

FROME TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Frome Town Council

Wednesday 5 July 2017 at 7pm

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

Present:

Councillors: Richard Ackroyd, Ali Barclay, 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:

Linda Oliver (SCC), Des Harris (MDC), Paul Wynne (Town Clerk), Peter Wheelhouse (Economic Development and Regeneration Manager), Kate Hellard (Community Projects Officer), Laura Flaherty (Democratic Services Administrator), Clementine Conlon-Spears (Marketing and Communications Assistant)

7 Members of the public

Minute Ref	Agenda Item	Action
2017/24/FC	The meeting started at 7.02pm 1a. Apologies for absence Received from Kate Bielby, Colin Cobb, Sheila Gore, Cath Puddick and Heather Wride 1b. Declaration of members' interests None was received 1c. Minutes from the last meeting on 24 May 2017 The minutes of the Frome Town Council meeting held on 24 May 2017 were approved as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chair. Paul Wynne provided an update on MDC's decision on what to do with the derelict toilet block at Cork Street. According to officers all four disused toilet blocks in the town would be demolished to make way for car parking spaces with the exception of Gorehedge. The expected timetable was within two to three months. Proposed by Peter Macfadyen, seconded by Toby Eliot, agreed by majority.	
2017/25/FC	2. Questions and comments from the public and Cllrs Pat Taylor reiterated her concern for pedestrian safety over the plan to remove the railings at the junction of Cork Street and Market Place. Pat was also concerned about using the site of the Cork Street toilet block for car parking. Pat also suggested the installation of seating for waiting bus passengers at Cork Street. She also expressed	

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	concern that general residential bins would only be collected every three weeks. Pat was also concerned about the rumour that containers were to be placed in the Market Yard near the Cheese and Grain to be used for office space. District Cllr Des Harris said he would discuss the seating suggestion with colleagues at MDC. He explained that the bin collection changes were currently on trial. If the trial was successful and rolled out district wide the date when/if this would occur was not known at present. Des added that the trial would see if more plastic could be recycled. Des confirmed the rumour that MDC were proposing the site a Boxworks type development in the Market Yard car park. Tracey Harding liked the idea of seating at Cork Street but said there should also be a shelter. She also said there was a need for a bus shelter at the medical practice. Paul Wynne noted he would give an update on this at the next meeting. Jean Boulton noted that the new Discover Frome Information Point was open in the Black Swan Arts. Jean thanked FTC staff particularly Rachel, Jane, Tricia, Hannah and Laura for getting the information point up and running within 10 days. Peter Travis expressed concern to FTC that the evening 267, weekday service was not commercially viable. If no funding agreement between Council's was agreed within ten days there would be no evening service. He explained that some surrounding villages and First Bus had agreed to fund the service until April 2018. The final requirement was £2k from FTC. Toby Eliot noted that the issue surrounding the evening 267 bus was an emotive one. He explained that FTC were not removing or withdrawing any funding. FTC had made a clear decision to make a one-off grant to continue the service until the end of August 2017. He confirmed that bus subsidies were the responsibility of SCC. He noted that there was a train service between Bath and Frome that was more frequent than the bus. FTC did not have £2k in the budget, supporting the service would deprive something else in the town. FTC did not want to support a commercially successful company and a nearly empty large bus. Toby encouraged anyone who would be effected directly by the loss of an evening service to talk to County Cllrs. He noted that FTC would not go back on its decision. Linda Oliver explained that she and Martin Dimery were still lobbying SCC to provide the funding. She was concerned the villages would be more isolated by the loss of the bus.	DH PWy
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	Richard Ackroyd said he felt conflicted by the decision. However, he noted that it was SCC that should be justifying the removal of funding. Jean Boulton said she felt public transport was enormously important but FTC has a limited budget. Frome was able to provide many alternatives to the bus including the train, a community car service, car share and a car club with an electric vehicle. Jean explained she would rather the money went to a project, for example, to support the mental health of young people's than to a commercially successful company. Tim O'Connor noted that a report on transport would be brought to the next meeting of the Town Matters Committee in August. Al O'Kane thanked everyone who was involved in Frome FM's Party in the Park at Victoria Park the previous weekend. He noted it was a great event for the town.	
2017/26/FC	3. For decision: Amendments to Constitution Chapters Paul Wynne explained that no significant changes had been proposed other than formatting. The recommendations were: 1. Approve the updated version Constitution chapters 1, 4a, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9. 2. Delegate the responsibility for adopting Chapter 4 Staff Handbook to the Council Matters Committee meeting on 1 November 2017 Proposed by Gary Collinson, seconded by Toby Eliot, agreed unanimously.	
2017/27/FC	4. For decision: Volunteer Policy Kate Hellard explained that the policy had come about because of new initiatives such as 'Volunteer Frome' and also in response to the new Discover Frome Information Point which was run by volunteers. She explained that the policy would become part of FTC's constitution. Gary Collinson said he thought it was a good document and would help make volunteers feel more included. Nick White asked if FTC would be paying for DBS checks? Kate said that for those people that had a need for one FTC would fund the admin fee of £15.	

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	Toby Eliot asked if the policy was transferable to other organisations? Kate explained that it was available to download as a template on the Volunteer Frome website. Pippa Goldfinger asked if a volunteer had a complaint how would it be handled. Kate explained that, in the case of a FTC volunteer, they could take a complaint to their volunteer coordinator or the identified FTC member of staff, the procedure correlates with FTC's grievance policy. The recommendations were: 1. Approve the Volunteer Policy at Appendix 1 2. Adopt this policy as Chapter 19 in the constitution of FTC Proposed by Pippa Goldfinger, seconded by Toby Eliot, agreed unanimously.	
2017/28/FC	5. For decision: Market Place remodelling Peter Wheelhouse explained that a feasibility study had been conducted in 2012 that had kickstarted the project. However, improvements had been talked about since 1995. Peter explained that FTC was in a position to start the first phase very soon. He noted that funding and an agreement in principle from MDC was in place. Peter also explained that the proposal to impose a zomph zone through the town would also be extended to the side streets off of Bath Street and North Parade. Tricia Golinski asked what gateway measures were proposed for the zomph zone and would there be courtesy crossing in phase 2? Peter explained that the gateways would be signposted through a mixture of signage, a different coloured road surfaces and signage painted on the road. The courtesy crossings will be in place at the two busiest crossing points at The George and the Market Cross café. He was currently in discussion with SCC about making these as visible as possible. Jean Boulton asked if the memorandum of understanding would be signed with MDC before appointing a contractor. Peter explained that he would be seeking assurances from MDC before appointing a contractor but the MoU might not be signed beforehand. Pippa Goldfinger expressed her approval that the zomph zone would be extended especially around the crossing points. Nick White said he was delighted the project was happening. He asked if Peter could consider using different colours of tarmac as a way to reduce speed and removing the centre line so the road	

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	appears narrower. He also suggested highlighting where you can park rather than where you can't, meaning no more yellow lines. Peter said he would explore these suggestions with County Highways but emphasised that there were rules about road marking that would need to be observed. Ric Swann, on behalf of the Civic Society, expressed concern that the project could not be scrutinised if all the decisions were delegated to Peter Wheelhouse and Mel Usher. He felt the pedestrian crossings were the most important part and they were not achieved with the scheme. Mel Usher said that Phase 2 of the project – the road and pedestrian areas beyond the Boyle Cross area - would come back for approval of plans. All decisions around the design of the Phase 1 – the Boyle Cross area – had been made and the recommendations was to proceed as planned. Tim O'Connor asked if the loss of parking at Boyle Cross could be replaced at Cork Street. Peter said that MDC was considering this. Tim also asked if there would be speed cameras? Peter said that he had spoken to the police who were keen on using mobile cameras to enforce the 20mph zone. The recommendations were that Cllrs agree to delegate authority to the Deputy Town Clerk in consultation with Cllr Mel Usher as Project Sponsor to: • Finalise negotiations with MDC around the MOU • Finalise negotiations with the preferred contractor, Dave Lucy Limited with a view to letting the contract as soon as possible • Work with town centre businesses including market operators to minimise disruption during construction • Continue working with SCC to secure approval for the proposed works on the highway with a further report to come back to Council in October 2017 • Investigate the possibility of funding through a Small Improvement Scheme for the proposed 20 mph zone and other elements of the scheme and work towards securing the necessary Traffic Regulation Orders for that purpose Proposed by Nick White, seconded by Tricia Golinski, agreed unanimously.	PWh
2017/29/FC	The next meeting will be at 7pm on Wednesday 11 October 2017 at Frome Town Hall	PWh/MU

The Chair closed the meeting at 8.18pm