

FROME TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Frome Town Council

Wednesday 7 March 2018 at 7pm

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

Present:

Councillors: Richard Ackroyd, Kate Bielby, Colin Cobb, Gary Collinson, Toby Eliot, Tricia Golinski, Pippa Goldfinger, Sheila Gore, Peter Macfadyen, Mel Usher, Nick White

In attendance:

Steve Macarthur (Cheese & Grain), Jane Llewellyn (Planning and Development Manager), Kate Hellard (Community Projects Officer), Rachel Griffin (Marketing and Communications Manager), Charlie Orr (Project 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
2018/8/FC	<p>The meeting started at 7.03pm</p> <p>1a. Apologies for absence Received from Ali Barclay, Jean Boulton, Cath Puddick and Heather Wride.</p> <p>1b. Declaration of members' interests None was received.</p> <p>1c. Minutes from the last meeting on 24 January 2018 The minutes of the Frome Town Council meeting held on 24 January 2018 were approved as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.</p> <p>Proposed by Peter Macfadyen, seconded by Tricia Golinski, agreed unanimously.</p>	
2018/9/FC	<p>2. Questions and comments from the public and Cllrs Colin Cobb arrived at 7.10pm</p> <p>Tricia Golinski on behalf of FAVBUG thanked the bus drivers who kept services running during the recent snow. She also thanked Tracy Harding for her work on keeping bus information up to date. Tricia noted that FAVBUG had responded to the local plan part 2 consultation asking for policies limiting car use and to use s106 monies for bus service to the town centre.</p> <p>Pippa Goldfinger asked Rachel Griffin if in conjunction with the recent comprehensive bus services timetable leaflet there could be a map of</p>	

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	<p>the bus stops. Rachel said that her team were exploring the possibility however it would be separate to the leaflet.</p> <p>Mel Usher asked for the Town Clerk to formally complain to SCC about how long it had taken to fix the street lights on Zion path.</p> <p>John Price, fundraising officer for the tennis club, notified Cllrs of a new funding scheme called 'Transforming British Tennis Together'. The stated aim of the scheme was to double the number of times infrequent adults play tennis. Projects to install floodlights and cover courts were more likely to receive grants. John explained that two sites had been identified, at Mary Baily Playing Field and Frome College for possible projects. John hoped Cllrs would be supportive of the tennis clubs' intentions.</p> <p>Nick White queried whether covering a part of Mary Baily would contravene it uses as part of the agreement when the land was given to the town. He felt that a project on the Showfield side of town would be a great thing.</p> <p>Cllrs agreed they would delegate to Chris Stringer, Environment Manager, to work with the tennis club to bring a project forward.</p> <p>Richard Ackroyd noted he and other Cllrs had recently completed a walking tour of Frome Town Centre to identify yellow lines that could be removed. He explained if Steve Deakin, County Parking Services Manager, agreed with the suggestions up to twenty free spaces could be made available.</p> <p>A member of the public asked if there were any proposals to add recycling bins alongside regular waste bins? Jane Llewelyn explained that it was on FTC's agenda and the feasibility was being explored.</p>	
2018/10/FC	<p>3. Steve Macarthur, Director for the Cheese & Grain will update us on recent developments, including the Bert Jansch Studio project</p> <p>Kate Bielby arrived at 7.24pm</p> <p>Steve Macarthur gave an overview of the Cheese & Grain (C&G) and the limited company which runs the bar and café. Steve explained that they now had the capabilities to cater at external events such as Mells Daffodil Festival and Glastonbury Festival. Steve also noted that the box-office was run by a C&G charity-owned subsidiary company which enables them to sell tickets for events outside of the C&G. Steve also spoke about the Bert Jansch studio which would be completed by September, their ability to attract big music acts and they have dramatically increased their turn over and now employ fifty staff. Steve summarised by acknowledging there were some challenges to be overcome such as reducing their carbon footprint and plastic use, new</p>	

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	<p>and costly heating and ventilation for the main hall and being “car dependent” with loss of parking spaces the biggest threat.</p> <p>Mel Usher noted that the C&G was important to the music and social life in Frome. He said the changes had been remarkable and he personally thanked Steve and the staff for their hard work. Mel was surprised that Steve did not mention the fact that FTC had invested £500k into the improvement of the C&G.</p> <p>Nick White asked if the C&G was making a profit? Steve explained that they were close to making a profit. He explained they were now able to implement a new ticketing software which should put them £30/40k ahead. He said the crucial thing was for them to operate beyond the building.</p> <p>Colin Cobb asked how the studio fit into the business plan? Steve answered that it was important to complete the building, and they wanted to do something where the cost would be marginal. The studio does not cost to run unless it is being used.</p>	
2018/11/FC	<p>4. For decision – Projects for the People’s Budget Town vote for 2018/19</p> <p>Toby Eliot explained the concept behind the People’s Budget was to change the relationship between residents and FTC. He explained that project choices for the town vote were derived from FTC’s strategy and work programme. He noted that all three could be funded by £10k and delivered in the next financial year.</p> <p>Pippa Goldfinger commented whether a Cockey Lamp could be considered for the dog poo street light instead.</p> <p>Kate Bielby felt that the waterslide could be very onerous on staff time and wondered if there was capacity. Rachel Griffin explained that part of the costs would be employ someone to manage the project</p> <p>The recommendations were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approve the town orchard, the dog poo powered street light and the waterslide as the three projects that will go forward to be voted on by the community. <p>Proposed by Toby Eliot, seconded by Nick White, agreed by majority.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Launch the vote at the Annual Town meeting on 4 April. 3. Implement the winning project in the following 12 months 4. Note that the £10k budget is under the Participatory Budgeting cost centre in the 2018/19 budget. 	

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	<p>Proposed by Toby Eliot, seconded by Gary Collinson, agreed by majority.</p>	
<p>2018/12/FC</p>	<p>5. Project Officer, Charlie Orr will provide a verbal update on the projects he is working on in the context of FTC’s economic development strategy.</p> <p>As part of the resilience programme Charlie had been supporting and encouraging businesses to become single use plastic free. He had also been conducting a travel survey at Commerce Park and potentially a bus service to the site could be implemented to help staff travel to work.</p> <p>As part of developing a community of business and other organisations Charlie had been organising the business breakfasts, Discuss and Do and the Retail Group which had all proved to be very successful. Charlie noted that the event Frome Busks was planned for 10 March. The busking competition would be held in the town centre and its aim was to showcase local musicians, increase footfall into the town centre for the benefit of all the retailers and stage an event for the community to enjoy.</p> <p>To help strengthen education and training Charlie said the apprenticeship project be brought in house. He will be coordinating the benchmarking survey work with twelve students from Frome College in the summer as part of their work experience and helping to coordinate international work experience placements with students from the twin towns. Charlie was also supporting the work of the Twinning Association.</p> <p>Pippa Goldfinger asked if the bus service for Commerce Park could be applied to other commuter places such as Westbury? She wondered if there were rules in terms of charging fares? Charlie explained the way around this was through subsidies or donations. He noted the service for Commerce Park was a trial, hopefully showing other bus companies there is demand.</p> <p>Peter Macfadyen congratulated Charlie for his work and for raising the profile of things like the business breakfasts.</p> <p>Colin Cobb asked if there were any tangible stories that had come from the business breakfasts? Charlie noted that he was collecting this information at the moment and was reaching out for more success stories. Richard Ackroyd noted that after the last business breakfast, two new people had volunteered for Walkers are Welcome.</p> <p>Des Harris asked if FTC would be helping to support the multi-cultural event this year? Kate Hellard noted that FTC were supporting the event with £1k.</p>	

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2018/13/FC	<p>6. For decision - Community Grants £300 - £2k</p> <p>Kate Hellard explained that this was the last round in the current financial year and the Mayor's grant fund had now all been used.</p> <p>The recommendation was to approve the grants described in table 1 in the report.</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin: 10px 0;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 25%;">Applicant</th> <th style="width: 25%;">Project</th> <th style="width: 25%;">Amount requested</th> <th style="width: 25%;">Amount agreed</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>PACE</td> <td>Pace Activities Programme</td> <td>£2250.00</td> <td>£1250.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Play It Forward</td> <td>Singing Social</td> <td>£1940.00</td> <td>£1940.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Frome Widows and Widowers Group</td> <td>Running Costs</td> <td>£1092.60</td> <td>£750.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Frome Birth Talk</td> <td>Frome Birth Talk Counselling</td> <td>£1862.00</td> <td>£1862.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Frome Memorial Theatre</td> <td>core / match funding / general</td> <td>£2000.00</td> <td>£2000.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Frome College</td> <td>Music For All</td> <td>£1993.00</td> <td>£1200.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Total</td> <td>£9,002.00</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Proposed by Kate Bielby, seconded by Colin Cobb, agreed unanimously.</p> <p>It was also recommended to approve the grants that were not awarded as described in table 2 in the report.</p>	Applicant	Project	Amount requested	Amount agreed	PACE	Pace Activities Programme	£2250.00	£1250.00	Play It Forward	Singing Social	£1940.00	£1940.00	Frome Widows and Widowers Group	Running Costs	£1092.60	£750.00	Frome Birth Talk	Frome Birth Talk Counselling	£1862.00	£1862.00	Frome Memorial Theatre	core / match funding / general	£2000.00	£2000.00	Frome College	Music For All	£1993.00	£1200.00			Total	£9,002.00
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	Applicant	Project	Amount requested	Reason for not recommending
	Purple Elephant	Frome Toy Library	£2000.00	We have funded this organisations through a number of mechanisms in 2017/18, and with limited funding available we are not able to commit further funding this year. FTC will continue to support with fundraising advice and support and would be open to future applications.
	Proposed by Toby Eliot, seconded by Colin Cobb, agreed unanimously.			
2018/14/FC	<p>7. For decision - Calendar of meetings 2018/19 The recommendation was to approve the calendar of meetings for 2018/19</p> <p>Proposed by Richard Ackroyd, seconded by Nick White, agreed unanimously.</p>			
2018/15/FC	The next meeting will be at 7pm on Wednesday 23 May 2018 at Frome Town Hall			

The Chair closed the meeting at 8.23pm