

Minutes of a meeting of Frome Town Council

Wednesday 12 June 2024, 7pm
Frome Town Hall and Zoom

Present:

In the Town Hall: Fiona Barrows, Philip Campagna, Anita Collier, Mark Dorrington, Nick Dove, Andy Jones, Polly Lamb, Lisa Merryweather, Ben Still, Steve Tanner, Mel Usher

Online: Tracey Ashford, Carla Collenette, Andy Wrintmore

In attendance:

Tallis Mason, Belle Wallace, Niamh Bishop, Jack Kimber, Esmee Morrison, Bella Sherab-Chapman, Amanda Le Pivert (Frome College), Adam Boyden (SC Cllr), Dawn Denton (SC Cllr), Paul Wynne (Town Clerk), Peter Wheelhouse (Deputy Town Clerk) Jane Llewellyn (Planning and Development Manager), Sarah Williams (Business Manager), Rachel Griffin (Marketing and Communications Manager), Hannah Stopford (Engagement Lead), Nikki Cox (Partnership Lead), Lucy McMahon (Lead Marketing and Communications Officer), Laura Flaherty (Executive Assistant to the Town Clerk and Mayor)

6 members of the public were in attendance at Frome Town Hall
1 member of the public was in attendance on Zoom.

To watch to the discussion in full visit: www.youtube.com/watch?v=WsfOlhy51kY

Minute Ref	Agenda Item	Action
2024/49/FC	<p>1. A short presentation from Frome College Students</p> <p>The meeting started at 7pm</p> <p>Fiona Barrows introduced the Frome College students from the Earth House Ambassadors team.</p> <p>The students presented their feelings and frustrations around the climate and ecological emergencies we were facing. They gave their perspectives on how they saw the emergencies playing out and the burden placed on their generation who will feel the effects of the changes most acutely. They also spoke about the impacts of how they were treated as a generation. They covered topics of biodiversity, recycling and safety.</p> <p>Andy Jones asked the students to what extent did they represent the wider views of their fellow students? Jack explained that they also had a student council and had regular student voice meetings to address problems and issues across the student body.</p>	

	<p>Anita Collier noted how well the students presented. She said it was a real insight to hear their thoughts and she hoped to hear from them more often.</p> <p>Lisa Merryweather asked the students how FTC could communicate better with young people and how we could better involve them in the Council? Maeve suggested reaching out to the schools and being included in more surveys, also to be invited directly to more Council meetings. Laura Flaherty would ensure that the students were added to the notification list for future council and committee meetings.</p> <p>Nick Dove noted the students spoke about everything Cllrs spoke about but from a different perspective. He wanted them to know that FTC were listening.</p> <p>Sue Palmer, from the Green and Healthy Frome project, noted there were a lot of older people who cared greatly about climate change and the younger generation. She said they would love to connect with the students.</p> <p>Amanada Le Pivert, explained more about the Earth House project, which was a collaboration with the community on our impact. They had worked with the Ranger team, SHARE, the community fridge, Green and Healthy Frome and Graham Burgess to name just a few. The team were beginning to develop the school site, increase biodiversity, create outside learning spaces, become green connectors, and started to plan for careers in sustainability. She noted the students had risen to every challenge and taken every opportunity. Their aim was to keep going to ensure the future of Frome’s voices were heard.</p>	<p>LF</p>
<p>2024/50/FC</p>	<p>2a. Apologies for absence Anita Collier proposed to accept apologies from Sara Butler, Anne Hills and Max Wide, and from Tracey Ashford, Carla Collenette and Andy Wrintmore who attended online, seconded by Lisa Merryweather agreed unanimously.</p> <p>2b. Declaration of members’ interests None was received.</p> <p>2c. Minutes from the last meeting on 15 May 2024 The minutes of the Frome Town Council meeting held on 15 May 2024 were approved as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.</p>	

	Proposed by Nick Dove, seconded by Fiona Barrows, agreed unanimously.	
2024/51/FC	<p>3. Questions from public and Cllrs</p> <p>Julian Quail suggested a campaign encourage people to pick up after their dogs. He noted this was a particular problem in the parks. He also asked FTC to approach the Frome Chamber of Commerce to encourage businesses to help keep the town centre clean.</p> <p>Adam Boyden noted that the Selwood Garden Community planning application would come to the July Somerset Council planning meeting. He explained Cllrs had discussed the application with the officers, had a site tour and the recommendation would be to approve the application subject to conditions and the s106. Steve Tanner requested a copy of the report Somerset Cllrs had received. Finally, Adam noted Farley Hungerford had been designated bathing status, recycling collection dates were changing across the county, and he encouraged everyone to register to vote in time before the general election in July.</p> <p>Nick Dove asked Adam Boyden if he could help get a response from Somerset Highways regarding overgrown vegetation on pathways. He noted the Triathlon club were having an event in July, but many areas of the route were impassible due to the overgrowth.</p> <p>Anita Collier requested that as a Council, FTC wrote to Highways to highlight the dangerous issues of overgrown vegetation that was now obscuring road signage and sight lines for drivers. She noted that the police were also concerned. Paul Wynne noted he would write to Highways.</p>	<p>RH</p> <p>PWh</p> <p>AB</p> <p>PWy</p>
2024/52/FC	<p>4. For decision – Purchase of Land at Adderwell</p> <p>Steve Tanner and Rob Holden provided a summary of the report.</p> <p>Mel Usher cautioned about the predicted £30k needed from FTC's budget as the real costs could be much higher. He also noted he had never known a crowdfunding scheme to succeed when someone else will inevitably pay if the target was not reached. He asked where the money would come from and what other projects might not be able to go ahead because of funding? Sarah Williams explained there was a surplus of £142k over the general reserve, so the money was available if Cllrs wanted to go ahead.</p>	

	<p>Rob Holden felt that local people would want to give to the fund because it was an important site, and they would like to be connected to a positive project. He noted there would also be little incentives in return for giving towards a Crowdfunded project as a way of connecting people with the land.</p> <p>Rich Ackroyd supported the Council buying the site and noted that there was a large pool of volunteers who would be willing to help manage the site.</p> <p>A Frome College student noted that the site was attractive and that if FTC did buy it there would be other things that the Council would not be able to do. He noted that there would be many young people in the town who would be willing to support the fundraising.</p> <p>Lisa Merryweather said she shared some of Mel’s concerns about the crowdfunding initiative and asked Friends of the River Frome (FoRF) to share their plans for the crowdfund campaign. Paul Wynne noted that the intention was to work closely with FoRF to put campaign together.</p> <p>The recommendations were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Note the financial breakdown in the report 2. Purchase the freehold of the land at Adderwell for £75k with £30k funding from existing budgets and 3. Underwrite the FoRF crowdfunding campaign up to £20k if required. This amount to be drawn from the General Reserve which is sufficient. 4. Agree operational funding for initial set-up (Knotweed, Fencing, Legals and ongoing maintenance) as detailed in the report. <p>Proposed by Nick Dove, seconded by Philip Campagna, agreed unanimously.</p>	
<p>2024/53/FC</p>	<p>5. For decision - Town Centre Style Guide A summary of the report was given by Nick Dove.</p> <p>The recommendations were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approved the style guide at Appendix 5.1 2. Delegate to the Planning & Development Manager to make any minor changes to the guide over time in consultation with Cllrs involved in the town centre group with major changes returning Council for approval. 	

	<p>Proposed by Nick Dove, seconded by Anita Collier, agreed by majority.</p> <p>Fiona Barrows left the room at 7.55pm</p>	
<p>2024/54/FC</p>	<p>6. A verbal presentation from Cllr Lisa Merryweather on her year as Leader 23/24</p> <p>Lisa focused on the long list of incredible projects that FTC had delivered or been a part of. Her list included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refugee week • Pride month • Great Big Green Week • New play park at Showfield • Community engagement • Safer School Streets • Town Centre Ranger • Badgers Hill/land at Adderwell • Plastic free periods • Safeguarding public assets • Vic Park loos • Wedding venue • Staff/Cllr relations • Drone show • International Women’s Day <p>And this was just to name a few.</p> <p>Lisa thanked the wider leadership team, for being supportive and challenging in equal measure. She also thanked Paul and staff and Cllrs. She wished Steve Tanner well in his leadership year.</p> <p>Fiona returned to the meeting at 8.05pm</p>	
<p>2024/55/FC</p>	<p>7. For information - Year end review of the work programme 23/24 from the management group</p> <p>A video summary of the all the projects and work completed by FTC in from April 2023 until March 2024 was shown. The video would also be available on the FTC YouTube channel after the meeting. Thanks went to the Marketing and Communications team for creating the video.</p> <p>Mel Usher felt FTC should revisit our approach to reducing poverty and we might tackle it. Nick Dove felt it should remain as part of the work programme, but Council should be realistic about what could be achieved.</p>	

2024/56/FC	The next meeting will be at 7pm on Wednesday 10 July 2024, Frome Town Hall and Zoom	
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The chair closed the meeting at: 8.10pm