

FROME TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Town Matters Committee

Wednesday 14 November 2018 at 7pm
Frome Town Hall, Christchurch Street West, Frome BA11 1EB

Present:

Councillors: Jean Boulton (Chair), Mark Dorrington, Sheila Gore, Richard Ackroyd, Ali Barclay, Mel Usher, Nick White, Al O’Kane

In attendance:

Paul Wynne (Town Clerk), Mary Dy (Executive Assistant to the Town Clerk and Mayor), Laura Hales (Marketing and Communications Assistant), Kate Hellard (Community Projects Officer), Peter Macfadyen (FTC Cllr), Toby Eliot (FTC Cllr), Des Harris (MDC Cllr), Adam Boyden (MDC Cllr), John Clarke (SCC Cllr), Martin Dimery (SCC Cllr and Frome Festival), Dara O’Hare, Gail Norris

5 members of the public

Minute Ref	Agenda Item	Action
2018/47/TM	<p>The meeting started at 7:06 pm.</p> <p>1a. Apologies for absence Received from Kate Bielby and Gary Collinson.</p> <p>Cath Puddick also sent apologies due to work obligations in the USA. Jean Boulton proposed to accept Cath’s apologies, seconded by Rich Ackroyd, agreed unanimously.</p> <p>1b. Declaration of members’ interests None was declared.</p> <p>1c. Minutes from the last meeting on 19 September 2018 Rich asked for an update on the progress of Town Hall becoming recognised as a Safe Place (minute 2018/37/TM). Mary Dy said registration was with Avon and Somerset Constabulary and she is waiting for a reply. Rich also asked if there was any update about FTC’s support of Active and In Touch (minute 2018/38/TM). Kate Hellard said she’d met with them and discussions had started on the future structure of the organisation. Rich also asked for an update regarding progress with Volunteer Frome (minute 2018/41/TM); Kate confirmed a report has been received from them and she is meeting with them to discuss their contract very soon.</p> <p>The minutes of the Town Matters Committee meeting held on 19 September were approved as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.</p> <p>Proposed by Nick White, seconded by Sheila Gore, agreed by</p>	

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	majority.	
2018/48/TM	<p>2. Questions and comments from the public and Cllrs</p> <p>John Clark provided an update of SCC's current finances. He reported that SCC is making cuts to essential services to provide only the minimum of statutory requirements. Acknowledging the participatory nature of FTC and its community, he asked whether FTC might consider a public consultation to increase the precept to cover essential services.</p> <p>Toby Eliot noted that SCC had been making cuts for eight years. FTC will be discussing how to further support the community in the coming months and expressed concern about double taxation becoming an issue with regards to John's proposal.</p> <p>John also provided an update about the future of local government in Somerset and reported that a consortium is now in place to create workshops to explore options. He said that this would be a good time for FTC to consider what they want.</p>	
2018/49/TM	<p>3. An update from MYA recipient Frome Festival</p> <p>Martin Dimery (Creative Director), Dara O'Hare and Gail Norris (Trustees) presented.</p> <p>Dara highlighted the successes of this year's Festival which offered a wide range of events including big-name headliners; over 50% of which were free entry. Many volunteer artists, event stewards and brochure distributors were engaged on top of venues' own volunteers. Facebook followers have doubled since 2017. The 2018 Festival was also able to provide work placements to two Frome College students.</p> <p>Martin said this year the Festival received an increase in commercial sponsorship funding and donations and, overall, festival-owned promotions achieved a surplus of £1500. However, due to ticket sales of two high profile shows the Festival reported an overall loss of £6500. Martin noted it was the first time in six years that a report had occurred.</p> <p>FTC's MYA represented approximately 10% of this year's income and enables the Festival to plan ahead. This is well underway for the 2019 Festival which will be themed around JW Singer for the bicentennial anniversary of his birth. To deliver this theme, the Festival is working with the Frome Museum and Rook Lane who have received Heritage Lottery Funding.</p> <p>Des Harris asked if the Festival would consider bringing events to different areas of Frome, like FTC's open space at Tower View.</p>	

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	<p>Martin replied that they tried bringing the Children’s Show to the Key Centre in the past, but the uptake had been low. Instead they tried to cover a range of venues with events at church halls and green spaces.</p> <p>Tricia Golinski asked about the closing date for event submissions and how they attract new acts. Dara said the closing date for 2019 will be the first week of March and would welcome support from FTC to promote it.</p> <p>Mel Usher expressed appreciation for all the staff and volunteers’ hard work and wanted to know more about the overall direction of the Festival. Martin said the vision is to refine the Festival year by year but keep it the same size as much as possible and keep it participatory with most events being run by local people.</p> <p>Rich Ackroyd suggested that mid-week events in the town centre / Boyle Cross would be great to see; Nick White suggested reaching out to interested people in surrounding area rather than pursue hard to engage people in Frome; Adam Boyden suggested applying to the Mendip Lottery as a source of funding and use the MDC website to promote the Festival.</p> <p>On behalf of FTC, Jean Boulton thanked the Frome Festival team for their efforts and said that the Festival was something Frome was very proud of.</p>	
2018/50/TM	<p>4. An update from MYA recipient Frome Carnival Frome Carnival sent their apologies as their delegates were unable to attend due to conflicting obligations at other carnivals.</p> <p>They have been invited to present at the Council meeting on 5 December.</p>	
2018/51/TM	<p>5. For decision – to approve the recommendations of the Grants Advisory Panel Ali Barclay declared her personal interest as a trustee of Fair Housing for Frome.</p> <p>Kate Hellard presented the report. She noted the Cheese and Grain application for a Santa’s Grotto shed was not granted and they were recommended to explore commercial sponsorship instead.</p> <p>Rich asked Kate to double check the amount awarded to the Write Place.</p> <p>Sheila Gore asked for more detail on what the funding for Rook Lane Arts Trust was for. Kate said it would allow them to expand the</p>	

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	<p>project to engage the wider community in the form of an exhibition guide and community workshops.</p> <p>The recommendation was to approve the grants awards detailed in Table 1 of the report.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="435 383 1321 1126"> <thead> <tr> <th>Applicant</th> <th>Project</th> <th>Amount requested</th> <th>Amount agreed</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>SAFE Southwest</td> <td>Frome Fire Cadets</td> <td>£1000</td> <td>£500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jackdaws</td> <td>Year of the Flute</td> <td>£500</td> <td>£300</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Active and In Touch</td> <td>Business Development Officer</td> <td>£2000</td> <td>£500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Frome Cricket Club</td> <td>Cricket bundles</td> <td>£864</td> <td>£864</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fair Housing for Frome</td> <td>Cold weather shelter Winter 2018/19</td> <td>£1872</td> <td>£1872</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rook Lane Arts Trust</td> <td>Casting the World</td> <td>£2000</td> <td>£1000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Frome FM</td> <td>Computer upgrades</td> <td>£2000</td> <td>£200</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Total</td> <td>£12,236</td> <td>£5,236</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Proposed by Mark Dorrington, seconded by Tricia Golinski, agreed by majority.</p>	Applicant	Project	Amount requested	Amount agreed	SAFE Southwest	Frome Fire Cadets	£1000	£500	Jackdaws	Year of the Flute	£500	£300	Active and In Touch	Business Development Officer	£2000	£500	Frome Cricket Club	Cricket bundles	£864	£864	Fair Housing for Frome	Cold weather shelter Winter 2018/19	£1872	£1872	Rook Lane Arts Trust	Casting the World	£2000	£1000	Frome FM	Computer upgrades	£2000	£200		Total	£12,236	£5,236	KH
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2018/52/TM	<p>6. For decision – to send a draft bye-law on rights for the River Frome and Rodden Meadow to the DCLG</p> <p>Peter Macfadyen presented the report, highlighting that it has been two years since the first discussion when Cllrs decided the draft bye-law should be explored further.</p> <p>Peter stressed that the recommendation was just to send the drafted bye-law to the DCLG and that this should not incur further risk to FTC. He acknowledged that the DCLG may decide that FTC doesn't have the authority to enact the bye-law. He noted the process is being watched by interest groups across the country reflecting interest in the concept of nature rights. He also thanked Nature's Rights for their contribution of legal pro-bono and community work.</p> <p>Jean Boulton said her understanding was that corporations have the same rights as individuals, but rivers as natural resources do not. For example, if a river gets polluted by a corporation, in order to hold that corporation liable, it would have to be proved that harm to</p>																																					

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	<p>individuals has occurred, which is extremely difficult to do. Whereas, if someone on behalf of the polluted river, for example, could bring someone to court it would be more straightforward.</p> <p>Mark Dorrington was concerned that this can be considered a 'legal experiment' and asked who would pick up the [legal] fees for actions brought by the river. Peter said that the draft bye-law sets out that anyone can take up enforcement of the River's rights, including the Town Council if it chose to do so.</p> <p>Al O'Kane felt that this would not just be seen as a simple gesture of politics and Rich Ackroyd said that with all this work that has been done so far and with the next step being just to see what the DCLG says, he felt it would be worth it to go ahead.</p> <p>The recommendation was to submit the draft bye-law, the regulatory statement and the covering report to DCLG's bye-laws team for approval.</p> <p>Proposed by Sheila Gore, seconded by Rich Ackroyd, agreed unanimously.</p>	PWy
2018/53/TM	<p>7. For information – an update on the Health and Wellbeing programme Paul Wynne noted the report was an update of the health and wellbeing programme this year to date.</p> <p>A member of the community asked what will happen to the Health and Wellbeing Forum and the Young People's Mental Health Forum. Ali Barclay said the support for both would continue.</p> <p>Adam Boyden suggested that perhaps Health Connections Mendip could help.</p> <p>Jean Boulton reassured that community health and wellbeing would remain important areas of FTC's work.</p>	
2018/54/TM	<p>8. For decision – approval of the Community Engagement Strategy Paul Wynne presented the report.</p> <p>Toby Eliot suggested that the new Strategy feels unambitious and doesn't recognize sufficiently FTC's significant achievements. He proposed that some additions were needed, especially around FTC's work on participatory budgeting and suggested that it be brought back to a future committee meeting.</p>	PWy / MD

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	Mel Usher proposed to withdraw the Strategy, seconded by Ali Barclay, agreed unanimously.	
2018/55/TM	The next meeting will be at 7pm on Wednesday 6 February 2019 at Frome Town Hall	

The Chair closed the meeting at 8:22pm

DRAFT