

Frodsham Town Council
 Draft minutes (subject to confirmation) of the
Environment Committee
 held in Town Council Office, Castle Park
 On **Tuesday 4 July 2017**, at **7pm**



Present: Councillors A Oulton, L Brown, V Kirk, P Martin, F Sutton

In attendance: Mr T Blundell, Mr Joe Beswick, Ms L Kenny (Admin Officer), Mr P Morris (Facilities Manager)

AGENDA

Meeting 2

No	Item
24	Apologies for Absence Apologies were received from Cllrs C Ashton and L Brown were accepted.
25	Declarations of Interest None
26	Minutes of Meeting 1 held on 6 June 2017 The minutes were agreed and signed as a true record – proposed and seconded by Cllrs F Sutton and P Martin.
27	<p>Hob Hey Wood</p> <p>Ben Greenaway from Mersey Forest (MF) gave a short presentation on the involvement of MF with Hob Hey Wood, explaining that MF had worked with FTC to engage volunteers in woodland management tasks that improve access to the woodland and to formulate a management plan for the site. Working with the Trust for Conservation Volunteers generated 566 on-site volunteering hours and around 103 volunteer visits to improve over 500m of footpath, boardwalk and steps. Work included bridge and boardwalk repairs and drainage works (both along and under the structures) together with the replacement of the surface anti-slip wire mesh, path repair using imported stone, and cutting back vegetation.</p> <p>Frodsham Town Council funding of around £2,000 for materials unlocked £10,000 from the Heritage Lottery Funded Saltscape project, with volunteer hours valued at a further £5,000.</p> <p>Ben then presented the management plan in two parts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Forestry Commission woodland management plan document that can be used for Woodland Improvement Grant applications, should they become available. • A spreadsheet that can be used to carry out necessary regular safety inspections of the woodland infrastructure of trees, footpaths, bridges and board walks. This includes an audit of the pathways and some of the major tree and plant types within the woodland, with pointers to further vegetation survey work and an outline methodology. <p>Ben made a number of recommendations for further consideration by the Committee, including steps to control unwanted access to vulnerable areas within the woodland; securing improvements to access routes to the woodland; establishing a Friends' Group and regular volunteering opportunities in partnership with other organisations.</p> <p>Members noted the contents of the presentation and thanked Ben for the excellent work done in Hob Hey Wood, and the Chair welcomed the practical nature of the management plan and recommendations. It was agreed to study the management plan and give further consideration to the recommendations at a future meeting of the Committee.</p>
28	Opportunity for the Public to Speak No members of the public were in attendance.

No	Item
29	<p>Community Orchards</p> <p>Members had met on site immediately before the meeting. It was agreed that the first priority was to remove the fencing, taking care not to damage the adjoining footpath. The Facilities Manager would meet Cllrs Oulton and Sutton on site at 10am on 12 July to attempt to remove the fence. Cllr Oulton will temporarily store the materials, if necessary, and Cllr Kirk agreed to contact the Spirit of the Herd pony sanctuary to arrange delivery of the fencing panels to them, as previously agreed.</p> <p>A decision on the future of the site was deferred until after it is fully cleared, but options discussed included extending the community orchard, planting soft fruit and a herb garden for community use, and looking at improved signage. The Committee authorised Mr Blundell to explore possible funding with the Mersey Forest, which is consulting on community priorities for making Frodsham greener.</p>
30	<p>Howey Lane</p> <p>The FM pointed out that the road signs at the entrance to Howey Lane impose a weight limit of 7.5 tonnes except for vehicles over 14'6", yet it seems unlikely that there is this amount of clearance below the trees. It was agreed that the Town Clerk (TC) should write to CWaC Highways Department and draw their attention to the issue.</p>
31	<p>Tree Matters</p>
31.1 & 31.2	<p>The Committee noted that Mr Blundell had met an officer from CWaC and agreed a location for planting of a Korean Pine to commemorate Edward Kemp's bicentenary. CWaC Councillor Lynn Riley has agreed to fund the purchase of the tree.</p>
31.3	<p>The Committee noted the offer of a horse chestnut seedling. This was one of several offers of trees and, although members welcomed the offer of suitable native trees, it is important to avoid unsuitable planting that may cause future management problems, as with Manley Copse. In this instance they agreed to ask the resident to grow on the seedling for now, and FTC would seek a suitable site for it and other recently offered seedlings in the future.</p>
32	<p>Rights of Way Maintenance</p>
32.1	<p>The information from CWaC confirming that there is no right for vehicular access along Grassy Lane was noted and it was agreed the TC should contact CWaC to request replacement of Footpath fingerpost on Frodsham Footpath 52 where it turns NE towards Grassy Lane</p>
32.2	<p>Members considered a request from a resident for the Quay Side to Waterside path to be trimmed. The footpath is the responsibility of CWaC, but Cllr Martin offered to check it and trim any problem areas himself in the next few days.</p>
32.3	<p>Footpaths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The Facilities Manager (FM) reported that he had cleared fallen trees from two remote paths on Woodhouse Hill notified by a resident. The paths were marked in black on the footpath map. After discussion, it was decided that these paths were the responsibility of the Woodland Trust and the map was misleading. b) A list of overgrown footpaths had been received from a resident. It was agreed that the TC should check on responsibility and refer the reports to the relevant agency. c) The report from the FM that he was maintaining the footpaths leading to Hob Hey Wood from Townfield Lane and Bradley Lane was noted.

No	Item
33	<p>Manley Road Copse</p> <p>Mr Beswick reported that the bench had been repaired and returned to the site. It was agreed that the TC should write a letter of thanks on behalf of the Committee to the resident who carried out the repair free of charge. Mr Beswick will now repaint the tree and it was agreed to reimburse him the cost of the paint.</p> <p>Someone has planted a number of unsuitable trees on the site without permission. It was agreed that the FM would remove them. Mr Beswick will strim the area and he and the FM will arrange a suitable date to cut back the hedge adjoining the road.</p>
34	<p>Litter Picking</p>
34.1	<p>The purchase of 10 Handihoop bin bag holders at £6.80 each plus £5 delivery + VAT was agreed.</p>
34.2	<p>It was agreed to hold the next litter pick on Saturday 9 September at 9:30am for the area adjoining the railway line at the rear of the Queens Head pub, and try to get the pub involved. Cllr Oulton reported that a pile of advertising flyers had been dumped behind the fence and it was agreed to try to identify the source and raise the issue with the producers of the material, and report it to CWaC as fly-tipping.</p>
35	<p>River Weaver Navigation Society</p> <p>Cllr Martin reported back on his attendance at a meeting of RWNS. The society is working on a number of big projects around the River Weaver in Winsford and Northwich. RWNS would eventually like to partner with Frodsham in the same way as it does with other towns on the river. It was agreed to make the RWNS a standing item on the agenda, and to invite a speaker from the society to talk to the Committee at its September meeting.</p> <p>Mr Beswick raised an issue about ownership of land adjacent to Frodsham Cut near Bowden's Lock: Cllr Martin agreed to make enquiries at the next meeting. Mr Beswick will provide some historical information to Cllr Martin.</p>
36	<p>Clerk's Items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The CWaC Public Rights of Way Officer now responsible for Frodsham is Pete Atkinson. b) Mersey Forest have informed the Council of two informal drop-in sessions to help shape a programme of environmental improvements and activities in and around Frodsham, to be held at Bew & Tucker on 6 July 1-4pm and 8 July 10am-12 noon. c) CWaC is holding a drop in meeting on 20 July 1pm-8pm at the Community Centre about the Frodsham Air Quality Management Plan – the consultation ends 27 July. Members agreed to invite Martin Doyle from CWaC to attend next meeting of the Committee to report on the feedback from the consultation. d) The UEOG Working Group meeting has been arranged for 5 July at 7pm.
37	<p>Date of the next meeting: Tuesday 1 August at 7pm at CPH.</p>

Meeting closed at 9:10pm

Members of Committee: Councillors C Ashton, L Brown, V Kirk, P Martin, A Oulton (Chair), F Sutton (Vice Chair) & P Williamson