

FROME TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Frome Town Council

Wednesday 05 December 2018 at 7pm
Frome Town Hall, Christchurch Street West, Frome BA11 1EB

Present:

Councillors: Rich Ackroyd (Chair), Toby Eliot, Mark Dorrington, Peter Macfadyen, Sheila Gore, Gary Collinson, Ali Barclay, Mel Usher, Tricia Golinski, Jean Boulton, Pippa Goldfinger, Colin Cobb, Kate Bielby

In attendance:

Paul Wynne (Town Clerk), Mary Dy (Executive Assistant to the Town Clerk and Mayor), Chris Stringer (Environment Manager), Peter Wheelhouse (Deputy Town Clerk), Anna Francis (Resilience Manager), Laura Hales (Marketing and Communications Assistant), Shane Collins (MDC Cllr), John Clarke (SCC Cllr), Karen Stewart (Trinity Community Group), Andrew Lee (President, Frome Town Rotary Club)

18 members of the public

Minute Ref	Agenda Item	Action
2018/51/FC	<p>The meeting started at 7.03pm</p> <p>1a. Apologies for absence Received from Cath Puddick and Nick White</p> <p>1b. Declaration of members' interests None was declared</p> <p>1c. Minutes from the last meeting on 3 October 2018 The minutes of the Frome Town Council meeting held on 3 October 2018 were approved as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.</p> <p>Proposed by Peter Macfadyen, seconded by Mark Dorrington, agreed by majority.</p>	
2018/52/FC	<p>2. Questions and comments from the public and Cllrs Dave Clark asked what FTC was doing to resist the proposed cuts to the County's get set service in Frome the fear that the Key Centre at the Mount would close. These services were vital to the local community.</p> <p>Rich Ackroyd said that FTC are worried about the cuts and their potential effects on getset services; Frome Cllrs at all tiers met in October to discuss this. He said that FTC would be objecting to the proposed cuts and asking to meet with the Leader of SCC and with David Warburton MP to that effect. FTC was exploring with the</p>	

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	<p>County and the neighbouring Christchurch School to assess the threat to the Key Centre posed by the cuts.</p> <p>John Clarke said that no decision has been made by SCC with regards to the Key Centre, although the getset service is inevitably under threat as it is not a statutory service. John also offered comments on behalf of Cllr Martin Dimery who could not attend this meeting, stating that Cllr Dimery had “absolutely opposed the closure of getset centres”.</p> <p>Pippa Goldfinger stressed that Cllrs should work with the Mount Community. Toby Eliot commented that SCC cuts are a direct result of a national policy of austerity and that FTC hasn’t stepped in to fill the funding gaps left by SCC cuts as that will mean double taxation. What FTC is doing is to help the communities to be more resilient.</p> <p>Mel Usher suggested that an early response from FTC to SCC’s proposals was needed.</p> <p>Lastly, Rich thanked everyone involved in making the previous Friday’s light switch-on event a success.</p>	
<p>2018/53/FC</p>	<p>3. For information – a review of the Fireworks event sponsored by FTC</p> <p>Andrew Lee (President, Frome Town Rotary Club) thanked FTC for its financial support for the event. The Youtube video had been playing on a loop as visitors entered the meeting.</p> <p>Andrew reported that it was an amazing event given it was the first time the Rotary Clubs had organised it. Lots of different voluntary groups were involved and £5100 was collected. The feedback from the community was fantastic; it’s clear that the Frome public would like to see it happen again and the Rotary would be happy to take this on. The Rotary Clubs estimate attendance was anywhere between 5-10K people, although they acknowledged that it’s difficult to be sure.</p> <p>Rich Ackroyd asked if they took away any pointers for next year; Andrew said Rotary representatives attended Safety Advisory Group meetings with MDC pre- and post-event and have received useful advice for next year from the Police.</p> <p>Peter Macfadyen thought the event did a good job of bringing people across town together. Rich thanked the Rotary Clubs for organising the excellent event.</p>	
<p>2018/54/FC</p>	<p>4. For information – a review of the schools’ anti-bullying march</p> <p>A video, edited by FTC marketing team, was presented. Rich thanked Kate Hellard for supporting the event and the girl from Vallis</p>	

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	<p>School who initially suggested it. He said it was good to see so many schools involved and talking to each other through the Frome Learning Partnership. Sheila Gore added that it was impressive that Vallis School took the suggestion seriously.</p>	
<p>2018/55/FC</p>	<p>5. For decision – Frome Town Council to declare a climate emergency and sign up to the Covenant of Mayors</p> <p>Anna Francis presented the report. She explained why action should be taken now and how climate change is impacting globally as well as locally. One example of impact on Frome is an increased risk of flooding.</p> <p>Anna then led a discussion around the question: As a community, what three things should we do to counter and prepare for a climate emergency. Some of the ideas proposed include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Think about how to communicate better to those not so passionately involved; current messaging may not appeal to a lot of people • FTC could borrow money to invest in solar energy • Adopting a local diet like the Fife diet—getting your food all within 20 miles of your location and generally spreading the word to ‘think local’ • Target the big organisations in town to reduce energy demand e.g. Frome College and businesses • Look into how plant-based diets are being presented in schools • Encouraging MDC to think more holistically about planning • Encourage people to cycle more and/or switch to electric vehicles; increase opportunities for car sharing and bike hire schemes • Increase biodiversity by planting more trees • Promote river based hydro power and wind turbines. It would take eight wind turbines to provide enough power to meet Frome’s energy needs <p>Anna then spoke about how the recommended targets could be achieved. She said that energy demands could be reduced with things like proper insulation; switching to electric vehicles are better for the environment and are five times more efficient than the traditional combustion engine; communities could be supported with larger scale projects around using/generating energy; and lobbying the government needs to continue to meet targets.</p> <p>Mel Usher said he supports the target but agreed with an early point by Colin Cobb that how we sell it is important; we need to be smart about messaging and methods so as to not alienate critical audiences.</p>	

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	<p>Tricia Golinski said she supports this message strongly but stressed that we need to work with SCC and MDC, especially on things like transport, which Frome does not have a lot of control over.</p> <p>Shane Collins suggested that if the Conservative hold on MDC can be overturned access to the ‘Phoenix fund’ could be available. He also suggested looking into ‘carbon rations’ and a Universal Basic Income scheme to get to zero emissions.</p> <p>Sheila Gore suggested that FTC could publicise options and promote ideas more. Peter Macfadyen felt that declaring a climate emergency is the radical approach, but it is necessary and will be worth it. Jean Boulton suggested that if we say something about the positive impact on human health more people will support the campaign.</p> <p>The recommendations were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Declare a ‘Climate Emergency’ 2. Pledge to make Frome carbon neutral by 2030 3. Call on Westminster to provide the powers and resources to make the 2030 target possible 4. Sign up to the Covenant of Mayors 5. Develop a detailed plan of action and report back to council in six months’ time. 6. Reports to Council in six months with an update on the actions being taken to address this emergency. <p>Proposed by Pippa Goldfinger, seconded by Jean Boulton, agreed unanimously.</p>	<p>AF</p> <p>AF</p>
<p>2018/56/FC</p>	<p>6. For decision – Egford Lane play area and green space Kate Bielby arrived at 8.09pm.</p> <p>Chris Stringer presented the report, highlighting that FTC have previously taken over various green spaces from MDC. All these acquisitions were led by the community in those areas. Residents near Egford Lane have taken a similar approach. Chris stressed that the decision tonight is not whether to take on the space, but rather to decide to carry on the conversation with the residents to see what they would like to see of the space and then open discussions with MDC if appropriate.</p> <p>Toby Eliot felt that although the resident group was well organised, he would like to see more of the community involved and on board.</p> <p>Mark Dorrington asked if FTC were able to acquire this space, what level of commitment would be required of the Rangers. Chris said that the existing team could accommodate routine maintenance (e.g. grass cutting, hedge trimming, safety checks on equipment),</p>	

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	<p>but things like major repairs or instalments would mean additional costs.</p> <p>Mel Usher felt it would be important to push MDC for a dowry. Anna Francis wondered about asking Newland Homes to contribute.</p> <p>The recommendations were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Delegate responsibility to the Project Officers (Emma Parker, supported by Kate Hellard) to carry on early conversations with the local community about ideas for the space 2. Delegate responsibility to the Environment Manager to coordinate a detailed condition assessment of the play area and the tree stock, agreeing that this could mean an up-front cost of circa £800 in this financial year 3. Delegate responsibility to the Environment Manager (supported by the Town Clerk) to open discussions with MDC about the possibility of taking on the freehold of the land (preferred) or a long-term lease in line with the leases already agreed for Chapmans Close, Packsaddle & Tower View 4. Return to Council with a costed proposal in due course. <p>Proposed by Toby Eliot, seconded by Sheila Gore, agreed unanimously</p>	<p>KH / EP</p> <p>CS</p> <p>CS</p> <p>CS</p>
<p>2018/57/FC</p>	<p>7. For decision – Approval of the Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy</p> <p>John Clarke departed at 8.13pm.</p> <p>Paul Wynne presented the policy, noting that there are no significant changes, we just wanted to make Cllrs aware of it. Paul noted Section 5 of the Policy, stating that ‘Cllrs and staff must be identifiable e.g. wearing Town Council branded clothing or name badges’ at events.</p> <p>Sheila Gore asked if there was a requirement to include photography permissions in a policy; Paul said he would look and see where one can be included, if there is not one already.</p> <p>The recommendation was to approve the Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy as chapter 21 of the Constitution.</p> <p>Proposed by Ali Barclay, seconded by Colin Cobb, agreed unanimously.</p>	<p>PWy</p>
<p>2018/58/FC</p>	<p>8. For decision – Approval of the Civic Protocol</p> <p>Councillors noted the report.</p>	

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	<p>The recommendation was to approve Civic Protocol as chapter 6 of the Constitution.</p> <p>Proposed by Mark Dorrington, seconded by Tricia Golinski, agreed unanimously.</p>	
2018/59/FC	<p>At this time, Cllrs next considered a report on a potential land disposal. Due to commercial sensitivity, this part of the meeting was held in confidential session.</p> <p>The press and public left the meeting.</p>	
2018/61/FC	<p>The next meeting will be at 7pm on Wednesday 23 January 2019 at Frome Town Hall</p>	

The Chair closed the meeting at 8.56pm