

Frodsham Town Council
Minutes of a meeting of the
Environment Committee
held in Town Council Office, Castle Park
On **Tuesday 2 January 2018**, at **7pm**



Present: Cllrs A Oulton (Chair), C Ashton and P Martin.

In Attendance: Cllr J Critchley, Ms L Kenny (Administrative Officer) and Mr P Morris (Facilities Manager)

Meeting 6 Started at 7.45pm.

No	Item
90	Apologies for absence Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr L Brown.
91	Declarations of Interest Cllr A Oulton is a self-employed trainer and assessor for land-based topics and health and safety.
92	Minutes of Meeting 5 held on 7 November 2017 The minutes were agreed as a true record and signed by the chair – proposed and seconded by Cllrs C Ashton and P Martin.
93	Opportunity for the Public to Speak No members of the public were present.
94	Manley Copse
94.1	It was noted that the Woodland Trust has approved the Council's application for free copse and hedge packs to plant at Manley Copse.
94.2	It was agreed to arrange a community planting event on 18 February, subject to the Woodland Trust being able to deliver the tree packs in time – proposed and seconded by Cllrs C Ashton and P Martin. The Administrative Officer (AO) was asked to liaise with the Trust and arrange the hire of a chipper and to invite local residents. Cllr A Oulton will supervise residents using the chipper.
94.3	After reviewing information on the Fields in Trust (formerly National Playing Fields Association)'s Centenary Field scheme and considering its applicability to Manley Copse, it was agreed to take no action – proposed and seconded by Cllrs C Ashton and P Martin.
95	Hob Hey Wood It was agreed to use FTC's website, social media and laminated posters in the wood to gauge interest from local people in volunteering to get involved in delivery of the 5-year management plan. The design of a poster circulated by the AO was approved. It was also agreed to hold a special meeting of the Environment Committee on 6 February in Castle Park at 7pm to discuss the management plan in detail, and to invite Mersey Forest to attend – proposed and seconded by Cllrs C Ashton and P Martin.
96	Tree Matters
96.1	It was noted that the Facilities Manager (FM) had met an arboricultural contractor on site to discuss the work required to cut back the FTC trees overhanging the top of Howey Lane and the sweet chestnut in the corner of St Laurence Church car park. The contractor felt that the work might be managed without need for a road closure, utilising traffic management. Two local residents had expressed interest in contracting privately with FTC's chosen contractor to have trees on their land cut back at the same time. A written quotation from the contractor was awaited. It was agreed to aim to have the work completed by the end of March, and to seek additional quotations for the work and to seek method statements, especially with respect to traffic management and working methods – proposed and seconded by Cllrs C Ashton and P Martin.
96.2	Cllr A Oulton reported that he could provide volunteers to carry out pole pruning free of charge on FTC land or footpaths on 15/16 January, as he is running a training course for the Canal and Rivers Trust. It was agreed that Cllr A Oulton liaise with the FM to identify a suitable site.

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
97	Community Orchards
97.1	The FM reported that, although the contractor had placed some soil on the land, the levelling and turfing ordered last year has not yet been completed. It situation was noted and the AO was asked to chase up this work, which needs to be done before the replacement trees are planted. Cllr J Critchley reported that, subject to a decision at the next Council meeting, CWaC may be reducing the number of large planters in the town centre, and had offered those removed to FTC. It was agreed to that any surplus planters that become available from the town centre be used at Ship Street for raised beds for community use – proposed and seconded by Cllrs C Ashton and P Martin.
97.2	It was agreed to apply for free sunflower seeds from The Big Sunflower Project and distribute them to local schools, organisations and community groups to encourage them to apply for seeds – proposed and seconded by Cllrs C Ashton and A Oulton.
98	Rights of Way No actions required.
99	Cheshire's Sandstone Ridge A decision on whether to add a strapline to the town boundary signs saying "Gateway to the Sandstone Ridge" was deferred until after Cllrs C Ashton and A Oulton had met with Ian Marshall from the Sandstone Ridge Trust.
100	River Weaver Navigation Society It was noted that FTC did not receive prior notification of the last meeting. Cllr P Martin will circulate the update he recently received from RWNS to Committee members and will liaise with Cllr A Oulton regarding attendance at the next meeting.
101	Action Plan & Budget 2018-19 The action plan and budget was agreed but it was noted that there may be scope for virement between budget heads during the year – proposed and seconded by Cllrs C Ashton and P Martin. It was agreed to collate information about the pieces of land owned by FTC such as Marshlands Tree Garden and the Marl Pits on the Council's website. The AO was asked to compile a list and potential sources of information/authors for the next meeting – proposed and seconded by Cllrs C Ashton and P Martin.
102	Clerk's Items None.
103	Date of the next meeting: Tuesday 6 March at 7pm at Castle Park House. There will be a special meeting to discuss Hob Hey Wood Management Plan on Tuesday 9 February at 7pm at Castle Park House.

Meeting ended 8.20pm.