

Minutes of a meeting of Frome Town Council

Wednesday 16 November 2022, 7pm
Frome Town Hall and Zoom

Present:

In the Town Hall: Tracey Ashford, Fiona Barrows, Sara Butler, Philip Campagna, Anita Collier, Carla Collenette, Mark Dorrington, Nick Dove, Anne Hills, Andy Jones, Polly Lamb, Lisa Merryweather, Steve Tanner, Andy Wrintmore

On Zoom: Mel Usher

In attendance:

Steve Deakin (Parking Services Manager, SCC), Clare Hein and Peter Macfadyen (Frome Welcomes Refugees), Martin Dimery (Somerset Cllr), Adam Boyden (Somerset & MDC Cllr), John Clarke (MDC & SCC Cllr), Paul Wynne (Town Clerk), Sarah Williams (Business Manager), Rachel Griffin (Marketing and Communications Manager), Kate Hellard (Community Development Manager), Jane Llewellyn (Planning and Development Manager), Nikki Cox (Community Project Officer), Rob Holden (Environment Manager), Peter Wheelhouse (Deputy Town Clerk), Laura Flaherty (Executive Assistant to the Town Clerk and Mayor)

14 members of the public were in attendance at Frome Town Hall
5 members of the public were in attendance on Zoom

To watch to the discussion in full visit: <https://bit.ly/3UckHbg>

Minute Ref	Agenda Item	Action
2022/74/FC	<p>The meeting started at 7pm</p> <p>1a. Apologies for absence Received from Ben Still and Mel Usher who attended on Zoom.</p> <p>Proposed to accept their apologies by Fiona Barrows, seconded by Andy Wrintmore, agreed unanimously.</p> <p>1b. Declaration of members' interests Andy Jones personal interest in agenda item 6.</p> <p>1c. Minutes from the last meeting on 5 October 2022 The minutes of the Frome Town Council meeting held on 5 October 2022 were approved as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.</p>	

	Proposed by Nick Dove, seconded by Philip Campagna, agreed unanimously.	
2022/75/FC	<p>3. <u>Questions and comments from the public and Cllrs</u> The Chair brought this item forward on the agenda</p> <p>Nick Dove requested that three questions were submitted to MDC about the Mayday Saxonvale planning application.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Can MDC confirm why they won't agree to participate in a s106 agreement with Mayday, given they have stated they are able to? 2. Can MDC confirm because of delays caused by their refusal to participate in a s106 agreement with Mayday, the precondition they imposed of a December deadline will not result in the planning permission being rescinded? 3. Can MDC confirm that they will not proceed with any scheme in Saxonvale until a fair and transparent evaluation of both schemes, based on their respective outline applications, has taken place? <p>John Clarke supported what Nick had queried. He felt MDC were looking at financial benefit over social benefit. Cllrs had been told MDC's administration were awaiting on the outcome of the judicial review before engaging with Mayday.</p> <p>Cllrs agreed to submit Nick's questions to Stuart Brown, MDC Chief Executive.</p>	PWy
2022/76/FC	<p>2. A presentation from Steve Deakin, Parking Services Manager at SCC on the residents' parking schemes The Chair moved this item to agenda item number 3.</p> <p>Steve Deakin gave a summary of the process and consultation for the Weymouth Road resident parking scheme. Initially the consultation covered a large area beyond of Weymouth Road. Residents on Weymouth and Somerset Road indicated support for a parking scheme. Once the traffic order was enacted there was a large number of objections from residents of Somerset Road and therefore the scheme was withdrawn. One of the actions from the consultation was to undertake a consultation for a similar arrangement in Trinity. Steve noted the next steps were to review all the responses to the pilot for the Weymouth Road scheme and review the impact of the Weymouth Road traffic order with residents and identify a way forward. Steve noted the intended School Streets pilot starting in Spring 2023 would have an impact. He explained there was still a desire and intention to do a Frome wide review of parking.</p>	

	<p>Local resident, Marine Swinburne, queried what other options, other than the parking scheme, had been considered? She noted a freedom of information request no other options had been explored. She asked how a review would be carried out? Who does the review? Why did it not go back to consultation when Somerset Road dropped out? Marianne felt there had been a lack of transparency around the implementation of the scheme.</p> <p>In reply Steve explained that as part of the review he would request speed tests for two weeks and count the number of vehicles. Steve would discuss with FTC the geographical boundary of the consultation. He noted the original petition for a review did not mention speed of cars as an issue. A solution could have been to put in yellow lines and chicane; however this would have taken away half the parking and caused a similar situation and be worse for residents. Steve had discussed the hard measures with colleagues but there was a lack of funding and there was nothing to suggest there was large number of accidents.</p> <p>Tristan Powell, a resident of Weymouth Road, asked Steve to explain why introducing permits had reduced the demand for parking? Steve noted prior to the scheme, often residents struggled to park but now there was space. Tristan was of the opinion that the parking issues had now been displaced.</p> <p>Bob Ashford, a resident of Somerset Road, pointed out that the previous correspondence did not mention road safety, only the benefits of a parking scheme. He felt that residents had ended up with a scheme nobody voted for, because a small group of residents made a request. He felt the wider needs of community had been ignored and called for the current scheme to be withdrawn and any future scheme not to go ahead.</p> <p>Gordon Alexander, a resident, felt there had not been a chance to organise a coordinated response to the original consultation in 2020. He noted only 12 houses in Weymouth Road that did not have their own parking. Currently no more than 25 cars parked on a road that could accommodate 90. He hoped Steve would accept comment on the result of the review.</p> <p>Another resident of Weymouth Road spoke in support of the scheme.</p> <p>Polly Lamb asked how long the experiment was for? Steve explained that the traffic order for Weymouth Road was experimental and could last for up to 18 months. Steve noted he</p>	
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	<p>was planning to review the experimental order within the first 6 months. It would then end or become permanent. Other residents would be consulted in the review. Regarding issues of displacement he said these had been considered, but the data was inconclusive. Steve said he accepted any consultation would provoke a range of opinions. Regrading Trinity, Steve said he still needed to talk with county Cllrs and FTC before making a decision. He said the evening’s discussion had given him an inkling what people were saying so far.</p> <p>Mark Dorrington asked why there had not been a town wide review? Steve answered this was because of the pandemic, a change in officer activity and change of administration. He said there was a commitment for reviews including car parks to take place.</p> <p>John Clarke, SCC Cllr, noted it was sad the scheme had caused such division. He conceded it could have been done better. He said the focus should now be on the review. He felt the wider issue was about the number of cars in town and cyclist safety.</p> <p>Sara Butler asked for further questions to be put in writing and sent to Steve for reply.</p> <p>Anita thanked Steve for coming to the meeting to address an emotive subject. Steve noted he had never yet failed to find a solution and said he would do whatever he could to find the right compromise.</p>	
<p>2022/77/FC</p>	<p>4. A presentation from Clare Hein, Peter Macfadyen, and Nikki Cox about Frome Welcomes Refugees</p> <p>Clare Hein gave an introduction to the Frome Welcome Refugees group which was set up in March 2022 after the community response to the war in Ukraine. A town meeting was held in March which was really well attended. Ukrainian speakers helped to translate a welcome pack and the first guests arrived at the beginning of April. She noted the schools had been fantastic, informal networks had been forged and also they had created links with other areas outside of Frome. Financial generosity had created small grants, with access to these made quick and simple. £50 cash for each adult guest was given to guests when arriving in Frome to purchase basic essentials. They now had 14 experienced and qualified language teachers who were offering informal lessons. CHARIS had enabled a contract with FTC to employ Iryna Ladyshenska as the Refugee Hub Social Facilitator and Dmytro Romaniuk as Refugee Hub Co Ordinator, both for 12 months.</p>	

	<p>Nikki Cox was leading on refugee support at FTC support. With the help of Iryna and Dmytro, Nikki was making sure to embed a participative culture and that service delivery was culturally appropriate. There was an intention to host a weekly space in the café for all refugees. Nikki was working with FTC’s comms team on campaign to get more host families and was working with housing team at MDC to help this. She was revisiting the terms of reference for the small grants, to extend it and incorporate all refugees. Nikki had made connections with those in outlying villages and was working with a range of organisations such as Fair Frome, Rotary, Fair Housing for Frome, community transport etc. She was supporting social and cultural opportunities, events had included singing, forest schools, cooking etc.</p> <p>Peter Macfadyen noted that the war was still not over, and many were homesick. No one knew what was going to happen next. It was more than likely refugees would need further and continued support. There was a need to ensure resources continued.</p> <p>Polly Lamb noted that Bristol City Council had a large package of help when looking for housing, including being a guarantor for those renting privately. This was a particular issue in Frome, and many were relying on getting into a system that wasn’t supporting them. Polly Lamb asked that MDC were asked about making a guarantor scheme possible. Nikki said she would explore this.</p> <p>Anne Hills noted that the Mendip Credit Union offered a help to rent scheme and couldn’t see why it could not be extended.</p>	<p>NC</p> <p>AH/NC</p>
<p>2022/78/FC</p>	<p>5. For decision - Frome Town Council’s Plan for 2022 - 2024 Tracey Ashford left the meeting at 8.32pm</p> <p>Max Wide, Anne Hills, Steve Tanner and Fiona Barrows presented and gave a summary of the report.</p> <p>Anita Collier thanked all those who contributed and particularly Max who had coordinated and spearheaded the creation of the plan.</p> <p>The recommendation was to approve the Council Plan 2022 - 2024 in this report and instruct the Town Clerk to the amend the current work programme for the remainder of this year to deliver it and to draft a work programme and associated budget and precept for 2023-24 for approval at the January 2023 Council meeting.</p>	

	<p>Proposed by Anne Hills, seconded by Anita Collier, agreed unanimously.</p>	
<p>2022/79/FC</p>	<p>6. For decision - Possible acquisition from Mendip District Council of the open space known as Broadway Community Gardens and the future sale from Frome Town Council to Save Open Spaces Frome</p> <p>Fiona Barrows, John Clarke (Chair of The Broadway Allotments and Community Garden Association) Julian (Treasurer) and Jenny (Committee member) presented and gave a summary of the report.</p> <p>Nick Dove noted that the Frome Area Community Land Trust were continually seeking suitable land for affordable and social housing with little luck. He noted the housing crisis meant a large number of families were waiting for suitable housing in Frome. He felt the land at Broadway would likely only be used by a small number of residents who lived there. He felt FTC should be braver and bolder, and put people before wildlife. Fiona explained that the site had been considered for housing but was not suitable largely due to insufficient access.</p> <p>Paul Wynne read out a statement from Helen Sprawson White, MDC Cllr, who urged Cllrs to support the proposal.</p> <p>The report noted that the Saxonvale EMR would be used to acquire the site.</p> <p>The recommendations were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Purchase of land from MDC for the sum of £25,000, not including our legal costs, once heads of terms are finalized, with a view to this purchase taking place by January 2023 (allowing sufficient time for any final matters to be clarified well in advance of the winding up of MDC). 2. Once the land is transferred to FTC agree for the ranger team to undertake basic ground clearing works to provide good access routes and open communal spaces. 3. Once good access is established on the land, transfer the land to SOS Frome for the sum of £12,500 excluding legal costs (recouping half of FTC's initial costs) 4. Support SOS Frome with future community engagement work such as consultations on the management plans and for occasional ranger input with advice and support for larger scale projects <p>Proposed by Max Wide, seconded by Sara Butler, agreed by majority. Nick Dove voted against.</p>	

2022/80/FC	<p>7. For ratification – Community Grants Cllrs discussed the membership of the Panel. It was noted this had not been formalised and the Town Clerk recommended a paper be brought to the Council meeting in December for decision.</p> <p>The recommendations were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ratify the awards for community grants in table 1 2. Ratify the decision not to award to substantial grants in table 2 3. 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 Mark Dorrington, seconded by Steve Tanner, agreed unanimously.</p>	LF
2022/81/FC	<p>8. For decision – Appointment of replacement member of the Planning Committee and ratification of the change to the Planning Committee start time Cllrs noted the report.</p> <p>The recommendations were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Receive nominations for Cllrs to become members of the Planning Committee and to appoint at least one. <p>Andy Jones proposed Fiona Barrows, seconded by Anne Hills, agreed unanimously.</p> <p>Polly Lamb proposed Lisa Merryweather, seconded by Mark Dorrington, agreed unanimously.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Approve the proposed change to the start of the Planning Committee to 6.30pm and amend Standing Orders and the Meetings Calendar accordingly. <p>Proposed by Steve Tanner, seconded by Max Wide, agreed unanimously.</p>	
2022/82/FC	<p>9. For approval - Financial update to 31 October 2022 Cllrs noted the report.</p> <p>The recommendations were:</p> <p>Note the:</p>	

	<p>1. External Auditors report and signed certificate of FTC's AGAR 2021/22</p> <p>Approve the:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Internal Auditors report letter April 2022 to August 2022 2. Income and expenditure report to 31 October 2022 3. Payments made over £500 for July 2022 to October 2022 4. Balance sheet report including the breakdown of reserves at 31 October 2022 <p>Proposed by Anita Collier, seconded by Andy Wrintmore, agreed unanimously.</p>	
2022/83/FC	The next meeting will be at 7pm on Wednesday 7 December 2022, Frome Town Hall and Zoom	

Table 1 - Agenda items

The Chair closed the meeting at 9.17pm