

FROME TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Town Matters Committee

Wednesday 19 June 2019 at 7pm

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

Present:

Councillors: Ali Barclay (Chair), Richard Ackroyd, Lizzie Boyle, Sara Butler, Rob Collett, Anita Collier, Mark Dorrington, Sheila Gore, Anne Hills, John Nelson, Andy Palmer, Steve Tanner, Scott Ward

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), Jane Llewellyn (Planning & Development Manager), Kate Hellard (Community Development Manager), Laura Hales (Marketing & Communications Officer), John Clarke (Somerset County Council and Mendip District Council), Ric Swann (Frome Civic Society), Lenka Grimes, Rebecca Morland, Mel Usher

8 members of the public

| Minute Ref | Agenda Item | Action |
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| 2019/01/TM | <p>The meeting started at 7:02pm</p> <p>1a. Apologies for absence Received from Paul Horton, Nick Dove, Maxine Crawley and Andy Wrintmore</p> <p>1b. Declaration of members' interests Sheila Gore declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 3 on the Saxonvale development. Sheila is a trustee at Frome Museum which is one of the organisations hoping to obtain premises at the site.</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. Proposed by Mark Dorrington, seconded by Rob Collett, agreed unanimously.</p> | |
| 2019/02/TM | <p>2. Questions and comments from the public and Cllrs None was received.</p> | |
| 2019/03/TM | <p>3. Saxonvale formal planning consultation response Peter Wheelhouse and Jane Llewellyn presented the report, which gave the proposed Frome Town Council response to the outline planning application for the Saxonvale development and took into account views shared at a public meeting on 13 June 2019.</p> <p>Peter highlighted the importance of cultural community space at the development saying that positive engagement was taking place</p> | |

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| | <p>between the councils on the Western Warehouse.</p> <p>Rich Ackroyd said we should push for the best possible outcomes from this development especially considering the site is publicly owned. He said the footbridge was essential for viability and that more commercial and more community and cultural space would be welcomed at the site.</p> <p>Steve Tanner asked how much an independent transport assessment would cost and whether FTC could commission one. Jane said it was possible but she didn't know the cost. She also noted that MDC may not have to accept the assessment. Ultimately, it was County Highways that assessed whether the transport assessment was accurate. She said John Clarke had been talking to Highways and we are hoping to put our concerns to them.</p> <p>Lenka Grimes asked how much influence the FTC response would have. Jane explained that hopefully MDC will listen to our response and that we have additional good lines of communications with both MDC, Acorn and other involved parties. Peter added that FTC is not alone in making these points – the views are also shared by other Frome organisations such as Frome Civic Society and Frome Chamber of Commerce.</p> <p>John Clarke asked about off site congestion and the lack of detail in the transport assessment about the Gorehedge junction and how MDC and Acorn could mitigate increased congestion as a result of Saxonvale via a s106 agreement. He urged members of the public to talk to their district Cllrs about their views on the redevelopment plans.</p> <p>Jane said the Gorgehedge junction was mentioned in the report. And her view was that the Saxonvale development s106 agreement alone is unlikely to enough to pay for changes to the junction to reduce congestion. . She suggested that one way forward might be that County Highways saves s106 money from this and future developments until there is enough to fund the changes.</p> <p>Rob Collett and John Clarke voiced concerns about an increase in pollution caused by the increase in traffic and queueing vehicles. Paul Wynne suggested FTC write separately about concerns not included in the proposed response.</p> <p>Rob Collett proposed the following amendment; adding the text in red to a section of the response document: We support the reduced provision of parking spaces and the aim of encouraging less dependence on cars which is in line with the climate emergency declared by Frome Town Council, Mendip District Council and Somerset County Council.</p> | <p>JL</p> <p>JL</p> <p>JL</p> |
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| | <p>This was seconded by Sheila Gore and agreed unanimously.</p> <p>Rich Ackroyd proposed an amendment, adding the text in red to a section of the response document: The success of this scheme is dependent on the viability. We understand that the two limiting factors to the viability are the developer’s profit and the District Council’s profit. We recommend that this viability assessment is made publicly available. Given that Mendip’s profit is public money, we recommend that MDC consider reducing their profit requirement to enable more commercial space and affordable housing to be delivered.</p> <p>This was seconded by Lizzie Boyle and agreed unanimously.</p> <p>The amended recommendation was: To submit the above response to Mendip District Council, including the amendments agreed at this meeting.</p> <p>This was proposed by John Nelson, seconded by Steve Tanner and agreed unanimously.</p> | JL |
| 2019/04/TM | <p>4. Community Development update Kate Hellard presented the report. She explained that in the Trinity area, they were now exploring ways to keep people motivated to engage with their local community. She said people were often most motivated when there were things they disliked and wanted to change in the community. She added that the PCSOs are now well received in the area having built up a good working relationship with residents.</p> <p>Rob Collett asked if there were plans to roll this work out to the rest of the town. Kate said we would like to roll this out and identify other areas for this kind of work, with some communities earmarked for this kind of project in the future. She explained that in areas like Trinity, it required a lot of work to support the groups there, while we also remotely support lots of smaller community groups. She said this would come back to a future meeting with some suggestions.</p> <p>Mel Usher said the Trinity area is densely populated and that previous efforts to get MDC to clean the streets thoroughly had been unsuccessful. He asked if it was time to make another push with MDC or revisit the idea of FTC facilitating part-time street cleaners. Sheila asked what community groups were asking for. Kate said the next steps for the Trinity group included obtaining some land to use as a community garden and hold more Summer street parties, hopefully simplifying the process for road closures. Groups have also asked for community noticeboards, new bins and support in putting</p> | KH |

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| | <p>newsletters together.</p> <p>Anita asked what criteria were used to select Trinity for this work. Kate explained that in 2016 FTC commissioned a pilot study in three different communities – Selwood, Trinity and Packsaddle. Trinity was found to be the most disconnected of the three areas largely because they had no green space.</p> <p>Lenka Grimes asked if FTC was planning to work on the Mount with the community groups there. Kate said we currently have no plans to do this type of work in the Mount as the area is really thriving at the moment with a strong community group.</p> <p>Lenka also asked about new charges at the Key Centre which used to be free for community groups to use but now costs £50 for 2 hours. Kate acknowledged that it was now more difficult for community groups to use the space which is run by Somerset County Council with issues accessing the building after 5pm. She said SCC had committed to keeping it open but this must be viable for them so their new charges were in line with other charges in the town.</p> | |
| 2019/05/TM | <p>5. Update on the recruitment of a Children and Young People’s Project Officer</p> <p>Kate presented the report explaining that two people had been recruited to share the post with one focusing on the 0-4yrs age range and the other focusing on the 5-12yrs age range. They would explore services available to youth across all ages in the town.</p> <p>Rob Collett left the meeting insert time</p> | |
| 2019/06/TM | <p>6a. For decision – Community grants £300 - £2,000</p> <p>Kate Hellard presented the report which recommend the grants to approve and not approve from round one of community grants for the 2019-2020 financial year.</p> <p>She explained that the recommendations followed discussion from the Grants Advisory Panel. Rich Ackroyd thanked Kate for her work and said it had been difficult to decide which grants to approve on this round.</p> <p>Lizzie Boyle asked if there were projects which wouldn’t be able to be completed if FTC only agreed to part-fund the grant request. Kate explained this has never happened previously and that we also provide support in other ways and are happy for organisations to come back to us for further support or funding requests.</p> | |

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| | <p>Lizzie Boyle noted that recognising where groups are on their journey is important as newer groups have different needs to well-established ones. She asked how we can scale support to reach more people using innovation and technology rather than just more people. Kate explained that a CRM system was planned and we are working to make sure information on our website is up to date. She added that one to one support does work really well with community groups.</p> | |
| 2019/08/TM | <p>8. The People’s Budget Town Vote 2019</p> <p>Kate Hellard presented the report on the Town Vote 2019 on behalf of Rachel Griffin . The Town Vote includes working in collaboration with Public Square and MySociety to engage more people and inspire wider participation.</p> <p>John Nelson asked for more information on Public Square. Kate explained that Public Square have received a large grant to enable them to develop models of participatory budgeting and that they are working in four places across the country including Frome.</p> <p>The recommendation was: Take forward PB Town Vote by developing a prototype and evaluation system with Public Square</p> <p>This was proposed by Anita Collier, seconded by Anne Hills and agreed unanimously.</p> | RG |
| | <p>The next meeting will be at 7pm on Wednesday 7 August 2019 at Frome Town Hall</p> | |

The Chair closed the meeting at 8:35pm