

FROME TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Town Matters Committee

Wednesday 15 November 2017 at 7pm

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

Present:

Councillors: Richard Ackroyd, Ali Barclay, Jean Boulton, Toby Eliot, Tricia Golinski, Sheila Gore, Peter Macfadyen, Al O'Kane, Mel Usher

In attendance:

Bill Palmer (Fair Housing for Frome), Sue Klepper (Frome Community Education), Sue Willis (Purple Elephant), Terry Bishop (Apprenticeship Project Coordinator, Frome College), Cllrs Kate Bielby, Des Harris, Stina Falle, Eve Berry, Shane Collins and John Clarke. Paul Wynne (Town Clerk), Peter Wheelhouse (Economic Development and Regeneration Manager), Jane Llewellyn (Planning and Development Manager), Kate Hellard (Community Projects Officer), Laura Flaherty (Executive Assistant to the Town Clerk and Mayor), Clementine Conlon Spears (Communications and Marketing Assistant)

20 Members of the public

Minute Ref	Agenda Item	Action
2017/47/TM	The meeting started at 7.04pm 1a. Apologies for absence Received from Cath Puddick. 1b. Declaration of members' interests Mel Usher declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 3. 1c. Minutes from the last meeting on 27 September 2017 The minutes of the Town Matters Committee meeting held on 27 September 2017 were approved as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chair. Proposed by Richard Ackroyd, seconded by Ali Barclay, agreed unanimously.	
2017/48/TM	2. Questions and comments from the public and Cllrs Paul Fine emailed the Town Clerk to ask why the remodeling of the Market Place was not on the agenda as it had previously said on the website. Paul Wynne explained that at the beginning of the civic year a draft agenda for each meeting had been put together. However, as the year progresses it is sometimes not necessary or the right time for items to be discussed. Peter Wheelhouse noted that the first phase of the project was on schedule. He said that details of the second phase would be detailed at a future Council meeting likely to	

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	be in March when it would be known if the Small Improvements Scheme application submitted to SCC by County Cllrs was successful. Mel Usher thanked Linda, Martin and John, Frome's SCC Cllrs for working together on the application A member of the public asked if the Boyle Cross was being reinstated as a fountain. Peter Wheelhouse confirmed that it would be but not as a drinking fountain due to excessive installation and maintenance costs. Shane Collins noted that the benches from the Cork Street bus stop had been removed for repair. He also noted that he was intending to form a working group to dissuade SCC pension fund from investing in fossil fuels.	
2017/49/TM	3. For information: Fair Housing for Frome Bill Palmer, one of the founding members of Fair Housing for Frome, explained the group was set up in 2016 in response to an emergency call from Edventure due to the lack of affordable housing particularly for young people. It was clear there was a housing crisis in Frome with contributing factors such as problems accessing Universal Credit, landlords not allowing shared housing and hidden homelessness. Through Participatory Budgeting, they secured funding to run nine meetings where realistic and achievable targets for 2018 were set. He explained that the discussions had produced thirty different ideas about how to tackle the crisis. Alison Murdoch, a member of Fair Housing for Frome, explained their next session was going to focus on tiny homes which would not require planning permission. Other solutions they had been looking into were a fair landlord scheme and working with organisations to ensure emergency accommodation for the homeless was provided in Frome. Other ambitions were to increase the amount of affordable housing on new developments by working with FTC, setting up a community land trust and setting up a website to support home sharing, particularly between elderly and young people. Attendees were asked 'How could FTC enable Fair Housing for Frome's wish list?' Table 1 felt their focus should be on increasing affordable housing and if necessary naming and shaming developers who fail to provide the right amount. Table 2 noted that there was already a website called spareroom.co.uk. that could help with home share ambitions. They	

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	also felt focusing on low impact developments, such as tiny homes, could be used as stepping stones to help people get onto the housing ladder and perhaps provide them with a good reference when applying for a mortgage. Table 3 thought about having the Frome Neighbourhood Plan act as a watchdog ensuring developers build communities rather than estates. Table 4 felt MDC should adopt a policy to make the viability assessments from developers public, so it would be harder to claim they would be unable to afford to provide affordable housing. They also felt the fair landlord scheme would be easy to do and empowering. Table 5 suggested FTC could help publicise the self-build register to encourage land owners to come forward with suitable land for self-build. They also wondered whether it be possible to use old industrial buildings to have a community of tiny homes who share facilities. Table 6 suggested FTC could publicise government funding available for community land trusts. Mel Usher suggested some concepts of what FTC can do to help with some of these ideas should be brought back to a future Council meeting.	JL
2017/50/TM	4. Q&A session with multiyear agreement recipients Purple Elephant and Frome Community Education Purple Elephant Sue Willis, co-director of Purple Elephant explained they were a community interest company (CIC) and they put on events and activities for children and families. Their aim was to be as inclusive as possible and many of the events were free. Regular events include the Children's Festival, Sports Festival, Children's Christmas Party and the Youth Conference. Sue noted their next event would be the Children's Christmas Party on 17 December. 150 tickets were being provided for children eligible for pupil premium. Sue explained that the multiyear agreement with FTC had enabled them to prioritise their fundraising strategy and given them the confidence to branch out particularly into holiday activities. In 2017 they had submitted 5 applications to various funds. She also noted the relationship with FTC had provided new opportunities and networks.	

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	Mel Usher asked Sue how much money it took to run the events and if she knew how many children Purple Elephant had benefitted. Sue explained that the Children's Festival cost £12k and the holiday activities £1k. The Children's Festival was attended by approximately 2000 people, the Christmas Party approximately 290 and the holiday activities were attended by 12 – 25 people per session. Annabelle Macfadyen asked how the ideas from the children who attended the Youth Conference were being progressed? Kate Hellard explained that FTC had just reviewed the conference and was looking forward to next one. The issues the children wanted tackling were around anti-social behavior, litter and dog poo, vandalism, graffiti and bullying. Kate explained that there had been a community litter pick recently in the Trinity area, schools had done more work around bullying and schools were working with FTC Rangers around tackling litter and graffiti. FTC were also looking at devising a bigger programme of engagement with the schools. Frome Community Education Sue Klepper explained that Frome Community Education (FCE) were also a CIC and provided adult education and community leisure classes. FCE have a computer suite which they operate within the Cheese & Grain and teach IT to people searching for work. They also work with those with little or no English literacy to enable them to apply for jobs. The multiyear agreement had enabled them to provide four hours a week for IT help and three hours of literacy help. Sue explained that they do receive referrals from the job centre and a small amount from the library. They were hoping to get a grant to start funding classes in English for speakers of other languages. Sue noted that they had been finding it more difficult to access funding, perhaps because adults were not usually prioritised over children and the elderly. She explained that many people approach them for help mainly to access Universal Credit which is entirely computer based and online. Kate Bielby praised the work of Frome Community Education particularly for helping people to learn to read and write without stigma.	
2017/51/TM	5. For information: Update on the work of the Apprenticeship Project Coordinator Terry Bishop, Apprenticeship Coordinator, explained that a couple of years ago FTC had identified a need to help young people find apprenticeships. A project was started where Terry would gage interest and help signpost employers, as well as link up with Frome	

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	College. He noted that the World of Work course had been developed for those who weren't quite ready for an apprenticeship but did not want to continue education which was benefiting 23 students. Other initiatives were work experience, a careers café and Key4Life to help young offenders gain skills to help them find work once they had been released.	
2017/52/TM	The next meeting will be at 7pm on Wednesday 7 February 2018 at Frome Town Hall	

The Chair closed the meeting at 9.00pm