

FROME TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Town Matters Committee

Wednesday 6 February 2019 at 7pm

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

Present:

Councillors: Jean Boulton (Chair), Kate Bielby, Tricia Golinski, Mel Usher, Sheila Gore, Rich Ackroyd, Nick White

In attendance: Peter Wheelhouse (Deputy Town Clerk), Mary Dy (Executive Assistant to the Town Clerk and Mayor), Kate Hellard (Community Project Officer), Anna Francis (Resilience Manager), Laura Hales (Communications Officer), Chloe Bray (Executive Assistant to the Town Clerk and Mayor), Malcolm Westgate (Harry's Hydro), Mark Willcox (YMCA), Sue Willis (Purple Elephant Productions), Andy Jones, Lenka Grimes, Karen Stewart, Shane Collins

4 members of the public

Minute Ref	Agenda Item	Action
2018/56/TM	<p>The meeting started at 7.03pm</p> <p>1a. Apologies for absence Received from Gary Collinson, Ali Barclay and Paul Wynne.</p> <p>1b. Declaration of members' interests None were received</p> <p>1c. Minutes from the last meeting on 14 November 2018</p> <p>An amendment was recommended to correct the minutes to include the name of Cllr Tricia Golinski, who was mistakenly not included. This was proposed by Mark Dorrington, seconded by Sheila Gore, agreed unanimously.</p> <p>The recommendation to agree the amended minutes was then proposed by Mark Dorrington, seconded by Sheila Gore, agreed unanimously.</p>	
2018/57/TM	<p>2. Questions and comments from the public and Cllrs</p> <p>Rich Ackroyd passed on comments he had received from members of the public regarding some railings along the River Frome that needed replacing and broken streetlights. Peter Wheelhouse said that FTC would pick up both issues. Rich Ackroyd suggested he could write a letter as the Mayor to Somerset County Council regarding the streetlights, which had not been working for at least 9 months.</p>	PWh

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	<p>Shane Collins asked for people to email MDC Cllrs to put pressure on them to declare a climate emergency, ahead of a meeting on 25 February.</p> <p>Mark Dorrington noted that he and Neil Howlett were in discussion with MDC about the Cork Street car park. He said that during the recent cold weather conditions cars were unable to get out of the car park, and better maintenance should be expected in view of the cost of car parking.</p>	MDo
2018/58/TM	<p>3. For information - Q&A session with Multi-Year Agreement (MYA) recipient, Harry's Hydro</p> <p>Malcolm Westgate, Chair of Trustees for Harry's Hydro, welcomed questions.</p> <p>He explained that Harry's Hydro has been running as an organisation since 2012 and is in profit, with the MYA contributing to the success.</p> <p>The organisation is staffed by volunteers and the user base has grown year on year. The facility is used at 98% of capacity on weekdays and 66% at weekends, up from an average of 35% in the previous year. Malcolm said the pool is used by various community groups such as Dorothy House and Pod Youth Club as well as Critchill School.</p> <p>Plans for the next few months include updating the showers, installing new sensory equipment, re-painting the exterior, and conducting risk assessments.</p> <p>He noted growing repair bills and difficulty regarding water testing.</p> <p>3 of the volunteers are now fully trained pool operators.</p> <p>Malcolm explained that the lease with SCC was to be transferred to a new trust, but Harry's Hydro are awaiting further details having written to SCC. The new lease was due to go live in June 2019.</p> <p>Jean Boulton expressed concern about how the organisation would be funded after the MYA ends in 2022.</p> <p>Nick White asked if different rates were used for different users, such as schools and commercial use.</p> <p>Malcolm explained that Critchill School received a 50% discount, but other than this a flat fee is charged for all customers.</p>	

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	<p>Mel Usher noted that Harry's Hydro provide a useful service with wide appeal. He asked if they had explored the idea of receiving donations from community groups. Malcolm explained that they had been in a lucky position so far, and that Harry's Hydro could now be run more like a business.</p> <p>Tricia Golinski asked if Harry's Hydro could invest in renewable energy. Malcolm said they had won grants funding through a competition by M&S to install solar panels on their roof, which resulted in savings of £1500 per year.</p>	
2018/59/TM	<p>4. For information - Q&A session with Multi-Year Agreement (MYA) recipient, YMCA Mendip</p> <p>Mark Willcox summarized the role of YMCA in the community and the success of the organization which has been helped by the MYA.</p> <p>YMCA supports young people with a focus on the homeless. This support includes the Routes drop-in café and providing advice on issues such as homelessness and Universal Credit.</p> <p>The £21K in MYA funding from FTC has enabled building repairs including fixing the roof and renovating the sports hall. A further £25K was received from Lottery funding and was to be matched with other available funding to facilitate heating system repairs estimated to cost £39K.</p> <p>The Frome Youth and Community Centre has been used by many youth groups and 196 young people from all parts of Frome. Youth Workers put on programmes to support vulnerable young people, who are then encouraged to get involved with the planning of projects. A "Youth Workers Online" project aims to reach out to young people at home, with the goal of youth clubs becoming a micro-community to support these young people and encourage engagement with life.</p> <p>Mark said the roof repairs to the youth centre meant groups could start using the space again and a client base was able to start forming. He also mentioned that they were now receiving referrals via the Shape Mendip Hub.</p> <p>Kate Hellard explained that the MYA funding was predominantly for the youth centre. She had recently met with the manager of Routes to see how more young people can be encouraged to use the service. She was working with Mark and the team to help the</p>	

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	<p>youth centre become more widely accessible. Mark suggested Kate could talk to his colleague Emma about how to simplify the referral process.</p> <p>Mark also talked about staff training. He said that staff training programmes including e-learning covered a wide range of topics such as child protection, health and safety, fire warden training, sexual health and domestic violence.</p> <p>Following the end of some funding streams in March, YMCA were exploring alternative sources of funding including partnership agreements and corporate funding, among others.</p>	KH
2018/6o/TM	<p>5. For Information - Q&A session with Multi-Year Agreement (MYA) recipient, Purple Elephant Productions</p> <p>Sue Willis presented a short film showing positive feedback from children and their parents/carers at the 2018 Frome Children's Festival.</p> <p>She thanked FTC for being a strong supporter and summarised the work of Purple Elephant Productions.</p> <p>Purple Elephant is a CIC established in 2015 whose main aim is to hold events for children and families and support inclusion. Their events include the Children's Festival, Make It Happen, and activities during school holidays. They also hold activities for children at other festivals and markets such as the Independent Market, Frome Carnival and the Chocolate Festival. They sometimes put on workshops leading up to events.</p> <p>A lot of feedback is collected from events and they have been working with schools on how to improve events, including the Children's Festival. Sue highlighted the children's festival as the biggest success of the company to date, with a lot of work put into it.</p> <p>She talked about a partnership with Fair Frome that enables families to receive a hot meal after events if they're eligible for free school meals. Other partnerships include Young People Frome and work with Knightstone Housing/LiveWest in the Trinity area of Frome.</p> <p>Staff have undertaken GDPR and first aid training, and training is offered to young people such as face painting training and coaching the basketball club. The company has 3 part-time staff directors, and 3 project officers including Lenka Grimes and Azeema Caffoor, and a small number of very good volunteers.</p>	

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	<p>Sue talked about the possibilities for funding in the future that were being explored. The majority of current funding comes from grants and they cannot charge for entry to their events as their key aim is inclusivity. Some ideas being explored were more partnerships, fundraising in schools, collections at local businesses and a “friends of” sponsorship scheme.</p>	KH
2018/61/TM	<p>6. For decision – an update on Frome Community Cars</p> <p>Anna Francis presented the report. Frome Community Cars was set up by FTC in 2016 with a freelance co-ordinator and team of volunteer drivers, to aid those with no access to transport to vital services such as medical appointments. A steering group was set up comprising Frome Town Council, Mendip Health Connectors, Frome Medical Practice and Somerset’s Clinical Commissioning Group.</p> <p>The project was transferred to Mendip Community Transport (MCT), who run other volunteer driver schemes, in 2018. However, in January 2019 MCT decided the project was too costly for them and gave FTC three weeks’ notice to find an alternative.</p> <p>There are 300 members of the scheme, which conducts 130 journeys per month, with 80% being for medical appointments. The service also allows isolated people to go shopping, visit friends and family, and make friends with volunteers and others.</p> <p>Transferring management of the project to South Somerset Community Transport was considered, but this would have made local journeys prohibitively expensive. Frome Community Cars is to therefore be run under Sustainable Frome CIC, with FTC providing initial guidance and a new freelance co-ordinator to report regularly to the steering group.</p> <p>Anna said she was currently fundraising to support the co-ordinator role for which a sustainable business model was being developed so that the scheme could remain affordable while making enough income to cover its costs.</p> <p>Nick White asked whether, given the cost estimates for the first year, it would be better for organisations with existing networks, such as taxi firms, to run the project. Anna explained that there were further fees associated with that idea such as licensing fees, and that the higher cost estimate for the first year was mostly due to transition costs. The project also contributes to the wellbeing of the volunteer drivers, and has benefits not available with other transport providers such as drivers waiting while a member has a medical appointment.</p>	

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	<p>Mel Usher said he felt there was a lot of potential for this scheme, and it could become a substantial project with good steering and more volunteers. Kate Bielby noted that a lot of people were enthusiastic about the scheme, especially because of further difficulties caused by Lock's Hill surgery closing.</p> <p>Rich Ackroyd asked about prices to members - at what point is Community Cars undercutting taxis and public transport? Anna explained that they had worked with taxi companies at the beginning of the project to set the correct price. They were currently following the pricing structure of MCT. For instance, a return trip to the RUH Bath would cost around £13 for a Community Cars user and £50 by taxi.</p> <p>Cllrs were recommended to:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Approve a contribution by Frome Town Council of £1000 towards the development costs of the project to enable the scheme to continue, develop a sustainable business model and transition away from the need for grant funding.</p> <p>This was proposed by Kate Bielby, seconded by Tricia Golinski and agreed unanimously.</p>	
2018/62/TM	<p>7. For decision - Community Grants £300 - £2,000</p> <p>Kate Hellard presented the report, which summarised the 10 applications submitted for Community Grants funding in the latest round, and the decisions made by the Grants Advisory Panel at a meeting on 23 January.</p> <p>Cllrs were recommended to:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Approve the grants detailed in Table 1 of the report.</p> <p>This was proposed by Kate Bielby, seconded by Mel Usher and agreed unanimously.</p>	
2018/63/TM	<p>The next meeting will be at 7pm on Wednesday 24 April 2019 at Frome Town Hall</p>	

The Chair closed the meeting at 8:22pm