

Minutes of the meeting of  
**Frodsham Town Council**



Held on Monday 8 December 2014 at 6.30pm

In the Lounge, Frodsham Community Centre, Fluin Lane, Frodsham

**Present:** Cllrs Warren (Chairman), Wales (Town Mayor), Sutton (Deputy Mayor), Ashton, Bondi, Brown, Dawson, Oulton, Pennington, Pusey, Redhead, Riley, Taylor and Wakefield. Mr. J Wild (Town Clerk), Mrs. H Catt (Service Manager), Neil Flanagan (PCSO), Mrs. K Dodgson (Frodsham Foundation), Press x 1 and 7 members of the public.

*The personal interests of Cllr SL Riley and Cllr a W Dawson are noted on the basis that they are both elected members of this Council and CWAC. Cllr Dawson is also a member of the Police and Crime panel. Cllrs Dawson, Pusey, Riley and Wakefield are members of Frodsham Foundation. Cllr Pusey is a trustee of Frodsham Community Association and Chair of Sutton Parish Council. Cllr Shearn is a trustee of Frodsham Youth Association. Cllr Dawson is Chair of the Executive Committee of Castle Park Trust.*

**Meeting 13**

Item	Action/Decision/Notes/ Recommendations
194 <b>Apologies for Absence</b>	Cllrs Shearn and Kelly
195 <b>Declaration of Interests</b>	<p>Cllr Pennington re London Road Allotments            Cllr Oulton re Groundwork Cheshire – he had worked for them indirectly through Vale Royal. He had also worked for Groundwork in Wrexham.            Cllr Bondi re Frodsham Watersports            Cllr Warren re cycling strategy, as an ex officio member of the Cycle Group.            Cllrs Dawson and Riley reiterated the interests shown above.</p>
196 <b>Minutes of Meeting No 11 held on 24 November 2014</b> a. Acceptance and Signing b. Matters Arising	<p>Agreed and signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.            There were no matters arising</p>
197 <b>Minutes of part B Meeting No 12 held on 25 November 2014</b> a. Acceptance and Signing b. Matters arising	<p>Agreed and signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting            There were no matters arising</p>
198 <b>Public Speaking Time/ Reports from Public Bodies (ink FTC response)</b>	<p><b>Mr. Reynolds</b> spoke regarding his recent Freedom of Information request on FTC payments to Frodsham Foundation. He was unhappy with the response form the Clerk, which related purely to payments made by FTC to Frodsham Foundation. The Clerk explained that this had been the request he received, and that he had confirmed in both the acknowledgement and final letters, that he would respond to the exact request. This was the required approach to Freedom of Information requests.</p> <p>Mr Reynolds would seek further information through Cllr Pennington on payments related to Foundation activities, but not paid to the Foundation. The Chairman asked if it was his intention to make a further FOI request – and Mr Reynolds said he did not plan to.</p> <p>The <b>PCSO</b> reported that there had since the last meeting been just one attempted burglary, on Langdale Way. There had been an instance of criminal damage to a car and some antisocial behaviour in Morrisons car park during what had otherwise been a trouble free Christmas Festival.</p> <p>There were some ongoing antisocial behaviour issues on Frodsham Station, but nothing serious enough to bring to the</p>

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	<p>attention of the Transport Police.</p> <p>Speed enforcement continued – there had been activity on Chester Road, Main Street, Fluin lane, Manley Road and Church Street. Some high speeds were still being recorded - up to 48 in a 40 mph zone on Chester Road and 45 in a 30 mph zone on Fluin Lane. But the process of awareness raising continued. Smiley SID had been deployed in Chester Road. A further training session for volunteers wishing to take part in speed watch activity was to be held on 24 January at Frodsham Fire Station.</p> <p>Surgeries were planned for 8 December after the PCSO's report to FTC, 11 December at the Library 1-3PM, 7 January Costa Coffee 10.0AM - 12PM, 26 January before and after the PCSO's presentation to the FTC meeting, and 29<sup>th</sup> January at the Library 1-3PM.</p>
199	<p><b>Reports from Council, CWAC, and Urgent Local Issues</b></p>
A	<p><b>Members /Chairman/ Mayor</b></p> <p><b>1. Freedom of Frodsham for the Royal British Legion</b></p> <p>The Clerk was keen to set a timescale for the giving of the Freedom, and suggested that this might be done at a meeting in February, with investiture at the Town Meeting in May,</p> <p>It was CWAC practice for the Council meeting and investiture ceremony to take place at the same time. That approach was open to Frodsham, if it so wished.</p> <p>Cllr Wales proposed a parade on 8 March. This would require a meeting in February.</p> <p>Clerk to take forward. <b>Action:</b> Clerk</p> <p><b>2. Christmas Festival</b></p> <p>Cllr Pusey reported a successful Festival. Weather had been good, and there had been a very high attendance and some very good feedback from people who had been there.</p> <p>Cllr Pusey thanked Cllrs Dawson and Riley for contributing from their CWAC Member's budgets and CWAC itself for the officer time provided. Other volunteers had been most welcome too – including those from Chester University.</p> <p>Sponsorship had gone well – a wide range of local businesses had provided either cash sums or sponsored specific actions such as children's entertainment and face painting.</p> <p>The feeling was that using the car park had been a good idea. Access had been good for all, and businesses were happier with the arrangement. Unfortunately there had been one fall, with a significant injury resulting.</p> <p>It was felt that the bands might finish a bit earlier in future, as they had played beyond the opening hours of the stalls. Food sales had gone well, and there had been a good range available.</p> <p>Concerns had been raised with Cllr Pusey about the countdown, where the role of the Junior Mayors might not have been fully recognised by the MP. But overall feedback had been extremely positive.</p> <p>It was agreed that it was essential that FTC made proper provision to support next year's festival, in its budget setting in January.</p> <p>The Chairman and Councillors gave thanks to Cllr Pusey's work</p>

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		<p>on the successful and well organised Festival. Thanks were also extended to CWAC, FTC staff and other volunteers. The success of the event reflected well on Frodsham and its image and “brand”. There had been a positive response on social media.</p> <p><b>3. Cycle Maps for Frodsham</b></p> <p>The Chairman had ascertained that a map – based on an improvement of the current local Knutsford plan, which the Chairman produced at the meeting, would cost in the region of £115.</p> <p>The Chairman wished though to go further than just printing the maps. He hoped to invest in activity for local school children in developing the maps, in developing a related App, and in seeking sponsorship and advertising. This would be an excellent opportunity to promote entrepreneurial behaviour in young people. There would need to be some seed money, and the Chair suggested £400.</p> <p>A payment of £400 to Helsby High School for this project was <b>agreed</b>, with the Clerk to liaise with the Chairman and school.</p> <p>The Environment Committee should be consulted on the final maps, to ensure that the detail was accurate as regard rights of way etc.</p> <p>The Mayor reported that he had been busy – highlights included the Christmas Tree Festival which had featured 21 well-presented trees decorated by local groups, Rotary Charter Night, and a Thank You Assembly at Manor House School for those who had helped with the refurbishment of their outdoor play area.</p>
<b>B</b>	<b>Committees</b>	There had been no committee meetings since the last FTC meeting.
<b>C</b>	<b>Clerk</b>	<p>The Clerk asked any Councillors with Over 70’s vouchers still to deliver to contact the office if they needed help in getting them out.</p> <p>He also asked any Councillors able to help as marshals at the New Year’s Eve Fireworks, to contact the office.</p>
<b>D</b>	<b>CWAC</b>	<p>Cllr Dawson reported that he had appeared on the Today programme on 8 December, as part of a programme on towns’ approaches to air pollution. The Council’s joint approach to air quality monitoring with CWAC members, who had seen equipment installed at Manor House School, was the subject of the discussion.</p> <p>As well as the known pollution hotspot at the junction of Fluin Lane and Main Street, Cllr Dawson noted that air quality seemed poor at the school at the time of the morning school drop off. He wondered whether presentation of live data on air quality at drop off times might help parents understand the environmental impact of the school run.</p> <p>It was also noted that the data was being used by schools as an aid to education.</p> <p>Cllr Riley said that such activities raised awareness of the town, and were a way of promoting Frodsham, in a very different way to events such as the Christmas Festivals.</p>

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	<p>The Census data was now available, and it contained a mine of interesting factual data about Frodsham.</p> <p>There were new developments at CWAC in the public health area – new health and wellbeing services locally that chimed well with the work FTC was doing on cycling, walking etc. These initiatives provided tangible benefits to residents, and helped to build the profile of Frodsham as a community that cares for its residents.</p> <p>Cllr Riley reminded all residents of the Winter Gritting Scheme. More members were always welcome to join – particularly as the cold weather arrived.</p>	
<b>200</b>	<b>Asset Management</b>	
<b>A</b>	<b>Play Areas</b>	<p>The Clerk had arranged a meeting with CWAC on release of the Ship Street Play Area covenant.</p> <p>There was no news yet from the Feoffee's Trust on the Townfield Lane lease – Clerk pursuing.</p> <p>The Churchfields bid for funds from Veolia was due – the decision had been due to be made that day, but no news had yet been received.</p>
<b>B</b>	<b>Park Lane Sale</b>	<p>Nothing had recently been heard from the purchaser's solicitors. The Clerk had instructed our solicitor to chase progress on more than one occasion and would continue to press.</p>
<b>C</b>	<b>Office Accommodation</b>	<p>The Castle Park House Trust was due to meet shortly, with the FTC tenancy issue as an agenda item. It was expected that the basis of an offer to FTC would emerge from that, though the detail may need to be worked out between officers at that stage.</p>
<b>D</b>	<b>Telephone Boxes</b>	<p>FTC had signed a contract for three boxes – Bradley Lane, the Quay and Netherton. Enquiries about the Bulls Head phone box showed that consultation was underway. The Main Street box was listed, and it was likely to take longer to resolve. Church Street's box was still in use.</p> <p>The next question for FTC would be what uses to make of the boxes. Options included defibrillators, though perhaps not for all the boxes.</p> <p>To return to, on a future agenda.</p>
<b>201</b>	<b>Strategy Management</b>	
<b>A</b>	<b>Marsh Management</b>	<p><i>Cllr Riley left the room for this discussion.</i></p> <p>Cllr Dawson summarised what had been done by way of setting up a steering group on the marshes in the last year. The pumping stations were being brought up to modern day standards and the ditches were being dug properly. It seemed likely that the group of riparian owners would be able to take better care of the marshes than Environment Agency had been able to do. The question was what role FTC wanted to take in this, given that such a large part of Frodsham's parish was in the marshes.</p> <p>Joining the marshes' management board would require a financial contribution. This would not be towards drainage work – the Council could not fund that – but towards strategic work, research and reports etc.</p> <p>During discussion the following points were made;</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One third of Frodsham's Rights of Way were on the marshes. Some were not in good condition.</li> <li>There was scope to improve the leisure value of the marshes – bird watching, cycling, walking, and perhaps providing work experience around any work commissioned.</li> <li>There was scope to address other issues too through our involvement – such as preventing fly tipping.</li> </ul> <p>Proposals being made, the following was <b>agreed</b>;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FTC in principle agreed to join the Board.</li> <li>That any financial contribution by FTC should not exceed £2500.</li> <li>That FTC seek agreement that, In the event of FTC leaving the Board in the future, any unspent FTC contributions, while not being refundable, would be spent by the Board in a way that accorded with the wishes and interests of FTC.</li> </ol>
<b>B</b>	<b>Neighbourhood Plan</b>	<p>The Clerk had written to CWAC to commence the process of registering the Plan. Designating the area was an early requirement. CWAC had asked for some time to confirm how we should be managing the boundary change. It seemed sensible to work on the new boundaries, but confirmation was needed that we could designate that area now, for our plan. Clerk to pursue.</p> <p>In the meantime an exploratory meeting had been called for 18<sup>th</sup> December, where a group of interested people had been invited to come together and learn about the plan. It was hoped this group might form the beginnings of a steering group for Frodsham's plan.</p>
<b>202</b>	<b>Finance Management</b>	
<b>A</b>	<b>Paid expenditure 1.11.14 – 30.11.14</b>	Noted
<b>B</b>	<b>Received Income 1.11.14 – 30.11.14</b>	Noted
<b>C</b>	<b>Bank Reconciliation 30.11.14</b>	Noted
<b>203</b>	<b>Consultations</b>	None currently
<b>204</b>	<b>Items for Next Agenda</b>	Councillors to notify Clerk
<b>205</b>	<b>Date of Next Meeting</b>	Budget/Precept Meeting – Monday 12 January 2015 FTC Meeting – Monday 26 January 2015
<b>Part B</b>		
<b>206</b>	<b>London Road Allotments</b>	Update received from the Chairman
<b>207</b>	<b>Scrutiny of Groundwork Contract</b>	The Chairman reported on activity that had been undertaken to scrutinise the recent bill from Groundwork, to ensure the Council obtained maximum value for money from the contract. It was agreed that a further meeting was needed with Groundwork to take forward. <b>Action:</b> Clerk

Meeting ended at 8PM.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_