

FROME TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Town Matters Committee

Wednesday 7 October 2020 at 7.15pm
Zoom

Present:

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

In attendance:

Sue Everett, Sheila Gore (FTC Cllr), John Clarke (MDC/SCC Cllr), Helen Kay (MDC Cllr), Michael Dunk (MDC Cllr), Adam Boyden (MDC Cllr), Paul Wynne (Town Clerk), Peter Wheelhouse (Deputy Town Clerk), Kate Hellard (Community Development Manager), Hannah Stopford (Neighbourhood network Project Officer), Rachel Griffin (Marketing and Communications Manager), Emma Parker (Project Officer), Viv Whitaker (Project Officer), Beccy Byrne (Marketing and Communications Officer), Laura Flaherty (Executive Assistant to the Town Clerk and Mayor)

10 members of the public

Minute Ref	Agenda Item	Action
2020/20/TM	<p>The meeting started at 7.15pm</p> <p>1a. Apologies for absence None was received.</p> <p>1b. Declaration of members' interests Rich Ackroyd declared a personal interest in item 3.</p> <p>1c. Minutes from the last meeting on 5 August 2020 The minutes of the Town Matters Committee meeting held on 5 August 2020 were approved as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.</p> <p>Proposed by John Nelson, seconded by Rich Ackroyd, agreed unanimously.</p>	
2020/21/TM	<p>2. Questions and comments from the public and Cllrs Mark Dorrington raised a concern about the speed of traffic through the newly remodeled town centre. Paul Wynne offered to raise the issue with the police team.</p> <p>John Clarke asked if FTC would be making an application to the SCC Climate Emergency fund. Peter Wheelhouse confirmed he was working on an application which would possibly be for the creation of a Local Walking and Cycling Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP).</p>	PWY

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	<p>Jane Wood asked what had happened to the St Aldhelms shield from the removed railings in the town centre and the guards that had been removed from the trees outside of the library. Peter Wheelhouse confirmed the shields were in FTC's possession and he was hoping they would become part of a potential public art programme. Paul Wynne confirmed the trees outside the library were MDC owned and it was understood the guards were removed because the trees were growing into them.</p> <p>A member of the public Paul Mallet raised a concern about the proposed bridge from Saxonvale to Willow Vale with loss of parking and trees. Paul Wynne would ask Jane Llewellyn, Planning and Development Manager to respond to Paul directly.</p>	JL
2020/22/TM	<p>3. A short presentation from Sue Everett with an update on recent events and happenings along the River Frome</p> <p>Sue Everett, Friends of the River Frome, gave a comprehensive presentation on work being done to improve the river Frome. Sue explained the river was in a poor condition largely due to pollution from agriculture and chemicals. In addition, there were overflows of untreated sewage overflows (Sue shared a video example close to the town centre). Preventing flooding was a concern and as well as river barriers. Farming Wildlife Advisory Group SW and Somerset Frome were launching two projects: working with farmers and land managers in the Upper Somerset Frome to deliver a catchment-wide approach for water environment improvements. Second, the Somerset Frome Multi-Benefits Project, funded by the Environment Agency's Water Environment Improvement Fund (WEIF), aimed to provide water quality and wider environmental improvements. Delivery would be closely integrated with the Wallbridge Natural Flood Management Project which was funded by MDC to deliver flood management solutions at Wallbridge and across the upper catchment.</p> <p>Paul Wynne, with Cllrs support, was asked to write to MP David Warburton to complain about the pollution of the river and ask him to urge Wessex Water to improve.</p> <p>The chair thanked Sue for her presentation.</p>	PWy
2020/23/TM	<p>8. For information - Update on Vocational Training Group Moved to agenda item 4</p> <p>Viv Whitaker gave a summary of the report.</p> <p>Maxine Crawley noted the enthusiasm for the project. With the effects of COVID-19 there was now more emphasis on returning to work and the need for more jobs in the town.</p>	

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	<p>Anne Hills asked if David Warburton was aware of the work of the vocational training group? Viv explained he had not been contacted yet but would now be sharing all of the information they had with him.</p> <p>Ali Barclay asked what support was in place for individuals with complex needs? Viv explained they were looking into providing a coordinator who would be responsible for employability assessments.</p> <p>Andy Palmer asked if the group was still considering offering mentoring? Viv explained the idea had come from Frome College. However, there had been little interest from businesses. She did say she would explore it further next year.</p>	
2020/24/TM	<p>4. For decision – Next steps on School Street feasibility and consultation</p> <p>Peter Wheelhouse and Emma Parker provided a summary of the report.</p> <p>Cllrs discussed the scheme in general as well as the funding opportunity from the Department of Transport. Rob Collet queried whether the funding had to be spent by the end of March 2021. Peter Wheelhouse confirmed he was seeking clarification from SCC. He was hopeful it only needed to be committed.</p> <p>Scott Ward raised his concern about the effect on the Butts and Broadway of the scheme. Peter confirmed that new crossings at the Butts and Broadway had been included in the bid. It would be a package of measures including making crossings safer.</p> <p>The recommendations were: Anita Collier proposed an amendment to recommendation 1 to change the start date from February/March 2021 to April 2021, seconded by John Nelson, agreed by majority.</p> <p>The revised recommendation was:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Delay the start of the implementation of the School Street programme until April 2021 subject to DfT funding <p>Proposed by Anita Collier, seconded by Rich Ackroyd, agreed by majority.</p>	PWh/EP

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	<p>John Nelson proposed an amendment to recommendation 2 to re-allocate £4000 of the School Street budget for other purposes, seconded by Rob Collet, motion not passed</p> <p>2. Approve re-allocating £4000 of the School Street budget to implement an Active Travel Challenge for all schools in the next few months</p> <p>Proposed by Anne Hills, seconded by John Nelson, agreed by majority.</p> <p>The Chair called for a five minute break. The meeting resumed at 9.20pm.</p>	SW
2020/25/TM	<p>5. For decision – Taking forward Participatory Budgeting via The People’s Budget: Events and The People’s Budget: Town vote into 2021/2022</p> <p>Rachel Griffin provided a summary of the report.</p> <p>Cllrs were concerned with approving the budget allocation before they had discussed what the 2021/22 budget would look like.</p> <p>Rich Ackroyd proposed deferring the decision until the next Town Matters meeting on 9 December 2020, seconded by Mark Dorrington, agreed unanimously.</p>	RG
2020/26/TM	<p>6. For decision – Delivering the Resilience work programme during Anna Francis’ sabbatical</p> <p>Peter Wheelhouse summarised the report.</p> <p>Cllrs discussed the proposed Resilience Officer post. Paul and Peter explained that a permanent post was more likely to attract high calibre applications. Peter confirmed that the additional cost would need to be factored into next year’s budget.</p> <p>The recommendations were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish a new permanent post of Resilience Officer at Grade SCP 15-25 with the new postholder reporting to the Deputy Town Clerk whilst Anna Francis is on sabbatical 2. Delegate authority to the Deputy Town Clerk to develop an appropriate job description and person specification and proceed with recruitment immediately <p>Proposed by Anne Hills, seconded by Rich Ackroyd, agreed unanimously.</p>	SW PWh
2020/27/TM	<p>7. For information - Community Development Update</p> <p>Kate Hellard provided a summary of the report.</p>	

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	Anne Hills highlighted that FTC's work in the community and emergency response to the pandemic had been recognised by the Academy of Urbanism.	
2020/28/TM	The next meeting will be at 7.15pm on Wednesday 9 December 2020 on Zoom.	

The Chair closed the meeting at 10.04pm

DRAFT