

Frodsham Town Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee

held in Town Council Office, Castle Park
On **Tuesday 25 August**, at 7pm



Present: Cllr A Oulton (Chair), Cllr C Ashton (Vice Chair), Cllr L Brown, Cllr L Jones, Cllr M Poulton, Cllr F Sutton, Mr T Blundell, Mrs A Shaw and Mrs A Scriven (Office Manager)

In Attendance: Mrs H Catt (Service Manager) & Mr P Morris (Facilities Manager).

Meeting 3

No	Item	Action
41	Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr R Knowles, Mr J Beswick, Mr G M Bondi & Mr H Smallman	
42	Declarations of Interest: Cllr Brown declared an interest in matters relating to item 52 and Cllr Sutton declared an interest in matters relating to Crowmere, Marl Pits and footpath 17.	
43	Minutes of Meeting 2 held on 21 July were approved by the Committee and signed by the Chair as a true and correct record.	
44	Matters Arising: None	
45	Opportunity for the Public to Speak: no requests received.	

Item 52 was brought forward

52	Town Council Van: The Service Manager presented her report into the options for leasing a van for use primarily by the Facilities Manager. Concerns regarding the financing of this vehicle were raised, but the SM reported that the current SLA leaves a surplus of funds of around £4,000 which would be sufficient, but additional funding could potentially be vired from within the Council's budget or possibly from external sources. It was highlighted that the way the FM currently transports pesticides could potentially breach HSE guidelines and it was within the duty of care of the Council to provide him with an appropriate vehicle. After much discussion, a recommendation (R1) was made that FTC approve the lease of a Citroen Dispatch L1 vehicle for a 2 year period as detailed below. A copy of the full report is attached.				
	Term	Deposit + VAT	Monthly + VAT	Total to Pay	Incl Service
	2 years	£1,017	£169.60	£4,917.80	Incl ply lining & breakdown cover & £500 renewal voucher at end of contract
Options for additional use of the van were also discussed and included the suggestion of Councillors being able to use the van for Council use also (subject to insurance approval).					

Mrs Catt left the meeting.

46	Marshlands
	Cllr Sutton reported on a recent site visit to Marshlands that had been attended by Mr Blundell and the Facilities Manager, where it was agreed that if the area is to be improved and shown at its full potential, and for it to meet health & safety requirements, a great deal of time and money would need to be spent. The Committee noted the information from the Town wide consultation, stating that Marshlands has an extremely low percentage of visits from residents and accepted that it is an under-utilised green space. It was agreed to consult with the Neighbourhood Planning Group to investigate alternative uses, one suggestion of which was for use as a car park.
47	Tree Matters
47.1	It was noted that the Frodsham Transition Initiative had withdrawn their request to plant an orchard at the Fluin Lane end of the Community Centre field, but have now put in a request to plant 15 various types of fruit trees (provided by the Rotary Club) along the field edge, bordering London Road. It was agreed to approach St Lukes School to confirm that this proposal would not interfere with their use of the field and to consider the FTI request at the next meeting.

AO

No	Item	Action
47.2	<p>It was noted that the replacement tulip tree in Castle Park is ongoing and an update is to be provided at the next meeting.</p> <p>A request for a commemorative tree in Castle Park, in memory of Mr Geoff Prince, had been made, but it was noted that CWC policy is not to have memorial plaques on commemorative trees. As the Committee felt that Geoff was such an important and valued member of the community, a recommendation (R2) was made to honour Mr Geoff Prince with a commemorative tree to be planted on Churchfields and for a memorial plaque to be placed.</p> <p>It was agreed to contact Mr Prince's family for suggestions of type of tree that they might favour.</p>	<p>AS</p> <p>LB</p>
47.3	<p>It was noted that 2 of the newly planted yews in the Community Centre hedge have once more died. It was agreed to purchase 2 more yews as a last attempt and if they failed again an alternative would be investigated. The contractors are to be reminded not to strim too closely to these trees.</p>	AS
47.4	<p>Mr Blundell reported that the missing trees from the Castle Park Tree Trail are the tulip, golden weeping willow and the Tibetan cherry. The labels are missing from the lime, swamp cypress and the wollemi pine. The Castle Park Trust are to be asked if they wish to replace these trees/labels.</p>	AS
47.5	<p>Mr Blundell reported that he has not found any signs of Ash Die Back disease in Hob Hey Wood, but there is some coppicing and thinning work that needs to be carried out. Mr Bondi states that under the terms of the grants that have been received for this area, work such as this must be carried out by the land owner. Cllr Oulton agreed to consult further with Mr Bondi to get further details.</p>	AO
48	Rights of Way Maintenance	
48.1	<p><i>Footpath 42</i> – trees are overhanging the path. PM to investigate.</p> <p><i>Footpath 24</i> – unpassable. <i>RuPP 21A</i> – the road surface is extremely poor and causes a large puddle to form, which is considered dangerous. <i>Footpath 1</i> – there is a wobbly hand rail which is extremely dangerous to the elderly people that use this path. All these are to be reported to CWC.</p> <p>Cllr Poulton reported that he has had success with his group of volunteers working on the paths around Waterside Ward and suggested that it may be possible in the future for the group to work on other areas around the town.</p>	<p>PM</p> <p>AS</p>
48.2	<p><i>Adopt a Path Scheme</i>: this scheme is ongoing, but Cllr Poulton reported a significant improvement in general tidiness and care of the area since the sewer pipes were planted with flowers and believes that this shows that people will care more when they see that care is being taken.</p>	
48.3	<p>Update on upgrade of footpath 8 to a Byway Open to All Traffic (BOAT): no update at this time.</p>	
49	Hob Hey Wood	
49.1	<p><i>Purchase of piece of track leading up to new land</i>: it was noted that following the last full Council meeting the agreement was signed and is now with the lawyer awaiting completion.</p>	
50	Memorial Field	
50.1	<p><i>Wildflower meadow</i>: it was agreed that the area would be rotavated in the spring of 2016.</p>	
51	<p>Marl Pits: following a report that the bulbs that were planted last year were doing well, an Executive Powers request (EP1) was made that FTC purchase an additional 100 English bluebells for planting in Marl Pits at a cost of £200 incl VAT.</p>	
52	<p>Facilities Manager – Van: see above</p>	
53	<p>Parish Paths: no update</p>	
54	<p>Pond Trail: concerns re a pond that had thought to have disappeared were discussed, but as it has started to look like it may survive, it was agreed to monitor and report back at the next meeting CA/LB</p>	
55	<p>Festival of Walks: no update</p>	
56	<p>Terms of Reference: a recommendation (R3) was made that FTC approve the attached ToRs for 2015-16</p>	
57	<p>Any other matters: none</p>	
58	<p>Date of next meeting: 22 September 2015</p>	

Meeting closed 9.30pm

Recommendations

R1: That FTC approve the lease of a Citroen Dispatch L1 vehicle for a 2 year period as detailed below. A copy of the full report is attached (see item 52)

Term	Deposit + VAT	Monthly + VAT	Total to Pay	Incl Service
2 years	£1,017	£169.60	£4,917.80	Incl ply lining & breakdown cover & £500 renewal voucher at end of contract

R2: That FTC purchase a commemorative tree and plaque, to honour Mr Geoff Prince and for these to be planted/sited on Churchfields (see item 47.2)

R3: That FTC approve the attached Terms of Reference for the Environment Committee for 2015-16 (see item 56)

Executive Powers Request

EP1: That FTC purchase an additional 100 English bluebell bulbs for planting in Marl Pits at a cost of £200 incl VAT (see item 51)

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

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