

# FROME TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Frome Town Council

Wednesday 25 September 2019 at 7pm  
Frome Town Hall, Christchurch Street West, Frome BA11 1EB

**Present:**

Councillors: Richard Ackroyd, Ali Barclay, Lizzie Boyle, Sara Butler, Rob Collett, Anita Collier, Maxine Crawley, Mark Dorrington (chair), Nick Dove, Sheila Gore, Anne Hills, Paul Horton, John Nelson, Andy Palmer, Steve Tanner, Scott Ward

**In attendance:**

Three Police representatives, Cllr John Clarke, Paul Wynne (Town Clerk), Sarah Williams (Business Manager), Rachel Griffin (Marketing and Communications Manager), Jane Llewellyn (Planning and Development Manager), Chris Stringer (Environment Manager), Beccy Byrne (Marketing and Communications Officer), Chloe Bray (Executive Assistant to the Town Clerk and Mayor)

17 members of the public

Minute Ref	Agenda Item	Action
2019/25/FC	<p>The meeting started at 7.02pm</p> <p>1a. Apologies for absence None was received.</p> <p>1b. Declaration of members' interests None was received.</p> <p>1c. Minutes from the last meeting on 17 July 2019 The minutes of the Frome Town Council meeting held on 17 July 2019 were approved as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.</p> <p>Proposed by Sheila Gore, seconded by Scott Ward, agreed unanimously.</p>	
2019/26/FC	<p>2. Questions and comments from the public and Cllrs Gill Fone noted there was overhanging vegetation underneath the bridge next to the Blue House. Chris Stringer explained there were multiple landowners but would look into whose responsibility it would be to clear.</p> <p>Pat Tayler asked if a bus shelter could be put in near Waterloo for bus passengers. John Clarke said he would talk to Neighbourhood Services at SCC.</p> <p>Sue Hughes noted there was a lack of toilets near to Cork Street car park and the bus stop. Mark Dorrington explained that FTC had set</p>	<p>CS</p> <p>JC</p>

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	<p>up a community toilet scheme where toilets would be available in near by businesses. It was suggested to publicise the Cordero Lounge as being part of the scheme around the bus stop area.</p> <p>Andy Palmer arrived at 7.30pm</p>	RG
2019/27/FC	<p>3. Presentation from Inspector Mark Nicholson from Avon and Somerset Police Sheila Gore left at 7.45pm</p> <p>Mark and his colleague Sergeant Rachel Clark introduced themselves. Mark explained that within Mendip the police have bases in five of the main towns. There were also rural area officers.</p> <p>If an officer makes an arrest in Frome the prisoner had to be taken to Keynsham to be processed. Unless the person was deemed dangerous, arrest was the last resort.</p> <p>On occasion the team saw a crime discussed on a Facebook page but it hadn't been reported and he urged the public to report everything directly to the police. He admitted that improvements were needed with the 101 service for non-emergency reports.</p> <p>Rachel Clark and her team covered both Frome and Shepton Mallet. Approximately 30% of their time was dealing with crime. The rest covered mental health and missing persons. Sheila Gore asked if the police worked with any mental health teams? Rachel explained that there were trained volunteers in community resolution which covered this.</p> <p>Rachel explained that policing priorities were part of the government strategy. Avon and Somerset's priorities were publicised on their website.</p> <p>Anne Hills asked how useful CCTV was to their work? Mark said he couldn't imagine doing without the CCTV service. It was often the first step in looking into any crime and could be part of evidence. It was also useful when searching for missing or vulnerable people.</p> <p>Mark Dorrington thanked Mark and Rachel for presenting to Council.</p>	
2019/28/FC	<p>4. For Decision: Wild about Trees - a tree planting project across the town</p> <p>Chris gave an overview of the proposed project. He explained that the project was in part to help fight climate change as well as a project that will enhance the environmental quality of the town. It was intended to be a long-term project with an initial phase in the</p>	

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	<p>coming winter. He said part of the second phase of the project would require a new member of staff to take it forward.</p> <p>Mel Usher suggested the Market Yard car park and Whatcombe Fields for areas to plant.</p> <p>Steve Tanner particularly liked the proposal for street trees and suggested working with developers to ensure the right trees were planted in the right places.</p> <p>A member of the public asked FTC to consider not only native trees because they were susceptible to disease. Also, to consider replacing dead trees in existing tree pits around the town.</p> <p>A representative of the Woodland Trust said they were excited by the project. It would be a great opportunity to show leadership and encourage others such as MDC and SCC to do the same. They suggested a mix of native and non-native trees, particularly to replace trees that had been lost.</p> <p>The recommendations were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Agree and adopt the proposed Tree Policy</li> <li>2. Agree, in principle, a new Wild about Trees project</li> <li>3. Engage with the community and plant more trees during this coming winter, as described in this report</li> <li>4. Delegate responsibility to the Environment Manager to work up a detailed and costed project plan to be tabled for discussion at the Council Matters meeting on 6 November.</li> </ol> <p>Proposed by Sara Butler, seconded by Andy Palmer, agreed unanimously.</p>	CS
2019/29/FC	<p><b>5. For decision – 2018-18 Annual Report</b></p> <p>Rachel presented the Annual Report and gave an overview.</p> <p>Cllrs expressed their approval and all were impressed with the design and presentation of information.</p> <p>The recommendation was to adopt the Annual Report 2018-19</p> <p>Proposed by John Nelson, seconded by Anita Collier, agreed unanimously.</p>	
2019/30/FC	<p><b>6. For Decision - Membership of Committees and Groups</b></p> <p>A few changes were proposed.</p> <p>The recommendations were:</p>	

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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Appoint the following Cllrs to the Town Matters Committee, not including the appointed Chair and Deputy Chair: Rich Ackroyd, Rob Collett, Anita Collier, Maxine Crawley, Mark Dorrington, Nick Dove, Sheila Gore, Anne Hills, Paul Horton, John Nelson, Andy Palmer, Steve Tanner, Scott Ward, Andy Wrintmore</li> <li>2. Appoint the following Cllrs to the Council Matters Committee, not including the appointed Chair and Deputy Chair: Rich Ackroyd, Ali Barclay, Lizzie Boyle, Sara Butler, Rob Collett, Anita Collier, Mark Dorrington, Nick Dove, Anne Hills, Steve Tanner, Andy Wrintmore</li> <li>3. Appoint the following Cllrs to the Planning Advisory Group, not including the appointed Chair and Deputy Chair: Rich Ackroyd, Lizzie Boyle, Anita Collier, Mark Dorrington, Sheila Gore, Paul Horton, Andy Palmer</li> <li>4. Appoint Cllr Anita Collier to represent FTC at meetings of the Frome Twinning Association</li> </ol> <p>Proposed by Nick Dove, seconded by Ali Barclay, agreed unanimously.</p>	
2019/31/FC	<p><b>7. For decision - Representation on the Frome Independent Market</b>  Paul Wynne updated Cllrs. He said that Nick White had resigned as FTC’s representative in its role as a member of the Company.</p> <p>Nick had also been a director of the company prior to his resignation. There was no currently mechanism for FTC to appoint a director.</p> <p>Paul agreed to explore with Mendip District Council (the second director of the company with Tabitha Clayson being the third) the legal position regarding membership and directorship of the company and continue to liaise with Tabitha on a day to day basis.</p> <p>The recommendations were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Decide whether to have FTC represented as a member of the company.  Proposed by Anita Collier, seconded by Anne Hills, agreed unanimously</li> <li>2. Appoint Nick Dove to fulfil this role.  Proposed by John Nelson, seconded by Scott Ward, agreed unanimously.</li> </ol>	
2019/32/FC	<p><b>8. For decision - Approval of the Protocol for Cllr/Staff Relations</b>  Cllrs noted the report.</p>	

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	<p>The recommendation was to approve and adopt the Protocol for Cllr/Staff relations as part of the Constitution.</p> <p>Proposed by Nick Dove, seconded by Lizzie Boyle, agreed unanimously.</p>	
2019/33/FC	<p>The next meeting will be at 7pm on Wednesday 20 November 2019 at Frome Town Hall</p>	
2019/34/FC	<p>Cllrs voted to enter confidential session</p> <p>Proposed by Andy Palmer, seconded by Sara Butler, agreed unanimously.</p> <p>Members of the press and public were asked to leave at 9.05pm</p>	
2019/35/FC	<p>9. For decision – A possible acquisition The meeting resumed at 9.19pm</p> <p>In Peter Wheelhouse’s absence, Paul Wynne presented a confidential report relating to a project to deliver an arts/heritage centre at the former Weston Warehouse, Saxonvale. Some investigations had already been completed which suggested that the building was structurally sound and a valuation had been obtained. The Weston Warehouse is already the subject of marketing by the owners, Mendip District Council and Acorn Property Group and in order to secure some exclusivity that would provide confidence to move to architectural feasibility stage, Paul explained that it would be beneficial to explore whether a price for the freehold interest can be agreed.</p> <p>He also presented a report on some feasibility work commissioned by Edventure on the existing work hub at Welsh Mill. The purpose of their feasibility work is to consider whether the building could be brought into community/public ownership. The proposal was to liaise with Edventure on this feasibility work and report back on the possibilities at a future meeting.</p> <p>The recommendations were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Cllrs endorse the process as set out in this report</li> <li>2. Cllrs delegate authority to the Deputy Town Clerk to negotiate with Acorn Property Group to secure the lowest possible price for the freehold interest of the Weston Warehouse and report back to Cllrs</li> <li>3. Cllrs delegate authority to the Deputy Town Clerk to liaise with Edventure CIC over the feasibility work that they are commissioning on the Welsh Mill property and bring a further</li> </ol>	

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	<p>report back to Cllrs as soon as possible to report on the outcomes</p> <p>Proposed by Mark Dorrington, seconded by Anne Hills, agreed unanimously</p>	
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The Chair closed the meeting at 9.42pm