

Frodsham Town Council

Minutes a meeting of the
Environment Committee
 held in Town Council Office, Castle Park
 On **Tuesday 7 March 2017**, at **7pm**



Present: Cllrs A Oulton (Chair), L Brown, V Kirk and P Martin

In attendance: Cllr J Critchley, H Catt (Town Clerk), P Morris (Facilities Manager), T Blundell and 1 member of the public.

Meeting 10

No	Item	Action
170	Apologies for Absence	Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr C Ashton and J Beswick.
171	Declarations of Interest	Cllr F Sutton – Crowmere Cllr V Kirk – Frackfree Frodsham
172	Minutes of Meeting 9 held on 7 February 2017	There were 2 amendments to the minutes: 164 - final sentence should read 'The potential to lower the hedge...' 165 - should say at the start of the minute that 'Cllr F Sutton left the room for this item'. Following these amendments, the minutes were approved and signed as a true record.
173	Opportunity for the Public to Speak	None.
174	Litter Picking	The Great Frodsham Spring Clean held on Sunday 5 March went very well considering the very wet weather. Approximately 12 people turned out and concentrated their efforts on the car park behind W H Smiths and the cinder path. Another group of volunteers had carried out a litter pick on Saturday around Park Lane, Fountains Lane, Princeway and Kingsway. Cllr Oulton thanked all the volunteers on behalf of FTC. It was agreed that this could be repeated every two months on Sundays alternating between mornings, afternoon and early evenings – to be discussed at future meetings.
175	Unconventional Extraction of Gas & Oil (UEOG) Working Group	
175.1	FTC comments	Cllr Kirk has taken on board the need to provide additional information to council and offered to invite an engineer, well qualified to speak on the topic, to present to council, ensuring councillors have a balanced view following last year's meeting presented by Ineos. Submission of related planning applications are possibly imminent given activity across the country and she was concerned that the resident's opinions, as per the recent survey results, should be reflected when FTC considers any UEOG related applications. Councillor Kirk has also formulated a new proposal for discussion and action at the next full council meeting.
175.2	Working Group meeting	TC will contact MR Garvey to arrange the next Working Group meeting. The Working Group will undertake more work about improving communication and providing more information for people who need it (13% in the survey). The WG could be tasked with organising a public meeting offering an opportunity for both sides to present to the public.
176	Tree Matters	
176.1	Storm Doris	Frodsham suffered quite badly from the storm and at one point every road was blocked by fallen trees. Most were cleared very quickly except for a couple on Manley Road. A tree fell into the river at the Quay, one over the path on Queensway and at least one in Castle Park. There were four down in Hob Hey Wood and FM has cleared any branches blocking paths. TC reported that she had commissioned Mid-Cheshire Ground Maintenance to clear a large branch that had fallen across the footpath

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		between Churchfields and the churchyard costing £120+VAT on health & safety grounds.
182	Manley Road Copse	It was agreed to bring this item forward. A large tree from the centre of Manley Road Copse fell across the road and has damaged properties in the neighbourhood. TC will be making an insurance claim once all the quotations for repairs have been received. It is expected that the rest of the trees will be cut down by the end of the week as the contractor has received the license to fell. It was agreed to call a site visit once the area is cleared before deciding on any replanting. The neighbours will be consulted too. It might be useful to leave any replanting for 12 months to see what comes up naturally once the tree shade has gone. The long-term maintenance of the area needs to be considered.
176.2	Korean Fir	CWAC Tree Officer had given approval for the planting of the tree. It was agreed that TC should ask CPT and CWAC Cllrs to pay for the tree as it will be planted in land that isn't owned by FTC.
176.3	Castle Park Tree Trail	TC had asked CWAC to look at this and one of the Rangers has been and surveyed the Park. CWAC Tree Officer is looking for information about the Tree Trail in CWAC archives.
176.4	Other tree issues	None.
177	Rights of Way Maintenance	
177.1	CWAC Liaison	It was agreed that Cllrs F Sutton, J Critchley and C Ashton should meet with CWAC PRoW Officers to discuss footpath maintenance and agree priorities. CWAC had suggested several dates for the meeting and Wednesday 22 March at 2pm was agreed as the best date.
177.2	Footpaths	It was agreed to take the opportunity to refer any specific footpath issues to this meeting. TC will collate together footpath problems.
177.3	Footpath map	The updating and republishing of the map will be discussed at the Liaison meeting too.
178	Hob Hey Wood	
178.1	Boardwalks	The boardwalk improvement & repair work has been commissioned. Access has been agreed with the farmer.
178.2	5 Year Development Plan	Ben Greenaway, Mersey Forest Trust, is in the process of developing a 5 year Development Plan or Strategy, which will inform the Management Plan. Ben has identified an old pack horse way leading from Bradley Lane into the Wood which could be uncovered as a heritage feature. Mersey Forest are sure they will be able to help us access grant funding to deliver the Strategy and may also consider looking at other sites including Marshlands.
179	Ship Street Community Orchard	It was agreed to set up a Working Party to clear the site. A large skip will be needed and two large tractor tyres might need specialist disposal. The allotment holders could be asked for help in exchange for the water butts and other re-usable items. Cllr Oulton will check if the Fire Service might help as a community project. The Donkey Sanctuary are interested in the fencing but would need to come along and take it away once the area is cleared. The holes in the hedge at the back of the plot against the bowling green will need filling with whips. Once the area is cleared FTI would be asked to plant fruit trees – Mr Blundell thought it would take 20 and would start the process of getting funding and report back to the next meeting.
180	Marshlands	Access is very muddy due to the work to clear the culvert near the motorway. The sign is missing off the Devonshire wall since it was redecorated – Cllr Oulton will get in touch with them about putting it back.
181	Festival of Walks	The minutes had not been circulated but the spending of £91.99 on banners and £460 on leaflets and posters was noted.

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182	Manley Road Copse	This item had been dealt with earlier in the meeting.
183	Crowmere	TC reported on the response from the Environment Agency that they only carry out fish & habitat surveys between August and the end of March and were fully booked this year. It was agreed to get quotes for the removal of the fish now and not wait for a survey next year – TC to report back to the next meeting. Cllr Sutton did not take part in the vote.
184	Poppies on the Memorial Field	FM reported that there isn't much weed growth in the area but he will monitor the situation. Mr Blundell will be sowing poppy seeds in April.
185	Urgent Matters	Cllr P Martin raised concerns about a footpath being closed by the Wild Fowlers. The path in question isn't a right of way although it is used by local people.
186	Item for next agenda	Any items to TC by 23 March.
18	Dates of next meetings:	4 April & 2 May

Committee: Cllr A Oulton (Chair), Cllr C Ashton, Cllr L Brown, Cllr V Kirk, Cllr P Martin & Cllr F Sutton
Town Clerk: Mrs H Catt
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