

FROME TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Town Matters Committee

Wednesday 21 April 2021, 7.15pm
Zoom

Present:

Councillors: Rich Ackroyd, Ali Barclay, Rob Collett, Mark Dorrington, Nick Dove, Anne Hills, Andy Palmer (Chair), Paul Horton, Steve Tanner, Scott Ward

In attendance:

Sheila Gore (FTC Cllr), Andy Jones (Fair Housing for Frome), Paul Wynne (Town Clerk), Rachel Griffin (Marketing and Communications Manager), Kate Hellard (Community Development Manager), Beccy Byrne (Marketing and Communications Officer), Hannah Stopford (Community Project Officer), Laura Flaherty (Executive Assistant to the Town Clerk and Mayor)

5 members of the public

| Minute Ref | Agenda Item | Action |
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| 2021/06/TM | The meeting started at 7.17pm Remembering Prince Philip Andy Palmer passed on deepest sympathies to the Royal Family. | |
| 2021/07/TM | 1a. Apologies for absence Received from Sara Butler, Anita Collier, Maxine Crawley and John Nelson 1b. Declaration of members' interests None was received. 1c. Minutes from the last meeting on 10 February 2021 The minutes of the Town Matters Committee meeting held on 10 February 2021 were approved as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chair. Proposed by Steve Tanner, seconded by Rich Ackroyd, agreed unanimously. | |
| 2021/08/TM | 2. Questions and comments from the public and Cllrs None was received. | |
| 2021/09/TM | 3. A brief presentation from Andy Jones, Chair of Fair Housing for Frome | |

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| | <p>Andy gave an introduction to Fair Housing for Frome (FHfF) and noted their three aims: to encourage better use of existing housing; to enable the creation of new homes to meet local needs; and, to prevent and address homelessness.</p> <p>Andy spoke about the many projects FHfF had upcoming including the partly FTC funded Homeshare project and the exploration of a community hub in the town centre.</p> <p>Rich Ackroyd asked if there was an estimated number of people who were homeless? Steve Tanner explained last winter there were between 3 and 5 rough sleepers. FHfF were trying to collate more data including sofa surfers and hidden homeless. Ali Barclay noted it was interesting how homelessness should be defined. More people were having to move back in with their parents and not through choice but would not be considered homeless.</p> | |
| <p>2021/10/TM</p> | <p>4. For Discussion - Community Development update Kate Hellard introduced the report. She explained that in 2014 FTC launched the Participate Frome project. The outcome of this showed residents were further down the ladder of “participation” than first thought. They were at the “tokenism” stage, which was about informing, consultation and placation. Since then, FTC had been working on better engagement and involvement of residents. The community development team were now using “asset-based community participation” to encourage locally led activity. The new mantra was “going slow to go fast”. This was in order to build relationships before they were needed.</p> <p>Hannah Stopford gave a summary of the work she had been doing helping to support the neighbourhood networks. She noted their importance had been really highlighted during lockdown.</p> <p>Anne Hills asked if there was a way of having a sharing platform of skills and experience? Kate agreed that there was and that the neighbourhood networks were doing this to an extent amongst themselves asking for skills, resources, and knowledge. Anne also asked how do FTC engage with the people in Frome who think we should replicate Trowbridge town centre and do more traditional council work? Kate said that the best way to engage with the community was to be out and about, which had been difficult during the lockdown. The next step was for Hannah to identify other networks and the faces behind them. They would be finding every opportunity to engage.</p> | |

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| | <p>Scott Ward noted he had previously set up a Facebook group about skills swapping. Currently it was not very active but said it would be great for someone to take on. Hannah would explore the option further.</p> <p>Rob Collett asked how many groups had formed in the last year? Hannah said there were 69 street level groups of which 42 had signed up in the last six months. She also noted there were likely to be many more that were more unofficial but had a strong word of mouth.</p> <p>Paul Wynne said that he, Hannah, and Kate would take away and develop the thoughts around the skill swap ideas.</p> | <p>HS</p> <p>PWy/HS/ KH</p> |
| 2021/11/TM | <p>5. For Approval - New Major Grants fund Kate Hellard summarised the report.</p> <p>Rich Ackroyd asked how would it be decided who from the public would join the panel? He suggested including some from the neighbourhood networks. Kate explained this was the next step for the Grants Advisory Panel to come together and decide.</p> <p>Nick Dove asked how could FTC ensure there was support for those that were less able to complete funding applications? Kate explained that the comms team do the most amazing job across the areas of work. They would be helping to promote the scheme, and anyone could get in contact with Kate for help, support, and advice.</p> <p>There was discussion about how to choose the members of the public on the panel. Mark suggested that an external fundraiser, for which there was a budget line, should be utilised. Kate agreed to explore this.</p> <p>The recommendations were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approve the process for a new grants scheme outlined in the report and the terms and conditions at Appendix 1 2. Delegate authority to Kate Hellard the Community Development Manager in consultation with the Grants Advisory Panel to create an application form. 3. Open the Major Grants at the start of May with the first of two closing dates in July. 4. Delegate authority to the Town Clerk in consultation with the Grants Advisory Panel to award grants using the process detailed in this report, to be ratified at future Town Matters meetings. | <p>KH</p> <p>KH</p> <p>KH</p> <p>PWy</p> |

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| | Proposed by Mark Dorrington, seconded by Anne Hills, agreed unanimously. | |
| 2021/12/TM | <p>6. For ratification – The View from Here community grant Kate Hellard summarised the report.</p> <p>The recommendation was to ratify the decision of the Town Clerk to make the community grant payment to Black Swan Arts instead of Rook Lane Arts for the project ‘The View from Here’</p> <p>Proposed by Scott Ward, seconded by Anne Hills, agreed unanimously.</p> | |
| 2021/13/TM | <p>7. For decision - To apply to MDC to designate the Keyford Community Garden as an asset of community value Paul Wynne provided a summary of the report.</p> <p>Aine Bourke spoke on behalf of the residents. She explained they were aware of all the developments across Frome and were concerned to protect the last surviving community garden in Mendip. She noted the garden was open to all the community since 2009. They were hoping to be part of the Frome Festival open gardens to bring more visibility to the garden. They were planning to put on an exhibition of the garden from the past for this as well.</p> <p>Mark asked if FTC would be responsible for public liability if the ACV application was successful? Paul explained the designation had no impact on ownership, so MDC would continue to have public liability. If MDC wanted to sell the land, the community (via FTC) would be given six months to develop a bid in order to bid for the land. MDC would not be obliged to sell the land to the community. Even so, the garden would be one step safer with designation than without. Scott Ward asked if FTC could take on ownership? Paul said the possibility could be explored if Cllrs agreed.</p> <p>The recommendation was to apply to MDC to designate Keyford Community Garden as an asset of community value.</p> <p>Proposed by Mark Dorrington, seconded by Rob Collett, agreed unanimously.</p> | |
| 2021/14/TM | The next meeting will be at 7pm on Wednesday 16 June 2021, venue to be confirmed. | |

Table 1 - Agenda items

The Chair closed the meeting at 8. 38pm