

Frodsham Town Council

Minutes of a Meeting of Frodsham Town Council

To be held on Monday 27 February 2017 at 7pm
At Castle Park House, Castle Park, Frodsham.



Present: Cllrs J Critchley, L Brown, D Critchley, R Holt, P Martin, V Kirk, M Nield, A Oulton, M Parker, F Pennington, M Poulton, T Reynolds and P Williamson.
Mrs H Catt (Town Clerk)

In Attendance: PCSO N Flanagan & Beat Manager Joe Duckworth, Cheshire Police; 1 member of the press and 11 members of the public.

Meeting 15

No	Item	Note/Decision/Action
193	Apologies	Cllrs C Ashton, L Jones and F Sutton had tendered their apologies and these were accepted.
194	Declarations of Interest	Cllr F Pennington – Frodsham Stroke Club, London Rd Allotments, Ineos and Frodsham Festival. Cllr M Nield – Park Lane, Red Lion Bowling Club and Fracking. Cllr P Williamson – Park Lane. Cllr V Kirk – Fracking. Cllr A Oulton – personal interest in Park Lane. Will be declaring an interest in 198.4 at the time.
195	Minutes of the Meeting No14 23 January 2017	The minutes were approved by majority as a true record and were signed by the chair – proposed and seconded by Cllrs F Pennington and D Critchley.
196	Right for the public to speak	
196.1	PCSO	Neil introduced his new Beat Manager Joe Duckworth, who is already known to some councillors. He then gave a verbal report including: Driver Engagement Day – Saturday 4 March Residents Meeting in Lakes Ward on 15 February – there were 11 residents as well as representatives from FTC and CWAC. Main issues raised were around Operation Shield and the helicopter. Residents Meeting for Castle Ward will be on Thursday 4 May at Castle Park House at 6.30pm. Bike Marking – Sunday 5 March at Helsby High School between 9am and 12noon. Panna Cage Football – Event was held at HHS on 17 February and involved over 150 pupils. Next events will be in the Easter holidays on Wednesday 12 April between 1-3pm at Salt Works Farm car park and HHS on Friday 21 April for the whole day. Road Safety – Neil will start his regular road safety courses with years 3 & 4 at Weaver Vale school on Thursday 16 and Tuesday 21 March. Police Surgeries – Wednesday 8 March at Castle Park House 11am-12noon and Costa Coffee on Wednesday 22 March 10-11am. Frodsham & Helsby Speed Watch Group – Neil informed council of the death of one of the volunteers, John Ashley, who was one of the original members of the group. Neil wanted to record his thanks to John for all his hard work and dedication making our road safer for everyone. Beat Manager Joe Duckworth – Joe explained that his role is to deal with on-going crimes and problem solving. He covers Ince, Helsby, Kingsley, Norley as well as Frodsham. Cllr F Pennington raised concerns about taxis parking and blocking in other cars – Joe encouraged anyone blocked in to report this to 101 so that the obstruction will be logged and dealt with.

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		<p>Cllr M Poulton reported that there had been a Waterside ward meeting last night and the issues raised related mostly to ASB and an individual – Joe & Neil are aware of the problem and it is in hand.</p> <p>Cllr R Holt raised concerns about speeding along Church Street especially around Eddisbury Square and Kingsway.</p>
196.2	Others	<p>Sonia Thomson, Frodsham Festival, gave Mark Rowlands' apologies as he is away working. She reported on a meeting CWAC had called to discuss the arrangements for the Festival and confirmed that it would not be moving to Castle Park this year. She expressed disappointment that Community committee had refused their application to use Ship St field as a car park as they had done in previous years. Cllr L Brown stated that Community committee hadn't been aware that the Festival wasn't moving to CP. The notes from the CWAC meeting will be circulated once TC is given permission to do so. Conditions have been agreed that include holding an early consultation with residents.</p> <p>Mrs P Scott read out the minute of the original decision to purchase the badges on 26 August 2014. The minutes state that councilors would be expected to pay for the badge themselves and she had been unable to find when that decision was changed. The chair thanked Mrs Scott for the information.</p>
197	Finance Management: 01.01.17 – 31.01.17	TC went through the sections of the report which was approved by majority – proposed and seconded by Cllrs M Poulton and L Brown.
197.1	Paid Expenditure	The total expenditure in January 2017 was noted as £21,785.29 .
197.2	Received Income	The total receipts in January 2017 was as £3,742.58 .
197.3	Bank Reconciliation	The total cash balances, after all considerations, at the end of January 2017, were £256,723.57 .
198	Committee Minutes	
198.1	Cemetery Committee 20.01.17	The minutes, and the decisions taken, were noted.
198.2	Environment Committee 7.02.17	<p>The minutes, and the decisions taken, were noted. Cllr A Oulton raised Frackfree Frodsham's request that FTC make a statement that they wouldn't support any application for fracking in Frodsham following the survey results at full council. Cllr V Kirk stated that the results from a very credible survey had shown that 77.7% of Frodsham residents thought that fracking was a bad thing.</p> <p>FTC has already voted to not allow fracking on any of its lands. Cllr A Dawson advised council to be careful before passing a blanket ban on fracking without seeing an actual application and would need to hold a referendum. As the timescale following the receipt of a planning application is quite short the potential for seeking permission to hold a referendum at the point any planning application for fracking was submitted could be presented to the Annual Town Meeting which will be held later this year.</p> <p>TC will be organising another Fracking Working Group – Cllr Dawson would be interested in attending.</p>
198.3	Community Committee 14.02.17	<p>The minutes and the decisions taken were noted.</p> <p>181 Ship Street Car Park - Cllr M Poulton felt that we would be creating a bigger problem for residents if we didn't allow the car park to be used especially as the Festival activities are being expanded. Cllr L Brown explained that last year PCSO Flanagan had specifically appealed to FTC to allow the car park to be used. Cllr A Oulton suggested maybe introducing a refundable deposit to cover any reparations. Cllr D Critchley suggested adult marshal should be used to control the parking. It was agreed to consider again allowing the car park to be used after the resident consultation event.</p>
203	CWAC Cllrs' Report	<p>This item was taken early as Cllr Dawson was expected at another meeting. Cllr L Riley had sent her apologies.</p> <p>Cllr A Dawson gave a verbal report including:</p>

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		<p>M53 is set to become a SMART motorway by 2020.</p> <p>Car Park Survey – Cllr Dawson congratulated Cllr Poulton on his report and suggested adding a piece about the issues of displacement on to neighbouring residential streets if charging is introduced.</p> <p>Council Tax setting meeting had been cancelled due to storm Doris and will be held on Thursday this week.</p> <p>Local Plan – Frodsham has only to find another 10 houses to meet its quota to 2030 if all that are planned are built. Need to ensure the Neighborhood Plan includes protecting existing green and allocates areas for building as this would confer outline planning permission.</p> <p>Planning committee – 7 March considering the Hoverforce application.</p> <p>Halton Curve – no thought has been given to parking.</p> <p>Runcorn Bridge Tolls - Cllr Dawson has spoken about this to George Osborne & the potential distortion of the market.</p> <p>Cllr Dawson then left the meeting.</p>
198.4	Community Committee 23.02.17	<p>Cllr A Oulton declared an interest and left the room.</p> <p>The meeting had been called to discuss the tenders. Cllrs F Pennington, P Martin and V Kirk all spoke in favour of the recommendation (R1) that the contractor, which submitted the lowest quotation (SLA £4,735.37 & Call-off £2,195.18) should be appointed for one year 2017-18. This was agreed unanimously.</p> <p>Cllr A Oulton returned to the meeting.</p>
198.5	P&P Committee 18.01.17	<p>The minutes, the decisions taken were noted, and the following recommendations considered:</p> <p>R1: To increase room hire and refreshment charges from 1 March – Agreed by majority – proposed and seconded by Cllrs F Pennington and L Brown.</p> <p>R2: To withdraw the Medium Term Financial Strategy document as it is out of date. Agreed by majority – proposed and seconded by Cllrs F Pennington and D Critchley.</p> <p>R3: An amendment to defer the decision until after the experiment with video was defeated – proposed and seconded by Cllrs T Reynolds and V Kirk.</p> <p>It was agreed by majority to purchase digital audio equipment @ £695+VAT, record all Council and Committee meeting and publish them from start of new Council year (May 2017) – proposed and seconded by Cllrs F Pennington and R Holt.</p> <p>R4: It was agreed by majority to cease the webcasts and concentrate on digital audio recording all council and committee meetings – proposed and seconded by Cllrs F Pennington and R Holt. Cllr A Oulton suggested that the protocol should be that people say their name before speaking or the chair should say the name when inviting them to speak.</p> <p>8.15pm Cllr P Martin left the meeting.</p> <p>R5: Cllr T Reynolds proposed that the negotiation should be put in the hands of an external agent but there was no seconder.</p> <p>A proposal to amend the recommendation to add 'to be accompanied by the chair' was agreed by majority – proposed and seconded by Cllrs M Poulton and L Brown.</p> <p>It was agreed by majority to delegate to TC, to be accompanied by the chair, to start negotiations around potentially taking a lease in the new office block being built on Gleave's old yard by Station car park – proposed and seconded by Cllrs F Pennington and M Poulton.</p> <p>R6: It was agreed by majority to adopt the revised Standing Orders – proposed and seconded by Cllr F Pennington and D Critchley.</p> <p>R7: The meeting schedule for 2017-18 was agreed by majority – proposed and seconded by Cllr F Pennington and D Critchley.</p>
199	Working Group Records	

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199.1	WW1 CWG	The minutes of the Steering Group meetings held on 17.02.17 were noted.
199.2	Neighbourhood Plan SG	The minutes of the Steering Group meetings held on 27.01.17, 3.02.17 and 17.02.17 were noted.
200	FYA	This item was deferred in Cllr L Jones absence.
201	Memorial Field	<p>The minutes were circulated at the meeting. Cllr M Nield, supported by Cllr Pennington, introduced the item and explained the need for legal advice at this stage, which help FTC make important decisions in the future.</p> <p>R1: It was agreed by majority that Cllrs J Critchley, M Nield and F Pennington should be delegated to meet with the Property Litigation specialist to seek legal advice and report back to Council. Cost would be £350+VAT – proposed and seconded by Cllrs F Pennington and A Oulton.</p> <p>Cllr F Pennington explained that up to 1987 the service always took place at the gates with the wreaths being placed at the War Memorial after the event. Forest Hills have closed the accessible footpath and people with mobility difficulties will find it difficult to get to the service if it is held at the War Memorial.</p> <p>R2: It was agreed unanimously that the Remembrance Service in November 2017 will be carried out at the gates rather than at the Memorial to avoid the access issues – proposed and seconded by Cllrs F Pennington and A Oulton.</p>
202	Special Motion	Cllr J Critchley explained that the inventory had been completed and there was no urgent need to order any further badges. TC has 3 badges in her possession but has been unable to find a further 2 that are missing. The Special Motion signed by Cllrs T Reynolds, M Nield, P Williamson and V Kirk reverse the decision to purchase ‘badges’ as passed at meeting 14 on 23 January 2017 was rejected by majority on the understanding that no badges are to be purchased anyway. It was suggested that P&P should review the whole policy.
203	CWAC Cllrs’ Report	Taken earlier in the meeting.
204	Chair’s Report	The chair reminded everyone that they should make sure their Declarations of Interest are kept up to date. TC will circulate to each councilor a copy of their existing Dol to check.
205	Mayor’s Report	<p>The Mayor gave a verbal report on his activities including:</p> <p>Neighbouring parishes meeting held to discuss issues of common concern including Halton Curve, Parking etc and another is planned for 16 March.</p> <p>Attended good Neighbourhood Plan Open Meeting with Junior Mayor Jack.</p> <p>Visited Buckley in North Wales & their Mayor is to visit Frodsham on 7 April.</p> <p>Coffee morning at the Parish Hall raised £165 despite the weather.</p> <p>He is very busy organising 3 big events – Pedal for Pounds, Ceilidh and St George’s Day Parade and weekend. So far the response to these has been very good with the Lord Lieutenant and the Lord Mayors of Chester and Liverpool agreeing to attend the Parade.</p>
206	Clerk’s Report	<p>TC had used the delegated powers from the Financial Regulations to commission work to clear a large tree branch that is across Churchwalk on health & safety grounds.</p> <p>Two trees fell during Doris visit in Manley Road Copse and have caused damage to a couple of properties – the home owners are assessing the damage and TC will contact our insurance company once quotations for repairs have been received.</p>
207	Date of next meeting	Monday 27 March 2017

Meeting ended 9pm.