

Frodsham Town Council



Minutes to attend a Meeting of Frodsham Town Council

held on Monday 25 September 2017 at 7pm
At Castle Park House, Castle Park, Frodsham.

Junior Mayor Investiture

A short session was held at 6.45pm to introduce the new Junior Mayors, Kay Thompson and Michael Morgan-Astle, and to thank the retiring ones, Lily Nicholson and Jack Dewhurst, for their contribution.

Present: Cllr J Critchley (Chair), C Ashton, L Brown, D Critchley, L Jones, P Martin, M Nield, A Oulton, F Pennington, M Poulton, T Reynolds and P Williamson.
Mrs H Catt, Town Clerk

In Attendance: CWAC Cllrs A Dawson & L Riley, PCSO N Flanagan & Chief Inspector M Evans, 20 members of the public and 1 member of the press.

Meeting 5

No	Item
86	Apologies Apologies had been received and were accepted from Cllrs M Parker and F Sutton.
87	Declarations of Interest Cllr F Pennington – London Road Allotments, Frodsham Stroke Club and INEOS Cllr M Nield – Park Lane, Red Lion Bowling Club and INEOS. Cllrs P Williamson & A Oulton – Park Lane Cllr Poulton - St Laurence's PCC, Deanery Synod and Diocesan President for the Children's Society for Chester Diocese. Cllrs L Jones & D Critchley – Frodsham Youth Association
88	Minutes of the Meeting No 4 – 24 July 2017 Cllr M Nield asked that his declaration should be amended to include INEOS. Following this amendment, the minutes were approved and signed as a true record – proposed and seconded by Cllrs F Pennington and D Critchley.
7.05pm Cllr P Williamson arrived.	
89	Michael Evans, Chief Inspector Chester LPU Chief Inspector Evans explained the process the Police are undertaking and that the service to be provided at the Fire Station would be the same as currently available at the Police Station. It would also allow for greater collaboration between the Fire and Police services. The consultation period had been extended by 24 hours to allow FTC's comments to be included.
90	Police Station Consultation Cllrs were generally in agreement with the move. Cllr Poulton congratulated the PCC's office for attending the market and providing information about the proposal. Cllr Oulton had previous experience of combined service centres and they worked really well. Cllr Jones asked if the funding raised could be used to fund CCTV. Cllr Pennington would be glad to see the monstrosity removed and wondered if there was room for the ambulance service. Chief Inspector Evans will feed these comments into the consultation.
91	Right for the public to speak
91.1	PCSO Neil gave a verbal report including: ASB – has been on the increase over the summer and extra police patrols have been introduced especially in identified 'hot spot' areas. Facebook – Neil has received negative feedback to posts about the deployment of Smiley Sid so has stopped putting information out about it. Residents Meeting planned for Thursday 12 October for Overton & 5 Crosses Ward to be

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	<p>held at Frodsham CoE Primary School at 6.30pm. Let's Walk road safety programme – he is starting this year at Weaver Vale Primary School. Halloween & Bonfire Night – he will be talking to years 5 & 6 and Helsby High School in the run up to these events. Police Surgeries – 11 & 25 October at Castle Park House – 11am-12noon and 10-11am respectively. Concern was expressed about the lack of a session at Costa Coffee and agreed to look at this again.</p>
91.2	<p><u>Mrs P Scott – Bus Shelter Challenge</u> – Mrs Scott circulated a short paper outlining the proposal to be considered later on the agenda. Annual Town Meeting - Mrs Scott was outraged at the Review of the ATM paper that had been circulated. She felt it contained a lot of irrelevant information and was an attempt to 'pass the buck'. She was concerned about the lack of honesty and openness.</p>
91.3	<p><u>Mr M Garvey - Unconventional Extraction of Oil and Gas Working Group.</u> Mr Garvey gave a brief history about the Working Group and asked for council's support for a further meeting to test the appetite and desire for the group.</p>
91.4	<p><u>Mr D Whyte on behalf of Frodsham & District Taxis Frodsham - Private Hire Parking Spaces.</u> Mr Whyte explained the difficulties that the taxi firm has loading customers into the vehicles due to the parking problem, especially for disabled people. They have requested 2 disabled passenger taxi places outside the office and have the support of the PCSO, PCC and Cllr Poulton. They are committed to being a good neighbour.</p>
92	<p>Finance Management: 01.07.17 – 31.08.17 The finance report was noted. Cllr Pennington thanked the Clerk for a very clear report.</p>
92.1	<p><u>Paid Expenditure</u> The total expenditure in July & August 2017 was £27,022.99 was noted.</p>
92.2	<p><u>Received Income</u> The total receipts in July & August 2017 was £21,053.65 were noted.</p>
92.3	<p><u>Bank Reconciliation</u> It was noted that, after all considerations, the total cash balances at the end of August 2017 were £399,230.12.</p>
93	<p>Finance Management: 01.05.17 – 30.06.17 The revised Finance Report was noted. Cllr Reynolds asked for information about the expenditure under the Promoting Frodsham heading – TC will circulate this after the meeting once she has checked the cash book.</p>
94	<p>Committee Minutes</p>
94.1a	<p><u>Environment Committee</u> – 1.08.17 It was noted that the meeting was cancelled as it was inquorate.</p>
94.1b	<p><u>Environment Committee</u> – 5.09.17 The minutes of the meeting and the decisions taken were noted. The recommendation was discussed – Cllrs F Pennington and M Nield did not take part in the discussion or later in the vote. It was agreed to amend the proposal to say: Without prejudice to the remit of the FTC Planning Committee, FTC objects to the carrying out of shale gas or coal gas methane testing or extraction in all areas under the jurisdiction of FTC until such time as the Town Council is convinced as to the safety of the process and that the risk of adverse environmental impacts have been fully addressed – proposed and seconded by Cllrs M Poulton and A Oulton. Cllr Reynolds requested a recorded vote. The amended motion, proposed and seconded by Cllrs M Poulton and A Oulton, was agreed. Recorded vote: For – Cllrs C Ashton, M Poulton, D Critchley, P Martin, T Reynolds, P Williamson, L Brown, A Oulton and J Critchley. Against – None. Abstentions – Cllr L Jones.</p>
94.2a	<p><u>P&P Committee</u> – 14.08.17 It was noted that the meeting was cancelled as there was insufficient business to transact.</p>

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94.2b	<p><u>P&P Committee</u> – 11.09.17</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting and the decisions taken were noted. It was agreed to take all the recommendations on-block except R7 – proposed and seconded by Cllrs M Poulton and F Pennington.</p> <p>R7: Cllr Reynolds raised concerns about Section 1 but this had already been approved at the council meeting on 24 April. The motion to approve and accept the Annual Return, including the External Auditor’s Certificate was agreed – proposed and seconded by Cllrs J Critchley and Poulton.</p> <p>The following recommendation were all agreed on block:</p> <p>R1: To commission the Valuation Office Agency to revalue FTC’s land at Ship Street at a cost of £1,500+VAT – proposed and seconded by Cllrs Poulton and Pennington.</p> <p>R2: To renew the 3-year Service Contract for the Town Clock at £621+VAT; the Church Street clock is not covered by the service contract and is difficult to access. Ad hoc arrangements will be made for repair should it fail – proposed and seconded by Cllrs J Critchley and F Pennington.</p> <p>R3: To set up an Events Committee with its own budget – proposed and seconded by Cllrs J Critchley and Poulton.</p> <p>R4: To increase the Administrative Officer’s working time by three hours a week for work on the Council website at an annual cost of £1799.73, subject to review after one year – proposed and seconded by Cllrs J Critchley and Poulton.</p> <p>R5: To purchase two replacement laptops @ £1,889.63+VAT. This price comprises £619.23+VAT each for the laptops, £16.68+VAT for a USB DVD drive, 4 years’ on-site warranty, delivery and half a day on-site technical support to set up the laptops and transfer software and data – proposed and seconded by Cllrs Poulton and Pennington.</p> <p>R6: Due to the age, condition and extremely low mileage of the existing 2-year-old leased Council van, to purchase it at the end of the lease period at a one-off cost of £8,675+VAT, subject to the TC investigating whether any discount is available on the quoted price – proposed and seconded by Cllrs Pennington and Poulton.</p> <p>R8: To enter into a 3-year contract for Internal Auditor services @ £488+VAT per annum – proposed and seconded by Cllrs Pennington and Poulton.</p> <p>R9: To request a grant from the Police & Crime Commissioner for £5,000 towards the cost of CCTV in the Town Centre – proposed and seconded by Cllrs J Critchley and Pennington.</p> <p>R10: To set up a working group with CWAC councillors, PCSO and other interested parties to design and cost the CCTV system – proposed and seconded by Cllrs Pennington and Poulton.</p>
94.3a	<p><u>Community Committee</u> – 15.08.17</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting and the decisions taken were noted.</p>
94.3b	<p><u>Community Committee</u> – 19.09.17</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting and the decisions taken were noted. It was agreed to take the following recommendations on-block – proposed and seconded by Cllrs M Poulton and F Pennington.</p> <p>The following recommendations were agreed:</p> <p>R1. To agree to sign the 25-year lease for Townfield Play Area – proposed and seconded by Cllrs J Critchley and M Poulton.</p> <p>R2. To agree the final design, costs (31,907+VAT) with payment 50% in advance & 50% on completion and timetable for the new play area at Park Lane – proposed and seconded by Cllrs M Poulton and A Oulton.</p> <p>R3. To agree to rolled over the provision of hanging basket contract for a second year and to get the current contractor to take the baskets down and store them until next year at £375+VAT – proposed and seconded by Cllrs M Poulton and A Oulton.</p> <p>R5. To agree the quotation for the refurbishing the benches @ £1,001.50+VAT – proposed and seconded by Cllrs M Poulton and A Oulton.</p> <p>R6. To agree to contribute £274.62 towards the cost of the new bench – proposed and seconded by Cllrs M Poulton and J Critchley.</p> <p>There was discussion around the following recommendation:</p>

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	<p>R4. To consider the following options for the New Year's Eve Fireworks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leave the display where it is with professional marshals • Move to a site with no spectators • Don't hold the fireworks display. <p>There were concerns about safety at the firework event and it was agreed, proposed and seconded by Cllrs T Reynolds and P Martin: To hold the event at a site recommended by the marshalling company with a budget of up to £3,000+VAT To refer to the new Events Committee to finalise the arrangements. TC to check with the insurance company that they are happy with this arrangement.</p>
94.4a	<p><u>Planning Committee</u> – 31.07.17 The minutes of the meeting and the decisions taken were noted.</p>
94.4b	<p><u>Planning Committee</u> – 14.08.17 The minutes of the meeting and the decisions taken were noted.</p>
94.4c	<p><u>Planning Committee</u> – 25.09.17 The minutes of the meeting and the decisions taken were noted.</p>
94.5	<p><u>Cemetery Committee</u> It was noted the next meeting is planned for 6 October</p>
95	Working Group Records
95.1	<p><u>WW1 Commemorative Working Group</u> To minutes of the Working Group meetings held on 16.08.17 & 30.08.17 were noted.</p>
95.2	<p><u>Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group</u> To minutes of the Steering Group meetings held on 27.07.17, 10.08.17, 25.08.17, 4.09.17 & 18.09.17 were noted.</p>
96	Office Accommodation – There was no update.
97	Annual Town Meeting
97.1	<p>A paper outlining the rationale behind the arrangements for the meeting in 2017 had been circulated. The council's aim had been to encourage greater attendance and participation by the public. Cllr Reynolds agreed with comments made by Mrs Scott and felt that council had been misled. Cllrs A Oulton and M Poulton denied being misled over the issue and indicated they had full confidence in the Town Clerk and chairman. Cllr F Pennington moved progress. Cllr Reynolds asked to join P&P and Community committee and this was accepted.</p>
97.2	<p>It was agreed to defer the recommendations in the report about the arrangement for next year to the new Events Committee.</p>
98	<p>Royal British Legion RBL had requested a public apology following comments made at a previous council meeting had undermined the work of the branch and impacted on their fund-raising. Cllrs A Oulton and M Poulton felt that they had apologised on behalf of the council at the last meeting. FTC had previously awarded the Branch Freedom of Frodsham in recognition of their good work but the Branch has a low profile at the moment. It was agreed that FTC should apologise for any upset that may have been caused inadvertently – proposed and seconded by Cllr C Ashton and T Reynolds. TC will circulate a draft of the apology to council and it should be signed by the Chair and Mayor.</p>
99	CWAC
99.1	<p><u>CWAC Cllrs' Report</u> – Cllrs A Dawson and L Riley gave a verbal report including: Parking Strategy – They have called-in the decisions about parking charges that will impact residents and businesses in Frodsham. In FTC's survey ¾ of those that responded didn't agree with charges at all. Protos – Unfortunately FTC wasn't represented at the meeting last week (Cllr Ashton was away on holiday). There were 2 embargoed (until midnight tonight) items, which FTC should watch out for. TC will contact them to see if we can send deputies to future meetings if required. Response to controversial planning applications – FTC could convene a meeting of its</p>

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	<p>community to inform them and to trigger a Parish Poll eg over UEOG applications. Cllr J Critchley has already asked CWAC Democratic Services for the costs of running such a referendum. Other issues could be included eg parking charges. An item will be added to P&P agenda to discuss this further.</p> <p>Electoral Review of Cheshire West and Chester – suggested boundary changes for Frodsham reflected those already made for the Town Council.</p> <p>Local Plan Working Group – final recommendation have been published and re-siting the Recycle Centre has not been included.</p> <p>Air Quality – there is a draft consultation document on emissions – FTC could develop a Low Carbon Strategy.</p>
99.2	<p><u>CWAC Cllr Shore</u> – Cllr M Poulton on progress that has been made following the walk about meeting including:</p> <p>Potholes – are being assessed and prioritised.</p> <p>New CWAC officers have been asked to contact TC to arrange meetings to discuss the issues raised. The recent re-organisation means our old contacts have moved on.</p> <p>Salt Works – work has been carried out to improve the area around the ponds. There is planned to be an Impact Day next year involving CWAC and FTC.</p> <p>She suggests we invite the new MP Mike Amesbury to a future meeting as he is now a resident in Frodsham.</p>
99.3	<p><u>Electoral Review of Cheshire West and Chester</u>. This was dealt with in CWAC Cllr's report.</p>
100	<p>Private Hire Parking Spaces</p> <p>Cllr Poulton reported he had written to CWAC about parking outside of businesses, which included supporting the 2 disabled parking bays, following the matter being raised by residents in his ward. Cllr J Critchley suggested that FTC should be involved in decisions about changes to parking in Frodsham. Cllr Shore has stated at the previous CWAC meeting</p>
101	<p>CHALC Annual Meeting – 19 October 2017</p> <p>It was agreed that the regular attenders at the Parish Forum and Cllr F Pennington will attend on behalf of FTC. Cllr Reynolds will also attend.</p>
102	<p>Bus Shelter Challenge</p> <p>It was agreed that FTC would be involvement in the working group being set up by Mrs P Scott and that Cllr Reynolds would be our representative. TC will circulate details of the meeting and anyone else interested could attend.</p>
103	<p>Chair's Report</p> <p>Election for the vacancy in Overton and Five Crosses has been called on 19 October and there are 2 candidates.</p>
104	<p>Mayor's Report</p> <p>Cllr Oulton reported that he has been out and about and very busy. He attended a charity walk in Blackpool, Winsford Salt Fair and has had a busy weekend with local events. He regularly puts information on our website about his activities.</p>
105	<p>Clerk's Report – Nothing to add.</p>
106	<p>Date of next meeting - Monday 27 November 2017</p>

Meeting ended 9.10pm.