

# Frodsham Town Council

## Minutes of a meeting of the Environment Committee

held in Town Council Office, Castle Park  
On **Monday 1 August 2016**, at 7pm



**Present:** Cllrs A Oulton (Chair), C Ashton, L Brown, J Critchley (until item 46.2),  
L Jones (until item 45.1) and F Sutton  
Mr T Blundell and Mrs A Shaw  
Mrs H Catt (Town Clerk) and Paul Morris (Facilities Manager)

**In Attendance:** 11 members of the public

Mr Saul Burton, Saltscape Project Officer, Groundwork Cheshire, Lancashire & Merseyside explained that the project is funded by the Heritage Lottery until September 2017. It is about conserving and enhancing the landscape shaped by salt in the Weaver Valley. It is about community engagement and encouraging people to get involved. They run skills workshops and volunteering activities. There is grants scheme that community groups can apply to for conservation work. He also mentioned the national Heritage Open Day Scheme run by the National Trust which aims to open up places to more people eg Winsford Town Trail (9-11 September). He left information leaflets.

### Meeting 3

No	Item	Action
37	<b>Apologies for Absence</b>	Cllr P Martin
38	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>	Cllr F Sutton declared an interest in relation to Crowmere Lake, Footpath 17 and Marl Pitts.
39	<b>Minutes of Meeting 2 held on 4 July 2016</b>	Mr Blundell suggested alternative wording for the first sentence in 136.1: "Mr Blundell reported that the <i>preferred</i> procedure ..., <i>maybe</i> for the grass to be cut <i>between</i> the trees ..." This amendment was agreed and the minutes were signed as a true record.
41	<b>Opportunity for the Public to Speak</b> – It was agreed to take item 48 and part of 43.1 at this point as members of the public were attending for these items.	
	<b>48. Fracking</b>	Mr M Garvey reported that the Frack Free Group are planning to start public consultation in September to gauge people's views on Fracking. They intend to distribute leaflets to 1500 households, selected for their demographics, to collect this data. It is possible there will be seismic testing in the Frodsham area in September & October. This could lead to a planning application for test drilling. After some discussion the following were agreed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. To form a Working Group as requested by full Council.</li> <li>b. Membership – other local Councils would be invited as well interested members of the public.</li> <li>c. TC would write to INEOS to ask about the timetable for testing.</li> <li>d. Date of the first meeting Monday 15 August at 7pm here at CPH.</li> <li>e. Terms of Reference to be agreed by the group.</li> </ul> It was further agreed to ask full Council to agree that no seismic testing will be allowed on any FTC land - R1.
	<b>43.1 Tree Survey</b>	The survey of Manley Copse showed that significant was needed with the removal of most of the trees. It was agreed that TC would get three quotes for this work to be carried out in 2 phases, and that it should be completed before winter.
<b>40</b>	<b>Matters Arising</b>	
10.4	<i>Manor House School</i>	Mr Blundell had offered advice but the school have chosen not to act. Residents of Penrith Close & Thirlmere Close had offered to remove some trees.
120.1	<i>Blue Hatch Hedge</i>	Blackthorn and Hawthorn hedge plants are on order. If these don't take Plan B would be to plant Holly.
41	<b>Opportunity for the Public to Speak</b> - Dealt with earlier.	

No	Item	Action
<b>42</b>	<b>Marshlands</b>	
42.1	No update.	
42.2	The manhole cover in Greenfield Lane keeps coming up when there is exceptional rainfall. TC is to write to CWAC to raise concerns and send photographs.	
<b>43</b>	<b>Tree Matters</b>	
43.1	<i>Condition Survey: Dealt with earlier.</i>	
43.2	<i>Top Road Play area: The surveying company want to purchase OS maps at £50. It was agreed for FTC to purchase them if CWAC cannot extend their license – TC to check.</i>	
<b>44</b>	<b>Rights of Way Maintenance</b>	
44.1	Any problems on footpaths should be reported to Steve Holden at CWAC. Specific problems have been identified with F24, F23 and F74. It was agreed to contact Frodsham Life about the problem and to try and get volunteers to help. If the Footpath Group wants to reform it must be self managed.	
44.2	<i>To note any update on upgrade of footpath 8 to a Byway Open to All Traffic (BOAT) – The report is with Legal Services.</i>	
44.3	<i>To consider any proposals that may arise from the presentation by the Saltscap Project Officer. Liam will liaise with Saul.</i>	
44.4	<i>To note progress with the grant applications for improvements at Hob Hey Wood and Marshlands. There had been 2 quotes for the footpath work in Hob Hey Wood - £2200 &amp; £3300. It was agreed that Liam would continue to try and raise funds towards this work from various finding bodies.</i>	
<b>45</b>	<b>Hob Hey Wood</b>	
45.1	<i>Boardwalks – The wood has been replaced but the wire still needs to be done. Problems accessing the site are slowing things down. The need for a 5 year Development Plan was agreed – FM and Cllr Oulton will produce a first draft, after liaising with Graham Bondi. Priority will be given to any Health &amp; Safety issues.</i>	
<b>46</b>	<b>Memorial Field</b>	
46.1	<i>To note update on overgrown trees on the cliff blocking the view of the monument from Frodsham. A volunteer with the Woodland Trust has started to clear some of the trees. They say the work will be done early 2017.</i>	
46.2	<i>To establish policy on dealing with ragwort. TC to ask CWAC what their policy is towards Ragwort. It was agreed that FM will continue to remove any ragwort found on FTC land.</i>	
<b>47</b>	<b>Marl Pits</b>	
47.1	<i>To receive update on tree to be felled – No progress.</i>	
<b>48</b>	<b>Fracking – Dealt with earlier.</b>	
<b>49</b>	<b>Parish Paths – Deferred to the September meeting.</b>	
<b>50</b>	<b>Pond Trail – Deferred to the September meeting</b>	
<b>51</b>	<b>Festival of Walks – No Update.</b>	
<b>52</b>	<b>Mid Cheshire Footpaths Society:</b> It was agreed to pay the affiliation fee for 2016 @ £8. They will be sent an invitation to attend a future meeting to talk about their work.	
<b>53</b>	<b>Any other matters considered to be urgent for discussion, or item for next agenda</b>	
53.1	<i>Damage in Community Orchards – There has been strimmer damage to trees in Ship Street Community Orchard and they will probably that 5 trees may die and need replacing. There has also been damage by a mower knocking over a tree on Churchfields Community Orchard. TC will report this to the contractor.</i>	
<b>54</b>	<b>Dates of next meetings:</b> 5 Sept, 3 Oct, 7 Nov, 5 Dec, 3 Jan (Tuesday due to Bank Holiday), 6 Feb, 6 Mar & 3 April.	

Meeting ended 9.50pm.

**R1.** To agree that no seismic testing will be allowed on any FTC land.

Committee: Cllr C Ashton, Cllr L Brown, Cllr J Critchley, Cllr L Jones, Cllr A Oulton, Cllr P Martin & Cllr F Sutton  
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