

Minutes of a meeting of Frome Town Council

Wednesday 10 August 2022, 7pm
Frome Town Hall and Zoom

Present:

In the Town Hall: Fiona Barrows, Sara Butler, Philip Campagna, Anita Collier, Mark Dorrington, Nick Dove, Anne Hills, Andy Jones, Polly Lamb, Ben Still, Steve Tanner, Mel Usher, Andy Wrintmore

In attendance:

Jim Hallybone (Roundfield), Rich Ackroyd (Friends of the River Frome), Adam Boyden (MDC Cllr), Peter Wheelhouse (Deputy Town Clerk), Sarah Williams (Business Manager), Rachel Griffin (Marketing and Communications Manager), Jane Llewellyn (Planning and Development Manager), Nikki Brain (Resilience Manager), Kate Hellard (Community Development Manager), Beccy Byrne (Marketing and Communications Officer), Laura Flaherty (Executive Assistant to the Town Clerk and Mayor)

3 members of the public were in attendance at Frome Town Hall

2 members of the public were in attendance on Zoom

Minute Ref	Agenda Item	Action
2022/48/FC	<p>1. A short presentation from Friends of the River Frome</p> <p>Rich Ackroyd explained that currently for those living on the Edmund Park estate there was no way to get to town other than walk along Warminster Road, making the journey quite lengthy. There was a need for a river crossing to improve access to town. This crossing had been approved by MDC in 2002. Friends of the River Frome had led the project with FTC support. Roundfield had been employed to do a feasibility study.</p> <p>Jim Hallybone presented the options they had explored. Option 2 was the favoured proposal. It did include steps instead of ramps. They were in talks with Persimmon and Acorn and had a possible location of an access path.</p> <p>Cllrs expressed concern that the steps would make the bridge inaccessible to disabled users. Jim explained that the steps were the only feasible option in costings. However, with further funding more accessible options could be explored. The current design represented the budget in the pot. Their goal was to get political momentum.</p> <p>Rich explained they were ultimately looking for support from FTC and to ask the unitary council to help make the project</p>	

	<p>happen. He said it was too big for FORF to complete alone and needed extra funding. They were exploring the option of sponsorship. He said the new unitary council should be supportive and more s106 could be allocated.</p> <p>Andy Wrintmore arrived at 7.10pm</p>	
<p>2022/49/FC</p>	<p>2a. Apologies for absence Anne Hills proposed to accept apologies from Carla Collenette and Max Wide.</p> <p>Seconded by Polly Lamb, agreed by majority.</p> <p>2b. Declaration of members' interests None was received.</p> <p>2c. Minutes from the last meeting on 13 July 2022 The minutes of the Frome Town Council meeting held on 13 July 2022 were approved as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.</p> <p>Proposed by Sara Butler, seconded by Andy Wrintmore, agreed by majority.</p> <p>The minutes of the Town Matters Committee meeting held on 20 April 2022 were approved as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.</p> <p>Proposed by Nick Dove, seconded by Mark Dorrington, agreed by majority.</p> <p>The minutes of the Council Matters Committee meeting held on 4 May 2022 were approved as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.</p> <p>Proposed by Anne Hills, seconded by Fiona Barrows, agreed by majority.</p> <p>Mel Usher abstained from voting on the committee minutes.</p>	
<p>2022/50/FC</p>	<p>3. Questions and comments from the public and Cllrs Gill Fone asked about the withdrawal of the bus service that stopped at Sainsburys. Peter explained FTC were aware Frome Bus had withdrawn the service but understood SCC were inviting tenders to take over. Rachel Griffin also noted that SCC were taking over the service in meantime and were not expecting any disruption.</p>	

	<p>Nick Dove had been asked to talk about the discussion on social media around perceived anti-social behaviour (ASB) problems in Frome. For the fatal incident in Radstock he noted the police had made arrests and were confident of the charges. He explained the statistics did not show any higher levels of ASB in the summer months. Unfortunately, social media comments had amplified some incidents. However, nothing was out of the norm, Frome was still a low crime area.</p> <p>Michelle Rossetti attended the meeting as a representative of Urban Community Engagement Team UK (UCETUK). She spoke about the group’s intentions to engage with teens who would not want to talk to the police. They were keen to secure a space for the children and wanted to do patrols and have safe zones in shops.</p> <p>Nick explained that their approach needed to be carefully managed in terms of safeguarding. Adults needed to be checked and properly trained. He noted that safe spaces, for example, can actually raise fear of crime making the town feel unsafe when it isn’t.</p> <p>Michelle asked how could the gap between young people and the police be bridged? Kate Hellard explained that there were lots of organisations working with young people that she would be happy to put Michelle in contact with. For example, the YMCA were doing some detached youth sessions in Victoria Park which FTC had funded them to start in September. The youth centre was open twice a week, and there was lots more funding coming for youth services which they were actively applying for. Gary Maule. PCSO, had developed strong relationships with young people and had strong links with the schools in Frome. She encouraged UCETUK to work with existing organisations who had existing structures for this type of work.</p> <p>Cllrs thanked Michelle for joining the discussion. The public were reminded to report any incidents to the police to ensure that they could allocate the right resources.</p>	
<p>2022/51/FC</p>	<p>4. For decision - Planning and Housing A summary of report was given by Steve Tanner.</p> <p>Anita Collier felt the report was positive. She queried whether any thought had been given to housing for the elderly and disabled. Steve explained that the MDC figures had to have some element for those who were disabled. He did note that all new developments had to be wheelchair accessible.</p>	

	<p>Mel Usher commented that the easiest route was not to do this, and this was the first time anything like this had been done. He said there would be a need to work with some members of the community. It was a beginning of a new sense of engagement. Being out there talking, listening, and reacting. He said it was not going to be liked by everyone.</p> <p>Fiona Barrows noted it was the start of a conversation that was needed. She asked if there was going to be a balanced panel? Steve said there would be a cross section of the community and they wanted to hear from all organisations. He said they never heard from those who were desperate for housing or disabled residents but wanted to involve them.</p> <p>The recommendation was to delegate to the Planning & Development Manager, to set up a panel including various agencies, who will engage with the town to debate the issues addressed in this paper.</p> <p>Proposed by Andy Wrintmore, seconded by Philip Campagna, agreed unanimously.</p>	
<p>2022/52/FC</p>	<p>5. For information – Green and Healthy Futures Lottery bid A summary of the report was given by Nikki Brain</p> <p>Mel Usher said he felt the Green and Healthy Futures programme was the way forward in the future. He congratulated Nikki for her work and was optimistic FTC would be successful. He voiced his concern they were not addressing the cost of living crisis. With the energy crisis he thought more consideration should be given to warm banks, where people could go to spend time in warmth. Also to help Fair Frome to be able to provide more fresh food. Nikki said she did acknowledge the crisis; however the warm banks were a sticking plaster for the emergency situation. She explained insulation was the solution, 1500 houses had E, F and G energy ratings and were losing hundreds of pounds a year. She was meeting with Fair Frome about how to involve them in the bid.</p> <p>Lenka Grimes asked if FTC were engaging with housing associations? Nikki explained that the associations had separate responsibilities and had to have higher standards. She noted they would be working with Fair Housing for Frome, and it was about influencing and working with the renters alliance.</p> <p>Cllrs were supportive of the bid and felt it was a really good long term solution.</p>	

<p>2022/53/FC</p>	<p>6. For ratification – Substantial and Community Grants Laura Flaherty gave a summary of the report.</p> <p>Mel Usher said Cllrs shouldn't under play grants offer, few town councils would be able to give this level of support. He felt it was important to continue and was a way of making sure FTC could help and support organisations.</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 awards for substantial grants in table 2 3. Ratify the decision not to award to substantial grants in table 3 4. Delegate authority to the Community Development Manager to ensure the recommended conditions are met and review the impacts of this funding as appropriate <p>Mel Usher proposed amending recommendation 5 to add in the word primarily</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. The next substantial grant round made by FTC in the current financial year primarily supports the community in mitigating the impact of the current cost of living crisis. <p>The amendment was proposed by Nick Dove, seconded by Anita Collier, agreed unanimously.</p> <p>The recommendations were proposed by Anita Collier, seconded by Philip Campagna, agreed unanimously.</p>	
<p>2022/54/FC</p>	<p>7. For approval - Financial update to 30 June 2022 Sarah Williams summarised the report.</p> <p>Anita Collier noted the report was very thorough. She asked if any costs had been incurred for the recent travellers? Sarah explained there were some for the travellers at Egford. With regard to the rough sleepers, they had now engaged with services and bailiffs had not been required.</p> <p>Mel Usher asked if the CRM development was still relevant and suggested a decision we brought back to Council, Sarah agreed.</p> <p>The recommendations were to approve the:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Income and expenditure sheet to 30 June 2022 2. Payments made over £500 for April 2022 to June 2022 3. Balance sheet including the breakdown of reserves at 30 June 2022 	

	<p>4. Ratify Cllrs decision to approve the expenditure on legal fees of approx. £8k per person to manage up to three rough sleepers in the town at July 2022.</p> <p>Proposed by Nick Dove, seconded by Anita Collier, agreed unanimously.</p>	
2022/55/FC	<p>8. For decision – To adopt the Annual Report 2021-2022 Rachel Griffin presented the Annual Report.</p> <p>Anita Collier noted she was staggered by the number of events that took place that year. She congratulated the team and said she hoped the number would be reduced next year. Rachel noted that even the smallest engagements had been listed amongst the larger town wide events.</p> <p>Mel Usher thanked Rachel and the Comms team. The report would stand out amongst others. Mel also gave a well done to Sarah Williams for making the financial update so easy to understand</p> <p>The recommendation was to adopt the Annual Report 2021/22</p> <p>Proposed by Steve Tanner, seconded by Andy Wrintmore, agreed unanimously.</p>	
2022/56/FC	<p>9. For decision - Civility and Respect Pledge A summary of the report was given by Rachel Griffin</p> <p>The recommendations were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To pass a resolution to sign up to the civility and respect pledge 2. Instruct the Marketing and Comms Manager to sign up <p>Proposed by Sara Butler, seconded by Anita Collier, agreed unanimously.</p>	
2022/57/FC	<p>10. For information - Health & Safety update</p> <p>Cllrs noted the report.</p>	
2022/58/FC	<p>The next meeting will be at 7pm on Wednesday 7 September 2022, Frome Town Hall and Zoom</p>	

Table 1 - Agenda items

The Chair closed the meeting at 8.31pm