

FROME TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Frome Town Council

Wednesday 13 December 2017 at 7pm
Frome Town Hall, Christchurch Street West, Frome BA11 1EB

Present:

Councillors: Richard Ackroyd, Ali Barclay, Kate Bielby, Jean Boulton, Gary Collinson, Toby Eliot, Tricia Golinski, Pippa Goldfinger, Sheila Gore, Peter Macfadyen, Tim O'Connor, Mel Usher, Nick White

In attendance:

Emma Reynolds (Principal, Frome College), Max Wide (Frome College, Chair of Governors), Julie Carey Downs (Mendip Health Connections), SCC Cllrs John Clarke and Martin Dimery, Peter Wheelhouse (Economic Development and Regeneration Manager and Deputy Town Clerk), Nicola Cretney (Health and Wellbeing Manager), Anna Francis (Resilience Manager), Charlie Orr (Project Officer), Kate Hellard (Community Projects Officer), Clementine Conlon Spears (Marketing and Communications Assistant), Laura Flaherty (Executive Assistant to the Town Clerk and Mayor)

10 members of the public

Minute Ref	Agenda Item	Action
2017/39/FC	1. A short presentation from Emma Reynolds, Principal of Frome College and Max Wide, Chair of Governors Max observed that the prosperity of town and the college were two sides of same coin. He said for the College to be successful there needed to be a clear focus. There was a need for people coming in and out of town to refresh skills in the town. There was also a need to heal the divide between prosperity and non-prosperity. The challenge was to help children from disadvantaged backgrounds, so they don't get left behind. In addition, there was a need to join up the Frome system, the first and middle schools with the College so there were no gaps. The aim was to build a culture of lifelong learning which involved the College, parents and employers. Emma Reynolds gave a brief overview of her background in teaching and leading. She said that all children are individuals with potential. Her reasons for choosing the role of Principal at Frome College included how impressed she was when she visited the town and how it is held up as an example of a thriving market town. She said she wanted the students at the College to follow a curriculum that reflected Frome. She said he felt a responsibility to protect art and music. Emma spoke at length about pupil premium students and that, statistically, these were students more likely to achieve less as they do not have access to some of the privileges some of their peers do. She said that the only real way someone can break out of poverty is	

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	education. Emma introduced the other areas of focus were about improving the attainment of post 16. They wanted to encourage employability and said there was more to be done in terms of working with the community and employers in the town. Finally, she was looking to make the World Of Work programme available to year 9 students as well as older students. Nick White asked about initiatives to close the gap for students from disadvantaged backgrounds. Emma explained that it needed to start at the beginning and in partnership with wider community. At the College, Emma explained that pupil premium students are identified from when they join and various strategies are used by the teachers to make sure they are not left behind and helped to reach their potential. Mel Usher asked Emma and Max for their views on multi academy trusts? Emma said her view was that when schools work together the children benefit the most and a legal structure wasn't required for this. However, there was a need to improve the transition from one school to next better for the students. Max said his view was that it would not currently be the right thing for the College, but they were supportive of the trusts. Mel asked Emma and Max to attend a future meeting with suggestions of what they would like from Frome Town Council to help support them and the students.	
2017/40/FC	The meeting started at 7.02pm 2a. Apologies for absence Received from Colin Cobb, Al O'Kane and Heather Wride 2b. Declaration of members' interests None was received 2c. Minutes from the last meeting on 11 October 2017 Peter Wheelhouse provided an update on the progress of the installation of the Changing Places toilet in the Market Yard from MDC project lead Jane Sharp. She said that the project was making good progress. The new toilet would be located in the Market Yard car park toilet block in what was the police post and store. A new home was being found for the market equipment. Contractors would be on site in the new year with a projected completion around early March. Kate Bielby noted that she and Cllr Adam Boyden were hoping to bring the completion forward so the toilet would be open in time for the first Frome Independent Market of 2018.	

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	The minutes of the Frome Town Council meeting held on 11 October 2017 were approved as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chair. Proposed by Toby Eliot, seconded by Richard Ackroyd, agreed unanimously.	
2017/41/FC	3. Questions and comments from the public and Cllrs Margaret Merrill raised a concern that delivery drivers were using the disabled parking bays outside of the George Hotel. She also queried why no alternative to free parking in Market Place had been provided, particularly as drivers were still unable to park in King Street. Peter Wheelhouse explained that during the works on Boyle Cross the disabled bays could be used for unloading and unloading until 9am. He said he would speak with parking enforcement if this had not been adhered to by drivers. He explained that a loading bay had been installed as part of the redesign of Boyle Cross and could potentially also be used by the police. Regarding the parking suspension in King Street, Peter explained that it would be in place until the new year once the work at Boyle Cross had been completed. Finally, he noted that MDC were in the process of investigating the options of alternative free parking and would make an announcement once their investigation was complete, there was nothing to currently report.	
2017/42/FC	4. Q&A session with multi year agreement recipient Health Connections Mendip Julie Carey Downs explained that Health Connections Mendip was started by a Frome GP who had noticed that not all people who went to the doctor needed clinical help but rather support and advice around health and wellbeing. Jenny Hartnoll, Service Lead, mapped the health groups in Frome and put together a directory. This had been so popular it spread to other towns in Somerset. Julie explained the role of Community connectors who are members of the community and receive training on sign posting to the best organisation/group for support around health and wellbeing that is specific to a person. Julie noted that the Community Connectors were vital to their work and were allowing them to make contact with those that were harder to reach. In addition to working with the Community Connectors that liaise with GP's and social services. As a consequence of their work they had seen a decrease in unplanned hospital admissions. Indeed, the organisation had been so successful that the Mendip model was being rolled out across other areas.	

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	Sheila Gore noted their ambition to recruit volunteers as Community Connectors and asked how the training was going? Julie said they exceeded their target and 411 people had been trained. Sheila also asked what was the benefit of the multi year agreement with FTC for them. Julie said it was the ability to be involved with community and therefore finding out what is missing. Finally, Sheila asked if there was anything in particular Julie wanted Cllrs to know. Julie said that their work made sure every contact counted. Their next step was to help those who were taken into hospital unexpectedly or were to be discharged by mapping their own network to make sure there was support and care in place for them. Nick White congratulated Julie on Health Connections Mendip for doing such a splendid job. Peter Macfadyen also expressed his admiration of the scheme. He also asked if there were opportunities for further training for the Community Connectors? Julie explained that at an early meeting the Community Connectors suggested quarterly meetings as a way of exchanging new information. Mel Usher asked Julie to work closely with Nicola Cretney, Health and Wellbeing Manager, to produce more data around needs so that a future Council might continue to invest in Health Connections Mendip.	
2017/43/FC	5. For decision – Health and Wellbeing Strategy Nicola Cretney explained how the health and wellbeing strategy had evolved, including via a forum earlier in the year and speaking to people individually. Nicola explained that health and wellbeing could encompass anything and everything. She noted that the strategy proposed to continue to enable and support other organisations, work with local communities, encourage participation and make connections with SCC. In addition, Nicola said she would be starting to lobby for SCC led consultations in Frome and looking to develop projects that hit multiple goals. The priorities in the strategy were healthy lifestyles with a focus on childhood obesity, exercise and healthy eating, then literacy and young people’s mental health. Nicola explained that a health and wellbeing forum would be held every six months, and this would inform any updates to the action plan. She noted that the strategy would be continually reviewed with new actions being added. Toby Eliot asked if there was a project that could be completed within the next six months. Nicola said that would be clearer by April however was hoping to achieve this by the first review in May.	

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	Jean Boulton noted it would be good to have outcomes and impact included in measuring success. Nicola explained that health outcomes were harder to measure because they were so long term. John Clarke offered to work with Nicola and help engage with public health colleagues at SCC. Gary Collinson explained there were two mental health initiatives through football and boxing that he could put Nicola in touch with. Ali Barclay noted her concern that FTC does not start providing a service rather enables others to deliver the work. Mel Usher suggested there should be five or six projects that FTC can help make happen by January/February. The recommendations were: 1. Adopt the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and Action Plan. 2. Review progress against the Action Plan in May 2018 and November 2018. Proposed by Richard Ackroyd, seconded by Ali Barclay, agreed by majority.	NC
2017/44/FC	6. For decision – Environmental Policy Ali Barclay left at 8.22pm Cllrs noted the report and the policy. The recommendation was to adopt the Environmental Policy statement. Proposed by Gary Collinson, seconded by Kate Bielby, agreed unanimously.	
2017/45/FC	7. For decision - Frome Town Council policy on divesting from fossil fuel companies via the Somerset County Council Pension Fund and support for regional banks Anna Francis explained that investments into fossil fuels were becoming increasingly risky and more councils were switching investments. Anna asked Cllrs to begin urging SCC to divest. Gary Collinson asked if any of the companies SCC invested with engage in renewable energy? He noted that by being a shareholder FTC could have more influence. Tim O'Connor explained that by April 2018, Project Brunel would come into effect. This would pool local government pension schemes and their investment assets. Tim felt it would be better to lobby the members of the board rather than just Somerset.	

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	Martin Dimery noted that SCC acknowledge global warming and said it was important for himself and John Clark to continue to keep pressure on SCC about this decision and to try and win over other Cllrs to the argument to divest. Cllrs felt that the next part of the report focusing on supporting a regional bank did not have sufficient information to make a decision therefore it was agreed to bring it back to a future meeting. Mel Usher suggested that the Mayor be asked to write to the twelve members of the Project Brunel board. The recommendations were: 1. The Mayor to write to the chair of Somerset County Council's pension fund committee urging divestment from fossil fuel companies 2. Publicise through the FTC website and in the local media that FTC urges the Pension Fund managers to divest from fossil fuel companies 3. The Mayor to write to FTC staff encouraging them to sign the online petition against investing in fossil fuel companies 4. The Mayor to write an open letter to all Somerset County Council Pension Fund employees encouraging them to sign the online petition against investing in fossil fuel companies 5. Help to co-ordinate a working group to lobby and organise awareness events and action. This fits in with the Resilience Manager's role and there is capacity to do this Proposed by Pippa Goldfinger, seconded by Tricia Golinski, agreed unanimously.	SG AF SG SG AF
2017/46/FC	8. For decision – Frome Town Council to become 'single use' plastic free Anna introduced the concept of ceasing single use plastics. She said the aim would then be to work with businesses and organisations in the town to help them move away from single use plastics particularly plastic straws. Recommendation 2 was amended from local businesses to local organisations. The recommendations were: 1. Phase out, wherever possible, single use plastic in all council activities 2. Work with local organisations and the media to encourage the phase out of single use plastic and increase awareness of the alternatives. This could include information on alternative suppliers and linking businesses up to share supply.	AF AF

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	3. As part of the 'You're Welcome' programme, include free water re-fills to avoid disposable plastic water bottles. 4. Promote a 'Final Straw' campaign to encourage cafes and caterers to avoid plastic straws and engage proactively with venues such as the Cheese and Grain to explore phasing out disposable plastic cups. 5. Promote the "single use plastic free" campaign throughout the town, through our business engagement work and Good Business visits. Proposed by Jean Boulton, seconded by Gary Collinson, agreed unanimously.	AF AF AF
2017/47/FC	9. For decision – International work experience project Charlie Orr explained that the proposal was introduced after the thematic network project which took place between 2014/16. Due to the surplus money from the European Commission refund it was possible to support the international work experience project. Charlie explained he had been liaising with a student in Murrhardt and Dennis Maps to secure a placement in March 2018. Richard Ackroyd asked with the age limit was set at 18 – 25, could they consider including 17 year olds? Charlie explained that it was due to safeguarding. However, it would not prevent a younger student setting up a placement for when they turn 18. Toby Eliot confirmed that the young people eligible for the work placements would be from the parish of Frome. It was agreed to amend recommendation 1 to say that the 5 young people would be Frome residents. The recommendations were: 1. Allocate £2000 from the European Commission refund to set up an EMR to be used to enable young people to gain work experience in our twin towns with a focus on supporting 5 young people from the parish of Frome to travel to Murrhardt, Germany in 2018/19. 2. Approve the objectives and scope of the International Work Experience Project as set out above 3. Allocate £1000 from the European Commission refund to repay expenses incurred by the Frome Twinning Association over the course of the two-year Thematic Networking Project. Proposed by Jean Boulton, seconded by Tricia Golinski, agreed by majority.	JW JW
2017/48/FC	The next meeting will be at 7pm on Wednesday 24 January 2018 at Frome Town Hall	

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The Chair closed the meeting at 8.52pm

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