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Frodsham Town Council

Castle Park, Frodsham,
Cheshire WA6 6SB



Minutes of the ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

held on

Saturday 1 July 2017

In the Parish Hall, Church Street, Frodsham

Present: Cllrs J Critchley (Chair), L Jones, V Kirk, P Martin, A Oulton, M Poulton, T Reynolds and P Williamson.
Mrs H Catt (Town Clerk)

In Attendance: CWAC Cllrs A Dawson & L Riley, and 18 members of the public.

No	Item
1	Apologies for Absence were received from: Cllrs C Ashton, F Sutton, D Critchley, R Holt, M Parker, L Brown and F Pennington.
2	The minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 14 May 2016 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair – proposed and seconded by Mr Dillon and Mr Dean.
3	Public speaking time
3.1	<u>Women's Institute</u> Two years ago, the WI revived the Frodsham Show as a Frodsham community event. The budget set was £500, the show was a great success but it did make a small loss which the WI had to meet. They have sought a grant from FTC but understand that this is outside the timetable for grants this year. Cllr Reynolds felt FTC should be more flexible and should support this type of community activity. CWAC Cllrs Riley and Dawson agreed to provide £250 from their member's budget. The WI should consider an application to the next round of grants from FTC for future events.
3.2	<u>Mrs P Scott</u> Expressed concern that the meeting was illegal as it was being held outside the timescale laid out in the Local Government Act 1972 – 1 st March to 1 st June inclusive – and it shouldn't be before 6pm. The decision to hold the meeting outside of these dates and times had been discussed at Policy & Process Committee meetings following advice from CHALC. Mr Dean asked why it mattered and suggested that all future ATMs should be during the prescribed time. There was a vote amongst the residents of Frodsham present and it was agreed to continue with the meeting. Cllr Reynolds asked for it to be minuted that he thought the meeting was unlawful.
3.3	<u>Mrs Scott</u> Asked if it was OK to email Councillors and shouldn't she expect a reply. Cllr Poulton explained he would reply to anyone in his ward with but not to a round robin email sent to all councillors. He would expect the Town Clerk to respond on behalf of the council rather than each of the 16 councillor responding individually.
3.4	<u>Summer Festival</u> - Mr Rowlands and Ms Thomson The Festival organisers expressed concerns about how and why their festival couldn't go ahead. They believed certain councillors had held a number of secret meetings and actively stopped the event. Cllrs Poulton and J Critchley confirmed

	<p>they had held only one meeting at Castle Park with Sgt Ian Wilson and 2 PCSOs and raised concerns about parking and traffic management, particularly with the intention to expand the event to include the majorettes who use coaches and double deck buses. They did not attend any meetings at alternative car parking sites. The Festival organisers did not notify FTC until March that they intended to hold the music event at Saltworks Farm.</p> <p>Decisions about licencing of events are taken by CWAC Safety Advisory Group and FTC is not a member. SAG had asked for detailed plans on ALL aspect of the festival, not just parking arrangements. At this stage the organisers withdrew. TC confirmed that she had not seen a copy of the minutes but had received a statement from Sgt Wilson, on behalf of SAG. TC agreed to send Mr Rowlands and Ms Thomson a copy of the statement.</p>
	2.20pm Cllr Kirk left the meeting.
3.5	<p><u>AquaPark</u> Mrs Shaw had presented a proposal to FTC for an Aqua Park but was disappointed that nothing had come of it. It had stalled because of confusion over who was to take the next steps. Cllr Dawson said he would be willing to consider it through CP Trust. TC to check paperwork and confirm a way forward.</p>
	2.30pm TC left the meeting.
3.6	<p><u>Parking</u> A resident raised the parking problem around Overton School and asked why the school staff didn't use the Church car park. Mrs Shaw agreed to raise it with the school again. CWaC Councillors also suggested revisiting the Parents Charter.</p>
3.7	<p><u>Memorial Field Update</u> A resident asked for an update. Cllr Critchley confirmed that the next stage was informal negotiations with MVPG (Mersey View Pleasure Grounds). A meeting was due to be set up.</p>
3.8	<p><u>Castle Park Trust - Cllr Dawson</u> There had been a site visit. The park was in good order; the culvert had been repaired. CPT were hoping to get the top field added to the trust assets. They were hoping to increase the number of events on the park and in the longer term to make it self-sustaining.</p>
3.9	<p><u>CWAC Report – Cllrs Dawson & Riley</u> Cllr Dawson brought residents' attention to several issues including: Car Parking Review PCSO funding Air quality Monitoring He also reported that Operation Shield was being rolled out across town and had been funded by FTC and CWAC Member's Budget. CWAC Scrutiny Committee will be looking at fracking policy on 11 July. Residents raised concerns about fly-tipping and the impact of the revised hours for the Recycle Centre. Cllr Riley confirmed she is monitoring these issues and would report back to CWAC and seeking a review of the impact of the changes.</p>
4	<p>Chairman's Report The Chairman (2016-17) of Frodsham Town Council, summarised the Annual Report which reports on the Council's work and achievements for the year April 2016 to March 2017.</p>
5	<p>Draft Town Council Accounts for the year ending 31 March 2017. Cllr Critchley gave a brief overview of the accounts which were presented in the Annual Report. A resident raised PCSO funding and Cllr Poulton gave an update from a recent meeting with the Police and Crime Commissioner. Councils were assured that Town & Parish Councils will continue to have allocated and named PCSOs, and would not be required to provide £30,000 of funding.</p>

	Mr Dean would like to see more information in the report including extra columns showing actual expenditure against budget. TC will be asked to look at this.
6	Written resolutions No written resolutions had been received.
7	Reports from other organisations No organisations were available to give reports.
8	Neighbourhood Plan Peter Vickery update on progress to date. Since reporting progress to the Town Council last January, the Steering Group has engaged both with the business community via the Big Bees Breakfast Club; with youngsters via the Frodsham Youth Association and Helsby High School; and hosted a public event at the Parish Rooms on Church Street. A series of drop-in sessions has been taking place at the Library and Health Centre to ensure that engagement with the community continues. This work is helping to clarify what it is that Frodsham values and how people want to see their Town develop. We are in the process of uploading this information onto our website, which we are developing to provide a more accessible social media platform. The Neighbourhood Plan will list the assets of most value to the Community. Evidence will be required for these to inform planning authorities when they come to make decisions regarding the future use of land. We will be running some sessions on this topic in September and will be open to all those who wish to provide us with information. Without this there can be no guarantees that those places we all know and love will be protected in the future. Finally, thanks to all those of you who have supplied us with information so far. Visit our web site at www.frodshamplan.org.uk and, if you have the time, join us.
9	Issues from members of the public to consider.
9.1	<u>Play Areas – Townfield Lane & Park Lane</u> Cllrs Critchley (Lakes Ward) and Oulton (Castle Park Ward) explained the background to the priority setting for the play areas based on the 2012 Play Strategy. Both agreed that FTC was now being proactive to preserve both play areas. A 25 year lease was about to be signed for Townfield Lane and the threat from sale had been lifted from Park Lane.
9.2	<u>Frodsham Community Centre</u> Cllr Reynolds asked Mr Dean about FCA and whether it was better that they were entirely separate. Mr Dean agreed. They had recently had their AGM. 75% of funds are raised through room hire and they also fundraise through a “200 Club”. Mr Dean encouraged everyone to join FCA (£1 a year membership)
10	Any other business None.

Meeting finished at 4.01pm.