

FROME TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Town Matters Committee

Wednesday 9 December 2020 at 7.15pm
Zoom

Present:

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

In attendance:

Sheila Gore (FTC Cllr), John Clarke (MDC/SCC Cllr), Martin Dimery (SCC Cllr), Shane Collins (MDC Cllr), Paul Wynne (Town Clerk), Peter Wheelhouse (Deputy Town Clerk), Kate Hellard (Community Development Manager), Rachel Griffin (Marketing and Communications Manager), George Tomlinson (Marketing and Tourism Officer), Emma Parker (Project Officer), Viv Whitaker (Project Officer), Beccy Byrne (Marketing and Communications Officer), Laura Flaherty (Executive Assistant to the Town Clerk and Mayor)

6 members of the public

Minute Ref	Agenda Item	Action
2020/29/TM	<p>The meeting started at 7.15pm</p> <p>1a. Apologies for absence Received from Maxine Crawley and Nick Dove</p> <p>1b. Declaration of members' interests Andy Palmer declared a personal interest in item 4</p> <p>1c. Minutes from the last meeting on 7 October 2020 The minutes of the Town Matters Committee meeting held on 7 October 2020 were approved as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.</p> <p>Proposed by Rich Ackroyd, seconded by John Nelson, agreed unanimously.</p>	
2020/30/TM	<p>2. Questions and comments from the public and Cllrs Shane Collins noted that Ros Wyke, Leader of MDC, would be giving a statement regarding the 'pause' to their plans for social housing on land at Easthill. He also noted the Frome Hoedown would happen on the last Sunday of the month across Frome. Shane asked Cllrs for location ideas for Bramley apple trees.</p>	
2020/31/TM	<p>3. For Decision – Grants: Next steps and proposals Kate Hellard gave a summary of the report.</p>	

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	<p>She explained that it was important to open a community grants round (up to £3k) as soon as possible. Many organisations grants awarded specifically for relief during the pandemic were coming to an end and they were in need of security going forward. This round would be funded by the existing budget of £60k.</p> <p>Kate explained that the new round would be an opportunity for a trial of some of the suggestions from the co design meetings. These would include the application form and decision making process, such as inviting grant applicants to listen to live feedback. There was a larger discussion to be had around Multi Year Agreements and large grants. Every organisation would love a MYA but it would not be possible with over 120 of them in the town. One option to explore would be a large grant, enough funding for two or three years, rather than applying for small grants multiple times.</p> <p>John Nelson asked how representative of the community groups in town had the process been? Kate said that it was truly representative of the groups FTC worked with, both small and large. Individuals were not part of the process as it needed to be a process that worked for all organisations. Having Public Square as a neutral facilitator really helped. John Also asked about measuring impact of the grants awarded and Kate said that she would be looking into this.</p> <p>The recommendations were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Delegate authority to Kate Hellard, in conjunction with the grants co design group and the wider Grants Advisory Group, to draft and agree an application form and selection process for the Community Grants to open in January 2021 2. The grants co design group to continue to meet to design and define a large / multiyear grants process. 3. Bring the proposed large grant allocation, process and reflections on Community Grants pilot back to Town Matters for approval in February ahead of the new financial year. <p>Proposed by Mark Dorrington, seconded by Anne Hills, agreed unanimously.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">KH</p> <p style="text-align: right;">KH</p> <p style="text-align: right;">KH</p> <p style="text-align: right;">KH</p>
2020/32/TM	<p>4. For decision – King Street access only proposal Peter Wheelhouse gave a summary of the report.</p> <p>Cllrs were concerned that the number of people consulted was too small to make an informed decision.</p> <p>Paul Horton voiced his disappointment that his fellow Cllrs were not being radical enough and supporting current FTC policies in the Neighbourhood Plan that detailed giving priority to pedestrians and cyclists in the town centre. He argued that these policies were</p>	

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	<p>backed up by feedback and consultations already conducted. He felt closing King Street was a small example but an easy win as Highways were in agreement.</p> <p>Ali Barclay felt there was a broader question about what they meant by consultation. She said they kept getting blocked because there was not clarity and having the conversation should be a matter of urgency.</p> <p>There was a discussion about looking at King Street as a wider picture. A holistic approach with a town wide assessment. Particularly, to understand the outcome of the LCWIP before making any further decisions. There was a concern if the wider picture was not looked at problems would just move to other areas.</p> <p>Several Cllrs proposed new recommendations. At this point the Chair called for a five minute break for him and the Town Clerk to discuss the standing orders.</p> <p>Scott Ward proposed to change the recommendation that was seconded by John Nelson and agreed by majority. It was:</p> <p>Postpone a decision on whether to close Kings Street or not while further consultation involving not just businesses and residents but motorists and pedestrians and wider users of the town.</p> <p>This revised recommendation was proposed by Scott Ward, seconded by Anne Hills and agreed by majority.</p> <p>The Chair called for a 10 minute break and the meeting reconvened at 8.40</p>	
2020/33/TM	<p>5. For decision – Formal support for a single yellow line to be implemented along a section of The Butts</p> <p>Scott Ward provided a summary of the report.</p> <p>Some Cllrs wondered whether if traffic congestion eased it would encourage more drivers to use the road and at faster speeds. Scott explained that this was only a beginning safety measure and he planned to pursue other options. John Clarke confirmed that SCC had agreed to move signage for HGV drivers to the Sainsbury’s roundabout to encourage them to use the bypass instead of driving through Frome.</p> <p>A crossing at the bottom of Somerset Road was discussed. Peter Wheelhouse reminded Cllrs that this was part of the funding bid to the Department of Transport in relation to the School Streets Project. He was still awaiting the outcome of the application. Cllrs also asked</p>	

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	<p>Jane Llewellyn to write on their behalf to all businesses on the Marston Trading Estate including Sainsbury's and McDonalds asking that their traffic to use the bypass and not to use The Butts.</p> <p>Cllrs agreed The Butts would need to be considered in a future whole town review of transport and traffic in Frome.</p> <p>The recommendations were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support the implementation of a single yellow line in the designated area. 2. Support the ongoing campaign for monitoring traffic issues and further improvements along The Butts in the future, should the single yellow line not resolve all of the issues. 3. While Somerset Highways are planning a wide ranging review of traffic and parking in the future, we will continue to engage with residents and help enable them to establish community led campaigns with the aim of creating safer streets for all. The recommendation is to support ongoing engagement. <p>Proposed Scott Ward, seconded Anita Collier, agreed unanimously.</p>	<p>JL</p> <p>Scott Ward/JL</p>
<p>2020/34/TM</p>	<p>6. For decision – To support the Slow Ways initiative Emma Parker provided a summary of the report.</p> <p>The recommendations were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Formally support the Slow Ways initiative 2. Include Slow Ways within future planning, policies and initiatives 3. Consider where new paths might strengthen the Slow Ways network 4. Encourage members of the public to sign-up personally to walk and review a Slow Way via the Walkers are Welcome group. <p>Proposed by Rich Ackroyd, seconded by Scott Ward, agreed unanimously.</p>	<p>EP</p> <p>EP</p> <p>EP</p> <p>EP</p>
<p>2020/35/TM</p>	<p>7. For information – an update on the work to support local businesses Viv Whitaker introduced the report and outlined some of the support that had been put in place for businesses. This included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A business bulletin (900 subscribers) • Area of FTC website for COVID-19 business support • Working with MDC to help with grants • Self employment support scheme • Holding events in collaboration with the Frome Chamber of Commerce 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Looking at employment opportunities such as the Kickstart programme, vocational training group and Spring Forward promotion. <p>George Tomlinson then summarised the initiatives to support the local shops in the town. These included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A directory on the Discover Frome which is continually updated and repurposed with the information on which businesses were operating and how • The Information Point at the Black Swan • Fiverfest – 39 businesses took part, featured on Discover Frome and Instagram • ‘Let’s get Christmas wrapped up in Frome’ campaign – part funded by the Chamber, marketing support and a Facebook virtual market (over 140 stalls) • Frome Elfie challenge <p>Future projects included promoting busking throughout the town and producing ‘The Frome Annual’.</p> <p>Cllrs congratulated Viv, George and the wider comms team for their excellent work over the year.</p>	
2020/36/TM	The next meeting will be at 7.15pm on Wednesday 10 February 2021 (Zoom)	

The Chair closed the meeting at 9.32pm