

FROME TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Town Matters Committee

Wednesday 8 December 2021, 7pm
Zoom and Frome Town Hall

Present:
Councillors:

In the Chamber: Ali Barclay, Nick Dove (Chair), Mark Dorrington, Paul Horton, Steve Tanner, Andy Wrintmore

Cllrs on Zoom: Rob Collett, Anne Hills, and Andy Palmer

In attendance:

Cllr Sheila Gore, Annabel Macfadyen and Esmé Patey - Ford (Frome Neighbourhood Network), Paul Wynne (Town Clerk), Peter Wheelhouse (Deputy Town Clerk), Kate Hellard (Community Development Manager), Nikki Cox (Children and Young People's Project Officer), Hannah Stopford (Project Officer), Jane Llewellyn (Planning and Development Manager), Laura Flaherty (Executive Assistant to the Town Clerk and Mayor)

3 members of the public in the Chamber
4 members of the public on Zoom

Minute Ref	Agenda Item	Action
2021/35/TM	<p>Meeting started at 7pm. Andy Wrintmore arrived at 7.05pm</p> <p>1a. Apologies for absence Nick Dove proposed that Cllrs accepted apologies from Sara Butler, Rob Collett, Anita Collier, Maxine Crawley, Anne Hills, John Nelson, Andy Palmer and Scott Ward</p> <p>Proposed by Nick Dove, seconded by Steve Tanner, agreed unanimously.</p> <p>1b. Declaration of members' interests None received</p> <p>1c. Minutes from the last meeting on 6 October 2021 The minutes of the Town Matters Committee meeting held on 6 October 2021 were approved as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.</p> <p>Proposed by Ali Barclay, seconded by Andy Wrintmore, agreed unanimously.</p>	

2021/36/TM	2. <u>Questions and comments from the public and Cllrs</u> None was received.	
2021/37/TM	<p>3. <u>For decision – Approval of the Play Strategy</u> Rich Ackroyd arrived at 7.14pm. Kate provided a summary of the report.</p> <p>Kate explained that the brief to design a play strategy was put out to tender and Children’s Scrapstore were successful. They conducted a survey around play which had 500 respondents. Scapstore then hosted focus groups and talked to other organisations. They then overlaid the information collected from the survey and focus groups with inspirational ideas and theories on play from around the world. Audits of open spaces identified gaps, particularly around being accessible. Kate noted that conversations had begun with MDC and SCC about creating a Somerset wide strategy, and the possibility of the Frome Strategy being the basis for that.</p> <p>Describing the strategy, Kate noted it was important to have opportunities for all age and ability groups that were broader than considering fixed play aimed at young people only. The strategy sits around other ambitions such as walking/cycling/school streets.</p> <p>Nick also asked Kate to elaborate on risky play. She said it was important to learn early in life about risk. She noted that the strategy identified that Frome didn’t have many risky opportunities. For example, there was no water play (other than limited access to river), also there were not many opportunities for climbing (the new climbing wall excepted). However, initiatives like play streets, were starting to have conversations about risk and playing in streets with parked cars.</p> <p>Rich Ackroyd noted how refreshing it was to have this approach to risk as sometimes people had been put off because of risk assessments etc. Nikki Cox explained how they were moving to risk/benefit approach, asking do the benefits outweigh the risk? Kate also noted how the community development team had joined some play inspection training, which helped develop their thinking and encourage them to ask more questions. They were now working with the Rangers to building sandpits and provide sticks for den building.</p> <p>Rob Collett asked if there was a way for the strategy to be incorporated into planning for developments like Saxonvale and Selwood Garden Community. Kate explained the plan was to</p>	

	<p>work with Mendip with the aim of having the strategy adopted as supplementary planning guidance and to work with Selwood Garden Community, if that development went ahead. However, she did note that they wouldn't want it to be so designed that there would be no engagement with the new residents in the design stage.</p> <p>The recommendation was to adopt the play strategy for Frome and continue to work towards achieving the ambitions of the document by coordinating the realisation of the recommendations laid out within it.</p> <p>Proposed by Andy Wrintmore, seconded by Steve Tanner, agreed unanimously.</p>	<p>NC/KH</p>
<p>2021/38/TM</p>	<p>4. For information – Boyle Cross Phase 3 update Jane Llewellyn gave a summary of the report. She explained that she was working on getting additional quotes for the project hopefully by January 2022.</p> <p>Mark Dorrington asked when the seating and planters would be installed? Jane said it would depend on the lead in time but had been previously told it would take eight weeks. She hoped to see the project complete by spring/summer 2022.</p> <p>Ali Barclay enquired about amount of seating. Jane explained there was more seating on the other side of the planters. She noted they had looked into the possibility of movable furniture, although storage of it when not in use would be a challenge. She hoped that event organisers and market stall traders would bring additional seating.</p> <p>Sheila Gore asked about the progress of getting the fountain working? Paul Wynne said he would ask Chris Stringer for an update to let Cllrs know.</p>	<p>PWy</p>
<p>2021/39/TM</p>	<p>5. For information - Community development update Hannah Stopford provided a summary of the report.</p> <p>Annabelle Macfadyen thanked FTC for its support in developing the Neighbourhood Network. Annabelle explained that there were currently twelve people on the Neighbourhood Network steering group and as individuals were very involved in a variety of organisations in town. She noted how this provided them with lots of links to others. The network had grown out of the community development work commissioned previously by FTC and completed by Annabelle. Their hopes for the future included a strategy, growing the network and creating</p>	

	<p>communities like small villages, and becoming an incorporated organisation.</p> <p>Hannah Stopford spoke about the success of street parties and play streets. Hannah had been working with MDC to ease the process for putting on events, particularly in applying for a road closure. Between July and September, twelve street parties took place. Hannah had also been successful in working with SCC to streamline the process for closing a street to allow a car free safe environment. Hannah had also created an easy to use template for streets to use in their applications.</p> <p>Esme Patey Ford of the Frome Neighbourhood Network spoke of how engaging and inspiring she had found the restorative conversations training. She talked about how useful the skills, tools, and language around restorative culture had been in many accepts of her life, including her own family interaction. She explained it was about trying to relieve tension before being conflict began. Also, the ethos of going slow to go fast had really resonated. Esme explain how things were starting to crystallise around sharing skills around the town including toolkits.</p> <p>Hannah talked about the recent People’s Budget which had focused on street level projects and the network had offered support to streets to put in applications. Hannah spoke about the success of the group called the ‘Wild Bunch’ and how their toolkit held in October had been well received. The group was full of enthusiasm to promote and explore how to ‘garden for wildlife.’</p> <p>Finally, Hannah noted the future plans were to continue to work with the neighbourhood networks, co-design tool kits for the new year and work in areas to support new networks.</p> <p>Nick Dove asked Esme if school age children could get involved in restorative conversations? Esme said she was in discussion with FTC staff about this.</p> <p>Sheila Gore noted the network in her own street had been fantastic and they were now overlapping with other streets in supporting each other.</p> <p>Mark Dorrington thanked Hannah and noted since her involvement the engagement had grown with lots of new people getting involved. He said thank you for driving it.</p> <p>Andy Palmer left the meeting 8.09pm</p>	
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2021/40/TM	<p>6. For ratification – St Mary’s Church community grant Paul Wynne provided a summary of the report.</p> <p>The recommendation was to ratify the decision of the Town Clerk to award a grant of £1,000 to St Mary’s Church for their project to resurface the courtyard conditional on the church match funding this amount.</p> <p>Proposed by Rich Ackroyd, seconded by Mark Dorrington, agreed unanimously.</p>	
2021/41/TM	<p>The next meeting will be at 7pm on Wednesday 23 February 2022, Frome Town Hall and Zoom.</p>	

Table 1 - Agenda items

The Chair closed the meeting at 8.24pm

DRAFT