

**Frodsham Town Council**  
 Minutes of a meeting of the  
**Environment Committee**  
 held in Town Council Office, Castle Park  
 On **Tuesday 5 September 2017**, at **7pm**



**Present:** Councillors A Oulton, C Ashton, P Martin

**In attendance:** Mr T Blundell, Ms L Kenny (Admin Officer), Mr P Morris (Facilities Manager), 4 members of the public

**Meeting 3**

No	Item
38	<b>Apologies for Absence</b> Apologies were received from Cllrs L Brown and F Sutton and Messrs. T Blundell & H Smallman were accepted.
39	<b>Declarations of Interest</b> None
40	<b>Minutes of Meeting 2 held on 4 July 2017</b> The minutes were agreed and signed as a true record, subject to the following amendments—deletion of the heading ‘Agenda’; removal of Cllr L Brown from the list of attendees; substitution of the word ‘meet’ for ‘explore possible funding’ in item 29; and substitution of ‘Brew’ for ‘Bew’ in item 36 (b) - proposed and seconded by Cllrs P Martin and A Oulton.
42	<b>Opportunity for the Public to Speak</b> Mrs Ginny Kirk addressed the Council, saying that she was seeking to redirect the Council towards declaring Frodsham a frack-free zone and raise concerns about i-Gas’s current application for planning permission for well-testing in Ellesmere Port.  Mrs Kirk explained that, as a public health nurse, her primary concern was about the health risks associated with fracking, particularly around air and water pollution and road safety. She was concerned that well-testing would involve burning released gas at ground level, and pointed out the proximity of Frodsham to the Ellesmere Port test site, and that the tests could lead to further development throughout Cheshire.  Mrs Kirk gave a list of other areas that have declared themselves frack -free. She pointed out that the Council consulted residents about the future of the Townfield Road play area and acted on the views of residents. She argued that there should be a similar response to the survey which had shown a large majority of Frodsham residents are opposed to fracking. She requested the Environment Committee to ask the full Council to vote on a motion that: “Frodsham Town Council objects to the carrying out of shale gas or coal methane testing or extraction in the greater Frodsham area until such time as the Town Council is convinced as to the safety of the process and that the risk of adverse environmental impacts have been fully addressed.”
	It was agreed to discuss item 44 at this point.
44	<b>UEOG Working Group</b>
44.1	The minutes of the meeting held on 5 July 2017 were <b>noted</b> . The published agenda for that meeting had included revised Terms of Reference for the Group, which were designed to make the group more independent of FTC and give a greater voice to other local communities. Because of the time taken up by the presentation by representatives of INEOS and the subsequent question and answer session the revised TORs were deferred to the next meeting.

No	Item
44.2	It was <b>noted</b> that replies had been received from Delamere with Oakmere, Helsby and Manley Parish Councils indicating a continued interest in being involved with the Working Group. However, due to the holiday period it had not been possible to fix a date for the next meeting.
44.3	<p>Members present at the meeting recognised that progress on this issue had been slow and expressed a wish to move things forward. They felt that the Working Group was primarily an information-sharing body. After considerable discussion, it was <b>agreed</b> to make the following recommendation to the Council – proposed by Cllr Martin and seconded by Cllr Oulton.</p> <p><b>R1</b> That the Council votes without further delay on the proposal that “Frodsham Town Council objects to the carrying out of shale gas or coal methane testing or extraction in the greater Frodsham area until the Town Council is convinced of the safety of the process and that the risk of adverse environmental impacts has been fully addressed.”</p> <p>It was <b>agreed</b> that Michael Garvey should be invited to speak to the Council about the progress and outcomes of the UEOG Working Group prior to the vote.</p>
	It was agreed to discuss item 46 at this point.
46	<p><b>Woodland Trust Tree Packs</b></p> <p>It was <b>agreed</b> to consider applying for a free copse tree pack when the management of Manley Copse is decided.</p>
43	<b>Tree Matters</b>
43.1	<p><u>Cheshire West and Chester Tree and Woodland Strategy</u></p> <p>Paul Nolan of the Mersey Forest attended the meeting to present the key points of CWAC’s draft tree and woodland strategy. He emphasized the wide range of economic, social and health &amp; wellbeing benefits from trees and explained the objective of the policy was to ensure that CWAC’s 500ha of woodland and over 25,000 trees are recorded and managed consistently, safely and economically.</p> <p>He drew attention to the ageing profile of Cheshire’s trees and the need to ensure older trees are appropriately managed and young trees planted, highlighting the risk posed by ash dieback disease.</p> <p>The draft policy also sets out a priority ranking system for tree issues from the top priority for trees posing a danger to highway users down to lowest priority for unavoidable biological problems such as birds roosting.</p> <p>Paul urged Frodsham Town Councillors and residents to provide feedback on the strategy by completing a questionnaire available online at <a href="http://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/TreeStrategy">www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/TreeStrategy</a> by 29 September. It is anticipated that a finalised strategy will be presented to CWAC in November 2017.</p> <p>Paul also notified the Committee of a number of other initiatives from Mersey Forest including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joint work with Woodland Trust on a programme of trees for schools</li> <li>• Wood allotments</li> <li>• Second stage of the Saltscap project</li> <li>• Developing a strategic plan for Frodsham’s environmental projects which may go forward into funding applications to the Marshes Community Benefit Fund or elsewhere</li> <li>• Northern Forest – a plan to plant 50 million trees between Chester and Hull over the next 25 years</li> </ul> <p>The Committee questioned how the tree strategy would be resourced and Paul explained that there was no new money from the Council, but they would be looking for efficiencies and new funding sources for specific projects, eg £1m had been obtained nationally for the Trees for Learning initiative.</p>

No	Item
	The presentation was <b>noted</b> – the link to the consultation documents on Cheshire West’s website will be circulated to Committee members together with a copy of Paul Nolan’s presentation.
43.2	No tree issues were raised.
<b>45</b>	<p><b>Hob Hey Wood</b></p> <p>Mr Blundell drew attention to several minor typographical and terminological errors in the plan and passed details to Paul Nolan who undertook to make the necessary amendments.</p> <p>The meeting <b>agreed</b> to investigate the practicalities, advantages and disadvantages of setting up a Friends of Hob Hey Wood group, independent of the Council, to help take forward the management plan and access additional funding. Paul Nolan offered Mersey Forest’s assistance – he will provide MF’s template documentation for consideration at the next meeting of Environment Committee</p>
<b>47</b>	<b>Howey Lane</b>
47.1	<p>The response from CWAC to a letter about safety concerns was <b>noted</b>. CWAC Highways Department have inspected the site and did not witness any irresponsible driving. They found the traffic calming measures to be in good condition and the existing 30mph speed limit to be appropriate and being respected. They felt that no additional signage was required and might detract from the effectiveness of the current signs. Having considered the points presented by the residents, no highway alterations are envisaged at present.</p> <p>It was <b>agreed</b> to send a copy of the letter to the residents who had addressed the Committee and put a copy on the FTC website.</p>
47.2	It was <b>noted</b> that the tree survey had been delayed because of holidays and would be carried out by Cllr Oulton and the Facilities Manager on 13 September. Other members were welcome to attend. The findings will be reported back to the next meeting of the Committee.
<b>48</b>	<b>Rights of Way Maintenance</b>
48.1	<p>The Council had received a letter from CWAC notifying it of an application from a member of the public to have Footpath 26 deleted from the definitive map and statement of public rights of way.</p> <p>The Committee <b>noted</b> the application and the fact that it is a matter for CWAC to determine, but encouraged any members of the public with evidence relevant to the application to get in touch with CWAC’s Public Rights of Way Officer. They also wanted to reassure members of the public that Footpath 23, between Simons Lane and Bellemonde Road is not affected.</p>
48.2	<p>The Admin Officer reported back on issues raised at the last meeting:</p> <p>(i) CWaC has already written to all householders that back onto FP60 asking that the hedges be cut back.</p> <p>(ii) CWAC will arrange for the replacement of the missing fingerpost on FP52</p> <p>Cllr Pennington has reported a missing fingerpost on FP23 – CWAC have agreed to order a replacement.</p>
<b>49</b>	<p><b>Manley Road Copse</b></p> <p>It was <b>agreed</b> that the Cllrs Oulton and Ashton would inspect Manley Road Copse with the Facilities Manager on 13 September and report back to the next meeting.</p>
<b>50</b>	<p><b>Ship Street Community Garden</b></p> <p>The Facilities Manager reported that the concrete had now been removed from the site and delivered to Helsby allotments. He has strimmed the site and trimmed the hedge, but some broken fence panels remain, together with the metal fencing. It was <b>agreed</b> to obtain a quotation for levelling the site to allow it to be mowed in future.</p> <p>Mr Blundell reported that Mersey Forest has offered funding for trees for the site and volunteers to do the planting. It was <b>agreed</b> to order 12 trees.</p>

No	Item
51	<p><b>Litter Picking</b> It was <b>noted</b> that the next litter pick will take place on Saturday 9 September, meeting at 9.30am on the car park behind Costa Coffee. It was <b>agreed</b> to contact Network Rail to request litter clearance and treatment of Japanese Knotweed on the railway embankment.</p>
52	<p><b>Crowmere</b> It was noted that Cllr Pennington had complained about grass cutting at the site, and expressed concern that vegetation around the perimeter of the lake obscured the edge, creating a hazard. After reviewing photographic evidence, it was <b>agreed</b> that Crowmere is a natural area and the marginal plants should not be removed.</p>
53	<p><b>River Weaver Navigation Society</b> Cllr Martin reported that he is no longer able to attend RWNS meetings, but that Cllr Oulton had agreed to attend the September meeting and would invite a speaker from the society to talk to the Committee at its October meeting.</p>
54	<p><b>Cheshire's Sandstone Ridge</b> The invitation to attend a meeting on the future of the Sandstone Ridge on 12 September was <b>noted</b> and Cllr Oulton agreed to attend to represent FTC.</p>
55	<p><b>Clerk's Items</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) The Council had received a complimentary copy of a booklet "The Ridge: Rocks and Springs – a sandstone legacy" funded by HLF and produced by the Sandstone Ridge Trust.</li> <li>b) A local business-owner has contacted Cllr Oulton and is keen to organize a group of volunteers to work in Marshlands Tree Garden.</li> <li>c) A copy letter from a Manley resident complaining to the CWAC councillors about the reduced opening hours of the Frodsham recycling centre was <b>noted</b>.</li> <li>d) Residents had carried out a clean-up of the Frodsham caves and had enquired about ownership – members had no definite information and it was suggested that the residents were advised to contact the land agents.</li> </ul>
37	<p><b>Date of the next meeting:</b> Tuesday 3 October at 7pm at Castle Park House.</p>

Meeting closed at 9:15pm