

Minutes of a meeting of Frome Town Council

Wednesday 4 September 2024, 7pm  
Frome Town Hall and Zoom

**Present:**

In the Town Hall: Fiona Barrows, Sara Butler, Philip Campagna, Anita Collier, Mark Dorrington, Nick Dove, Anne Hills, Andy Jones (Chair), Steve Tanner, Max Wide, Andy Wrintmore

**On Zoom:**

Carla Collenette

**In attendance:**

Karen McDonald (Crimestoppers Trust), David Parry (Frome Town CBS), Andrew Carpenter (Frome Town CBS), Adam Boyden (SC Cllr, online), Paul Wynne (Town Clerk), Sarah Williams (Business Manager), Rachel Griffin (Marketing and Communications Manager) Lucy McMahan (Lead Marketing and Communications Officer, online), Katie Fraser (Resilience Project Officer), Laura Flaherty (Executive Assistant to the Town Clerk and Mayor), Becca Evans (Business Administrator)

2 members of the public were in attendance at Frome Town Hall

2 members of the public were in attendance on Zoom.

To watch to the discussion in full visit: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=f5-\\_dzojuug](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f5-_dzojuug)

Minute Ref	Agenda Item	Action
2024/69/FC	<p>The meeting started at 7pm.</p> <p>Max Wide arrived at 7.04pm</p> <p>1. A short presentation from Karen McDonald, Crimestoppers Trust</p> <p>Andy Jones introduced Karen McDonald, Regional Manager for Crime Stoppers. Karen provided a brief history of Crime Stoppers. She explained the charity's mission to allow people to report crimes anonymously, which has led to around 2000 daily reports in the UK, resulting in an average of 10 arrests per day.</p> <p>Karen highlighted the regional focus of Crime Stoppers in Avon and Somerset, where they received around 350 actionable pieces of information monthly, with a 35% positive outcome rate. She emphasised the types of crimes reported, particularly drug-related offenses and domestic abuse, and the importance of anonymous information for law enforcement.</p>	

	<p>Anita Collier expressed her gratitude for Crimestoppers' focus on the A361 area and its impact on community safety. Karen confirmed their focus on road safety, particularly drink and drug driving, and mentioned the success of their campaigns and improving road safety.</p> <p>Nick Dove asked about how follow up from anonymous information can happen and the importance of a two-way reporting system. Karen noted that there was a way in which anonymous communication with the police could happen if the caller agreed to it.</p> <p>Fiona Barrows suggested a coordinated campaign with other charities to support victims of domestic violence and other crimes. Anita Collier agreed to raise with Karen the possibility of running a campaign on domestic violence in the new year.</p> <p>Lenka Grimes questioned the police's capacity to follow up on reports, and Karen assured the meeting that their statistics showed a positive outcome for at least 35% of reported crimes. She did accept there can be a lethargy of reporting to police, which meant they were particularly keen to work in areas where there was higher than average crime but lower than average reporting.</p> <p>Karen was thanked by Andy Jones for her informative presentation.</p>	<p>AC</p>
<p>2024/70/FC</p>	<p>Andy Jones This item was moved to agenda item 2</p> <p><b>3a. Apologies for absence</b>          Fiona Barrows proposed to accept apologies from Tracey Ashford, Polly Lamb, Lisa Merryweather, Ben Still, Mel Usher and from Carla Collenette who attended online, seconded by Nick Dove, agreed unanimously.</p> <p><b>3b. Declaration of members' interests</b>          Anne Hills and Andy Jones declared interests in agenda item 7 as trustees of the Share Shop. Anita Collier and Philip Campagna declared registerable interests in agenda items 2 (moved to item 3) and 8 (moved to item 4) as members of Frome CBS.</p> <p><b>3c. Minutes from the last meeting on 7 August 2024</b>          The minutes of the Frome Town Council meeting held on 7 August were approved as true records of the meetings and signed by the Chair.</p>	

	<p>Proposed by Anne Hills, seconded by Fiona Barrows, agreed unanimously.</p>	
<p>2024/71/FC</p>	<p><b>2. A short presentation from David CBS</b>                  This item was moved to agenda item 3</p> <p>David Parry and Andrew Carpenter presented an update on the Frome Town CBS, highlighting the challenges faced since FTC purchased the Badgers’ Hill site and the inception of the CBS. They spoke about the difficulties in maintaining the clubhouse and the financial strain caused by unexpected costs and lack of funding. They presented a stark reality to the issues and challenges they were currently up against which included insufficiency of suitably qualified people, risk of burnout and resignation of volunteers, a need to organise more events to raise money, and the rise of building costs. Andrew said they were in survival mode and weren’t able to start helping others until they had more capacity and resource.</p> <p>Their presentation included plans for the clubhouse improvements, although they noted they had never intended to run the clubhouse. This has caused them lots of additional cost and issues. They were hopeful for the redevelopment of the changing rooms block, with hopes for the approval and tender process to start soon.</p> <p>David and Andrew emphasised the need for new board members and the importance of community support to help the CBS succeed.</p> <p>Philip Campagna suggested a clear separation between the CBS and the Football Club boards to avoid conflicts of interest.</p> <p>Fiona Barrows questioned the high turnover of board members and the need for a culture change to retain volunteers. Andrew emphasised his work to amend the culture and his hope to recruit more women onto the board. He noted he had an ideal in terms of equality, diversity, and inclusion but in the meantime, he didn’t want “perfect” to get in the way of “good.”</p> <p>Lenka Grimes raised concerns about the cancellation of bookings for community groups and the impact on local activities.</p>	
<p>2024/72/FC</p>	<p><b>8. Update on Badgers Hill</b>                  This item was moved to agenda item 4</p>	

	<p>Cllrs noted the report.</p>	
<p>2024/73/FC</p>	<p><b>4. Questions from public and Cllrs</b>                  This item was moved to agenda item 5</p> <p>Fiona Barrows enquired about the funding for crossings at The Butts and Broadway and asked why the Broadway improvements were not going ahead. Paul Wynne explained there was funding for two crossings, but SC decided not to move ahead with the one at Broadway, Peter Wheelhouse was investigating the reason. Katie Fraser added the funding was ringfenced, as part of the funding for the quiet way which was part of the Schools Streets project. There was a discussion about the location of the crossing on The Butts.</p>	<p>PWh</p>
<p>2024/74/FC</p>	<p><b>5. A verbal update on work relating to asset and service devolution</b>                  This item was moved to agenda item 6</p> <p>Max Wide provided an update on the asset and service devolution project.</p> <p><b>A thriving town</b> - independent traders and a willingness to risk and invest and develop the town. What help do they need? FTC need to seize economic development and tourism, devolving a clarity of responsibility. Traders had reported issues of the public realm being closed to them, so it was about FTC having more control of the locality and area.</p> <p><b>Riverside</b> - if we controlled the assets what could we make of that place. Could we develop a vision?</p> <p><b>Young people</b> – Frome did not offer a huge amount of opportunity, there was a crying need for business incubation, to work with people who didn’t want to go to university. FTC could have ownership of funding that is spent locally but not controlled locally.</p> <p><b>Early help</b> – how do we help volunteers, make it easier for people to establish community groups and give early help. The Key Centre had the potential to house community groups. How could FTC support them? The question was, was £80k per annum to look after the building, the best use of the money? It was all up for discussion</p> <p><b>Open spaces</b> – SC were offering 28 large spaces, and lots of medium sized and lots of postage stamps sized pieces of land, are there ways FTC can develop them into interesting spaces</p>	

	<p>that have lots of different uses. It was important to take on play parks, but they weren't cheap to look after.</p> <p>Max explained that these ideas needed to be tested before bringing them back to council as proposals. Max outlined the potential timeline for this.</p>	
<p>2024/75/FC</p>	<p><b>6. For information – Community Fridge</b> This item was moved to agenda item 7</p> <p>Sarah Williams provided a summary of the report. She noted that Lunghi Babas and the Community Fridge were looking to move back into the building in October. Regarding the fridge she noted time would tell whether two fridges will run, one at the Town Hall and one at the Market Yard.</p> <p>Nick Dove asked if FTC would be managing the building where the police post was. Sarah explained the current tenancy at will arrangement was to clean the toilets but expected that the whole building would be considered when discussions commenced with SC over the possibility of a longer term arrangement.</p>	
<p>2024/76/FC</p>	<p><b>7. For information – Share Shop</b> This item was moved to agenda item 8</p> <p>Paul Wynne read comments from Mel Usher in his absence who was supportive of the Share Shop and wanted Council to help retain it.</p> <p>Anne Hills summarised the report. She highlighted the Share Shops' impressive impact on reducing carbon footprint and saving members money. She spoke about the challenge faced by having the vacate the premises after nine years of free rent and the need for a new location with long-term security. Anne emphasised the importance of a location at little or no rent in Frome with car access so people could easily pick up and drop off borrowed items. A town centre location wasn't essential. Share would like to offer a delivery service perhaps by cargo bike too. Anne then described the membership options, the finance model and plans for the future. Anne asked for help from FTC to secure suitable premises in the town and noted that Peter Wheelhouse had already offered to help in this way.</p> <p>Options discussed were an Argos style order and pick up from storage space elsewhere. For example, a pop-up desk in the library, the Elliot Building would be appropriate. Mark Dorrington suggested that the Share Shop approach Fair Frome</p>	

	<p>which went through a similar search for premisses and ended up having to pay a commercial rent, to explore lessons learnt. Fiona Barrows suggested that FTC might be in a position to grant aid Share Shop to pay the rent for the first year. Lenka Grimes suggested talking to the POD which was also looking for premisses.</p>	
2024/77/FC	<p><b>Vote to go into confidential session</b></p> <p>Anne Hills proposed Cllrs entered into confidential session, seconded by Fiona Barrows, agreed unanimously.</p>	
2024/78/FC	<p><b>9. For decision - Staff Matters</b></p> <p>Cllrs noted the report.</p> <p>The recommendation was to make the post of Marketing &amp; Communications Intern to a permanent position of Marketing &amp; Tourism Assistant.</p> <p>Sarah Williams confirmed that the staff budget was sufficient.</p> <p>Proposed by Fiona Barrows, seconded by Anne Hills, agreed by majority. Max Wide abstained.</p>	SW
2024/79/FC	<p>The next meeting will be at 7pm on Wednesday 2 October 2024, Frome Town Hall and Zoom</p>	

The chair closed the public meeting at: 8.30pm

The chair closed the confidential session at: 8.42pm