

Frodsham Town Council

Minutes of the meeting of the
Environment Committee

held in Town Council Office, Castle Park
On **Tuesday 23 June**, at **7pm**



Present: Cllr A Oulton (Chair from item 1), Cllr C Ashton (Vice Chair from item 2), Cllr L Brown, Cllr M Poulton, Cllr F Sutton, Mr J Beswick, Mr T Blundell, Mr G M Bondi & Mrs A Scriven (Office Manager)

Meeting 1

No	Item	Action
1	Cllr A Oulton was elected as Chair, to serve until the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2016	
2	Cllr C Ashton was elected as Vice Chair to serve until the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2016	
3	TOR 2015-16 – consideration was deferred to the next meeting.	
4	Apologies for Absence were received and accepted from Cllr Knowles and Mrs A Shaw	
5	Declarations of Interest: Cllr Sutton declared an interest in matters relating to Crowmere, Marl Pits and Footpath 17. Cllr Oulton declared an interest in matters relating to item 13.1. Mr Bondi declared an interest in matters relating to item 10.2.	
6	Minutes of Meeting held on 2 March: Acceptance & Signing	
7	Matters Arising: It was noted that the newly planted yews in the hedge at the Community Centre have suffered some damage, by strimmers. The Facilities Manager has been asked to spray the area with weed killer, in order to prevent the need for strimming.	AS/FM
8	Opportunity for the Public to Speak: Mr Beswick, Mr Blundell & Mr Bondi were all co-opted onto the Committee as volunteer members of the public.	
9	Tree Matters	
9.1	It was noted that the trees were moved and are doing well at the Ship Street Community Orchard	
9.2	It was noted that the Castle Park tulip tree fell down and has now been removed. The Committee were disappointed that action had not been taken when CWC were first informed that the tree had been leaning. As the tulip tree had been an expensive specimen tree, to commemorate the millennium, it was agreed to as that it be replaced.	AS
9.3	It was noted that the Irish Yew tree in the Cemetery and the memorial field are dead. It was agreed that these should be replaced with English yews to see if they fare any better.	AS
9.4	<i>Castle Park: Squirrels:</i> the CWC response was that in the past, culling had little effect in controlling the numbers of squirrels and that they were looking to take the different approach of creating a designating feeding area. The Committee were concerned about the dangers of squirrels with children and the damage caused to trees and it was agreed to contact the Environmental Health Department for their policy on squirrels. It was also agreed to ask CWC for evidence that their proposal has been successful in other areas.	AS
10	Rights of Way Maintenance	
10.1	It was noted that many of the paths in Frodsham are not being strimmed sufficiently the CWC Councillors are to be asked if they are able to let us know why. After some discussion, the Committee agreed to start an 'Adopt Your Path' scheme and this is to be progressed by the Office Manager. Cllrs Brown, Oulton, Poulton & Sutton are each to be the 'Champions' of their respective wards. Investigations are to be made into the Banking Volunteer schemes.	AS AS
10.2	<i>Upgrade of footpath 8 to a Byway Open to All Traffic (BOAT):</i> due to the large amount of evidence received, CWC were not able to come to their decision on this matter by their deadline of 31 March. A letter is to be written to the head of the Planning Development Department of CWC, asking for a firm indication of when a decision is to be made.	AS

No	Item	Action
10.3	It was noted that there was a definite need to improve the footpath surface on the path alongside Ship St play area. It was agreed to obtain 3 quotes, to be presented to full council at the next meeting. Cllr Poulton wished to register that he felt that if a Committee is given a budget, they should then be fully able to use that budget where necessary, without asking for further permission from the full Council.	
11	Hob Hey Wood	
11.1	A recommendation was made (R1) to continue with the purchase of the piece of track leading up to new land and to notify the solicitor to proceed.	JW
11.2	The Chainsaw and safety equipment have now been purchased.	
11.3	<i>Lone Working Policy</i> : a recent incident of lone working in the wood has highlighted the issue and that it must be stressed that no one must work alone with tools such as chainsaws. It was confirmed that the FTC policy with regard to the Facilities Manager, is followed. Investigations are to be made into a smart phone app that assists with this situation.	AO
12	Memorial Field	
12.1	Mr Blundell stated that another spray of the area, in preparation for the poppy seeds, is required in one week and Cllr Sutton will arrange to have the area rotavated when required.	FM
13	Marshlands	
13.1	To note update on 2 fallen willow trees that have fallen from the Cricket Club land, owned by CWaC, and have damaged the wire fence and broken 3 concrete posts.	
14	Marl Pits	
14.1	Cllr Sutton reported that the branches have now been removed.	
15	Parish Paths : this is to be deferred while the 'Adopt a Path' scheme is progresses.	
16	Pond Trail	
16.1	It was noted that the leaflet is now ready to go on the website as soon as the hacking problems are fully resolved.	
17	Organised Walks : no report.	
18	Festival of Walks : a feedback meeting is to be arranged.	
20	Mid-Cheshire Footpath Society	
20.1	A recommendation (R2) was made to pay the Mid-Cheshire Footpath Society membership fee of £8	
21	Any other matters considered to be urgent for discussion, or item for next agenda	
21.1	<i>Frodsham Town Council Van</i> : investigations are to be made into prices of leasing/purchasing a van to assist in the activities of the Facilities Manager and details to be considered at the next meeting.	
21.2	A request from the Frodsham Transition Initiative to plant another Community Orchard at the edge of the Fluin Lane fields is to be passed to the Community Committee for consideration.	
22	Date of next meeting : 21 July 2015	

Meeting closed 9.20pm

Recommendations

R1: That FTC continue with the purchase of the piece of track leading up to new land at Hob Hey Wood and to notify the solicitor to proceed (item 11.1)

R2: That FTC pay the Mid-Cheshire Footpath Society membership fee of £8 (item 20.1)

Signed _____

Dated _____

Committee: Cllr C Ashton, Cllr L Brown, Cllr L Jones, Cllr R Knowles, Cllr A Oulton, Cllr M Poulton & Cllr F Sutton

Town Clerk: Mr J Wild

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