Minutes of a meeting of Frome Town Council's Grants Committee

Date: 25th February 2026
Time: 7.00pm
Venue: Frome Town Hall, Christchurch St West, Frome BA11 1EB & Zoom

Present:

Frome Town Grant Committee Councillors: Tracy Ashford, Fiona Barrows, Anita Collier, Anne Hills, Andy Jones, Steve Tanner

In attendance:

Members of the public in person: 25
Members of the public on Zoom:
Hannah Stopford: Engagement Lead
Becca Evans: Business Administrator
Sian James: Business and HR Administrator

Table 1 – Agenda items

Minute Ref	Agenda Item	Action
2026/001G	**1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** Apologies received from Cllr Fiona Barrows, who is joining online. Proposed by Cllr Steve Tanner, Seconded by Cllr Philip Campagna. Agreed unanimously.	
2026/002G	**2 QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, AND INFORMATION FROM THE PUBLIC** Andy Jones proposed that Anita Collier be elected as Chair of the Grants Committee. This was seconded by Fiona Barrows and agreed unanimously.	
2026/003G	**3 DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS** Cllr Anne Hills and Cllr Andy Jones both declared their interest in the application from Edventure Frome who are collaborating with Share Frome, an organisation of which both are Trustees. Cllr Andy Hills also declared an interest in the Frome Festival, of which he is a Trustee, and also both the Dissenters Cemetery and Froglife. He has a close friendship with Trustees of both organisations. Cllr Fiona Barrows also declared a pecuniary interest in Edventure Frome having previously undertaken paid work with the organisation.	

Chair's Signature and Date:

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2026/004G	**4. Proposal for Grant Shortlisting Process** The Chair introduced a proposal to introduce a **shortlisting stage** for future rounds of community grant applications in response to growing application volume and workload. **Hannah Stopford** summarised the recommendation: A shortlisting stage may be introduced when the number or complexity of applications reaches a threshold, allowing the committee to assess shortlisted applications more effectively prior to the main decision-making meeting. **RESOLVED:** Proposal to introduce a shortlisting stage for future grant rounds was **approved unanimously** . Proposed by Cllr Tracey Ashford and Seconded by Cllr Philip Campagna	

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2026/005G	**5. Young People's Participatory Grants – Pilot Report** **Melody Hunter Evans** , Children & Young People's Officer, presented an overview of the Young People's Participatory Grant pilot project. Highlights included: • Engagement with Year 8 pupils across local schools and home-educated young people. • A co-design workshop to shape funding priorities. • Formation of a nine-member youth panel representing multiple schools. • A two-stage assessment including shortlisting and interviews with applicants. • Over 400 young people consulted through school assemblies and voting sessions. • A planned summer celebration event to evaluate funded projects and share outcomes. Youth panel members provided brief reflections on their experience. **Ratification of Youth Panel Grant Awards** The committee formally ratified the following awards: • **Focus Frome** – £2,000 • **Vallis Farm Education Centre** – £2,000 • **Rainbow Flow** – £500 • **Purple Elephant (Tea & Toastie sessions)** – £2,000 • **Fusion Lifestyle – Free swimming lessons for Year 2 pupils** – £2,000 • **Youth Production Network CIC – Frome Pride** – £1,500 **RESOLVED:** All youth panel funding decisions were ratified unanimously. Proposed by Cllr Anne Hills and seconded by Cllr Philip Campagna A group photograph with the youth panel was taken during a short recess.	

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2026/004G	**6. Community Grant Applications** **Overview** The committee proceeded to review applications received for the current round of the Community Grant Fund. Due to being significantly oversubscribed, councillors noted it would not be possible to fund every proposal. Applications were first considered for eligibility and overall fit before deciding whether each should progress for full or partial funding or be declined for this round. The following applications were declined. **Wessex MS Therapy Centre.** Proposed by Cllr Andy Jones, seconded by Cllr Anne Hills. The decision was unanimous. **Jackdaws Music Education trust.** Proposed by Cllr Anne Hills, seconded by Cllr Andy Jones. The decision was unanimous. **Music for miniatures.** Proposed by Cllr Anne Hills, seconded by Cllr Philip Campagna. The decision was unanimous. **Neuroconnect CIC.** Proposed by Cllr Anita collier, seconded by Cllr Philip Campagna. The decision was unanimous. **Mind your Music.** Proposed by Cllr Anne Hills, seconded by Cllr Philip Campagna. The decision was unanimous. **Shared Earth Learning.** Proposed by Cllr Philip Campagna, seconded by Cllr Anita Collier. The decision was unanimous. **Sustainable Frome CIC.** Proposed by Cllr Andy Jones, seconded by Cllr Steve Tanner. The decision was unanimous. **Frome Medical Practice.** Proposed by Cllr Andy Jones, seconded by Cllr Anne Hills. The decision was unanimous. **Frome Dissenters Cemetery.** Proposed by Cllr Anne Hills, seconded by Cllr Anita Collier. The decision was unanimous at the second review. **Dorothy House Hospice.** Proposed by Cllr Anne Hills, seconded by Cllr Anita Collier. The decision was unanimous at the second review. **The Blue House.** Proposed by Cllr Anne Hills, seconded by Cllr Anita Collier. The decision was unanimous at the second review.	

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<tr><th>Minute Ref</th><th>Agenda Item</th><th>Action</th></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>The remaining applications were funded at the second review. All were voted for unanimously at the end of the review. Proposed by Anne Hills and seconded by Anita Collier.

<table>
<tr><td>Somerset Arts Works</td><td>£1,500.00</td></tr>
<tr><td>Froglife</td><td>£1,000.00</td></tr>
<tr><td>We Hear You</td><td>£3,000.00</td></tr>
<tr><td>Holy Trinity Church Frome</td><td>£3,000.00</td></tr>
<tr><td>The Kindness Connection</td><td>£563.66</td></tr>
<tr><td>Young People Frome</td><td>£1,950.00</td></tr>
<tr><td>Songs for the Memory</td><td>£1,000.00</td></tr>
<tr><td>Citizens Advice Somerset</td><td>£2,000.00</td></tr>
<tr><td>Frome Carnival Committee</td><td>£1,000.00</td></tr>
<tr><td>Frome Town Women FC</td><td>£2,500.00</td></tr>
<tr><td>Frome Community Productions CIC</td><td>£563.66</td></tr>
<tr><td>Edventure Frome</td><td>£2,000.00</td></tr>
<tr><td>Baby Connections</td><td>£2,000.00</td></tr>
<tr><td>Open Storytellers</td><td>£3,000.00</td></tr>
<tr><td>Frome Festival</td><td>£563.66</td></tr>
<tr><td>Everyone Needs Pockets</td><td>£1,000.00</td></tr>
<tr><td>The Pod</td><td>£3,000.00</td></tr>
<tr><td>The Good Heart</td><td>£2,640.00</td></tr>
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<tr><td>2024/007G</td><td>7 Additional Notes

The Grants Committee will review the process of this application round at the Grants Committee review meeting on Friday 13th March 2026.</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>2024/008G</td><td>8 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next Grants Committee is still to be determined.</td><td></td></tr>
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The Chair closed the meeting at 9:36 pm

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