

Draft Minutes of the Frome Annual Town Meeting
Wednesday 3 April 2024, 7pm
Frome Town Hall and Zoom

In the Chair: Philip Campagna, Mayor of Frome 2023/24

In attendance: Approx. 30 members of the public at the Town Hall

To watch the meeting in full visit: <https://bit.ly/3FLOzSo>

1. Welcome from the Mayor of Frome

The meeting began at 7pm and Philip Campagna welcomed all attendees.

2. Agree the minutes of the last meeting on 5 April 2023

Minutes of the meeting held on 5 April 2023 were signed by the Chair as a true record of the meeting. They were proposed by Mark Dorrington, seconded by Andy Jones, and agreed by majority.

3. Presentation from Cllr Philip Campagna on his year as Mayor

Philip Campagna gave a presentation about his year as mayor, starting with his introduction to the role and the support he received from his predecessor Sara Butler.

He highlighted various events and activities he participated in, including supporting local organisations, attending community events, and meeting notable individuals. His highlights included remembrance, Christmas, presentations of Mayor's commendations, campaigning for better bus services and meeting Ken Loach!

Philip emphasised the importance of supporting local and independent businesses and the positive impact of community events on the town.

He also mentioned his involvement in the 40-year celebration of twinning between Frome and Murrhardt as a highlight and the emotional impact of supporting refugees and displaced people.

Philip ended his presentation thanking his Deputy Andy Jones and said it was his pleasure to have been Mayor of such a fantastic town.

4. Questions and comments from the public and Cllrs

None were received.

5. Lightning talks – What's your big idea for Frome

The first speaker, Issie Tucker, presented her idea for safe and secure cycle storage in Frome.

Alex Sams idea was the Frome Wild Way, a proposal to create a large wild land area around Frome with a shared use path for ecology and biodiversity.

James Hall suggested upgrading Frome railway station to improve facilities and connectivity, including the possibility of a new station behind the Cheese and Grain.

Fern Alder proposed installing water fountains in town to provide free drinking water, especially during hot summers.

Finally John Scott, joining via Zoom, suggested establishing a regular space for meditation and unity at the Cat House in Church Street.

All ideas were warmly received and any attendee at the meeting who was interested in any of the ideas was encouraged to leave their contact details on one of the boards outside the council chamber.

6. A video compilation of FTC Grant recipients in 2023/24

The Marketing and Communications team created a lovely video to highlight all the wonderful groups and events that happened in Frome with the help of some grant money from FTC. The video can be seen here on our YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/watch?v=gL16sXaRSB8

7. Presentation of the Mayor's Civic Awards

The Mayor's Civic Awards celebrate those in the community who have gone above and beyond.

Discover Frome Volunteers

This was a joint award to all the volunteers at the Discover Frome information point. Philip presented the award for the way they all served the community and the variety of needs. The award was accepted by Irene and Jane on behalf of the volunteers.

Peter Travis

Peter was the Co – Chair of the Somerset Bus Partnership and a member of the Frome and Village Bus Users Group (FAVBUG), Philip awarded Peter to recognise his commitment to Frome and for the hard work he put in to secure bus routes and bus services.

Frome Welcomes Refugees Advisory Group

The award was received by Clare Hein, Peter Macfadyen and Justin Worringham on behalf of the many members of the Advisory Group. Philip presented the award for their exceptional dedication to welcoming and supporting families and individuals facing extreme circumstances. The organisation was praised for their commitment to helping refugees integrate into the community.

Alison Murdoch

Philip presented Alison with an award to recognise the many amazing things she has done for the town but particularly for her work with The Good Heart. Philip noted how The Good Heart had become an integral part of Frome and contributed incredible events like the Kindness Festival.

Humphrey Barnes

Philip awarded Humphrey to recognise his commitment to the Memorial Theatre, and for all he has done supporting the theatre and also the amazing charity work through his involvement with the Rotary Club. The award came on a very special occasion for Humphrey and his wife Gill, as it was their 63rd wedding anniversary.

All award recipients received a certificate and flowers.

Philip thanked everyone for attending and invited everyone to stay for Italian treats and drinks.

Meeting closed: 8.04pm

Cllrs and staff From Frome Town Council in attendance:

Frome Town Councillors: Anita Collier, Mark Dorrington, Nick Dove, Andy Jones, Polly Lamb, Steve Tanner

Frome Town Council Officers: Paul Wynne (Town Clerk), Rachel Griffin (Marketing and Communications Manager), Sarah Williams (Business Manager), Becca Evans (Business Administrator), Laura Flaherty (Executive Assistant to the Town Clerk and Mayor)