

Frodsham Town Council

Minutes of a meeting of the Environment Committee

held in Town Council Office, Castle Park
On **Tuesday 3 January 2017**, at **7pm**



Present: Cllrs A Oulton (Chair), C Ashton, I Brown, V Kirk and F Sutton

In Attendance: Mrs H Catt (Town Clerk), Mr P Morris (Facilities Manager) & Mr J Beswick.

Meeting 8

No	Item	Action
133	Apologies for Absence	Apologies had been received from Mr T Blundell.
134	Declarations of Interest	Cllr V Kirk is a Member of Frack Free. Cllr Sutton declared an interest in matters relating to Crowmere, Footpath 17 and Marl Pits. Cllr C Ashton is a member of Frodsham Festival of Walks. Cllrs A Oulton and V Kirk declared personal interest in one of the footpath contractors.
135	Minutes of Meeting 7 held on 5 December 2016	The minutes were approved and signed as a true record.
136	Opportunity for the Public to Speak	None.
137	Marshlands	Cllr Oulton had alerted the office to a low loader going down the lane past Marshlands and FM had investigated. The contractor had been clearing gutters near the motorway. Only limited damage had been done to the lane. FM had dismantled a den on land behind Marshlands.
138	Tree Matters	Mr Blundell had sent a report about the planting of pyracantha and blackthorn bushes, with a Rowan Tree, by FTI volunteers in the hedge at Blue Hatch and the Community Field. CWAC had filmed the planting as part of their 'Volunteering Celebrations'. Howey Lane – the resident has written again. It was agreed that this was not an issue at this time. CWAC are aware of the concerns raised too.
139	Community Orchards	No update.
140	Rights of Way Maintenance	
140.1	Footpaths	Footpath 31 – Bunny Run. Following an expression of concern about the safety of a stone wall that is leaning into the footpath it was agreed that TC would contract CWAC about this potential health & safety matter. Footpath 88 – a resident had written to TC concerned about the lack of path markers on the footpath that crosses the golf course. It was agreed that TC would also raise this potential health & safety matter with CWAC. CWAC Liaison meeting – it was agreed to chase up the full list of footpaths and to request another meeting at a time when Cllr Oulton would be available to attend.
140.2	<i>Upgrade of footpath 8 to a Byway Open to All Traffic (BOAT)</i>	No update
141	Hob Hey Wood	

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141.1	Boardwalks	TC had contacted 5 companies to quote for the improvement & repairs to the boardwalks and footpaths. Only 1 quotation had been received so it was agreed that TC would seek further quotation for the next meeting. It was agreed that she should contact other local Councils to find out who they used. Cllr Oulton reported that he had undertaken pole cutting training with Network Rail along the track from Townfield Lane.
142.2	5 Year Development Plan	TC had found the original Ecological Study and 3year Development Plan. It was agreed that Cllr Ashton would review these.
142.3	Mountain Bike Track	An email had been received asking for permission to restore the derelict jumps in the wood. These were original installed without FTC permission and were dismantled. It was agreed that the Wood is unsuitable for this type of activity as it is extensively used by walkers and their dogs; it could pose a safety risk and access for emergency services in case of an accident would be difficult. TC will write to the residents and suggest they could use the purpose built trails in Delamere Forest.
143	Unconventional Extraction of Gas & Oil (UEOG) Working Group	There are no updates but the results of the survey are expected soon.
144	Scouts Bulb Planting	The bulb planting has been completed and the excess bulbs have been planted around the boundary signs. TC will write to Mr Sayle to thank the Scouts and other volunteers for their hard work.
145	Pond Trail	No update. TC will contact the web designer about adding an icon onto the front page of the website to link to the information available on the trail. It was agreed to add Crowmere to the next agenda to discuss the need to net the fish again. Townfield Lane pond – it was agreed there was no need to replace the bench that had rotten away.
146	Festival of Walks	Progress on agreeing the programme of walks and preparation of the leaflet was noted. As there are more walks it was suggested that a leaflet with more space was needed to ensure the font size was large enough to read. It was agreed to increase the budget to accommodate this.
147	Manley Road Copse	There is no update on when the trees will be felled. TC will contact the contractor again. Once a timetable has been agreed there will a press release explaining what is happening and why.
148	Urgent Matters	None.
149	Item for next agenda	Crowmere
150	Dates of next meetings:	It was agreed to change the meetings to Tuesday evenings. The next meeting will be Tuesday 7 February.