

Minutes of a meeting of Frome Town Council

Wednesday 7 December 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, Andy Jones, Lisa Merryweather, Steve Tanner, Mel Usher, Andy Wrintmore

On Zoom: Anne Hills

In attendance:

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), Nikki Brain (Resilience Manager), Rob Holden (Environment Manager), Peter Wheelhouse (Deputy Town Clerk), Laura Flaherty (Executive Assistant to the Town Clerk and Mayor)

4 members of the public were in attendance at Frome Town Hall
9 members of the public were in attendance on Zoom

To watch to the discussion in full visit:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=splilfaX_q4&t=1s

Minute Ref	Agenda Item	Action
2022/84/FC	<p>The meeting started at 7pm</p> <p>Andy Wrintmore arrived at 7.02pm</p> <p>1a. Apologies for absence Fiona Barrows proposed to receive apologies from Polly Lamb and Anne Hills who attended on Zoom.</p> <p>Seconded by Andy Jones, agreed unanimously.</p> <p>1b. Declaration of members' interests Lisa Merryweather declared a personal interest in item 2.</p> <p>1c. Minutes from the last meeting on 16 November 2022 Paul Wynne noted at the November meeting he had been asked to write to Stuart Brown, CEO of MDC about the Mayday Saxonvale planning application. Stuart referred Paul to an earlier reply from Cllr Barry O'Leary which he said answered all the questions FTC had.</p>	

	<p>The minutes of the Frome Town Council meeting held on 16 November 2022 were approved as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.</p> <p>Proposed by Anita Collier, seconded by Philip Campagna, agreed unanimously.</p>	
<p>2022/85/FC</p>	<p>2. A presentation from Doug Stewart, CEO of Edventure Tracey Ashford arrived at 7.17pm</p> <p>Doug had taken over as CEO three months before. He said one of his biggest aims was to grow feelings of safety to its members by giving confidence and agency. He saw Edventure as the convener organisation.</p> <p>In the last 10 years Edventure had supported 60k people and spent £1.2 million which worked out at £8.3 million in measurable value. For every £1 Edventure spent it generated £6.83 of value for the community. They had also helped to save 200 tonnes of greenhouse emissions.</p> <p>Doug listed four areas of importance:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Impact on people – everyone to leave with more confidence, not just about finding a job. Has changed peoples lives 2. Impact on place – a sharing town i.e. the Share Shop, Share Hub, Wardrobe Collective etc. 3. A circular town – i.e. the community fridge, Frome Remakery, Loop Frome, Make Shed etc 4. A green and healthy town – partnerships with FTC and the Medical Practice, support of projects like the Walled Garden nursery, Future Shed, Roundhouse garden etc. <p>Edventure provided a nose to tail offer for the whole community. For young adults this was around advocacy, short courses, start up, mentoring, kickstart and apprenticeships. For the community this was outreach, community initiatives and community agency network.</p> <p>Doug explained they were in a period of transition. There was new leadership and Edventure had also started working in Taunton. He noted they were still a vulnerable organisation and were exploring options for commercial resilience (aim to be 50% funded by own resources), have an increased connection to business and have a focus on waste.</p> <p>Drew Gardner asked Doug what could Cllrs do to restore the community fridge in the centre of town. Nikki Brain noted she</p>	

	<p>had been negotiating with MDC about FTC taking on the lease for the Loop de Loop building where the fridge was housed. However, it was taking a while to get the basic maintenance done and FTC was continuing to work closely with Edventure to utilise the space. Drew offered his and Adam Boyden’s help to get the lease transferred.</p> <p>Adam Boyden asked Doug if they need to make a pitch to Somerset Council to look for funding sources to be more secure? Doug said he would welcome the opportunity to speak with them.</p> <p>Mel Usher asked if Edventure had made progress in finding accommodation or could their current accommodation be made more secure? Doug said they were still very vulnerable; the current building had no insulation or double glazed windows. They had been trying for 3 years to secure the building or find a new home.</p>	<p>DG/ABo</p>
<p>2022/86/FC</p>	<p>3. <u>Question from public and Cllrs and Cllrs, including Mendip District Cllrs and Somerset County Cllrs</u> Philip Campagna explained the buses D2 and #30 had been funded by the covid recovery grant until March 2023. The new Somerset budget would be under lots of pressure and therefore funding was not likely. Philip asked FTC to write to Richard Holden, Minister for Roads, Buses and Places and to Somerset Council to get the grant extended until October 2023. Cllrs agreed this was a good idea asked Paul Wynne and Philip to send the letter.</p> <p>Dawn Denton noted there would be a 100% council tax reduction for those earning under £95 week or for a family earning under £200 per week and care leavers up to age 25 from April 2023. Anne Hills noted this was also the case for anyone with a dementia diagnosis.</p> <p>Dawn also appealed for private landlords to come forward with property available to help Ukrainian refugees. She also paid tribute to Crysse Morrison and her contribution to the town. Crysse had passed away earlier in the week.</p> <p>Mel Usher asked if there had been any progress about finding out plans for the vacant Shoe Zone store? Kate Hellard explained that the building was NHS owned. It had been bought to create a one stop mental health hub. After completing an extended feasibility study, it was found the building would unlikely provide the clinical space required. Therefore it was listed for sale with other public sector organisations having the</p>	<p>PC/PWy</p>

	<p>opportunity to bid for it. The NHS were looking for an alternative site as they were still committed to deliver the project.</p> <p>Adam Boyden noted there was a financial incentive scheme in place for landlords to rent to refugees. The Mayday Saxonvale application was on the agenda for the planning board meeting on 18 December. It was recommended for approval subject to the s106 agreement. People for Packsaddle had submitted an asset of community value application which would be determined in January. Adam was asking residents to send any evidence of the fields meeting the application criteria to him.</p>	
<p>2022/87/FC</p>	<p>4. For decision - Frome School Streets design Max Wide, Nikki Brain, Carla Collenette and Fiona Barrows presented a summary of the report.</p> <p>Max Wide summarised that there was increased in car ownership which demonstrated the problem the town was facing. He said there were no easy choices, they all had difficulties attached. There was a need for a town wide travel and transport strategy. Max said there was also a need to think imaginatively in the long term. Safer streets made the good choice easier. They were proposing a trial and ongoing dialogue with the town.</p> <p>Carla provided a summary of the scheme</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Road traffic danger – SCC monitoring traffic and pedestrian flow before and after 2. Air pollution – Public Health England would monitor air quality before and during 3. Health and wellbeing – evidence showed initially there would be some chaos at the beginning, but there would be reduced congestion across a wider area. This would be measured with surveys and the perception of safety. <p>Nikki Brain summarized the process so far and the collaboration with Sustrans and SCC.</p> <p>Alison Armstrong a teacher at Avanti Park and Sophie Addison, Head at Critchill both voiced their support for the scheme.</p> <p>Nick Dove asked if it had been considered to extend the zomph zone, to the crossing from The Butts up Somerset Road. Nikki noted this had been considered and Sustrans were looking into further funding options.</p>	

	<p>An additional recommendation was proposed to delegate authority to the Resilience Manager to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Invite tenders for the delivery of the School Streets contract to be funded externally b. Complete the necessary legal agreements <p>Proposed by Sara Butler, seconded by Tracey Ashford, agreed unanimously.</p> <p>The second recommendation was to approve the design of the proposed School Streets scheme and work with Somerset County Council and Sustrans to engage the community, to implement it and to monitor its effectiveness while noting that because the scheme is subject to technical audits and sign-off from Somerset County Council as the Highways Authority it may change at the margin</p> <p>Proposed by Philip Campagna, seconded by Nick Dove, agreed unanimously.</p>	<p>NB</p> <p>NB</p>
2022/88/FC	<p>5. For decision - Future plans for Boyles Cross Fountain</p> <p>A summary of the report was given by Rob Holden.</p> <p>There was a general discussion about costs and Ranger time.</p> <p>Mark Dorrington felt the optics of the moment looked wrong, and the costs were more than FTC gave to Fair Frome. He said he was uncomfortable spending money on a fountain when people were struggling. He was happy to moth ball the fountain until things looked brighter. Nick Dove agreed.</p> <p>Mel Usher said Cllrs had talked about making the town centre more attractive, spent money on improving Boyle Cross, so why go backwards. The running costs were less than 1% of the overall budget.</p> <p>There was a discussion about the three options: mothball, run all year round or run part of the year.</p> <p>Fiona Barrows said it was good to have the debate publically. One of their roles was to manage the spaces FTC owned for the people of Frome. She said they couldn't solve the cost of living crisis, it was bigger than the Council. Just because it was a difficult time didn't mean the town couldn't have nice things. She said the fountain made the area a lovely place to sit and there was value in that.</p>	

	<p>The recommendation was to decide on one of the following three options:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Turn on the fountain for year round operation with an initial repair cost of £1.4k and an annual operating budget of approx. £17.4k 2. Turn on the fountain on for 8 months of the year with an initial repair cost of £1.4k and an annual operating budget of approx. £12.8k 3. Mothball the fountain with minimal ongoing electrical costs and a possible future cost if re-starting the fountain of approx. £15k. <p>12 Cllrs were in favour of option 2. Nick Dove abstained.</p> <p>Cllrs were in favour of making an event of turning on the fountain as part of Spring celebrations.</p> <p>Proposed by Sara Butler, seconded by Anita Collier, agreed by majority.</p>	RH
2022/89/FC	<p>6. For decision – Grants Advisory Panel membership Cllrs discussed the report.</p> <p>The recommendations were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Take any further nominations for membership of GAP 2. Approve the membership of GAP for 2022/23 <p>The final membership was:</p> <p>Philip Campagna Carla Collenette Anne Hills Andy Jones Lisa Merryweather Steve Tanner Andy Wrintmore</p> <p>Proposed by Fiona Barrows, seconded by Carla Collenette, agreed unanimously.</p>	
2022/90/FC	<p>The next meeting will be at 7pm on Wednesday 18 January 2023, Frome Town Hall and Zoom</p>	

Table 1 - Agenda items

The Chair closed the meeting at 8.59pm