

Frodsham Town Council
Minutes of the meeting of
Frodsham Town Council



held on Monday 23 November 2015 at 7.30pm
In Castle Park House, Castle Park, Frodsham

Present: Cllrs Warren (Chair), Sutton (Town Mayor), Ashton, Clarke, Jones, Knowles, Martin, Oulton, Poulton, Pusey & Reynolds. Mrs H Catt (Town Clerk) and Mrs A Scriven (Office Manager)

Meeting 11

PART A		
Item	Action/Decision/Notes/ Recommendations	
121	Apologies for Absence	Cllrs Brown, Collins Doyle, Fraser, Pennington & Wakefield
122	Declaration of Interests	Cllr Reynolds – Legal case against FTC & one other Cllr Pusey – Frodsham Community Association Cllr Warren – Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group
123	Minutes of Meeting No 10 held on 26 October 2015	
A	Acceptance & Signing	Accepted and signed by the Chair as a true and accurate record
B	Matters Arising	<p>Newlands Close – TC reported on CWAC had responded, stating that the provision of a footway would be prohibitively expensive and improvements had been made to the highway. A site visit had taken place with Cllr Dawson, and it had been concluded that the situation remains the same. Cllr Dawson requested a copy of the letter and will follow it up further. Another council expressed was about leaves on the road narrowing it even further. This was an issue in other parts of town too including Ship Street. Other potential solutions, including taking a footpath across back gardens were discussed.</p> <p>It was agreed TC would reply stating that this was unacceptable and doesn't meet their obligations under Section 66 of the Highways Act.</p> <p>United Utilities Update – Current problems were related to electrical faults with discussions taking place between Scottish Power and United Utilities. UU have provided assure that the pavements will be safe for use for the Christmas Festival. Cllr Ashton was thanked for keeping us all up to date on the ongoing works and also Cllr Knowles on the communications work around this.</p>
124	Public Speaking Time/Reports from Public Bodies (inc FTC response)	
a	PCSO	Neil Flanagan reported on the current criminal activities, which include burglary, shop lifting, Anti-social behaviour and criminal damage. Halloween & Bonfir Night had passed off peacefully on the whole. Operation Shield is underway with kits being distributed in Waterside Ward. The usual routes have been covered by Speedwatch. Cllr Reynolds thanked the Police for their assistance in matters relating to hate crime letters that have been sent to his wife.
b	Mr K McGregor	Fracking: There has been lots of discussion on facebook expressing safety and short-termism concerns. He felt we should be concentrating on reducing consumption and renewables. There needs to be more communication with communities and all sides need to be represented. This needs to be included in the Neighbourhood Plan.
c	Mrs C Webber	Fracking: wish to state that she is against fracking and is setting up a project to promote renewable energy in the New Year. Cllr Warren reported that FTC had taken a position on Wind Farms based on inappropriate large scale development near small communities and were likely to do the same when the fracking application is put through the planning process. Graham Evans is organizing a meeting about fracking involving all sides in January.

D	CWaC	<p>The Lets Talk consultation document was discussed and Cllrs should encouraged local residents to complete it on-line.</p> <p>Other matters discussed included car parking, new homes bonus and the waste agenda. The Community Infrastructure levy will replace S106 monies – concern was expressed that Frodsham might be hit disproportionately by this change.</p> <p>Fracking should be included in Part 2 of the Local Plan.</p> <p>Surplus vehicles are potentially available to schools and local community groups.</p> <p>Member's budget is being used for pilot at Helsby High School around new approaches to building skills for work. Work is underway to establish a £3m Cheshire Leader's Fund to grow and expand employment opportunities.</p> <p>Cllr Warren stated about FTC's Enterprise & Innovation Fund might be able to help with the HHS project.</p>
125	Reports from Council and Urgent Local Issues (see annex 1)	
A1	Members	
1	FCA the Way Forward & the future at Castle Park House	<p>Cllr Pusey circulated a paper that outlined the potential costs of renting office space at FCA - discussed further under Part B.</p> <p>Cllr Poulton urged Cllrs to consider the possibilities of future use of Castle Park House and stated that he did not agree with moving to the Community Centre. There had been a meeting with CWAC Events Co-ordinator and CP Key Account Holder to discuss ways we could work together to develop the potential of the House and Garden. There was a planned relaunch in February next year based around a Wedding Fayre. A feasibility study is to be created with further discussions to take place later this week. Cllr Reynolds agreed that the Park could be used better and suggested proposals to promote Frodsham on a grander scale.</p> <p>It was agreed there should be further negotiations with CWAC about a reduction of the lease costs to prevent problems in the future, including resolving the rates issue.</p> <p>It was agreed in principle to give CP a chance, to explore ideas about using the space better and to set up a working group to develop a Business Plan for Castle Park.</p> <p>Cllr Pusey was happy to 'park' the issue for a future discussion, but would like to see the rates situation rectified asap.</p> <p>Involvement with the restructured Castle Park Trust would not be dependent on FTC being in residence.</p>
3	FTC Meeting Schedule	<p>Cllr Pusey suggested there was a need for twice monthly meetings due to the amount of business and the length of monthly meetings. It was agreed to try it out from January to May.</p>
4	Constitutional & Ceremonial	<p>Cllr Poulton was concerned that we didn't celebrate the Mayors and Junior Mayors enough and were the only Town in Cheshire without Mayoral Robes. Cllr Dawson reported that it may be possible to borrow the Vale Royal Mayoral robes. Another alternative would be to commission or own and have it made by local seamstresses and involve local school children in designing the badges. Previous Mayor's could be invited to make donations towards the costs. It was agreed to explore the costs of the various options and report back to a future meeting.</p>
5	Car Parking	<p>Cllr Poulton raised concerns about car parking in Frodsham and felt that anyone with an interest in parking should be invited to a meeting. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to all businesses in Frodsham to ask them to encourage staff to park off Main Street to allow Christmas shoppers to be able to park. A request is to be made to the Community Centre for the use of the field for parking for businesses in order to free spaces on Main Street. After discussion it was agreed that FTC should commission a car parking survey to identify and evidence the problems and issues rather than relying on anecdotal evidence. TC to contact Traffic Management Companies for costs of such a survey.</p>

6	FTC's relationship with the Local Liaison Committee of Peel Wind Farms	Cllr Poulton was concerned that Peel needed to adopt a constitution soon and Frodsham has not been fully represented of late. There are concerns that Frodsham will not have a voice in the future if we are not involved at this stage. Cllr Dawson reported on the proposed levels of representation from the various communities involved in the estuary proposals. The population of Frodsham is just over 46% of the population that will be impacted and therefore should have an appropriate representation on the panel. They currently have one member, one vote, but this means Frodsham only has a 21% share of the vote. Cllr Dawson will be presenting an alternative proposal which would appropriate voting rights to those representing Frodsham at the meetings. It was agreed that Cllr Poulton would represent FTC, with Cllr Ashton as a reserve, at the meeting on 26 November, which will discuss this. He was given the mandate to officially walk out of the meeting, as a matter of last resort, if the decision does not fully support full representation of Frodsham in the constitution. There was one vote against this action.
A1	Mayor	Deferred
A2	Chairman	Deferred.
B	Clerk	
1	Over 70's Voucher	TC reported that the number of vouchers requested was expected to exceed 900 but the current budget is only for 800. It was agreed to extend the budget to cover the number of Vouchers issued.
C	Committees	
1	Planning Committee – 26.10.15	Deferred
2	Planning Committee – 17.11.15	It was noted that this meeting did not take place due to a lack of quorum.
3	Policy & Process Committee – 28.10.15	R1. Deferred. R2: It was agreed to set up a Policies Working Group as outlined and that TC would call a WG Meeting and anyone interested was welcome to attend.
4	Communications Committee – 09.11.15	The Chair referred the R1 back to the Communications Committee and asked that all Committees should make more use of their Executive Powers rather than bringing everything to full committee. The newsletter was circulated. Cllr Poulton was thanked for his efforts to get advertising, which had covered all the costs.
5	Community Committee – 10.11.15	Deferred.
6	Environment Committee – 17.11.15	It was noted that this meeting did not take place due to a lack of quorum.
D	Working Groups	
1	WW1 Commemoration Group 21.10.15	Deferred.
2	WW1 Commemoration Group 18.11.15	Deferred.
3	Christmas Festival Group – 28.10.15	Christmas Festival leaflets were circulated.
126	Asset Management	
A	Ship Street Play Area	Deferred
B	London Road Allotments	Deferred to Part B

C	Castle Park	Deferred.		
127	Finance Management: 01.10.15 – 31.10.15			
	A	Paid Expenditure	Deferred.	
	B	Received Income	Deferred.	
	C	Bank Reconciliation	Deferred.	
128	Complaints/Grievance		Deferred.	
129	Items for Next Agenda		Deferred.	
130	Date of Next Meeting		14 December 2015	
PART B				
131	Business Rates		Chair	No progress
132	London Road Allotments		Chair	It was agreed to commission an expert letter jointly with Rowlinsons.
133	Complaints/Grievance		Chair	Deferred.
134	Claim - ACAS		Chair	It was agreed to seek legal advice and to follow it. And in the meantime to seek an extension to the deadline from ACAS.

Signed: _____
Hazel Catt, Town Clerk

Date: _____

Town Clerk: Mrs Hazel Catt
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