

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



**Present:** Cllrs A Oulton (Chair – arrived 7.10pm), C Ashton and P Martin.  
 Mrs H Catt (Town Clerk) and Mr P Morris (Facilities Manager)

**In Attendance:** Cllr J Critchley, Mr T Blundell, Mr J Beswick and 4 representatives of  
 Tarvin Community Woodland Trust.

At 7pm the meeting was inquorate as Cllr A Oulton was held up in traffic. Those present agreed to Tarvin Community Woodland Trust giving their presentation. Mr C Bradley gave a brief history outlining how the Trust was established. Initially the woodland was created when a new road was built orphaning the area. The driving force behind the setting up of the Woodland was Cllr J Grogan who persuade the Parish Council to get a gardening licence for the area. 25 years later the land is now owned by the Trust, which is a Company Limited by Guarantee with 9-10 Trustees, following asset transfer from CWAC and additional land being donated by a house building firm. The Woodland Trust has active groups of volunteers which help to manage the woodland. The local school, which has a has a shared boundary, is also involved. They feel that communication has been the key to their success and includes a newsletter to every household twice a year, own website, monthly bulletins, emails to volunteers each week about what happening that week, social media and local press. They have a Management Plan and maintenance fund, which includes a dowry from the house builder. Most of their money comes from fund-raising. The main differences between this and Hob Hey Wood are that that HHW is owned by FTC, it is not grossly over planted, and it is away from the main population centre and many people don't know about it. There is a standing invitation to visit TCWT and the offer to share information in the future. Cllr Oulton thanked them for attending.

**Meeting 5** Started at 7.45pm.

No	Item
70	<b>Apologies for Absence</b> None at the meeting. Cllr Brown apologies after the meeting as she was stuck in traffic.
71	<b>Declarations of Interest</b> None
72	<b>Minutes of Meeting 4 held on 4 October 2017</b> The minutes were <b>agreed</b> as a true record and signed by the chair – proposed and seconded by Cllrs C Ashton and P Martin.
73	<b>Opportunity for the Public to Speak</b> None
74	<b>Tarvin Community Woodland Trust</b> The presentation from the Trust about their experience of community management of woods took place before the start of the meeting.
75	<b>Hob Hey Wood</b> Campaign for volunteers – should be started in the New Year – agenda item for meeting in January. Although Cllr Pennington had been told that the Woodland Trust would be interested in leasing or buying the wood, the Trust has confirmed that they do not have any plans for the next 10 years to expand their land ownership or responsibilities. The management plan needs to be a single agenda item meeting.
76	<b>Cheshire's Sandstone Ridge</b> Representatives of the Sandstone Ridge Trust have been invited to speak at the next council meeting about their work. Issues were raised about where the responsibilities for the Trust lay and what was the difference between the Ridge and the Trail. It was <b>agreed</b> to defer the decision about the straplins to the boundary signs until the next meeting.

Committee: Cllr C Ashton, Cllr L Brown, Cllr P Martin, Cllr A Oulton, Cllr F Sutton & Cllr P Williamson  
 Town Clerk: Mrs H Catt

No	Item
77	<p><b>End of Year Forecast</b> The actual figures for the half year and the end of year forecast were noted.</p>
78	<p><b>Action Plan &amp; Budget 2018-19</b> The Action Plan for 2018-19 was discussed and the following headings were suggested: Rights of Way Hob Hey Wood Manley Road Copse Marshlands – to include path re-edging. FM to measure the lengths and TC will check on previous costs. This work could be spread across several years. Cllr Oulton will use the area to train a team of Network Rail personal in tree management and clearance techniques, which will open it up. FM reported that additional security measures will be needed to stop the ‘rat run’ at the back of the site. The area has been cleared ready for the fireworks at the Christmas Festival. Community Orchards – management plan, herb garden and soft fruit. A draft Action Plan will be represented to the next meeting.</p>
79	<p><b>Manley Copse</b></p>
79.1	<p>It was noted that applications have been made to the Woodland Trust for Copse &amp; Hedging Packs. Although quotes have been received it was agreed to wait to see if the Woodland Trust applications are successful before deciding</p>
79.2	<p>Development of the Copse – there will be a meeting with residents to discuss the planting. Covenant on the land says we need to preserve the natural aspect, features and animal &amp; plant life. All planting will be to minimize future maintenance costs.</p>
79.3	<p>Centenary Field – this was mentioned at the Playing Fields Association AGM. It was felt that this might put people off visiting but more information was needed.</p>
80	<p><b>Commemorative Trees Policy</b> Every tree planted has the potential to be a problem in the future so adopting existing trees may be a better idea. WW1 Commemoration Group has decided that they don’t want to single out any single campaign so they have withdrawn their request. Cllr Oulton proposed, seconded by Cllr Martin, to leave the scheme as it is, except for the removal of the cemetery as a site, and to deal with any applications on a case by case basis – this was <b>agreed</b>. The charges need to be reviewed and this was referred to Finance Scrutiny Sub-committee.</p>
81	<p><b>Tree Matters</b></p>
81.1	<p>Howey Lane – TC provided the land registry map showing FTC’s ownership of the trees along the road and under Highways Act 1980 we are therefore responsible for their maintenance. There has been no response from National Grid to the letter about ownership of the Sweet Chestnut tree. The trees on the other side of the road are also part of the problem so those residents need to be involved. It was <b>agreed</b> that a working group should be set up involving local residents and Highways to agree an action plan and budget for maintenance of the trees. Five Crosses and Overton ward cllrs will be invited to attend. TC will seek quotations for the work after the working group meeting.</p>
81.2	<p>It was <b>agreed</b> that we would accept the grant from CWAC Cllrs members budget for the Kemp Tree and pay the nursery.</p>
82	<p><b>Community Orchard</b> The contractor has been appointed to level and grass the old children’s play area. TC will contact them to see when the work will be carried out. There had been significant damage done to the existing 24 trees and this has been reported as criminal damage to the Police. Some of the trees can be pruned and should survive. Unfortunately nearby CCTV does not provide coverage of the affected area. It was <b>agreed</b> that an additional 12 trees will be added to the existing order and FTC will pay for these – proposed and seconded by Cllrs A Oulton and P Martin. Cllr Martin will put an item on facebook about the incident and to seek volunteers to help with this and other environmental events. FM will remove the dead trees and store the stakes until replanting in January – date to be agreed with the Scouts.</p>
83	<p><b>Memorial Field</b> It was <b>agreed</b> to have one last go at establishing a poppy area and to purchase poppy seeds @ £20+VAT – proposed and seconded by Cllrs A Oulton and C Ashton.</p>

No	Item
84	<p><b>Rights of Way Maintenance</b></p> <p>There are still issues with sign posting by the Twiggery and at the end of Straight Length – TC will contact CWAC again.</p> <p>Motorbikes have obliterated the footpath under the motorway – TC will also report this.</p> <p>CWAC have done some clearance work around the ponds at Saltworks.</p>
85	<p><b>Litter Picking</b></p> <p>Cllr Martin is working with Mrs P Scott on planning future events. It was <b>agreed</b> to start again in the New Year.</p>
86	<p><b>River Weaver Navigation Society</b></p> <p>There have been no further meetings - Cllr Martin will follow this up.</p>
87	<p><b>Terms of Reference</b></p> <p>The Terms of Reference were reviewed and amended to reflect changes following the setting up of the Events Committee, to correct 3rd bullet point under 2.1 to say Chair and Deputy Chair and to add Manley Road Copse, Marl Pits, Crowmere &amp; Community Orchards into the objectives. It was <b>agreed</b> to recommend these to council – <b>R1</b>.</p>
88	<p><b>Clerk's Items</b></p> <p>None.</p>
89	<p><b>Date of the next meeting:</b> Tuesday 5 December at 7pm at Castle Park House.</p>

Meeting ended 9.10pm.

**R1:** To agree the revised Terms of Reference.

Committee: Cllr C Ashton, Cllr L Brown, Cllr P Martin, Cllr A Oulton, Cllr F Sutton & Cllr P Williamson  
Town Clerk: Mrs H Catt

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