for Cllrs of all tiers of local government from 3 tiers to ‘Cllrs working together for Frome’. Peter Macfadyen said that it was a good idea and it was nice to see a shared responsibility for organizing the meetings.</p>	
2017/16/FC	<p><b>4. Amendments to Standing Orders</b> Paul Wynne noted that the most significant change to the standing orders was to the role of The Advisory Group and changing the date precept demand is submitted.</p> <p>The recommendation was to approve the revised Standing Orders.</p> <p>Proposed by Kate Bielby, seconded by Richard Ackroyd, agreed unanimously.</p>	
2017/17/FC	<p><b>5. Election of the Leader and Deputy Leader, membership of committees, appointment of Cllrs as sponsors of projects and areas of work and calendar of meetings 2017/18</b></p> <p>1. Election of the Leader and Deputy Leader</p>	

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	<p>Toby Eliot was proposed as Leader and Jean Boulton was proposed as Deputy Leader.</p> <p>2. Membership of committees and Planning Advisory Group</p> <p>The proposals were:</p> <p>a. Council Matters Committee</p> <p>Mel Usher, Colin Cobb, Gary Collinson, Sheila Gore, Kate Bielby, Pippa Goldfinger, Tim O'Connor, Toby Eliot, Heather Wride, Jean Boulton and Peter Macfadyen.</p> <p>b. Town Matters Committee</p> <p>Peter Macfadyen, Ali Barclay, Richard Ackroyd, Nick White, Jean Boulton, Tricia Golinski, Al O'Kane, Cath Puddick, Toby Eliot, Mel Usher, and Sheila Gore</p> <p>c. Planning Advisory Group</p> <p>Pippa Goldfinger, Colin Cobb, Tricia Golinski, Richard Ackroyd, Al O'Kane, Nick White and Gary Collinson</p> <p>(The Mayor, Leader, Deputy Leader, the chairs of the two committees and PAG will sit on both the Council Matters and Town Matters Committees).</p> <p>3. Election of the Chair and Deputy Chair of committees</p> <p>The proposals were:</p> <p>a. Council Matters Committee</p> <p>Mel Usher was proposed as Chair and Colin Cobb as Deputy Chair</p> <p>b. Town Matters Committee</p> <p>Peter Macfadyen was proposed as Chair and Ali Barclay as Deputy Chair.</p> <p>c. Planning Advisory Group</p> <p>Pippa Goldfinger was proposed as Chair and Colin Cobb as Deputy Chair.</p> <p>4. Cllrs as Sponsors</p>	
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	<p>The proposals were:          Cllr Ackroyd for environmental issues, including management          Cllr Boulton for business engagement          Cllr Bielby for PR and communications          Cllr O'Connor for Town Hall operations          Cllr Collinson for sport and leisure          Cllrs Gore and Usher for finance          Cllr Goldfinger for planning and design          Cllr Golinski for walking and cycling and public transport          Cllr Macfadyen for resilience          Cllr O'Kane for music and arts          Cllr Barclay for wellbeing          Cllr Usher and Cobb for town centre regeneration (including Saxonvale)          Cllr Puddick for twinning</p> <p>5. Calendar of meetings 2017/18</p> <p>The proposal was to agree the amended calendar of meetings.</p> <p>It was decided to take all of the at items 3,4 and 5 above en bloc.</p> <p>All recommendations were proposed by Richard Ackroyd, seconded by Tim O'Connor, agreed unanimously.</p>	
2017/18/FC	<p>6. Power of Competence</p> <p>The recommendation was to confirm that the eligibility criteria for utilising the power of general competence are met.</p> <p>Proposed by Tricia Golinski, seconded by Colin Cobb, agreed unanimously.</p>	
2017/19/FC	<p>7a. Annual Return</p> <p>The recommendation was for the Council to instruct the Chair to sign on their behalf, the agreement to all the governance statements in Section 1 of the Annual Return and is recorded and signed by the Clerk.</p> <p>Proposed by Jean Boulton, seconded by Heather Wride, agreed unanimously.</p>	
2017/20/FC	<p>7b. Annual Return</p> <p>The recommendations were:</p> <p>2. The Responsible Finance Officer has certified that the accounting statements fairly represent the financial position of Frome Town Council.</p>	

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	<p>3. The Cllrs to instruct the Chair to sign on their behalf that they have approved the accounting statements.</p> <p>4. Following their year-end audit, note the Internal Auditors letter at Appendix 3 supporting their declaration on the Annual Return that internal control objectives have been met by the Council.</p> <p>Proposed by Kate Bielby, seconded by Tricia Golinski, agreed unanimously.</p>	
<p>2017/21/FC</p>	<p><b>7c. Annual Return</b></p> <p>Mel Usher thanked Jackie Wheeler for her hard work and ability to adapt to changes in budgets throughout the year to ensure everything balanced at the end of the year.</p> <p>The recommendations were:</p> <p>5. Approve the Earmarked Reserves for the start of the financial year.</p> <p>6. Note the amount in the General Reserve at the start of the financial year.</p> <p>Proposed Toby Eliot, seconded by Richard Ackroyd, agreed unanimously.</p>	
<p>2017/22/FC</p>	<p><b>8. Green Infrastructure</b></p> <p>Chris Stringer explained that green infrastructure was a term to describe Frome’s environment. He explained that it was not just about the parks and open spaces but includes anything in the natural environment. He noted that natural “assets” such as open spaces are likely to be more biodiverse if they are linked via “wildlife corridors” such as verges, waterways, ditches, railway lines, trees, hedges and paths. Green infrastructure is about considering how to maximise the interconnectedness of often disparate places in an area. A town with high quality natural environment is good for human health and wellbeing too.</p> <p>Producing a Green Infrastructure Strategy for Frome is part of the annual Work Programme and will be used by the Planning Authority and FTC to maximise environmental quality in the future development.</p> <p>Chris explained that the discussion at the meeting was the first step in the project to draft a Green Infrastructure Strategy.</p> <p>Chris asked Cllrs and the public, ‘who should be involved in putting together a strategy?’</p>	

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	<p>Suggestions from Cllrs and the public included: landowners, households, developers, Schools, community interest groups, vermin control, FTC, MDC, SCC, employees, Environment Agency, Sustrans, Missing Links, Somerset Wildlife Trust, everyone, children, pensioners, festivals, Bristol Avon Rivers Trust, farmers and Wessex Water.</p> <p>Chris noted that there was a broad range of stakeholders who will need to be involved in the project.</p> <p>In order to identify some of the top priorities in the town, Chris also asked, ‘what do you love in Frome?’</p> <p>Answers were: Judas tree, skateboarding, clean footpath, North Parade, the Dippy, Vallis trail, wild spaces, the George Hotel flower display, cycle paths, Saxonvale free gallery, Victoria Park, the edges of the town, church yards, river corridor, treescapes, views towards Innox, Millennium Green, Rodden Meadow, Hedgehogs, bumble bees, view at the back of the Lamb and Fountain and the walk down North Parade.</p> <p>Chris noted that there is a broad range of priorities and uses that need to be incorporated into the project.</p> <p>Chris’ final questions were; ‘where are the opportunities to improve green infrastructure in Frome?’</p> <p>Answers included: the river Frome and being able to connect places in Frome through cycle and footpath networks; linking green spaces and wildlife corridors; using the water that runs through Cheap Street to water the plants in the town centre; reducing litter; creating accessible links; improved signage; the way green infrastructure strategy is communicated should be carefully considered and should not risk being pigeon holed as simply an environmental issue; people are attracted to beautiful places and this is good selling point for Frome; there was a need for maps; more use of electric bikes/cars; native planting to be a part of new developments; flooding prevention; solar panels and guided nature walks.</p> <p>Chris thanked everyone for their suggestions. He explained the next step for FTC was to bring together interested people in a pop-up workshop to discuss in more detail what data requirements there were, what should be included in a GI strategy and to make sure it represented best practice. It was likely that a strategy would include prescriptions for new development and be part of the Neighbourhood</p>	CS
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	Plan. Outputs from the strategy could include: good practice for land owners, and ideas and leaflets on 'How to get involved at home.'	
2017/23/FC	The next meeting will be at 7pm on Wednesday 5 July 2017 at Frome Town Hall	

The Chair closed the meeting at 8.38pm