

FROME TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Frome Town Council

Wednesday 20 November 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, Mark Dorrington (Chair), Nick Dove, Sheila Gore, Anne Hills, Paul Horton, John Nelson, Steve Tanner, Scott Ward

In attendance:

Ashley Reay (Mendip CSW), Rex Eastman (Mendip CSW), Cllr John Clarke, Cllr Adam Boyden, Paul Wynne (Town Clerk), Kate Hellard (Community Development Manager), Chris Stringer (Environment Manager), Sarah Williams (Business Manager), Laura Flaherty (Executive Assistant to the Town Clerk and Mayor)

15 members of the public

Minute Ref	Agenda Item	Action
2019/36/FC	<p>The meeting started at 7pm</p> <p>1a. Apologies for absence Received from Maxine Crawley, Andy Palmer and Andy Wrintmore</p> <p>1b. Declaration of members' interests Sara Butler and Mark Dorrington declared a personal interest in item 7 and Rich Ackroyd declared a personal interest in item 5.</p> <p>1c. Minutes from the last meeting on 25 September 2019 The minutes of the Frome Town Council meeting held on 5 September 2019 were approved as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.</p> <p>Proposed by Anne Hills, seconded by Anita Collier, agreed unanimously.</p>	
2019/37/FC	<p>2. Questions and comments from the public and Cllrs Adam Boyden asked Cllrs if they were happy with the recent closure of Routes? And how would they help young people in the future?</p> <p>Chris Hare, Chaplain to Mendip YMCA, said he understood why Routes had to close. He noted it was vital to have a policy for caring for young people. Many young people come straight from care and were in desperate need of advice and support.</p> <p>Rich Ackroyd explained that the closure was not known about in advance but subsequently understood it was something the YMCA wanted to happen. FTC had been reassured there was alternative</p>	

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	<p>services in place. With the employment of FTC’s Children and Young Peoples project officers, it was an area FTC would monitor.</p> <p>John Killah, a resident of West End appealed to FTC to assist with reinstating the streetlights in the area. Currently, there were four not working. John asked FTC to write to the SCC CEO and explain the urgency of the situation. Paul Wynne was asked to do this.</p>	PWy
2019/38/FC	<p>3. Presentation from Ashley Reay, Frome Community Speed watch</p> <p>Ashley explained Community Speed watch was a partnership between the Police and community where police trained volunteers to monitor the speed of traffic in 20,30 and 40 mph zones. The speed watch group collected data and passed it along to the police who then sent out warning letters to speeding motorists. In Frome, there were two teams with around 150 volunteers that have a dedicated department at police HQ. The group relied on police and parish councils for their funding.</p> <p>John Clarke asked if the introduction of the 20mph zone in the town centre had any affect? Ashley said that anecdotally it did and it would be more likely to reduce speed if FTC’s Speed Indication Device (SID) could be placed in the 20 mph zone. Chris Stringer was following this up with Highways to see if a suitable location could be found. Highways’ restrictions on siting were onerous.</p> <p>Lizzie Boyle asked the minimum age requirement for volunteers. Ashley said it was 18 years old.</p> <p>Rich Ackroyd thanked Ashley and the other volunteers for all they did. He asked if the group had any influence over the installation of zebra crossings? Ashley explained the speed watch group didn’t, but County Cllr’s could use their small improvement funds for the purpose of highways improvements. Ashley communicated the group’s frustration with SCC Highways and their difficulties getting replies to queries.</p>	
2019/39/FC	<p>4. For decision - Frome Town Council’s Strategy for 2020 – 2024</p> <p>Mark Dorrington thanked all Cllrs and staff and Lizzie, Maxine, Sara and Rob, in particular, for their hard work on putting the strategy together.</p> <p>Rich Ackroyd noted the aim of the strategy was not to recreate the work programme which held the details of delivering the strategy.</p> <p>Mel Usher said there was no mention of poverty, hunger, literacy, debt advice or IT skills. He also said there was no mention of organisations that are very active in the town who work closely with</p>	

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	<p>FTC. John Nelson explained that the strategy was not a prescriptive document, it was living and would adapt within the four years. He said the aim was to encourage more participation, so it reflected what people in the town wanted.</p> <p>John Clarke felt it was an interesting and challenging document. He welcomed the highlights around environment and climate change and the reference of how local government was changing. He was pleased to see details about working with the community and engaging with all sections. He asked how would FTC engage with those that felt excluded and not part of the community? For example, would the Saxonvale arts centre (which is being explored FTC), be something for all the community.</p> <p>Sue Klepper asked for FTC continue to support people with training and skills needs in mind, as this was something FTC could make a big difference on.</p> <p>Ali Barclay explained the strategy was designed to enable the community and other groups. It was not for FTC to be a service provider.</p> <p>Lizzie Boyle said the key thematic areas were set out in the document but there was flexibility to create work programmes with the detail. She noted the practical delivery elements and how FTC would engage would come through in this.</p> <p>The recommendation was to agree and adopt the Strategy.</p> <p>Proposed by Nick Dove, seconded by Anne Hills, agreed by majority.</p>	
2019/40/FC	<p>5. For decision - Adopt the cycle path from Weylands to Coalash Lane</p> <p>Rich gave an overview of the report and the requirement for FTC to be the named applicant on the planning application for the next phase of the Missing Link project. He noted the work on this phase could start after Christmas if they were granted planning permission.</p> <p>Lizzie Boyle asked how the path becomes part of the national cycle network. Rich explained this would happen once it was adopted by Sustrans.</p> <p>The recommendation was to apply for planning permission for the section of the Missing Link path from Whatcombe Fields to Coalash Lane.</p> <p>Proposed by Rich Ackroyd, seconded by John Nelson, agreed unanimously.</p>	JL

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<p>2019/41/FC</p>	<p>6. For Decision - Wild about Trees – Frome’s tree planting project Chris Stringer had confirmation, since the last meeting, of an offer of 1200 trees from the Woodland Trust. He said the plan was to plant them before Spring 2020 on FTC land. The ambition was to work across the town on land owned by other councils and privately. Therefore, the recommendation for a part time project officer to identify sites, get permissions and to deliver the project was very important to the overall project. Their role would also be about building relationships and supporting communities. The project was much more than just about trees.</p> <p>Sheila Gore asked why there was a recommendation to agree a budget while the budget for 2020/21 had not been agreed yet. Paul Wynne explained that large or significant projects like this are sometimes lost in the wider discussion about the corporate work programme and budget and are therefore brought forward so that Cllrs have the opportunity to discuss them in detail. He suggested adding to the recommendation that the project and its budget could be approved subject to discussions in January</p> <p>The recommendations were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agree to insert into next year’s budget £36,740 identified in the report <i>subject to sign off in the January budget</i> <p>Amendment in italics above proposed by Sheila Gore, seconded by Rob Collett, agreed unanimously.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Agree to proceed with the Wild about Trees project as described in the report 3. Delegate to the Environment Manager the recruitment of a half time project officer starting in April 2020. <p>Proposed by Rich Ackroyd, seconded by Ali Barclay, agreed unanimously.</p>	<p style="text-align: center; vertical-align: middle;">CS</p>
<p>2019/42/FC</p>	<p>7. For decision - Sea Change Fund and Substantial Grants Fund Kate Hellard provided an overview of the report and explained the significant changes to the grants funding system.</p> <p>There was a discussion about the removal of the Multi Year Agreements with organisations in the town and the effect this would have. This was particularly focused on Fair Frome.</p> <p>Ali Barclay explained she felt uncomfortable making any organisation in the town a special case. She said Fair Frome knew the agreement was coming to its end and made no effort to find a solution with FTC.</p>	

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	<p>Anne Hills explained she wanted the grants process to be transparent and clear. However, we were living in very difficult times and in the current environment we needed to make a special case of Fair Frome. She said the provisos would be to work together so FTC and Fair Frome were not in the same position next year.</p> <p>Mel Usher made an appeal for continuing Fair Frome's funding. He noted that FTC provided £15k and Fair Frome raised £72k. He said the current funding was just about keeping going, finding volunteers, gathering enough food and raising money. He asked for FTC not make it more difficult for them.</p> <p>Anita Collier said she felt there was a case to support Fair Frome, and asked Mel if there were opportunities to find funding elsewhere? Mel explained there were already an enormous number of organisations who provided funding. Mel maintained that there were not many national grants that supported Fair Frome's kind of work. He said he was unsure how they could do anymore with only three part time members of staff. Lenka Grimes, who works for Fair Frome, explained they had recently been turned down for a grant by the Lottery.</p> <p>Sue Klepper said many organisations in the town had the skills to fill in applications successfully. What organisations needed was the certain funding from FTC.</p> <p>There was an extensive conversation about whether to make Fair Frome an exceptional case within the grants system. This was reflected by an additional recommendation to those that were in the report.</p> <p>The recommendations were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Agree the introduction of the Sea Change and Substantial Grant funds2. Approve the terms and conditions in Appendix 1 for the Substantial Grant fund.3. Delegate to the Community Development Manager in consultation with the Grants Advisory Group to establish the terms and conditions for the Sea Change fund and review those for the Community Grants fund and the Mayor's Grant fund.4. Delegate to the Community Development Manager in consultation with the Grants Advisory Group to manage the application process for all grant funds in line with their respective terms, conditions and criteria and to make grant recommendations to the Town Matters Committee throughout the year.5. Allocate funding for 2020/21 as follows:	<p>KH</p> <p>KH</p>
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	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Substantial Grant Fund</td> <td>£50k</td> </tr> <tr> <td>The Sea Change Fund</td> <td>£40k</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Community Grant Fund</td> <td>£25k</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mayor's Grant Fund</td> <td>£5k</td> </tr> </table> <p>Proposed by Ali Barclay, seconded by Anne Hills, agreed unanimously.</p> <p>Rich Ackroyd proposed an additional and related proposal</p> <p>6. Add a budget line of £15k for Fair Frome in the January budget proposal but consider this in the context of the budget as a whole.</p> <p>Proposed by Rich Ackroyd, seconded by Sara Butler, agreed by majority.</p>	Substantial Grant Fund	£50k	The Sea Change Fund	£40k	Community Grant Fund	£25k	Mayor's Grant Fund	£5k	SW
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2019/43/FC	<p>8. For Approval – Changes to Financial Regulations Cllrs noted the report.</p> <p>The recommendation was to approve the proposed changes to the Financial Regulations.</p> <p>Proposed by Sheila Gore, seconded by Anne Hills, agreed unanimously.</p>									
2019/44/FC	The next meeting will be at 7pm on Wednesday 22 January 2020 at Frome Town Hall									

The Chair closed the meeting at 8.54pm