

Minutes of the meeting of the
Environment Committee

held in the Town Council Office, Castle Park
On **Tuesday 5 April 2016**, at 7pm



Present: Cllr C Ashton (Vice Chair), Cllr L Brown, Cllr F Sutton, Mr J Beswick, Mr T Blundell and Mrs A Scriven (Office Manager)

In Attendance: Mr P Morris (Facilities Manager), Cllr J Critchley & Mr & Mrs Bourne

Meeting 8

No	Item	Action
114	Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr A Oulton and Mrs A Shaw. It was noted that Cllr Poulton has resigned from the Committee.	
115	Declarations of Interest: Cllr Sutton declared an interest in matters relating to Crowmere, Marl Pits and footpath 17.	
116	Minutes of Meeting 7 held on 2 February 2016 were agreed by the Committee and signed by the Chair as a true and correct record.	
117	Discrepancies of last minutes: none	
118	Opportunity for the Public to Speak: no requests received.	
119	Marshlands	
119.1	<i>Leaning Tree:</i> to note that the tree has been felled and Mr Blundell and Paul Morris were thanked for their assistance and that further work will be done later in the year, after the end of the nesting season. Cllr Oulton has carried out some additional work in the area as part of a training scheme, which had been previously approved by the Committee.	
119.2	<i>Proposals for the Area:</i> it was noted that the Facilities Manager has done a great deal of work in the area and Cllr Oulton has carried out some additional work as part of a training scheme, which had been previously approved by the Committee. A report from Cllr Oulton stated that a large, Transit van sized vehicle had been down the track leading to Marshlands and it was agreed to watch out for any suspicious behaviour in future.	
119.3	It was noted that a request from an outside body to make a visual inspection of the pools of water within Marshlands had been approved following receipt of a site-specific risk assessment. The Committee asked that further details are obtained as to why the survey was requested.	AS
120	Tree Matters	
120.1	The fungicide has been applied and one of the hawthorn bushes is showing signs of regrowth. It was agreed to monitor the situation and revisit in a year.	
120.2	The land owner has declined to give permission for any further coppicing and thinning work to be carried out at Hob Hey Wood, but would reconsider in the winter.	GMB
120.3	A report from Mr Beswick was discussed and responses from Mr Blundell were noted. Both were thanked for their input. It was agreed to look into the possibility of purchasing a wheeled brush cutter for use by members of the public during working parties.	
121	Rights of Way Maintenance	
121.1	It was agreed to have discussions with CWaC regarding their maintenance of footpaths.	
121.2	<i>Upgrade of footpath 8 to a Byway Open to All Traffic (BOAT):</i> no update available.	
121.3	<i>Grant applications for improvements at Hob Hey Wood and Marshlands:</i> no update available.	
121.4	The manhole cover down Greenfield Lane has been dislodged on several occasions, but has now been replaced and is under the jurisdiction of CWaC Highways Department and is to be reported.	AS
121.5	There are some temporary restrictions being put in place on the marshes due to the wind farm installations.	
122	Hob Hey Wood	

No	Item	Action
122.1	The purchase of piece of track leading up to new land has now been completed.	
122.2	Boardwalks – it was agreed to order 1 x 30m roll of weld mesh, at a cost of 83.24 + VAT (incl delivery) in order to make repairs where required. It was also agreed to investigate how feasible it would be to upgrade all the paths in Hob Hey Wood with timber edged, stone paths.	
122.3	The posts with barbed wire near the main central bridge have been removed.	
123	Memorial Field	
123.1	The request from Woodland Trust to allow their vehicles onto the Memorial Field, to access their area of woodland for footpath improvement work over the summer was approved, on condition that they only cross the Memorial Field in dry weather conditions and that the Facilities Manager is in attendance if possible.	
124	Marl Pits	
124.1	It was noted that a small piece of branch has fallen from the beech tree and the Community Committee are considering the way forward. Cllr Sutton reported that the tree that should have been felled had not yet been done. Cllr Oulton to update at the next meeting.	
125	Parish Paths - the Parish Paths monitoring list is to be updated when all committee members are present.	
126	Pond Trail	
126.1	It was noted that the recommendation from meeting 7 to net Crowmere Lake, was withdrawn following advice from the Environment Agency that it need not be done until 2018.	
127	Festival of Walks	
127.1	The 2016 Festival of Walks is proceeding well and good weather is hoped for.	
128	Any other matters considered to be urgent for discussion, or item for next agenda	
128.1	Mr Blundell, on behalf of the Frodsham Transition Initiative, had written to CWaC to request permission to plant community orchards on their land. The response from the CWaC had been given to the FTC office with a request to report back to Mr Blundell. The Committee agreed that the CWaC tree officer should have contacted Mr Blundell directly, preferably by letter, and this is to be relayed to CWaC.	
128.2	Mr Blundell reported that all the orchards have had the grass cut between the trees, the bases have been sprayed with weedkiller and all pruning work has been done.	
129	Date of next meeting: Tuesday 3 May 2016	

Meeting closed 8.35pm

Signed _____ **Dated** _____

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

Town Clerk: Mrs H Catt
Frodsham Town Council, Castle Park, Frodsham WA6 6SB
Tel: 01928 735150 Email: council@frodsham.gov.uk Website: www.frodsham.gov.uk