

FROME TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Council Matters Committee

Wednesday 18 July 2018 at 7pm

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

Present:

Councillors: Richard Ackroyd, Kate Bielby, Colin Cobb, Gary Collinson, Toby Eliot, Sheila Gore (Chair), Peter Macfadyen, Mel Usher

In attendance:

Mark Dorrington (FTC Cllr), John Clarke (SCC Cllr), Paul Wynne (Town Clerk), Hannah Paniccia (Finance Administrator), Chris Stringer (Environment Manager), Rachel Griffin (Marketing and Communications Manager), Emma Parker (Project Officer), Laura Hales (Marketing and Communications Assistant), Laura Flaherty (Executive Assistant to the Town Clerk)

4 members of the public

| Minute Ref | Agenda Item | Action |
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| 2018/21/CM | <p>The meeting started at 7.01pm</p> <p>1a. Apologies for absence Received from Pippa Goldfinger</p> <p>1b. Declaration of members' interests None was received</p> <p>1c. Minutes from the last meeting on 9 May 2018 The minutes of the Council Matters Committee meeting held on 9 May 2018 were approved as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.</p> <p>Proposed by Toby Eliot, seconded by Colin Cobb, agreed unanimously.</p> | |
| 2018/22/CM | <p>2. Questions and comments from the public and Cllrs John Clarke asked whether FTC would consider closing their account with Barclays Bank due to Barclays investments in fossil fuels and non ethical funds. Toby Eliot explained that FTC have an ethical decision making policy that helps in matters such as these however there was a need for FTC to be able to operate reasonably. In this case FTC needed to have a bank located in the town due to the use of cash. Peter Macfadyen also explained that many factors were considered when choosing Barclays and they had the best arrangements for their staff.</p> <p>Peter Macfadyen noted he had spent an afternoon with ADD International. He explained that they were championing the UN</p> | |

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| | <p>concept 'leave no one behind'. Peter suggested FTC should consider this when looking at the strategy next time.</p> | |
| <p>2018/23/CM</p> | <p>3. To appoint the Deputy Chair of Council Matters Sheila Gore proposed Colin Cobb, this was seconded by Kate Bielby, agreed unanimously.</p> | |
| <p>2018/24/CM</p> | <p>4. A verbal update from Emma Parker, Project Officer, on the walking and cycling projects she has been working on this year Richard Ackroyd arrived at 7.25pm</p> <p>Emma gave an overview of the projects she had been working on.</p> <p>The School Travel Challenge was held at the end of May and encouraged children and parents to travel sustainably to and from school. The active journeys were recorded at the beginning and the end of the challenge. On average there was a 20% increase in active travel across the schools that took part. Emma noted she was hoping to do smaller events to sustain interest.</p> <p>Emma noted that Frome were accredited on 22 May as a 'Walkers are Welcome' destination. She explained that she was in the process of planning a launch event for September. Emma was looking at ways of promoting the award as well as the use of public transport.</p> <p>The EBikes had seen an increase in use with 79 rentals so far in 2018.</p> <p>Emma posed the question to Cllrs and members of the public 'How can we encourage more sustainable and active travel in Frome?'. Table 1 suggested subsidizing bikes for children from low income families or introducing a bike exchange in conjunction with an organisation like Fair Frome. Table 2 suggested ensuring the Missing Links project was completed. Table 3 thought a shuttle bus could be started to help people in and out of town for those that struggle with the hills. Finally, table 4 thought the installation of directional signage that indicated the quickest way to walk or cycle would help as well as keeping paths well maintained.</p> <p>Finally, Emma noted that she and Chris Stringer had conducted a consultation regarding the open space at Weylands. She noted that 113 people had responded, and overwhelmingly there was positive feedback. The majority of the people wanted the space left as it was just with addition of some benches and dog bins. Emma explained there was a desire to continue the path further and do some more planting.</p> | |

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| | <p>Proposed by Kate Bielby, seconded by Richard Ackroyd, agreed unanimously.</p> | |
| <p>2018/27/CM</p> | <p>7. For information - Frome Town Hall</p> <p>Rachel Griffin gave an overview of the report. She noted that recently Fair Housing for Frome and Frome Learning Partnership had become tenants. FTC and WHY had been unable to find a solution to enable their counselling services to remain in the building. Therefore, they would be staying month by month until an alternative option had been found. Rachel was currently looking for other tenants for the room. She noted the building felt busy and the occupancy rate was up. The only negative was there was less space for staff to have meetings.</p> <p>The Town Hall had seen a number of large events recently including Improve don't Move, the screenings of the film 'Plastic Ocean', Zero Carbon Towns and an apprenticeship conference.</p> <p>Rachel noted that she had received an acoustic report back which was a requirement for the change of use license. The recommendation was that events should be allowed as long the windows were closed and music was not amplified. Rachel was expecting the application to be processed within a month. The Premise licence would be expected at the same time. She was pressing for the wedding licence. There was a requirement to pass a fire assessment and it would take six weeks for the application to be processed. Rachel had also been discussing the possibility of holding ceremonies at the Town Hall with the Registrar. FTC were receiving wedding enquiries nearly every day.</p> <p>Rachel noted that although the projected forecast had improved by £10k it still remained a risk.</p> <p>Finally, the building maintenance continued with air conditioning in the Council Chamber being installed in August, storage containers would be installed behind Fair Frome soon for the use of FTC and the foodbank, the car park gateway would be repaired imminently and bike racks at front and back of the building had been installed.</p> <p>Rachel reminded everyone that the Café space was free for up to two hours for community groups with a week's notice.</p> | |
| <p>2018/28/CM</p> | <p>8. For information - Financial update at 30 June 2018</p> <p>Paul Wynne gave an overview of the report.</p> <p>Peter Macfadyen asked if Paul felt FTC got their money's worth from the subscription to NALC as other councils had decided not to continue. Paul said he personally used it often and it provided good value. He had found their training courses useful and they sent out useful and frequent circulars. He also felt they had a reasonably</p> | |

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| | <p>effective lobby group and had led some good campaigns.</p> <p>Peter Macfadyen also asked how the expenditure and income for Boyle Cross was shared between FTC and MDC. Paul said it was too early to say how these would be shared. He noted Peter Wheelhouse was due to meet with the steering group where this would be discussed. Mel Usher also explained that FTC and MDC had put in £10k each however the income was never determined. He noted Rachel Griffin was trying to generate interest in the use of the space outside of the agreement with MDC. Mel said there would be a report about markets in general at an upcoming Town Matters meeting where MDC would be invited to talk about their intentions for the area now and in the future.</p> <p>Jackie Wheeler was the Council's appointed representative on FTC's account with Mendip Credit Union. Now that Jackie has retired the account needs another. It was proposed that Cllrs authorise Paul Wynne, Town Clerk, to become the Council's appointed representative.</p> <p>Proposed by Sheila Gore, seconded by Colin Cobb, agreed unanimously.</p> | <p>PWh</p> <p>PWy</p> |
| <p>2018/29/CM</p> | <p>9. For information - Staff starters and leavers</p> <p>Paul Wynne noted that since the report was published, Charlie Orr, Project Officer would be leaving FTC by the end of August.</p> <p>Cllrs noted the report.</p> | |
| <p>2018/30/CM</p> | <p>10. For information - Health & Safety Update</p> <p>Cllrs noted the report.</p> | |
| <p>2018/31/CM</p> | <p>The next meeting will be at 7pm on Wednesday 5 September 2018 at Frome Town Hall</p> | |

The Chair closed the meeting at 8.30pm