

Frodsham Town Council
Minutes of a meeting of
Frodsham Town Council



held on Monday 28 September 2015 at 8pm
In Castle Park House, Castle Park, Frodsham

Present: Cllrs Warren (Chair), Sutton (Town Mayor), Brown, Collins-Doyle, Jones, Knowles, Martin, Oulton, Pennington, Poulton, Pusey, Reynolds & Wakefield. Mrs H Catt (Town Clerk and Mrs A Scriven (Office Manager)

In Attendance: Cllrs A W Dawson & L Riley, 3 representatives of Cheshire Police, 1 member of the press & 20 members of the public

Simon Taylor, Nic Mikoleizik and 4 young people attended to give a presentation about Frodsham Youth Association in support of their grant application for £8,200.

Inspector Paul Loughlin & Sgt Ian Wilson attended to discuss Operation Shield, Frodsham Police Station and new work patterns. Policing across Cheshire is now centralised with the nearest officers being deployed to deal with incidents when they occur regardless of which division they are in. There is now more of a partnership approach to community engagement involving other bodies such as the Fire Service. FTC are playing their part through support for the PCSO, Speed Watch and ward walks. There is a 3 month review planned for this new method of working. The Police Commissioner would be happy to attend a future meeting to discuss these changes. There is to be a 'Working Together' event in Chester on 7 October, which will be broadcast.

Operation Shield is a community resilience scheme where residents are able to purchase kits (£10) which include pots of glue with DNA codes to make their property identifiable and returnable if it is stolen and subsequently recovered. Weavervale Housing Trust, CWaC Ward Cllrs and CWaC have already contributed £2,000 each to the scheme so it can be introduced in targeted areas in Frodsham.

Meeting 9

PART A		
Item	Action/Decision/Notes/ Recommendations	
89	Apologies for Absence	Cllrs Ashton & Fraser
90	Declaration of Interests	Cllrs Pennington & Wakefield - London Road Allotments Cllr Brown – Frodsham Youth Association Cllr Pusey – Frodsham Community Centre
91	Minutes of Meeting No 6 held on 10 August 2015	
	a Acceptance & Signing	Accepted and signed by the Chair as a true and accurate record.
	b Matters Arising	None
92	Minutes of Extra Ordinary Meeting No 7 held on 20 August 2015	
	a Acceptance & Signing Only those present were able to vote.	Accepted and signed by the Chair as a true and accurate record.
	b Matters Arising	Item 84 – External Audit (see item 99.4 below).
93	Minutes of Extra Ordinary Meeting No 8 held on 24 September 2015	
	a Acceptance & Signing Only those present were able to vote.	There was a correction to the minutes as Cllr Knowles was not present and did not vote at item 88B. Following the correction they accepted and signed by the Chair as a true and accurate record.
	b Matters Arising	Item 88 – Cllr Reynolds expressed concern that correct procedure had not been followed in dealing with the matter under discussion or how it was minuted. Cllr Warren explained the matter was being dealt with

		<p>appropriately, following legal advice. He also explained the Insurer's indemnity involved the appointment of a solicitor on our behalf. The minutes of Part B have to be available to the public so therefore do not contain sensitive or confidential details.</p>
<p>94</p>	<p>Public Speaking Time/Reports from Public Bodies (inc FTC response)</p>	<p>Judith Critchley raised concerns about meetings being called with insufficient notice. Although they always had the minimum 3 days she felt more time was needed for members of the public to engage properly. She suggested that the dates of the next meeting should be published widely as soon as they were agreed at the previous meeting. She also felt that Extra Ordinary meetings were being called unnecessarily to discuss routine business rather than urgent items.</p> <p>Cllr Warren explained that we try whenever possible to give as much notice as possible and use noticeboards, our website and facebook. A schedule of meetings should be published – TC to check.</p> <p>Gill Ballam expressed concern that FTC did not support the housing development at Forest Hills, which has gone to appeal to the Planning Inspectorate. Local residents welcomed the move as it would create executive and affordable homes, giving the hotel additional resources and reducing the number of fund-raising events held by the hotel. These events are causing disturbance in the early hours of the morning as revellers leave and are unable to get taxis back into town. The Police have advised residents it is a licensing issue.</p> <p>Cllr Warren acknowledged residents' concerns and FTC would await the Inspectorate decision.</p> <p>Mansell Morgan came to introduce himself as the new pastor at King's Church. They were reaching out to the wider community offering family activities and wanted to be a resource to the community. They were bringing links between schools and the church.</p> <p>Cllr Warren welcomed him to Frodsham and wished him well.</p> <p>Cllr Pusey on behalf of Andrew Hayes, Your Move. Cllr Pusey read out a letter Andrew had received from a couple following a visit to look at properties in Frodsham. It stated they would not be looking any further in Frodsham as it was unkempt, with litter and weeds in the pavements, hedges overgrown, traffic congestion and too many charity shops. Cllr Warren explained that although FTC was sympathetic to this viewpoint it has little control over any of these issues and suggested sending the letter to CWaC Cllrs.</p> <p>Neil Flanagan (PCSO) stated that in comparison local residents have been commenting on how clean & tidy Frodsham is looking. He gave a verbal report on local policing issues including:</p> <p>Recent burglaries and vehicle thefts involved insecure vehicles.</p> <p>An aggravated burglary at the Queen Head but the thieves were disturbed and got away with nothing.</p> <p>Anti-social behaviour in Churchfields and Castle Park – Neil is targeting these areas.</p> <p>Off road bike issue is being dealt with by bringing in other police resources.</p> <p>Community Speed Watch – meeting of existing members this Saturday and training for new volunteers on Saturday 10 October at the Frodsham Police Station at 2pm.</p> <p>CWaC Report – Cllrs Dawson & Riley</p> <p>Smart phone app available to report incidents and problems to CWaC. Police & Crime Panel – issue about which Police Force provides services to Halton as Halton is part of Liverpool City Region. If police services are provided by Merseyside Police this will impact on Policing in the rest of Cheshire.</p> <p>CWaC have expressed an interest in a devolution deal and this could</p>

		<p>provide opportunities for Town & Parish Councils.</p> <p>Car parking – a survey is taking place on Station Car Park tomorrow morning.</p> <p>Community Benefit Fund – Cllr Dawson expressed concern that FTC was not being represented at the Ince Recover Park meetings. FTC to investigate. It was confirmed that Cllr Clarke is our representative.</p> <p>Transport issues – Graham Evans is talking to DoT about the problems caused to Frodsham by congestion on M56.</p> <p>Castle Park – meetings being held about more local control.</p> <p>Street Scenes – there are opportunities for more activities it be transferred to FTC.</p> <p>Casserole Club being launched on Friday 12noon-2pm at the Community Centre.</p> <p>Cllr Dawson was asked about the flagpole request to Castle Park Trust. He asked for details that could be presented to the next meeting in 4 weeks.</p>	
95	Reports from Council and Urgent Local Issues		
A1	Members		
1	FCA the Way Forward	Cllr Pusey suggested taking items A1 & A2 together. He outlined the basis of the move into Castle Park House and the increased costs to FTC involved. FCA have issues around the running and maintenance costs of the Community Centre. He suggested that FTC should consider moving into the Community Centre and paying rent to FCA which would help to elevate the funding problems going forward. It was agreed that this was a big conversation for another day. These matters would be discussed further, involving stakeholders, prior to any FTC decision.	
2	Castle Park House		
3	Parking in Frodsham	Cllr Poulton	Deferred to next meeting
4	Proud Bees	Cllr Collins-Doyle thanked everyone for their support.	
5	Charity Boat Party	Cllr Collins Doyle reported that she is organising a charity boat party on 3 October in Chester. All money raised will be going to an orphanage in Sri Lanka.	
A2	Chairman	The Chair's report, which had circulated previously, was noted.	
A3	Mayor	No report	
B	Clerk		
1	Webcasting twice monthly meetings	Deferred	
2	Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group	Deferred	
3	Awards for All Grant	It was noted that Awards for All had offered a grant of £7,925 towards the cost of installing defibrillators in old telephone boxes. It was agreed the Clerk should sign the grant offer letter.	
4	Cheshire Playing Fields Association	Deferred.	
C	Committees		
1	Community Committee – 11.08.15	Deferred	
2	Community Committee – 08.09.15	Cllr Pusey proposed the recommendation to increase the cemetery fees as outlined in the report. Agreed.	
3	Planning Committee – 12.08.15	Deferred	

4	Planning Committee – 03.09.15	Deferred
5	Communications Committee – 20.08.15	Cllr R Knowles proposed the transfer of £10,100 budget from Policy & Process to cover activities being undertaken by the Communications Committee as outlined in the Terms of Reference. Agreed. Policy & Process Committee will review and amend their Terms of Reference to reflect this.
6	Communications Committee – 14.09.15	Deferred
7	Environment Committee – 25.08.15	Deferred
8	Environment Committee – 22.09.15	Cllr A Oulton outlined the proposal to lease a van for use by the Facilities Manager to enable him to carry out his duties effectively and to comply with current Health & Safety legislation and guideline. The van could be available for other FTC activities when not being used by FM. An account will be set up for fuel and monitored. Cllr Knowles proposed the leasing of a van subject to a mileage log being introduced. Agreed. One Cllr abstained.
9	Policy & Process Committee – 02.09.15	Deferred
10	Policy & Process Committee – 23.09.15	Deferred
D	Working Groups	
1	World War 1 Commemoration Group 26.08.15	Deferred
2	World War 1 Commemoration Group 23.09.15	Deferred
3	Christmas Festival Group – 23.09.15	Deferred
96	Operation Shield	There was general support for the idea but concerns were expressed about ensuring all everyone would have the opportunity to take part in the scheme. Recipients of the £10 Voucher would be able to use this to purchase packs if they wished. Cllr Pennington proposed that FTC should not give £2,000 to the scheme as requested. It was defeated by a recorded vote: For: Cllrs Pennington, Reynolds & Pusey Against: Cllrs Brown, Wakefield, Oulton, Jones, Poulton & Martin Abstentions: Cllrs Collins-Doyle and Knowles. Cllr Brown then proposed FTC should contribute £2,000 to the Scheme. There were 6 for the motion, 3 against and 3 abstentions so the Chair used his casting vote and the motion was passed.
97	Youth Association	It was agreed to give FYA a grant of £8,200 as requested.
The Chair asked the Council, as it been meeting for 2½ hours, for permission to extend the meeting to cover important matters. It was agreed.		
98	Asset Management	
A	Churchfields	The work is complete. Issues around lack of fencing have been raised by some residents. Cllr Warren explained that it had been designed with soft scoping to meet national guidelines.
B	Ship Street Play Area	The Clerk outlined a proposal that was under discussion with CWaC should could involve an asset transfer and a 15% reinvestment, from the sale of Ship Street, into Salt Works. It was agreed, in principle, to continue with this line of negotiation. Cllrs Poulton and Martin are working closely with the football club who are discussing talking over the football pitches from CWaC. Cllr Warren reminded everyone that no decision had been made yet about what to do with Ship Street. This matter would be discussed further, involving stakeholders, prior to any FTC decision.

C	London Road Allotments	Deferred.
D	Cemetery Land Purchase	Deferred.
E	Castle Park	Deferred.
99	Finance Management: 01.07.15 – 31.07.15	
99.1	01.07.15 – 31.07.15	
A	Paid Expenditure	Deferred.
B	Received Income	Deferred.
C	Bank Reconciliation	Deferred.
99.2	01.08.15 – 31.08.15	
A	Paid Expenditure	Deferred.
B	Received Income	Deferred.
C	Bank Reconciliation	Deferred.
99.3	Bank Signatories	
A	Co-op Bank	It was agreed to the current Clerk being added as a signatory to replace Mr Wild.
B	Bank of Scotland	It was agreed to change the signatories as only Cllr Warren remains on the list. Any 2 of the Co-op signatories will be added as well as the Clerk.
99.4	Annual Return 2014-15	The Clerk reported that the External Auditors concluded their audit and had reported that they had found no irregularities. There was a minor issue relating to the comparative figures for the previous year that required no further action. A statutory Notice will be display and the report is available to the public on request. Copies will be given to Cllrs. Cllr Warren reminded Council that this was the third year with a clear report and the previous Clerk should be congratulated for this achievement. It was agreed that the External Auditor bill for £720 should be paid.
100	Complaints/Grievance	Deferred.
101	Items for Next Agenda	Deferred items from this meeting.
102	Date of Next Meeting	26 October 2015
PART B		
103	London Road Allotments	Deferred
104	Cemetery Land Purchase	Deferred
105	Complaints/Grievance	Deferred
106	Staffing	The Clerk left the meeting for this item. Council agreed to maintain the existing staffing structures for the time being.

Meeting closed 10.50pm

Signed: _____

Date: _____