

FROME TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Town Matters Committee

Wednesday 2 August 2017 at 7pm

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

Present:

Councillors: Ali Barclay, Toby Eliot, Tricia Golinski, Sheila Gore, Peter Macfadyen, Al O’Kane, Cath Puddick, Mel Usher

In attendance:

Stuart Chadbourne (Mendip CAB), John Clarke (SCC), Martin Dimery (SCC), Colin Cobb (FTC), Gary Collinson (FTC), Michael Gay (Wanstrow PC), Peter Wheelhouse (Economic Development and Regeneration Manager), Nicola Cretney (Health and Wellbeing Manager), Anna Francis (Resilience Manager), Kate Hellard (Community Projects Officer), Laura Flaherty (Executive Assistant to the Town Clerk and Mayor)

12 members of the public

Minute Ref	Agenda Item	Action
2017/31/TM	<p>The meeting started at 7.02pm</p> <p>Peter Macfadyen explained that the meeting was being live streamed to the FTC YouTube channel.</p> <p>1a. Apologies for absence Received from Richard Ackroyd, Jean Boulton and Nick White</p> <p>1b. Declaration of members’ interests None was received</p> <p>1c. Minutes from the last meeting on 14 June 2017 The minutes of the Town Matters Committee meeting held on 14 June 2017 were approved as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.</p> <p>Proposed by Tricia Golinski, seconded by Sheila Gore, agreed unanimously.</p>	
2017/32/TM	<p>2. Questions and comments from the public and Cllrs None was received</p>	
2017/33/TM	<p>3. A short presentation from Stuart Chadbourne, Chief Officer Mendip Citizens Advice Bureau Stuart Chadbourne presented the CAB’s annual report which had just been published. He explained that he had focused on the data effecting Frome in 2016/17 for his presentation. In that year 12931 people from Frome had been helped by the CAB. The data showed that residents of the Market Ward had assistance from the CAB the</p>	

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	<p>most. The most common problems effecting Frome residents were around benefit issues particularly Universal Credit as well as personal independence payment claims and employment and support allowance. The main causes of debt for residents were council tax arrears, rent arrears and water arrears.</p> <p>Stuart explained that the Frome office of the CAB was supported by 25 volunteers. The volunteers provide a range of support including personal budgeting, crisis management, digital support for accessing help and information as well as completing forms.</p> <p>Tricia Golinski asked what extent did the CAB rely on volunteers? Stuart explained that the CAB have 19 paid staff in addition to the volunteers. He explained that the volunteers gave them the ability to deliver capacity and maintain independence.</p> <p>Mel Usher asked if Stuart had seen the queries increase annually? Stuart explained that the numbers had been stable over the last 3 or 4 years. He noted the main difference had been how many people used the internet as a first port of call with 78,000 hits in Mendip, people had been physically moved from the waiting rooms because of web access. He explained that the CAB were now seeing more individuals with complex needs. Mel also asked if the CAB had any plans to improve their current offices on King Street. Stuart noted that the Frome Men’s Shed had offered to help make improvements which he hoped would begin before the end of the year.</p>	
2017/34/TM	<p>4. For decision – Health and Wellbeing update Toby Eliot arrived at 7.41pm</p> <p>Nicola Cretney gave a definition of health and wellbeing which covered the social, emotional, physical and intellectual wellbeing of a community.</p> <p>Nicola explained that the challenges were lifestyle, education, employment, where we live and interaction in the community. Nicola listed the needs of Frome that had to be addressed which were the higher number of strokes, hip fractures, obesity, deprived areas, fuel poverty, lower key stage 2 achievement and the increase in population</p> <p>Nicola used one example of a particular problem for Frome which was a higher number of hip fractures. There had been 190 emergency admissions. The cost being £14k, however there we knock on costs to social services and to individuals.</p>	

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	<p>Nicola explained that as part of her next steps she would be understanding what SCC were doing as the responsible authority, to ensure services are available and what more could be done locally.</p> <p>Nicola also noted that she had begun work on a health and wellbeing strategy for Frome. She was planning to hold an event in the autumn bringing together key partners.</p> <p>John Clarke suggested that Frome might need to shout louder to get support from SCC. Nicola explained that she was really keen to make connections with SCC.</p> <p>Al O’Kane asked Nicola how she would be prioritising her work? Nicola explained that the areas of focus would become evident from the strategy.</p> <p>The recommendation was to agree the process for developing a Health and Wellbeing Strategy for the town.</p> <p>Proposed by Cath Puddick, seconded by Ali Barclay, agreed unanimously.</p>	NC
2017/35/TM	<p>5. For information & decision – Supporting village bus route and alternatives to First 267 bus service</p> <p>Anna Francis noted that First Bus had recently agreed to provide the £2k of funding to continue the 267 weekday evening service until April 2018.</p> <p>Michael Gay, a parish Cllr from Wanstrow and co-ordinator of the village bus scheme gave an overview of how the scheme worked and its benefits to villager and Frome. Michael explained that the bus was mostly used by single women of pension age and the majority of users would spend at least £10 when they were shopping in Frome.</p> <p>Anna Francis explained that she had begun drafting a transport strategy for Frome and was considering what the alternatives might be. She noted she had considered car share schemes such as Bla Bla Cars which was effectively a hail and ride scheme. She explained that the Frome community car scheme had 30 volunteer drivers and 300 members and was nearly breaking even. There was also the e car club with an electric vehicle. In addition, there was Mendip Community Transport which enabled people in Frome to get to various appointments.</p> <p>Peter Travis was concerned how alternative forms of transport would affect the 267 evening service.</p>	

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	<p>Martin Dimery said he thought it was unlikely SCC would overturn their whole strategy just for Frome but he was fully supportive of bus services in the town. Mel Usher suggested Martin, John Clarke and Linda Oliver as SCC Cllrs, take the transport strategy to SCC to show them how it could work in other areas.</p> <p>The recommendations were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. FTC works with Michael Gay to increase usage and financial sustainability of the village bus service and continues to support the scheme for the next 9 months utilising the agreed Resilience budget, reviewing usage data and costs monthly 2. FTC promotes 267 usage to increases passenger numbers. 3. FTC continues to develop a Sustainable Transport Strategy for Frome <p>Proposed by Al O’Kane, seconded by Tricia Golinski, agreed unanimously.</p>	AF
2017/36/TM	<p>6. For information – Performing Arts update Peter Wheelhouse gave an overview of the report and what measures had been put in place to fulfil the recommendations.</p> <p>Al O’Kane noted that in the near future venues in Frome would be asked to register as a rehearsal space. He explained that volunteers were required for a mentorship scheme to help young people in the arts industry.</p> <p>Colin Cobb suggested that it be explored how the Town Hall could be offered as a rehearsal space.</p>	RG
2017/37/TM	<p>7. For information – Sports and Leisure update Kate Hellard explained that since the recommendations had been agreed there had be an increase in sports facilities. She noted that the Netball Club were now able to practice in Frome again. Oakfield Academy had recently been successful in their application for funding to install flood lights. The Football Club were able to train at the old golf club therefore satisfying their requirements for pitches. She noted the one recommendation that had not been so successful was the increase in adult participation. Kate explained this was largely due to Somerset Activity Sports Partnership (SASP) not having an officer in Frome anymore.</p> <p>Peter Macfadyen asked about the progress of ‘This Girl Can’ campaign. Kate explained that Purple Elephant were launching the campaign under a new name ‘Fight like a Girl’ in schools when the children return to school in September.</p>	

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2017/38/TM	The next meeting will be at 7pm on Wednesday 27 September 2017 at Frome Town Hall	
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The Chair closed the meeting at 8.43pm