

FROME TOWN COUNCIL

making Frome a better place

Minutes of a meeting of Frome Town Council

Wednesday 20 January 2016 at 7pm
Frome Medical Practice, Enos Way, Frome. BA11 2FH

Present:

Councillors: Richard Ackroyd, Kate Bielby, Jean Boulton, Colin Cobb, Gary Collinson, Toby Elliot, Tricia Golinski, Pippa Goldfinger, Sheila Gore, Peter Macfadyen, Al O’Kane, Mel Usher, Heather Wride

In attendance:

Oliver Woodhams (Strategic Manager, Community & Traded Services SCC), Claire Wilson (Frome Standard), Paul Wynne (Town Clerk), Peter Wheelhouse (Economic Development and Regeneration Manager), Anna Francis (Resilience Officer), Jackie Wheeler (Responsible Finance Officer), Chris Stringer (Environment Manager), Mark Brookes (Town Centre Community Coordinator), Laura Poulton (Administration Officer)

30 members of the public

Minute Ref	Agenda Item	Action
2016/01/FC	<p>The meeting started at 7.03pm</p> <p>1a. Apologies for absence Received from Nick White, Ali Barclay, Tim O’Connor and Cath Puddick.</p> <p>1b. Declaration of members’ interests Mel Usher declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 6 as a trustee of Fair Frome.</p> <p>1c. Minutes from the last meeting on 16 December 2015 The minutes of the Frome Town Council meeting held on 16 December 2015 were approved as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.</p> <p>Proposed Colin Cobb, seconded Richard Ackroyd, agreed unanimously.</p>	
2016/02/FC	<p>2. Questions and comments from the public Gill Fone enquired as to whether the cottages at the top of Bath Street were rented or privately owned as she was concerned about the tatty appearance of the front gardens. Pippa Goldfinger explained they were most likely privately owned.</p> <p>A member of the public informed Cllrs of a petition to reduce the speed limit to 30mph along Jeffries Lane. She explained that the</p>	

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	<p>campaign had been going on a number of years and asked if FTC could contact Somerset Highways on their behalf. Paul Wynne confirmed that officers would make contact with Selwood Parish Council, Jeffries Lane being in their Parish, in the first instance and together speak with Highways.</p> <p>The member of the public also expressed a concern about some of the art work on the graffiti wall in Welshmill Park as it was very visible to young children. She suggested that it be relocated into a more appropriate location such as the skate park. Chris Stringer confirmed he would discuss this with F.R.O.G.S who have a large influence on the management of Welshmill Park.</p>	<p>Jane Llewellyn</p> <p>CS</p>
<p>2016/03/FC</p>	<p>3. Questions and comments from Cllrs</p> <p>Chris Stringer provided an update on actions from the last meeting. The fly-posting on the bus shelters had all been removed by The Landscape Group. In conjunction with MDC & TLG a replacement tree for the Market Yard – a Himalayan Birch – was ordered and was to be planted by the Rangers. With regard to Button Bridge, TLG was continuing routine maintenance to encourage as much water as possible to drain from the bridge. Finally Network Rail had sent a more detailed breakdown of the costs and rates involved in the proposed works at Rodden Bridge and staff were reviewing the details.</p> <p>District Cllr, Shane Collins noted that a petition was circulating to request SCC pension board makes no new investments into fossil fuels and cease completely in five years.</p> <p>Peter Wheelhouse gave an update on the improvement project at Station approach. He noted that it didn't appear in the budget and work programme because it would be funded by s106 money and the project was a part of a wider programme of work. He noted he would produce a more detailed report for the February or March Council meeting.</p>	<p>PWh</p>
<p>2016/04/FC</p>	<p>4. Short talk from Oliver Woodhams Listening, Learning, Changing – County Libraries & Hubs engagement</p> <p>Oliver updated Council on the current SCC library consultation in terms of austerity. He explained that they were not closing libraries but were investing in new ways of providing information. Frome library was considered to be as a location for this style of hub.</p>	
<p>2016/05/FC</p>	<p>5. Recommendations from the Keep Frome Clean Panel</p> <p>Richard Ackroyd outlined the work of the panel and the main objectives that arose from their discussions. He highlighted the</p>	

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	<p>usefulness of 'fixmystreet' for reporting areas in the town that required maintenance. Richard thanked all those that took part in the panel.</p> <p>A member of the public congratulated the Rangers on their hard work keeping the riverside walk clear and making it a pleasant place to walk.</p> <p>Mel Usher suggested organising regular meetings with MDC and The Landscape Group in order to keep on track with the fulfillment of the contract.</p> <p>Tricia Golinski suggested discussing the issue of recycling, in terms of limited plastic recycling and litter left behind after collections, at the March meeting of the three tiers of local government.</p> <p>The recommendations were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. FTC to regularly update the information on its website, providing clear and current information about who does what in the town – and the best and most effective ways to report queries and problems 2. FTC to regularly send out information in community newsletters, emails and via social media, promoting the Keep Frome Clean campaign and highlighting simple ways of keeping Frome clean 3. FTC & MDC to promote effective reporting of problems through 'fixmystreet' 4. FTC to employ an additional full-time or part-time Ranger focused on the town centre to deliver work including seasonal work & emergency support 5. MDC to ensure effective monitoring of its contract so that standards are met consistently and that faults or problems are addressed 6. FTC & MDC to work together on joint contract monitoring at least once a month 7. FTC & MDC to work together on a fixed period of intensive contract monitoring to bring the entire town back to standard 8. FTC to identify locations for new litter bins on an annual basis leading in to the Council's budget setting processes 9. TLG to complete a town-wide bin condition & location survey, reporting back to MDC & FTC 10. FTC to continue discussions with SCC about additional gulley & drain cleansing in Frome 11. FTC to work with SCC in an annual review of the gully & drain cleansing schedule 12. FTC & MDC to launch a number of joint promotions & publicity 	<p>CS/RK</p> <p>CS/RK</p> <p>CS/RK</p> <p>PWY/JW</p> <p>CS</p> <p>CS</p> <p>CS</p> <p>CS</p> <p>CS</p> <p>CS</p>
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	<p>campaigns, including an ‘Any bin will do’ reminder for dog owners and a ‘No butts!’ campaign aimed at smokers</p> <p>13. FTC to promote household recycling via regular tips on social media</p> <p>14. FTC to work with local schools in promoting the Keep Frome Clean campaign and providing advice about recycling</p> <p>15. FTC to establish and promote community clean-ups, including Ranger Days and an annual town clean-up tied to the Keep Britain Tidy campaign</p> <p>16. FTC to link the Keep Frome Clean campaign to the Government’s new & developing national litter strategy</p> <p>17. FTC to encourage businesses and shopkeepers across the town to sweep and tidy their frontages with an awards scheme: the Frome Broom! The awards scheme could be expanded to include categories for schools, residents and communities too</p> <p>18. FTC to work with MDC after events, including markets, to make sure the town is clean and tidy</p> <p>19. FTC to ensure other organisations, residents and business communities are kept up to date and aware of events – to ensure provision for clean-ups</p> <p>20. FTC to work with local venues and promoters to encourage responsible advertising, including the removal of out of date and tatty flyers/posters</p> <p>21. FTC to work with MDC & SCC to look at the upkeep of the town’s roundabouts – and explore opportunities for advertising & sponsorship</p> <p>22. FTC to consider a dedicated Panel to look at recycling in Frome, including opportunities for recycling bins in public places and spaces</p> <p>23. Although 22 recommendations makes for a long list, it’s worth noting that a number of these recommendations are closely linked – and that the majority of the recommendations should be achievable by simply working together in better ways.</p> <p>Proposed Pippa Goldfinger, seconded Peter Macfadyen, agreed unanimously.</p>	<p>CS</p> <p>CS/RK</p> <p>CS</p> <p>CS</p> <p>CS</p> <p>CS</p> <p>CS</p> <p>CS</p> <p>CS</p> <p>CS</p> <p>CS</p> <p>CS</p> <p>CS</p>
<p>2016/06/FC</p>	<p>6. To approve the work programme, work programme, staff changes, the budget and precept demand for 2016/17</p> <p>Toby Eliot provided a comprehensive breakdown of how the budget had been allocated to achieve the work programme and therefore the level the precept demand was to be set at. The proposal was to increase the precept by 9%; the first increase in three years.</p> <p>a. Al O’Kane proposed a zero percent precept increase. He said</p>	

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	<p>that FTC should think "outside the box" and explore alternative / fairer ways of raising income from the community. This could involve FTC engaging with the community over the breadth of projects planned for the year ahead and then devising a way of enabling the community to choose how much they were willing to pay. Al thought that perhaps this would be fairer on lower income households and more positively received by all members of the public (rather than "another tax increase") and thus result in a higher community contribution than the precept demand.</p> <p>The proposal was to approve a zero percent increase for Band D households for 2016/17.</p> <p>Proposed Al O’Kane, seconded Heather Wride, motion not carried.</p> <p>b. Pippa Goldfinger proposed that the funding for Fair Frome was increased by £3,000 to £18k to make it the same amount as the previous year. Peter Macfadyen noted that it had been discussed already to reduce the funding to Fair Frome gradually in order for them to become self-sufficient. Jean Boulton noted that the draft total budget (exceeding £2m) had been reduced in many areas in order to come to the current proposal and that the proposed grant for Fair Frome should remain unchanged. However, she did hope that later in the year there may be unspent budgets that could be used to supplement the grant for Fair Frome.</p> <p>Increase funding to Fair Frome from £15k to £18k for 2016/17</p> <p>Proposed Pippa Goldfinger, seconded Kate Bielby, motion not carried.</p> <p>The recommendations were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Approve the budget and a precept demand of £1,139,706 for 2016/17, equating to an increase of 23p a week for Band D households. <p>Proposed Jean Boulton, seconded Gary Collinson, agreed by majority.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">2. Approve the work programme to March 2017 <p>Proposed Tricia Golinski, seconded Sheila Gore, agreed unanimously.</p>	<p>PWy/PM</p>
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	<p>3. Approve the staff changes in the organisation chart; note that there is an appropriate budget to recruit them and delegate responsibility for recruitment at the correct time to the Town Clerk in consultation with the Leader.</p> <p>Proposed Richard Ackroyd, seconded Colin Cobb, agreed unanimously.</p> <p>4. Note the forecast Earmarked Reserves and the General Reserve, transfer £110k from the General Reserve to a new Saxonvale EMR and transfer £40k from the General Reserve to the Town Centre Improvement EMR.</p> <p>Proposed Toby Eliot, seconded Richard Ackroyd, agreed unanimously.</p>	JW
2016/07/FC	<p>7. Economic Development Update from Anna Francis and Peter Wheelhouse</p> <p>Peter Wheelhouse, Economic Development and Regeneration Manager and Anna Francis, Resilience Officer gave an overview of their current work. They particularly focused on the areas where their work overlaps in terms of economic, environmental and social sustainability. Peter noted that a detailed area of the website was currently being worked on to make all the information easily accessible.</p> <p>Mel Usher suggested that the car club be made accessible to those who were disadvantage and the costs of running a car are too high perhaps by FTC paying for their membership.</p> <p>Shane Collins enquired whether businesses could apply for a membership to the car club. Anna confirmed that it was possible and once the employer was a member employees were able to make use of the cars for free.</p> <p>Kate Bielby thanked Peter and Anna for their presentations.</p>	
2016/08/FC	<p>8. Project updates</p> <p>Richard Ackroyd highlighted the ‘Love Your River’ day which was happening on 13 February.</p> <p>Heather Wride requested that the project updates were circulated around the town as well as posted on the website and social media.</p>	Rebecca Krzyzosiak

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2016/09/FC	<p>9. To note the internal auditors report Toby Eliot thanked Jackie Wheeler and the team for their hard work to ensure the financial controls were approved by the auditors.</p> <p>Cllrs noted the report</p>	
2016/10/FC	<p>10. Approve the calendar of meetings 2016/17 A member of the public queried if the meetings of the Planning Advisory Group were to revert back to 6pm instead of 6.30pm. Pippa Goldfinger confirmed they would.</p> <p>The recommendation was to approve the calendar of meetings for 2016/17.</p> <p>Proposed Heather Wride, seconded Richard Ackroyd, agreed unanimously.</p>	LP
2016/11/FC	<p>11. Health and safety update The Town Clerk advised there was nothing to report.</p>	
2016/12/FC	<p>12. The next meeting will be at 7pm on Wednesday 24 February 2016 at Selwood Academy</p>	

The Chair closed the meeting at 9.07pm