

Minutes of the Frome Annual Town Meeting

Wednesday 7 April 2021, 7pm

Zoom

In the Chair: Anita Collier, Mayor of Frome 2020/21

In attendance:

8 members of the public

Frome Town Councillors: Rich Ackroyd, Ali Barclay, Lizzie Boyle, Anita Collier (Chair), Mark Dorrington, Sheila Gore, Anne Hills, Paul Horton, Steve Tanner, Scott Ward, Andy Wrintmore,

Frome Town Council Officers: Paul Wynne (Town Clerk), Rachel Griffin (Marketing and Communications Manager), Laura Flaherty (Executive Assistant to the Town Clerk and Mayor)

1. Welcome from the Mayor of Frome

The meeting began at 7pm and Anita Collier welcomed all attendees.

2. Agree the minutes of the last meeting on 3 April 2019

Minutes of the meeting held on 3 April 2019 were signed by the Chair as a true record of the meeting. They were proposed by Sara Butler, seconded by Mark Dorrington, and agreed by majority.

3. Presentation of the Mayor's Civic Awards

Dougie Brown

Anita said Dougie along with his team and volunteers had made a huge difference and had gone above and beyond. Anita gave a big thank you to Dougie for all his work. She personally thanked him after he kindly gifted his civic award flowers to her.

Katy Harris

Anita explained Katy ran a local business called Katy's Kitchen, she worked with Fair Frome, and helped to run the Food at Five. Anita said she was also instrumental in helping to reinstating the Saturday Market. Anita gave Katy a big thank you.

Terri Pitts

Anita said she wanted to publicly acknowledge the amount of work Terri did for the Community Fridge. She said Terri had worked tirelessly and always with a smile on her face. She had also been kind enough to take the excess food from the fridge to the various share boxes around the town. Superb job!

Helen Kingston on behalf of the Frome Medical Practice

Anita said the team had done amazing work. She explained she had always been in awe of their work but particularly during the past year. FMP had been instrumental in keeping the residents safe and informed. She also highlighted the incredible work to roll out the vaccination programme. Anita said the whole team were an efficient and friendly bunch.

Anita also thanked Andy Wrintmore, Deputy Mayor, for stepping in to present the certificates and flowers to the awardees

Andy also received, on behalf of Frome Town Council, a plaque from Active and In Touch to thank FTC for their support during the year.

4. Presentation from Cllr Anita Collier on her year as Mayor

Anita started by acknowledging her year as Mayor had not been the one she had set out to have. Her plans for a social and event planned year weren't meant to be. Yet she still had a packed year.

Anita pulled out the highlights from her year which included:

Tree planting

Weekly walkabouts

Compassionate frome

75th anniversary of WW2 with a service at Wells Cathedral

Fair Housing For Frome promotion

Dr Bike

Meeting the Leader of Bridgwater council

Walks by the river

Bike jumble

Rugby Tots

Discovering the Dissenters Cemetery,

Showing off the town to the High Sheriff of Somerset, Mary Clare Rodwell

Reopening of H.E. Williams and Son butchers

Talking to residents about the future of Rodden Meadow

Remembrance 2020, different but still a moving service

Light the night

Mayor's Christmas card competition which received over 200 entries

Reopening of the markets

Creating a neighbourhood share box

Regular Mayor's column,

Giant Pod with Deputy Andy

Anita then showed her 'Make a change video' which highlighted the reasons she became a Cllr.

Anita thanked staff and Cllrs for their support. Also, to the businesses for taking the time to chat during her walkabouts. She said Frome had special people and she loved every minute of being their Mayor.

Anita noted this presentation was just a snapshot of her year and she had had an incredible time. She hoped it came across that she was Frome through and through and loved the town

with all her heart. Anita ended her presentation with a quote that summed it all up for her, “A meaningful life is not being rich, being popular, being highly educated or being perfect... It is about being real, being humble, being able to share ourselves and touch the lives of others. It is only then that we could have a full, happy and contented life”.

Anita thanked Miles Macey for their work on power point presentation.

Ali Barclay thanked Anita and said how she had found her to be inspiring, especially for her honesty and openness during her treatment.

Maxine Crawley said she knew it wasn't the year Anita had hoped for, but she had created a year that had brought so much to so many. She thanked Anita for her kindness and said she couldn't wait to see what she would do next.

5. Questions and comments from the public and Cllrs

None was received.

6. Presentation from Cllr Anne Hills, Leader of the Council

Anne said how proud she was of how the town had pulled together during the past year. It was certain the community had stepped up to the plate. In a short time, Frome had over 300 volunteers, introduced sharing cupboards, wild about sharing boxes and two community fridges. The Town Council took a role in community support and immediately thought how to support the most vulnerable. The 'nearest 5 neighbours' campaign and the neighbourhood networks were the outcomes of this. FTC Staff adapted to the situation, changed roles, and manned a telephone rota to support the community. In the summer there were grass mazes, chalk to help with social distancing, litter picking and the hoedown (with special thanks due to Cllr Shane Collins). Celebrations of the community happened differently, with Halloween Window Wanderland instead of trick or treat, Christmas lanterns instead of the Christmas light switch on. During the pandemic FTC supported and enabled the scale up of community feeling.

Anne finished her presentation by showing a film created by FTC staff that was submitted to the Academy of Urbanism.

Rich Ackroyd congratulated Anne and noted she had a difficult year, leading from zoom conferences, but she managed it well.

7. A look back at the fantastic Frome Window Wanderland events

A video was shown of the Halloween Wanderland in October 2020 and the Window Wanderland during the half term holiday in February 2021. Sara Butler noted what a great video it was, and the events were a great example of what Frome could do.

Meeting closed: 7.39pm