

Minutes of a meeting of Frome Town Council

Wednesday 21 February 2024, 7pm  
Frome Town Hall and Zoom

**Present:**

In the Town Hall: Sara Butler, Philip Campagna (Chair), Anita Collier, Nick Dove, Anne Hills, Andy Jones, Lisa Merryweather, Steve Tanner, Mel Usher, Max Wide

**On Zoom:**

Tracey Ashford

**In attendance:**

Dawn Denton (SC Cllr), Adam Boyden (SC Cllr), Helen Kay (SC Cllr, online), Paul Wynne (Town Clerk), Sarah Williams (Business Manager), Peter Wheelhouse (Deputy Town Clerk), Rachel Griffin (Marketing and Communications Manager), Jane Llewellyn (Planning and Development Manager), Rob Holden (Environment Manager), Lucy McMahon (Lead Marketing and Communications Officer, online), Katie Fraser (Resilience Officer), Laura Flaherty (Executive Assistant to the Town Clerk and Mayor)

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

2 members of the public were in attendance on Zoom.

To watch to the discussion in full visit: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=e981y12bel8&t=3s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e981y12bel8&t=3s)

Minute Ref	Agenda Item	Action
2024/09/FC	<p>The meeting started at 7pm</p> <p><b>1a. Apologies for absence</b> Anne Hills proposed to accept apologies from Fiona Barrows, Carla Collette, Mark Dorrington, Polly Lamb and Ben Still, and from Tracey Ashford who attended online, seconded by Steve Tanner, agreed unanimously.</p> <p><b>1b. Declaration of members' interests</b> Lisa Merryweather declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in item 4 as the Frome Town Council representative on the Badgers Hill Stadium Project for Frome Town Community Benefit Society. Philip Campagna, Anita Collier and Mel Usher declared personal interests in item 4 as members of Frome Town Community Benefit Society.</p> <p><b>1c. Minutes from the last meeting on 17 January 2024</b> Nick Dove asked for his presence at the meeting to be noted. This was amended.</p> <p>The minutes of the Frome Town Council meeting held on 17</p>	

	<p>January 2024 were approved as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.</p> <p>Proposed by Lisa Merryweather, seconded by Sara Butler, agreed unanimously.</p>	
<p>2024/10/FC</p>	<p><b>2. Questions from public and Cllrs, including Somerset Cllrs</b>  A member of the public, Bill Lowe addressed the Council regarding issues of increased rat running traffic along Alexandra Road. He proposed that the Council undertake a consultation exercise with residents on implementing an experimental one-way traffic system to help address the problems being experienced. Lisa Merryweather, as the ward Cllr, agreed to discuss this will Bill.</p> <p>Dawn Denton provided an update following the recent Somerset County Council budget meeting and noted that a Section 114 notice had been avoided. She noted the ongoing financial challenges and uncertainty facing the authority.</p> <p>Adam Boyden questioned what conversations FTC had been having with SC regarding the potential devolution of services such as public toilets and CCTV provision in Frome. Max Wide explained that little progress had been made. He asked Adam to raise the issue with Bill Revans, SC Leader. Paul Wynne noted that there had been little detailed information to enable proposals to be made. Adam agreed to talk to Bill Revans.</p> <p>Mel Usher suggested it was time to get bigger towns together, in order to have a bigger voice. Paul noted a meeting for a group of Clerks had been arranged with Duncan Sharkey, SC Chief Executive Officer, on 4 April to discuss this.</p> <p>Nick Dove noted his disappointment with the raise in fees for a road closure. He felt it was prohibitive and counterproductive to enabling more events.</p>	<p>LM</p> <p>AB</p>
<p>2024/11/FC</p>	<p><b>3. For information - Update on Frome Safer School Streets project</b>  Peter Wheelhouse and Katie Fraser provided an overview of the Safer School Streets initiative being undertaken. Details of proposed improvements, community engagement activities and the experimental traffic regulation order were outlined.  Councillors discussed issues around road safety education, securing new pedestrian crossings and consideration of allowing carers to access restricted streets during closure times.</p>	

	<p>A member of the public, Ali Mathieson a local childminder and resident of one of the zones, praised the team’s hard work and acknowledged the project’s good intentions, but shared some opposing thoughts about the scheme and its application in Frome. In particular, she suggested changing the scheme and exploring a one-way system instead. Ali was thanked for her contribution. Peter Wheelhouse confirmed that plans are progressing for new pedestrian crossings on The Butts and Broadway, which would increase safety of people travelling to schools. Peter confirmed other possibilities he was investigating were park and stride and walking buses.</p>	
<p>2024/12/FC</p>	<p><b>4. For decision – legal charges to unlock grant funding at Badgers Hill stadium</b></p> <p>A summary of the report was given by Peter Wheelhouse. He explained the legal agreements required by funders to secure grant funding for repair and improvement works at Badgers Hill Stadium. This included legal charges on the leasehold and variations to lease arrangements. There was a discussion and clarification over what the legal charges meant.</p> <p>The recommendation was that Council approve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legal charges on the leasehold asset held by the Frome Town Community Benefit Society in favour of the Community Ownership Fund and Premier League Stadium Fund for a maximum period of 10 years</li> <li>• A restriction on the freehold asset for a maximum period of 10 years meaning that any sale of the Badgers Hill freehold within that time would be subject to the prior approval of the Community Ownership Fund and Premier League Stadium Fund</li> <li>• A deed of variation to the lease with the Frome Town Community Benefit Society requiring FTC to adhere to the terms and conditions of the funders should FTC exercise break or forfeiture clauses in the lease and enabling assignment of the lease should the CBS default with the assignment being subject to FTC’s prior approval</li> <li>• Delegation of authority to the Business Manager in consultation with the Deputy Town Clerk to instruct the Council’s lawyer to complete the necessary legal documentation at a cost of £9k to be funded from New Projects code 900-7977.</li> </ul> <p>Proposed by Anne Hills, seconded by Andy Jones, agreed by majority. Lisa Merryweather was not able to vote due to her declared interest and Max Wide abstained.</p>	

<p>2024/13/FC</p>	<p>5. For decision – Staffing arrangements for Resilience Team Peter Wheelhouse presented proposals to recruit a permanent Climate Action Lead officer role and make associated line management changes within the community engagement team.</p> <p>The recommendations were that Councillors approve:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Recruitment of the Climate Action Lead as a permanent position as soon as the salary level is determined</li> <li>2. The immediate introduction of the line management arrangements outlined in this report on a 6-month trial basis to be reviewed thereafter</li> </ol> <p>Proposed by Nick Dove, seconded by Steve Tanner, agreed by majority. Mel Usher abstained</p>	
<p>2024/14/FC</p>	<p>6. For information - Update on work to reinvigorate the town centre Nick Dove provided an update on various initiatives being taken forward including improving pedestrian crossings, installing festive lighting, addressing issues of empty shops and liaising with contractors regarding maintenance standards.</p> <p>Council supported the ongoing work of the group.</p>	
<p>2024/15/FC</p>	<p>The next meeting will be at 7pm on Wednesday 13 March 2024, Frome Town Hall and Zoom</p>	

The chair closed the meeting at: 8.41pm