

Frodsham Town Council
Minutes of a meeting of the
Environment Committee

held in Town Council Office, Castle Park
on **Tuesday 6 June 2017**, at 7pm



Present: Cllrs A Oulton, C Ashton, L Brown, V Kirk, P Martin and F Sutton.

In Attendance: Mr T Blundell, Mr Joe Beswick, Mrs H Catt (Town Clerk), Mr P Morris (Facilities Manager), Ms L Kenny (Admin Officer) and 2 members of the public.

Meeting 1

No	Item
1	To elect the Chair It was agreed that Cllr A Oulton would serve as Chair until the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2018 – proposed and seconded by Cllrs F Sutton and L Brown.
2	To elect the Vice Chair It was agreed that Cllr F Sutton would serve as Vice Chair until the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2018 – proposed and seconded by Cllrs A Oulton and L Brown.
	It was agreed to take items 8 & 9 at this point.
8	Opportunity for the Public to Speak Mrs Albeson & Mrs Lightfoot explained that it had been 15 months since they last attended to discuss the issues on Howey Lane and they had come to give an update. They had meetings with CWAC Cllrs, Highways Department and Graham Evans MP. They have started a petition to get 20 mile an hour speed restriction and have 200 signatures to date. As they talk to residents many have had incidents on the road such as pet deaths and injuries, people being hit or clipped by cars and many are scared to walk down Howey Lane. The 7.5 ton limit is regularly ignored. They are also concerned about the trees that overhang the road in the Pinmill Close area which appear to be from Churchfields, which make the road very dark.
9	Howey Lane Cllr Oulton expressed sympathy for the problems but explained that FTC has not the highways authority and has no more influence on CWAC Highways Department than residents themselves. A 20 mile an hour limit is only advisory and is unenforceable – it has made no difference on Park Lane. It was agreed that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Oulton and FM would carry out a survey of the trees and bring a report back to the next meeting. • TC would write to CWAC Highways Department to raise the issues and to ask for additional signage to encourage people to use other routes and to warn drivers about pedestrians in the road. She will also mention that the sleeping policemen have become degraded due to the heavy traffic levels. • Local resident should report all incidents including near misses to 101 so that they get properly recorded with an incident number. • The petition should be sent to the Head of Highways and copied to the Chief Executive and CWAC Cllrs L Riley and A Dawson.
3	Terms of Reference for 2017-18
3.1	The Terms of Reference approved by council on 22 May were noted.
3.2	The budget will be kept under review.
4	Apologies for Absence None.
5	Declarations of Interest Cllr F Sutton – Crowmere, Marl Pits and Footpath 17. Cllr V Kirk – Frack Free Frodsham & Helsby Cllr C Ashton - Trinity Gardens

No	Item
6	Minutes of Meeting 12 held on 2 May 2017 The minutes were agreed & signed as a true record – proposed and seconded by Cllrs P Martin and L Brown.
7	Matters Arising – this item should not have been included.
8 & 9	These items were taken earlier.
10	Tree Matters
10.1	CWAC response about the maintenance of the bank of mature trees on Red lane leading up to the junction with Fluin lane was noted. Contractors had been seen at the site. TC to contact CWAC Tree Officer to ask for an update.
10.2	Kemp tree on Castle Park TC has been in email contact with CWAC and will report back when she has an update on the situation.
10.3	Trinity Gardens The advice given by Mr T Blundell to the Management Company was noted. The issue relates to lack of signal on a satellite dish – Cllr Oulton suggested it was more likely to be rust on the dish. Cllr Oulton gave a quick explanation of how satellite dishes receive their signals. Any work on the tree would need planning permission as there was a blanket TPO in the conservation area.
10.4	Castle Park Tree Trail The survey carried out by Mr T Blundell was noted. TC will pass this onto the relevant CWAC Officer. Mr Blundell reported that the replacement Tulip Tree has died. One of the beeches has blown down and he has the plaque for the Elephant Beech behind the bowling green. Mr Blundell was thanked for his hard work on the tree trail.
11	Rights of Way Maintenance
11.1	NCRUG letter The response from CWAC that the matter has been forwarded to Highways was noted.
11.2	Footpaths <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Kingsway/ Pinmill Croft – Cllr Sutton will report the problem to CWAC. b. Footpath on the Community field – This has been reported and the contractors are dealing with it. c. Hoverforce – TC will chase up the new signs. Any obstruction of footpaths should be reported on the Smyle app or the ‘Report It’ section on CWAC’s website. d. Footpath down to Hob Hey Wood – FM is happy to help with strimming to keep this clear.
12	Manley Road Copse
12.1	A substantial and smart fence has been built to fill the gap in the hedge. TC reported that the insurance company have agreed to pay out for the damage caused to the neighbours by the fallen tree but only as the council had the report which stated that the trees were diseased. There will be an excess to pay
12.2	Plans for the Copse It had already been agreed to leave the Copse to see what comes up now that there is more light. Some residents had started to offer trees and plants but this should be discouraged until next year. TC will contact them to let them know the plan.
12.3	The bench Mr Beswick is working with one of the neighbours, who works for a fabrication company, to restore the bench by making metal legs that extend into the ground for stability.
13	Community Orchards
13.1	It was agreed to hold a site meeting to discuss extension plans for Ship Street at 6.30pm, just before the next Environment Meeting on 4 July, which would just consider this and Manley Road Copse plans. A short management plan will be written for each area.
13.2	It was agreed to increase the schedule of grass cutting at Ship Street community orchards to once a month.
13.3	A short video made by CWAC to celebrate volunteering was shown, which highlighted the work of Frodsham Transition Initiative and the Community Orchards.

No	Item
14	Hob Hey Wood
14.1	Boardwalks The repair work has been completed and everyone is very pleased with the results. Members of the public have also commented on the great improvements.
14.2	5 year Plan – no update. TC will contact Mersey Forest and ask for an update for the August Environment meeting.
15	Memorial Field FM has weed killed the area and Mr Blundell has hoed and sprinkled more seeds. Little seedlings are coming up, which hopefully will be poppies. Mr Blundell reminded TC about the need to cut the area in October.
16	Festival of Walks The report from the Festival of Walks Working Group was noted. Over 850 people took part over the 10 day festival. Using social media and good weather were felt to have increased the number. Ways of managing the booking in at the walks were being considered for next year. One of the events, which was sponsored by Saltscape this year, was very oversubscribed and a proposal for the budget to be increased to pay for this next year was considered. Mr Beswick reported that he used to lead such walks and would be interested in helping with this next year. The matter was referred back to the Working Group.
17	Litter Picking
17.1	Fifteen people attended the Salt Works event on 13 May.
17.2	Cllr Martin agreed to plan future events and would see if Frodsham Life and the Standard would provide publicity and invite people to highlight areas that needed doing. TC to look at the cost of getting hoops to hold the bags open which makes it easier.
17.3	It was noted that the bin on Alvanley Terrace was being actioned.
18	Crowmere TC had received one quotation for biochemical oxygen demand testing. TC to get further quotations before a decision can be made.
19	River Weaver Navigation Society Cllr Martin has spoken to the Chairman and is going to attend their next meeting. They are interested in holding a regatta in Frodsham. TC to chase the Canal Trust about the ownership of Bowden Lock.
20	Air Quality The ongoing consultation was noted. Individual councillors could make their own personal response.
21	UEOG Working Group A date for the next meeting has not been agreed yet.
22	Clerk's Items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Cllr Martin has a 3ft oak tree growing in his garden and suggested it could be moved and planted elsewhere in November time if a suitable site could be found. b. Local History – Mr Beswick reported that a project looking at what properties on Main Street used to be is being developed by Frodsham History Society. c. Margaret Warren, Project Co-ordinator, Cheshire Waste Reduction Volunteers would like to meet with the committee to talk about her work. It was agreed TC would arrange a meeting and let people know when it was happening rather than wait for a future Environment committee meeting.
23	Date of the next meeting: Tuesday 4 July at 7pm at CPH – 6.30pm site meeting at Ship Street Community Garden – agenda to concentrate on Ship Street Community Garden and Manley Road Copse development and management plans. Tuesday 1 August 7pm at CPH – usual agenda including poppies and Kemp tree.

Meeting ended 9.25pm

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