

Minutes of a meeting of Frome Town Council

Wednesday 30 April 2025, 7pm
Frome Town Hall and Zoom

Present:

In the Town Hall: Tracey Ashford, Fiona Barrows, Sara Butler, Carla Collenette, Anita Collier, Mark Dorrington, Nick Dove, Anne Hills, Andy Jones (Chair), Polly Lamb, Lisa Merryweather, Steve Tanner, Mel Usher, Max Wide

In attendance:

Anna Sabine (MP), Darren Bernstein (national Football Supporters Association), Max Hirst (Chair of Frome CBS), Cllr Dawn Denton (SC Cllr), Cllr Martin Dimery (SC Cllr), Cllr Helen Kay (SC Cllr, online), Cllr Adam Boyden (SC Cllr, online), Paul Wynne (Town Clerk), Peter Wheelhouse (Deputy Town Clerk), Sarah Williams (Business Manager), Rachel Griffin (Marketing and Communications Manager), Jane Llewellyn (Planning and Development Manager), Becca Evans (Business Administrator), Rob Holden (Environment Manager, online), Laura Flaherty (Executive Assistant to the Town Clerk and Mayor)

Approx. 30 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=GD3FX_qSCZY

Minute Ref	Agenda Item	Action
2025/28/FC	<p>The meeting started at 7pm</p> <p>1a. Apologies for absence None was received.</p> <p>1b. Declaration of members' interests Anne Hills declared other registrable interests in agenda items 2 and 4.</p> <p>1c. Minutes from the last meeting on 12 March 2025 Nick Dove asked for an update regarding the parking issues in Wesley Close. Jane Llewellyn confirmed there was a residents' agreement to mark existing double yellows and add a double yellow or an H bar across the entrance to the business.</p> <p>The minutes of the Frome Town Council meeting held on 12 March 2025 were approved as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.</p> <p>Proposed by Anne Hills, seconded by Nick Dove, agreed unanimously.</p>	

2025/29/FC	<p>2. Questions from public and Cllrs Andy Jones presented Karen Stewart with her civic award.</p> <p>Andy noted that this would be his last Council meeting as he would not be present in May. He thanked everyone who had made his year very special and gave special thanks to FTC officers Lucy for her help with the Mayor's column and Laura for helping managing his diary.</p> <p>Peter Wheelhouse explained FTC's previous financial support for Badgers Hill and how FTC had been in ongoing negotiations with a potential new lessee.</p> <p>Representatives from Frome Town Women's Football Club raised significant concerns about the future of Badgers Hill stadium. Tara spoke on behalf of the team who had played at Badgers Hill for 25 years. They felt they were not consulted about potential changes to the stadium. Unfortunately, they had experienced persistent misogyny and marginalisation from Frome Town Football Club and they had only ever wanted to be included transparently and respectfully.</p> <p>Ben Boland (team manager) requested direct communication about the outcome and next steps from FTC and clear assurances about the women's team's ability to continue playing at the stadium.</p> <p>Anna Sabine MP also supported the women's team position, urging FTC to ensure there were clear community benefits, guaranteed ongoing access for Frome Town Women and a commitment to supporting women and girls in sport.</p> <p>Darren Bernstein from the national Football Supporters Association warned about the risks of moving to private ownership. He advised FTC to attach multiple strings to any potential deal.</p>	
2025/30/FC	<p>3. For ratification - To withdraw objection to the Selwood Garden Community planning application</p> <p>Jane Llewellyn summarised the decision to withdraw the council's objection to the Selwood Garden Community Planning application. The decision prior to the meeting to be able to present the council's view at the planning inquiry in August.</p> <p>Jane also noted that there was no need for an additional medical practice because the current practice was more than big enough.</p>	

	<p>The recommendation was that the decision to remove FTC's objection to the Selwood Garden Community planning application Ref: 2021/1675/EOUT be ratified.</p> <p>Proposed by Anita Collier, seconded by Nick Dove, agreed by majority. Sara Butler abstained.</p>	
2025/31/FC	<p>4. For decision - Ongoing management options for the Frome Weekly Market</p> <p>Anne Hills left the room at 7.41pm</p> <p>Nick Dove said FTC had taken on the management of the markets. Rachel Griffin and her team had managed the markets successfully as an interim measure and now FTC were proposing to agree an SLA with the Frome Independent for them to take on the day to day management of the weekly markets.</p> <p>The recommendations were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. FTC to continue to manage the Frome Weekly market in the short term 2. Delegate to the Marketing and Communications Manager to agree an SLA with The Frome Independent at a cost to FTC of £25k in year 1 (taken from the Devolution Budget) and reducing to £15k in year 3. The SLA to reflect the terms and objectives in the proposal outlined in the report. <p>Proposed by Tracey Ashford, seconded by Sara Butler, agreed by majority. Lisa Merryweather abstained.</p>	RG
2025/32/FC	<p>5. For information – Update on devolution of assets and services to FTC</p> <p>Max Wide provided an update on possible devolution project in future, noting that it was likely that Somerset would become part of a combined authority. He highlighted the importance of being prepared for future devolution opportunities.</p> <p>Fiona Barrows asked about the process for commissioning a community nursery on the Key Centre. Paul Wynne confirmed that all key decisions would come back to council.</p>	
2025/33/FC	<p>The proposal was for the next item to be held in confidential session; therefore members of the press and public were asked to leave.</p>	

	Proposed by Sara Butler, seconded by Nick Dove, agreed by majority. Fiona Barrows objected.	
2025/34/FC	6. For decision – future of an FTC asset Cllrs discussed the report and recommendation about the potential for leasing Badgers Hill Stadium and agreed they needed further information before approving the recommendation. Cllrs asked officers to continue negotiations and to explore the alternative options.	PWh/SW
2025/35/FC	The next meeting will be at 7pm on Wednesday 21 May 2025, Frome Town Hall and Zoom	

The chair closed the public meeting at: 7.52pm