

FROME TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Town Matters Committee

Wednesday 23 February 2022, 7pm
Zoom and Frome Town Hall

Present:
Councillors:

In the Chamber: Ali Barclay, Anita Collier, Nick Dove (Chair), Mark Dorrington, Anne Hills, Paul Horton, John Nelson, Andy Palmer, Steve Tanner

Cllrs on Zoom: Rob Collett, Scott Ward, and Andy Wrintmore

In attendance:

Cllr Sheila Gore, Cllr Adam Boyden (MDC Cllr), Vince Tillman (Homeshare Mendip), Bill Palmer (Homeshare Mendip), Paul Wynne (Town Clerk), Peter Wheelhouse (Deputy Town Clerk), Nikki Brain (Resilience Manager), Jo Morris (Resilience Officer), Beccy Byrne (Marketing and Communications Officer), Alex Nettle (Resilience Communications Officer), Hannah Paniccia (Finance Officer)

1 member of the public in the Chamber

Minute Ref	Agenda Item	Action
2022/01/TM	<p>Meeting started at 7pm.</p> <p>1a. Apologies for absence Nick Dove proposed that Cllrs accepted apologies from Rich Ackroyd, Sara Butler, Maxine Crawley and Scott Ward, Rob Collett and Andy Wrintmore who attended via Zoom.</p> <p>Seconded by Ali Barclay, agreed unanimously.</p> <p>1b. Declaration of members' interests Ali Barclay declared a personal interest in item 6</p> <p>1c. Minutes from the last meeting on 8 December 2021 The minutes of the Town Matters Committee meeting held on 8 December 2021 were approved as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.</p> <p>Proposed by Anita Collier, seconded by Anne Hills, agreed unanimously.</p>	
2022/02/TM	<p>2. Questions and comments from the public and Cllrs None were received.</p>	

<p>2022/03/TM</p>	<p>3. A short presentation from Bill Palmer, Chair of Homeshare Mendip</p> <p>Homeshare Mendip helps those to continue to live independently by sharing their homes with someone who needs affordable housing. The benefits were savings for both sharers and companionship.</p> <p>Bill introduced a video about Homeshare Mendip, which can be viewed on the YouTube recording.</p> <p>Anne Hills asked how are those that don't have children referred to the service? Vince explained that he would be linking with community connectors to be able to sign post people. Bill also noted that they were linked with Mendip Health Connections and Active & In Touch.</p> <p>Jo Morris asked if sharers are DBS checked? Vince explained that there was an extensive application on their website which included DBS checks as well as references.</p> <p>Nikki Brain asked if the demand matched between sharers and those looking for sharers. Vince said he was aware of housing needs and was aware of those with future needs. Bill noted that before they launched, they had two requests from homeowners and ten wanting to share. He noted it was very important to check that sharers were willing to help and not just have a cheap place to live but were wanting to signpost them to other organisations if they weren't suitable.</p> <p>Mark Dorrington asked if there were any follow up checks and what would happen when the sharers moved on? Vince explained that he sets up initial visits between the parties. If both are willing a contract is drawn up, then there is a mutual agreement for 6 months to a year. There are then follow ups with visits to check all is well. After the agreement ends it is up to the two parties whether it continues beyond that time, or the agreement ends.</p> <p>Nick Dove asked if there were grants available to help someone adapt their home to make it more comfortable for a sharer. Bill explained that this wouldn't come from Homeshare Mendip, but they could advise of available grants to enable this to happen. Nick also asked if they were partnered with the Medical Practice. Bill said this link was through Mendip Health Connections.</p>	

<p>2022/04/TM</p>	<p>4. For ratification – Substantial and Community Grants For Decision – Rollover the unspent grants budget to 2022/23 Paul Wynne summarised the report.</p> <p>Adam Boyden asked about the Frome Collegians’ application for a new toilet block at the Showfield. Paul explained there were a series of conditions to the grant including being dependent on landowner approval, which was FTC. Adam also asked about the public consultation and whether it would happen before a decision on the planning application. Paul explained this was planned for April/May which would include the Collegians’ plans as well as the wider open space but would not be dependent on the planning application.</p> <p>Anita Collier asked why the Frome Festival had been awarded a community and substantial grant. Anne Hills explained that the community grant was for a community play, Richard III, to be performed during the Festival. The Substantial grant was for support for the 2022 Frome Festival.</p> <p>The recommendations were to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ratify the awards for substantial grants in table 1 2. Ratify the awards for community grants in table 2 4. Ratify the Mayor’s Grant awards detailed in table 3 5. Delegate authority to the Community Development Manager to ensure the recommended conditions are met and review the impacts of this funding as appropriate <p>Proposed by John Nelson, seconded by Andy Palmer, agreed unanimously.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Add the remaining £8k from the 21/22 community grant budget to the budget for 2022/23 <p>Proposed by Anita Collier, seconded by Mark Dorrington, agreed unanimously.</p>	<p>KH</p>
<p>2022/0/TM</p>	<p>5. For information – Green and Healthy Future (Lottery funded project) - year one programme update A summary of Nikki Brain’s presentation can be viewed at Appendix 1. Appendix 1 can be viewed on the website here. Highlights included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project saving the equivalent to 200 tons of CO2 per year • Reached 13k households through the COP26 newspaper takeover 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choosing Wisely project, making simple switches of medication having carbon savings i.e., inhalers • Looking at locations of where people are sent for medical appointments to reduce mileage • Cycle Together project & Ebike hire scheme: 95% said they would cycle more in the future • Healthy Homes project: 150 people received energy advice; those at risk from health complications from energy poverty had been contacted by the Medical Practice (over 1000 people) • Future Shed, a space for people to come together and create a greener, healthier town in practical ways by sharing ideas and getting support to them into initiatives <p>Anita Collier asked how you would recruit community green connectors. Nikki explained Charlotte Carson was providing the training, she had approached organisations directly, through word of mouth, those already trained as health connectors and Great Big Green Week.</p> <p>Ali Barclay asked what links had been made with Openstorytellers. Nikki explained Charlotte was working with the group to produce some accessible training.</p> <p>Sheila Gore was impressed by the reduction in carbon by switching medication and by being mindful of journeys for appointments. Sheila noted that a lot of the carbon emission reduction had been done at the Medical Practice. Nikki said for the Town Hall it was easy to assess our emissions but what was hard to assess was from what we use. There had been a lot of work done in the NHS about environmental impact. Sheila also asked if there was anywhere secure to park an Ebike? Nikki said there was a need with some spaces identified, and they wanted to look at these through the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP).</p> <p>Nick Dove asked how many people had gone on to buy an Ebike after hiring. Nikki said they were still waiting on survey results but heard anecdotally that some had. Nick suggested GPs and nurses could ask how people travelled to their appointment for evidence to support more Ebikes in the future. Nikki said this was a good idea for their evaluation work.</p>	<p>NB</p>
<p>2022/06/TM</p>	<p>4. For information – Energy price rises and FTC’s response Nikki Brain provided a summary of the report.</p> <p>Anita Collier was worried that the Heat Somerset grant available to landlords would not be passed through to tenants</p>	

	<p>for their benefit and she wondered if this would be a requirement of receiving the loan. Nikki thought this was not the case.</p> <p>Anne Hills noted that the £200 rebate from the government was in reality a loan and would be clawed back over the next five years. She also noted that people did not have to be a customer of an energy supplier like British Gas to access debt advice.</p> <p>Paul Wynne asked if the heat detection camera was still available in Frome. Nikki confirmed it was available to anyone through the Share Shop.</p>	
<p>2022/07/TM</p>	<p>5. For information – Introduction to the work of Resilience Officer Jo Morris & an update on biodiversity and zero waste work</p> <p>Jo Morris provided a summary of her report.</p> <p>Anita Collier asked if Jo was working with the middle schools and Frome College on the Plastic Free Period project. Jo confirmed she was and would be working with the eco group to design a campaign aimed at younger people.</p> <p>Nick Dove asked what was the most environmentally friendly option for nappies? Jo explained that reusable ones were, and these were available from the Share Shop.</p>	
<p>2022/08/TM</p>	<p>6. A short verbal update on the proposed Green Breather Days</p> <p>Alex Nettle explained that the Green Breather Days was a proposal to close the Market Place to traffic one day a month in the summer months. This would create environmental benefits but also help create social spaces. Alex noted there had been a letter drop and a meeting in February to share concerns and ideas. Closing Catherine Street and surrounding streets was deemed too problematic for businesses and residents, so these streets were not included. Buses would still have access to the exclusion area. There was a concern about pushing congestion to other areas of Frome. However, the day was about encouraging people to access Frome without a vehicle. Also, the hope was with a small inconvenience it would encourage people to find alternative forms of travel. The Tech Shed would be measuring air pollution levels during the breather days and outside of these days. Plans were now underway to maximise the use of the public space on these days. Suggestions included a silent disco, silent cinema and food stalls.</p>	

	<p>John Nelson asked if having stalls for Frome businesses that had been unable to access the Frome Independent Market was possible. Alex explained it had been considered however they wanted to look at ways of using the space outside of the norm. It is a much smaller space but a small number of food stalls for Frome providers had been considered.</p> <p>Nick Dove suggested that the signage around the closure was worded positively to encourage people into the town centre despite a closure. Alex explained that the days had been informed by experiences during the pandemic including the experience that businesses had found more people had accessed the shops when they were on foot. Signage was still to be investigated. Nick also asked about how enforcement would be handled. Alex noted there would be traffic marshals and they would be allowing buses through but would stop cars going through.</p> <p>Adam Boyden asked if a concert like the one at the Independent Market would help to attract people on foot. Alex said live music was being considered. Over the five days there were plans to do something different on each day.</p>	
2022/09/TM	The next meeting will be at 7pm on Wednesday 20 April 2022, Frome Town Hall and Zoom.	

The Chair closed the meeting at 8.30pm