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Frodsham Town Council

Castle Park, Frodsham,
Cheshire WA6 6SB



Minutes of the ANNUAL TOWN MEETING Held on **Saturday 23 May 2015 at 1.30PM** In Castle Park House, Castle Park, Frodsham.

Residents were invited to attend from 12.30pm to speak informally with the new Council and other Town groups and representatives, on matters of key interest to the town including the Neighbourhood Plan, play, crime, community development, planning, and community activities.

Present: Councillors Warren (Chair), Ashton, Brown, Clarke, Collins-Doyle, Fraser, Jones, Knowles, Martin, Pennington, Poulton, Reynolds, Wakefield, Jon Wild (Town Clerk, Anne Scriven (Office Manager), and around 20 members of the public and representatives of community organisations.

No	Item
1	Apologies for Absence
	Cllrs Oulton, Pusey and Sutton
2	Chairman will introduce the Mayor of Frodsham 2015/16
	The Chairman introduced Cllr Fran Sutton, the new Mayor of Frodsham. Unfortunately she was unable to be present at the meeting.
3	To issue commemorative badges to past Mayors, Junior Mayors and Councillors.
	Commemorative badges were issued to those existing councillors who were present and had asked to receive, and to some previous Mayors and Councillors who were able to attend.
4	To note the minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 17 May 2014
	Agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.
5	Matters Arising
	None were raised.
6	Report by Chairman (2014-15) of Frodsham Town Council, on the Council's work and achievements for the year May 2014 to May 2015
	The Chairman reported on another busy year. He referred to his report in the Annual Report, adding his thanks to the staff and Council colleagues for their contributions. He mentioned that there had been some delay in completing some capital projects (Playing fields, allotments) during the year, which had resulted in the Council carrying forward a larger than expected cash balance at year end (see Annual Report). This money was expected to be spent in the first part of the following year.

7	<p>To receive the draft Town Council Accounts for the year ending 31 March 2015</p>
	<p>The Annual Report, including the Accounts and other Council reports, was distributed and noted. The Report would be formally adopted by the Council later, and would be subject to External Audit, in addition to the Internal Audit that had already taken place.</p> <p>Some points were raised during discussion, regarding the scope to allocate cost to specific activity heads (such as Neighbourhood Plan) as well as, at present, to budget. It was felt that this was a matter for discussion by the new Policy and Process Committee (or any similar Committee established by the new Council) in due course. Clerk to put forward when appropriate.</p> <p>Action: Clerk</p>
8	<p>Reports from Chairs of Committees (2014-15) of Frodsham Town Council, including working groups, on work and achievements during the year 2014-15.</p>
	<p>Written reports had been provided by Chairs as part of the Annual Report.</p> <p>Cllr Taylor provided some additional information on the work of the World War 1 Working Group. It had met monthly, and thanks were given to volunteers and staff throughout the year. She drew attention to the following achievements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggestions had been put forward to CWAC for a WW1 related road name for a new road in the town – though sadly not used. • 40 books had been given to the local library – and borrowed immediately. • Two exhibitions had been run – one at the Arts Centre, one at the Library. • A remembrance service had been held at St Laurence's. • Poppies had been planted with the help of scouts and guides. • A Heritage Walk had attracted 60 people. • A Scanning Day had helped preserve records. • Bookmarks had been given to schoolchildren. • A showing of a film – Ypres – had been held. A further film planned this year, on Gallipoli. • The Council had been represented at the Menin Gate. <p>The Group's work continued. 2015-16 would see:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A reprint of the book about Frodsham at war (From Battlefield to Blighty) - funded by the Council, and would be on sale. • A play – Bullets and Daffodils - at the Community Centre. • Work on the memorial at the Methodist Church would be completed. • A commemorative sundial was planned. <p>Cllr Reynolds paid tribute to the hard work done by Ex-Cllr Taylor over the years. He said her hard work and her attention to detail, would both be missed.</p>
9	<p>Reports from other organisations</p>
	<p>The PCSO had provided a written report for the meeting, which was distributed.</p> <p>Community Centre</p> <p>Mr Williams reported that the Centre, which had served the Town well for many years, and continued to have a high usage, was feeling the impact of increased competition from other venues in the town. The Centre was self-funded, but with</p>

the other venues now in the town - Arts centre, Church Hall, Castle park House, etc., for the first time in its life it was looking as though it might not this year cover its costs.

It was looking at ways to cut costs (though much of what could be cut had already been cut), and at future uses. It had unique features, in its mix of indoor and outdoor space and car parking, for example. The Youth Club was doing well.

He asked whether the Council might be willing to sponsor a study of community space.

Council noted that the Centre continued to provide a great resource for parents and children. It was the view of at least one councillor that FTC should support the centre financially. This became then a question of whether residents wanted to see this included in their Council Tax.

Frodsham Foundation

Mrs Dodgson reported on two main strands of work – ongoing work on communications/social media (no longer to be funded by the Council), and the current Goods Shed Lottery bid. Members and non- members had attended and spoken at the recent AGM.

During discussion the following points were made:

- The town would benefit from a hub, where residents and others could gather information about Frodsham and what was happening here.
- An online portal would be a good way of letting people know about meetings, sports events etc. FTC could provide a lead on providing.
- The Town Guide was mentioned – paid for through advertisements, it was effectively free. It was said that not everyone knew of its existence. Were all key organisations present in it? Should its production be led by the Foundation in future?
- One Councillor mentioned Frodsham News, and said he thought it should be brought back.

Cheshire West and Chester Council

Cllr Andrew Dawson spoke. He offered congratulations to the new Council, and expressed the wish that CWAC and FTC would be able to work well together, and learn from each other.

He spoke about Castle Park House. He saw great opportunities for a closer union with the Arts Centre, and greater involvement with management of the asset, by FTC. The park could be used such more – the successful Moonlight Flicks was an example. But the size of the asset was large – its yearly costs were similar to the entire FTC precept.

He reported on the Air Quality Management work done through equipment placed at Manor House School. This showed that Frodsham had air quality issues in some places (Fluin Lane junction), but these were related to traffic rather than industry,

It would be necessary to ensure the infrastructure of the town was able to cope with a hundred thousand visitors a year. The Halton Curve was great news, but would increase pressure still further on parking. We could look at acquiring more land, and better managing the parking space we had.

	<p>FTC and CWAC had worked together on highways issues – examples being the Weaver Vale crossing, the Netherton Crossing, and work underway on making Helsby School pupils’ route to school easier and safer.</p> <p>He stressed that CWAC were keen to work in partnership with FTC – for example on the matter of the release of the covenant on Ship Street Play Area, where there was scope to link with the issue of the improvement of Saltworks Farm.</p> <p>He was keen to get local residents involved in the consultation surrounding the wind farm. There would be Community Benefit Fund – there was scope for the public to get involved in decisions of what is to be done with the money, and how the pot should be split between projects and locations.</p> <p>There were changes taking place at CWAC, to issues such as the Planning Framework, and members grants, following the election.</p> <p>During discussion the following points were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was discussion about the location of the tip. The survey last year was, surprisingly perhaps, in favour of leaving it where it was. No decision on future location had yet been made. • On Ship Street, there were options. Sale being one, or pursuing a Community Right to build scheme. Discussions were still at an early stage, with no offer having been yet made by CWAC, that would allow any negotiation to take place.
10	Issues from members of the public to consider.
	<p>The main conversation topic was on communication. There were concerns in some quarters that Council messages, despite efforts being made, were not getting through.</p> <p>It was recognised that the website was an import tool (the Clerk confirmed that the relaunch of the website after hacking problems was now imminent), but there were views that other means should be used too – from use of print media to putting messages on notice boards and through doors.</p> <p>Other items raised included the Over 70’s Christmas Voucher Scheme and dog fouling.</p>
11	Any other business
	None

The meeting ended at 3.45PM

Jon Wild, Town Clerk