

Minutes of a meeting of Frome Town Council

Wednesday 4 October 2023, 7pm
Frome Town Hall and Zoom

Present:

In the Town Hall: Fiona Barrows, Sara Butler, Philip Campagna (Chair), Mark Dorrington, Nick Dove, Anne Hills, Andy Jones, Polly Lamb, Ben Still, Steve Tanner

On Zoom:

Carla Collenette, Max Wide

In attendance:

Terri Pitts (Community Fridge Co Ordinator), Adam Boyden (SC Cllr), Dawn Denton (SC Cllr), (Paul Wynne (Town Clerk), Peter Wheelhouse (Deputy Town Clerk and Economic Development and Regeneration Manager), Nikki Brain (Resilience Manager), Nikki Cox (Partnership Lead), Sarah Williams (Business Manager), Laura Flaherty (Executive Assistant to the Town Clerk and Mayor)

8 members of the public were in attendance at Frome Town Hall
0 members of the public were in attendance on Zoom.

To watch to the discussion in full visit: www.youtube.com/watch?v=toyhqPIg1fE&t=15s

Minute Ref	Agenda Item	Action
2023/75/FC	<p>The meeting started at 7pm.</p> <p>1a. Apologies for absence Andy Jones proposed to accept apologies from Anita Collier, Lisa Merryweather and Mel Usher, and from Carla Collenette and Max Wide who attended on Zoom, seconded by Fiona Barrows, agreed unanimously.</p> <p>1b. Declaration of members' interests Fiona Barrows declared a pecuniary interest in item 4 due to her work with Edventure. The Town Clerk advised that, because the item was for information, Fiona could remain in the meeting. She also declared an interest as the Cllr representative on the Green and Healthy Frome board and member of the Broadway Community Garden. Andy Jones declared an interest in agenda item 4 as a member of Broadway Community Gardens. Anne Hills declared an interest in agenda item 5 as a volunteer for Prosper Frome which was an organisation part of the Community Hub.</p> <p>1c. Minutes from the last meeting on 6 September 2023 Fiona Barrows requested that FTC publish details about the</p>	

	<p>makeup of the funding used to purchase Badgers Hill Stadium. Paul Wynne agreed.</p> <p>Fiona Barrows proposed new wording on page 5. The new wording was “Fiona said the new structure of the budget was hard for members of the public to understand .”</p> <p>The minutes of the Frome Town Council meeting held on 6 September 2023 were approved as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.</p> <p>Proposed by Anne Hills, seconded by Andy Jones, agreed unanimously.</p>	<p>SW</p>
<p>2023/76/FC</p>	<p>2. Presentation of the Mayor’s commendation</p> <p>Philip Campagna explained when he became Mayor he wanted a way of recognising those unsung heroes in Frome. The Mayor’s commendation is to reward anyone who had been put forward for nomination. The person to receive the first ever award was at the meeting, Terri Pitts.</p> <p>Terri became involved in the co-ordination of the Community Fridge in 2018. The fridge tackled food waste and had become a tremendous success. It was the first in the UK. Terri recently received the BBC Radio Somerset green award. She worked tirelessly to make sure the fridge was stocked, clean, tidy and refreshed. Philip noted her dedication and effort which was second to none. He said she was much respected and much loved. Philip presented Terri Pitts with the very first Mayor’s commendation.</p> <p>Terri said she just wanted to help the people of Frome. In 2018 she became co ordinator of the fridge with 12 volunteers. She set about making it bigger, with a larder, recruiting more volunteers and making the fridge available for anyone and everybody. They had 92 organisations that food was collected from which saved 4 tonnes of food a month. In January, Terri noted there would 3 fridges in Frome. One would be based at Frome College which would serve as breakfast club. Currently 1 in 4 teachers were bringing in food for students in the UK.</p> <p>Throughout the project 8 Wembley stadiums full of food had been saved from landfill. This equated to 1,112 tonnes of carbon dioxide saved. Terri said she wished every town in the UK would follow Frome’s lead.</p> <p>Carla arrived online 7.16pm</p>	

<p>2023/77/FC</p>	<p>3. Question from public and Cllrs, including Somerset Cllrs Gill Fone asked why a box by the traffic lights in the town centre had appeared. She had hoped the time the green man was available would have been extended but it was still 4 seconds. Sara Butler noted that the red light for vehicles was red for 10 seconds, given pedestrians longer to cross. Peter Wheelhouse explained Somerset Council had been planning to change things and FTC had been notified it had happened. Regarding the box Peter said he would look into this.</p> <p>A member of the public noted he had met with Sarah Dyke about Post Office provision in the town. He encouraged anyone to contact Sarah with their own experiences.</p> <p>Adam Boyden noted he would be happy to help with highways issues. He also summarised the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Frome LCWIP - SC needed to adopt the plan in order to access funding. • Creating places for people consultation deadline was 16 October. • Public enquiry into closure of roads to end fly tipping, councils were able to respond up to 12 October. • Local Plan part 2 was incomplete, by the end of November Cllrs would know which of the 140 sites allocated would be around Frome. • Adam was in touch with Hanson and Network Rail about noisy trains. • Adam attended a Cllrs briefing on consulting on planning applications and how the public were informed. • There was no funding available for a separate climate change document for the Somerset Local Plan. Nikki Brain asked Adam if the Local Plan would replace the supplementary planning document? Adam explained Somerset wide climate strategy was requested but was told it was not affordable. All district local plans run out in 2028. Nikki asked Adam to let her know if there was anything that could be done to help. <p>Sue Hughes asked if something could be done about the weeds, all around the town. Philip and Fiona noted that the Frome Hoedown group were always looking for suggestions of new sites to tackle. Nick Dove also noted that a new Town Centre Ranger has recently been recruited who would be able to tackle the weeds.</p> <p>Nick Dove asked that the Town Clerk formally write to SC to ask them to explain why courtesy crossings could not be installed by Boyle Cross.</p>	<p>PWh</p>
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<p>2023/78/FC</p>	<p>4. For information – Update on Climate & Ecological Emergency work programme</p> <p>Fiona Barrows gave an introduction. The current programme was about trying to find ways to effect change with very little money. Change was achieved through a mix of direct projects, partnerships, advocacy and supporting and enabling community groups. Fiona wanted to highlight the amount of work that went in which was often hidden. In July, a climate action meeting was held with 100 plus people in attendance. An adaptation of this workshop was being planned for January 2024. She explained FTC had no power and very little money. Everyone was doing a fantastic job but were under no illusion it was not enough. A system change was required for this. Fiona thanked Nikki Brain for all her hard work on the programme.</p> <p>Nikki Brain gave a summary of the report.</p> <p>Andy Jones asked, as part of school streets, what was the status of the improvement to the safety crossings at The Butts and Broadway? Nikki explained that Sustrans had designed the crossings which had been provisionally awarded funding to build them. They were still waiting for SC to respond as to whether they were deliverable. Adam Boyden offered to take this forward with SC.</p> <p>Nick Dove asked about the possibility of adding a new crossing from Palmer Street across Bath Street and the need to co ordinate the waste collections of the businesses in the town centre so there was one collection per day. Nikki explained that would be a project for Somerset Council as it was too big scale for a community project.</p> <p>Ben Still asked about an update on work on food resilience. Fiona noted there was work ongoing on a food strategy for Frome. There were also lots of community based projects which were encouraging food growth such as Broadway Community Garden and the development of a piece of land in the St John’s Road area of Frome.</p> <p>Mark Dorrington supported the need for a crossing across The Butts from Water Lane to Somerset Road as it’s where many young people cross to go to Oakfield School. Nikki expected Sustrans to be supporting a Road Safety Audit to enable this happen.</p>	<p>ABo</p>
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	Philip Campagna wished Nikki Brain all the best as she was leaving her role as Resilience Manager at FTC at the end of November.	
2023/79/FC	<p>5. For information - Update on the development of Frome Welcome Hub and the Community Hub A summary of the report was given by Nikki Cox.</p> <p>Polly Lamb asked if appointments with the Citizens Advice and Somerset Council Advisors were by referral only? Nikki confirmed both were available on a drop in basis.</p> <p>Fiona Barrows felt that the Town Hall could be perceived as an intimidating building which not everyone would feel able to access. She asked if there were plans to use another building. Nikki explained it was not necessarily the building, it was the people that make it welcoming and combined with continuity of service is encouraging more people to come in. She noted the hub services would not exclusively be at the Town Hall but also other community spaces like the library. Ideally, a specific community space would be ideal but at the moment we haven't got one.</p>	
2023/80/FC	<p>Vote on confidential session The proposal was for this item on staff matters be held in confidential session, therefore members of the public and press were asked to leave.</p> <p>Proposed by Anne Hills, seconded by Fiona Barrows, agreed unanimously.</p>	
2023/81/FC	<p>6. Staff matters Cllrs discussed the report and agreed the recommendations.</p>	

The chair closed the meeting at: 8.17pm