

# FROME TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Town Matters Committee

Wednesday 7 August 2019 at 7pm

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

**Present:**

Councillors: Ali Barclay (Chair), Sara Butler, Rob Collett, Mark Dorrington, Nick Dove, Anne Hills, Paul Horton, Andy Palmer, Steve Tanner, Andy Wrintmore

In attendance: Paul Wynne (Town Clerk), Chloe Bray (Executive Assistant to the Town Clerk and Mayor), Peter Wheelhouse (Deputy Town Clerk and Economic Development & Regeneration Manager), Vivienne Whitaker (Project Officer), Neil Howlett (Frome Chamber of Commerce)

2 members of the public

Minute Ref	Agenda Item	Action
2019/09/TM	<p>The meeting started at 7:01pm</p> <p>1a. Apologies for absence Received from Rich Ackroyd, Lizzie Boyle, Anita Collier, Maxine Crawley, Sheila Gore, John Nelson and Scott Ward</p> <p>1b. Declaration of members' interests None was received.</p> <p>1c. Minutes from the last meeting on 24 April 2019 The minutes of the Town Matters Committee meeting held on 24 April 2019 were approved as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.</p> <p>Proposed by Nick Dove, seconded by Steve Tanner and agreed unanimously.</p>	
2019/10/TM	<p>2. Questions and comments from the public and Cllrs Steve Tanner let everyone know about the Friends of Frome Station project to improve and revitalise Frome Station. He said anyone interested in volunteering or offering ideas should get in touch with him, and conversations with GWR had been positive so far.</p> <p>Mark Dorrington let everyone know that the High Sheriff of Somerset would be visiting Frome on 25 September. The High Sheriff was particularly interested in apprenticeships and supporting young people.</p> <p>Andy Wrintmore reported a missing bench at Knightstone Heights.</p> <p>Rob Collett reported a couple of issues with street lights. He noted that the street lamp outside the Town Hall seemed to be on all day</p>	All

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	<p>regardless of the light levels. Paul Wynne said we would look into this and it may be related to the zebra crossing.</p>	<p>PWy</p>
<p>2019/11/TM</p>	<p><b>3. For information – Town Centre benchmarking update</b>  Vivienne Whitaker presented the figures from the Town Centre Benchmarking exercise which is completed annually.</p> <p>Cllrs asked if further statistics could be gathered in future to see how many visitors are from nearby towns and how the views of visitors compare with the views of residents. They also asked for information in the future about how many visitors to the Town Centre had used a car for a very short journey that could easily be walked or cycled.</p> <p>Paul Wynne asked if FTC needed to do more around cleanliness of the town centre. Cllrs felt that residents would like to see recycling bins in the town centre and having a visible litter warden or similar may have a strong impact. Ali suggested that town centre cleanliness and bin availability could be factored into the 2020-24 strategy.</p> <p>Neil Howlett asked if there could be a survey of bin availability, as there are areas where bins have been removed and not replaced. Paul told him that Chris Stringer has a map of the public bins in Frome.</p> <p>Neil Howlett congratulated Vivienne on the good work. He said that Frome has a strong identity. He said that although business survival rates could be improved, independent businesses were more robust and adaptable and the figures on footfall and time spent in the town centre were positive.</p> <p>Neil said that although traders were always unhappy about car parking charges, visitors were statistically not as negative. He suggested Vivienne speak to other towns, such as Bradford on Avon, who have used their benchmarking reports to improve car parking and agree lower charges with their district councils.</p> <p>Andy Palmer asked if there were any ongoing discussions about a Park &amp; Ride service for Frome. Peter Wheelhouse said the Park &amp; Ride worked well during the Frome Independent, but there was no larger discussion taking place. Cllrs suggested this could be looked into as part of Frome’s overall public transport offering.</p>	<p>VW</p> <p>CS</p> <p>VW</p> <p>PWh</p>
<p>2019/12/TM</p>	<p><b>4. For information – Economic Development work update</b>  Peter Wheelhouse presented the update which highlighted key areas of work and important statistics.</p> <p>Neil Howlett said Frome Chamber of Commerce represents around 100 Frome businesses, and distributed the Chamber’s Town Centre manifesto. In particular, he said that in some areas, developers have</p>	

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	to provide training plans and FTC could look into this for Frome.  Andy Palmer thanked Peter and Vivienne for their work saying FTC is very active within the business community and supports local businesses in useful ways.	
	The next meeting will be at 7pm on Wednesday 9 October 2019 at Frome Town Hall	

The Chair closed the meeting at 8:32pm

DRAFT