

Frodsham Town Council
Minutes of the meeting of
Frodsham Town Council



held on Monday 10 August 2015 at 7.30pm
In Castle Park House, Castle Park, Frodsham

Present: Cllrs Warren (Chair), Sutton (Town Mayor), Brown, Collins-Doyle, Jones, Knowles (from 7.55pm), Oulton, Pennington, Poulton, Pusey, Reynolds & Wakefield (present for pre-meeting). Mr Jon Wild (Town Clerk), Mrs A Scriven (Office Manager)

In Attendance: Cllrs A W Dawson & L Riley (CWaC) & 7 members of the public.

Roger Williams, Chairman of Frodsham Community Association, Graham Reaves (Deputy Treasurer) & Sue Thompson (Vice Chair) attended the meeting to discuss the status report they have made on Frodsham Community Centre.

Mr Williams detailed the background of the Centre, highlighting that they are struggling due to a decline in the rental of their rooms and although the finances are very well managed, they have not covered their costs in the previous year, for the first time ever. It was made clear that they do have reserve funds, but they cannot sustain continued long term losses and if the Community Association are no longer able to continue, it is written in the Trust Deeds that the building is to be handed over to the Town Council.

Mr Williams stated that he was trying to establish the strength of feeling for the Centre, within the Council and the Town and wished to gauge the town's reaction to the current problems. He noted that there was a great deal of good will around the town for the Community Centre, but that sentiment would not preserve it – action is needed.

Cllr Warren acknowledged that the Center has excellent stage facilities and the necessary rooms for larger productions and stated that the question could be asked of Frodsham residents as part of the Neighbourhood Plan process.

Cllrs agreed that a more business approach may be required to help market the Centre more successfully and offered to help with this and to assist with looking into grants and sponsorship that may be available.

Cllr Pusey asked to table a Cllr Item at the next meeting, on this matter.

The members of FCA were thanked for their attendance.

Meeting 6

PART A		
Item	Action/Decision/Notes/ Recommendations	
66	Apologies for Absence	Cllrs Ashton, Martin & Wakefield
67	Declaration of Interests	Cllr Pennington re London Road Allotments Cllr Sutton re Frodsham Youth Club
68	Minutes of Meeting No 4 held on 2 July 2015	
	a	Acceptance & Signing
		Accepted and signed by the Chair as a true and accurate record.
	b	Matters Arising
		None
69	Minutes of Extra Ordinary Meeting No 5 held on 30 July 2015	
	a	Acceptance & Signing
		Accepted and signed by the Mayor as a true and accurate record.
	b	Matters Arising
		None
70	Public Speaking Time/Reports from Public Bodies (inc FTC response)	Gill Ballam requested FTC support to say no to the Conservative Party suggestion to relax Sunday trading hours, which she stated would be devolved to local Councils. Mrs Ballam stated that the relaxing of these laws would only add to the continuing problems faced by small businesses in Frodsham. Cllr Warren assured Mrs Ballam that the responsibility for these decisions would lie with Cheshire West Council, but it was agreed that FTC should

		<p>lobby our CWC Councillors to say no to this proposal. Cllr Reynolds stated that whilst he agreed that we should fully support the refusal of these laws, a Town Centre Manager would have helped small businesses with these matters more effectively.</p> <p>PCSO – a written report was provided due to holiday absence. Concerns were raised regarding the PCSO now being located at Helsby High School, but this was to be discussed later in the meeting.</p> <p>CWaC Councillors – Cllrs Dawson & Riley discussed the current situation regarding the closure of the M56 and the ongoing problems this caused. They felt that public cameras around the Frodsham stretch of the motorway would help with avoiding the traffic jams that regularly occur, along with matrix signs that could give early indications of any problems and give possible detour routes. Cllr Riley stated that a collaborative approach was needed with the Town Resilience Plan.</p> <p>Cllrs Dawson & Riley highlighted some ongoing discussions, which included car parking, sport & leisure issues and a Frodsham Credit Union. They had recently had discussions with the Frodsham Community Centre and it was felt that FTC and CWaC should work more cohesively as they often are discussing the same issues. It was agreed that the possibility of having more regular discussions would prevent people having to speak with both Councils separately and working together should be more beneficial for all involved.</p> <p>Cllr Poulton thanked Cllr Riley for helping him on many matters recently and it was agreed that a public meeting type event may be required for further discussions about the Community Centre.</p>
71	Reports from Council and Urgent Local Issues (see annex 1)	
A	Members	
1	Town Carnival	Cllr Poulton reported on his plans for events to take place in 2016, which included a Mayor's Parade (to place on 11 & 12 June to celebrate the Queen's birthday) and a Horse Show (which already has received some sponsorship). The first meeting to begin plans for these events will take place at the end of September and any offers of help will be most welcome.
2	Policing and use of CCTV cameras in Frodsham.	It was agreed to take these items together.
3	Frodsham Police Station	<p>Cllr Poulton reported on ongoing drug problems taking place around the Ashton Drive area and that a fight had recently taken place on the streets outside a local pub, where the police had taken over 3 hours to respond. Cllr Poulton requested that FTC send a letter to the Police and Crime Commissioner to ask for CCTV to be installed in local hotspots in order to help make residents and business owners feel more safe. Agreed.</p> <p>Cllr Poulton & Cllr Pennington both reported on how they felt that the siting of the PCSO at Helsby High School was a huge problem and that they felt that the Acting Chief Constable, Mark Roberts, had not given FTC the full story of the situation regarding Frodsham Police station when they had visited the meeting on 2 July.</p> <p>It was requested that we invite Mark Roberts back to the next meeting to discuss the matter further. Agreed.</p>
4	Proud Bees	Cllr Collins Doyle & Cllr Poulton reported that they are to set up a support group for LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) members of the community and asked for members of the Council to support this initiative in any way they could.
2	Chairman	Cllr Warren reported that as a member of the Weaver & Sandstone Cycle Forum he had met with the MP to request road improvements around the area and that there is a major scheme planned to improve cycling sustainable transport links.

3	Mayor	Cllr Sutton reported that she is planning a Macmillan Coffee Morning and more details will soon be available.
B Clerk		
1	To agree to sign and seal the lease agreement with CWaC for Ashton Drive Allotments	It was noted that the new lease is to run for 25 years at a cost of £100 per year, plus legal costs. Agreed
2	To agree to sign and seal the agreement for the purchase of Hob Hey Wood additional piece of track leading to new land	Agreed
3	ChALC Membership	Renewal of Membership of ChALC at a cost of £1,306.50 Agreed.
4	Renewal of Ceremonies Licence for weddings at Castle Park	Renewal of 3 year wedding premises licence at a cost of £560 – Agreed.
5	Cllr Jones – Charity Event	Cllr Jones was advised to publicise his event and Cllrs would support if they were able. He was also advised to complete a grant request form for any donation he may require. Cllr Poulton also wished to publicise his Poppy Picnic to be held on 30 August and will also complete a grant request form.
C Committees		
1	Planning Committee – 01.07.15	Noted
2	Planning Committee – 22.07.15	Noted
3	Community Committee – 14.07.15	R1: That the revised ToR be approved. Agreed. R2: Agree to raise the Allotment fees to £35, including £5 for Allotment Association membership, from April 2016. <i>The Chair wished to send this back to the Committee to be paid using Executive Powers.</i> R3: Agree to Ashton Drive Allotment holders paying for their water, based on previous year's usage from April 2016. <i>The Chair wished to send this back to the Committee to be paid using Executive Powers.</i> R4: To make the Christmas Festival a Working Group & to provide 3 hours of the SM's time per month to the end of December to replace CWaC officer support which is no longer available. Agreed – it was noted that the 3 hrs SM time is to be included in her existing hours. R5: To agree the Over 70s Vouchers for Christmas 2015 should be £10. Agreed. It was noted that Cllr Pennington had raised the issue of the lease at Manley Road Copse.
4	Environment Committee – 21.07.15	Noted
D Working Groups		
1	Communications Group 15.07.15	R1: That FTC approve that the Communications Working Group becomes a Committee of the Town Council, along with the transference of the relevant budgets from the Policy & Process Committee. Agreed.
2	World War 1 Commemoration Group 22.07.15	Noted
72	Asset Management	
A	Churchfields	It was noted that work has begun on the play area. One letter of

		complaint has been received, but this has been dealt with and all is so far going well.
B	Ship Street Play Area	No update. The Clerk has written to CWaC for an update, but no response has yet been received.
C	London Road Allotments	The equipment is due to arrive and work is to be completed soon. Interim reports have been requested.
D	Cemetery Land Purchase	Cllr Pusey reported on the opportunity to purchase an additional 2 acres of an 8 acre site across the road from the existing cemetery. The land has been valued by the District Valuer, but the land owner is asking for more than the value given. It was noted that the land is currently being rented by a farmer and this arrangement could continue if FTC purchased the land. Further discussions are to take place under Part B.
73	Strategy/Management	
A	Committee Structures	<p>Cllr Warren raised concerns about the current Committee structure, stating that there is some overlap of matters, in particular with the Environment and Community Committee. It was agreed that it would not be advantageous to merge these 2 committees as they both cover a great deal of matters and meetings would take a long time.</p> <p>Concerns were raised that the Policy & Process Committee had not met, since the formation of the new Council.</p> <p>A proposal was made to reform the P&P Committee with all the Cllrs that had shown interest. Cllr Pennington requested a recorded, named vote, which was:</p> <p><i>In favour:</i> Cllrs Collins-Doyle, Jones, Knowles, Oulton, Pennington, Poulton, Pusey, Reynolds & Sutton</p> <p><i>Against:</i> None</p> <p><i>Abstained:</i> Cllr Brown</p> <p>The Chair did not vote.</p> <p>The vote was carried.</p> <p>It was agreed for the Chairs of Community and Environment, along with the Mayor and Chair of the Council, to get together to tweak which matters are to be dealt with, by which committee.</p> <p>The suggestion for an Audit Committee is to be deferred until after the first meeting of the P&P Committee.</p> <p>The Clerk was asked to investigate costs that will be incurred by holding twice monthly FTC meetings, specifically for webcasting.</p>
74	Finance Management: 01.06.15 – 30.06.15	
A	Paid Expenditure	Noted
B	Received Income	Noted
C	Bank Reconciliation	Noted
D	Some Councillors stated that they have difficulty understanding the monthly finance sheets that are produced and have requested a meeting with the Book Keeper to have them explained in more detail. Arrangements are to be made. Clerk.	
75	Complaint	Cllr Warren stated that an external complaint has been received and he will try to resolve this informally. If that process should fail, he will take it to the Chair of P&P Committee and will bring it back to the next meeting under Part A.
76	Items for Next Agenda	None
77	Date of Next Meeting	28 September 2015

PART B		
78	London Road Allotments	Nothing additional to add
79	Cemetery Land Purchase	Clerk to circulate the District Valuation paper to allow decision to be made.
80	Complaint	The Chairman asked for it to be minuted that he had not identified the respondent under this complaint.

Meeting Closed 10.15pm

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Town Clerk: Mr Jon Wild
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