

Frodsham Town Council
Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of
Frodsham Town Council
held on Monday 29 September 2014 at 7.00pm
In the Lounge, Frodsham Community Centre, Frodsham



Meeting 9

Present: Cllrs Warren (Chair), Riley, Brown, Pennington, Sutton, Bondi, Shearn, Redhead, Taylor, Ashton, Pusey, Wales (from 7.35PM), Ewan McHenry (Senior Locality manager, CWAC), Jon Wild (Town Clerk), Hazel Catt (Services Manager).

The personal interests of Cllr SL Riley and Cllr A W Dawson are noted on the basis that they are both elected members of this Council and CWAC. Cllr Dawson is also a member of the Police and Crime panel. Cllrs Dawson, Pusey, Riley and Wakefield are members of Frodsham Foundation. Cllr Pusey is a trustee of Frodsham Community Association and Chair of Sutton Parish Council. Cllr Shearn is a trustee of Frodsham Youth Association. Cllr Dawson is Chair of the Executive Committee of Castle Park Trust.

No	Item	Note/Decision/Action
157	Apologies for Absence	Cllrs Dawson, Kelly and Wakefield
158	Declarations of Interest	As above. Cllr Riley made clear that she had a range of interests around Castle Park. By agreement with the Clerk and Chair, it was agreed that she could nevertheless take part in tonight's conversation, not least due to the special insight she would bring to the discussion. It was agreed she would take no part in any vote taken.
159	Office Accommodation - Castle Park House	<p>The Chair said that, having decided not to purchase its own property, the Council had effectively decided on renting for the foreseeable future. Clearly its present arrangements could not continue indefinitely as the space currently rented was unsuitable. One of the options before the Council was to consider some of the potential options for it, presented by Castle Park House (CPH).</p> <p>He invited Ewan McHenry (CWAC) to introduce the discussion. He said that there were two issues facing the Council – one being its urgent need for more space, the other being the opportunity to make the most out of CPH. These options might include using the Council's space to provide new or different services, and there were potentially conversations to be had about how much CWAC might "hand over" and on what financial basis. There might for example be the scope for FTC managing the reception desk duties going forward.</p> <p>Within CPH, there were several options: the Gardeners Store – this had problems with computer connectivity and car parking; the basement (notional cost in the region of £14K) – which had been empty for a time; and the Ground Floor of CPH - the subject of the draft paper from CWAC that the Council had before it. One further option, the upstairs room at Footman's Cottage, was no longer available.</p> <p>The space was much bigger than Footman's Cottage, although 50% of the new space was the large conference room. The cost was consequently much higher, but there was the scope for earning more income to defray this, by hiring out the large conference room (and perhaps other space) more effectively.</p> <p>The paper from CWAC included a figure to compensate FTC for taking on management of the reception etc. This was an idea to which the Council might be open, but the full costs would need to be met, the present figure of £12k being inadequate.</p> <p>CWAC said that as well as cost they thought the Council should look at what it wanted to achieve with the space. Was there scope for</p>

		<p>generating income and social value from inviting other local groups and organisations to use the space? CWAC might even be in a position to commission activities around the space that it felt were worthwhile and added high value.</p> <p>Some early ideas were around an Impact Hub, or more space for the local arts.</p> <p>After this brief discussion the Council agreed that the rest of the session should take place in Part B, despite the exceptional presence of Mr. McHenry and the Services Manager.</p>
160	Any Other Matters	None
Part B (if needed)		
161	Office Accommodation – Castle Park House	<p>After wide ranging discussion of the advantages, costs and risks of moving to CPH, in part or by taking the whole ground floor, it was resolved to accept CWAC's proposal for the full floor, but that more work was needed. Work would begin with CWAC putting a detailed agreement together. It was recognised that change might be made in stages with, for example, staff moving over before the full agreement was in place. Negotiation and planning would take place between officers, taking financial decisions back to FTC as necessary, as part B items.</p> <p>This approach was agreed, on a vote. Cllr Riley took no part in the vote.</p>

The meeting ended at 8.45 PM.

Signed _____

Dated _____