

Frodsham Town Council
Minutes of a meeting of the
Environment Committee
held in Town Council Office, Castle Park
On **Tuesday 6 March 2018**, at 7pm



Present: Cllrs A Oulton (Chair), C Ashton, L Brown (part), P Martin (part), F Sutton and J Critchley.

In Attendance: Ms C Olver (Mersey Forest), Mr T Blundell (resident), Mr J Beswick (resident), Ms L Kenny (Administrative Officer) and Mr L Rimmer (Estates Manager)

Meeting 8

No	Item
110	Apologies for absence Absent without apologies: Cllrs L Jones and P Williamson.
111	Declarations of Interest None.
112	Minutes of Meeting 6 held on 2 January 2018 The minutes were agreed as a true record and signed by the chair – proposed and seconded by Cllrs Oulton and Ashton.
113	Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting 7 held on 6 February 2018 The minutes were agreed as a true record and signed by the chair – proposed and seconded by Cllrs Brown and Ashton.
114	Opportunity for the Public to Speak Mr A Arthur from Frodsham Transition Initiative (FTI) spoke about the work of FTI complements that of FTC. He praised Mr Tom Blundell, a member of FTI and resident member of FTC's Environment Committee, for his work for the local environment. Cllr Oulton added his thanks to Mr Blundell, mentioning in particular his work on the community orchards.
115	Mersey Forest Environmental Strategy Clare Olver from Mersey Forest (MF) explained that MF was commissioned by Cheshire West and Chester Council to develop a business plan for a strategic approach to the delivery of a programme of activity in and around Frodsham, focussed on environmental improvements and health and wellbeing gains for local communities. She stressed the role that the environment can play in the community and economy of an area. Initially, Clare thanked the local stakeholders who had informed her about the important local environmental issues and gave her access to invaluable research they had already carried out. MF then held two public drop-in sessions in a local coffee shop. From this work, four key themes emerged, each with some specific local issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access - within Frodsham, which is about encouraging people to be more active in their daily lives • Access – recreational routes, which also support physical and mental well-being • Food – celebrating food heritage and local food • Low carbon energy, including community woodland allotments, community wind turbines, community heat initiatives The exercise had identified key desires and what would need to be done to address them, with MF developing a costed delivery plan with an indication of who could deliver particular elements and the likely timescale. They are also talking to DEFRA and other national bodies to try to influence national policy. MF's involvement with Hob Hey Wood was discussed, and Clare assured the Committee that the organisation would always be around to support FTC around woodland management. Cllr L Brown left the meeting at 7.36pm Cllr Ashton raised the question of land ownership on the south bank of the River Weaver between Cattenhall and Devil's Garden as this area of footpath was liable to being blocked by fallen trees. Clare agreed to contact Cllr Ashton outside of the meeting to see if she could assist.

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

No	Item
	<p>MF has developed a number of partnerships to help deliver aspects of the delivery plan, eg Active Cheshire's Natural Health Service, Natural Flood Management, the Northern Forest, Saltscape project legacy, DEFRA-funded Trees for Learning and the Land Trust's work on natural play.</p> <p>Clare explained that, originally, the project had intended to look at ways of maximising the benefits from the Marshes Community Benefit Fund. However, at present the MCBF is concentrating on discrete projects, although there may be opportunities in the future to bundle projects together to bring in significant amounts of match-funding.</p>
116	Hob Hey Wood
116.1	Deferred until later in the meeting
116.2	<p>It was agreed to roll over the contract under which TCV repaired the paths and boardwalks in Hob Hey Wood in the summer of 2017 to enable them to carry out additional repairs to 5m of boardwalks, replace 28m of weldmesh and, if possible, to install drainage pipes below the repaired boardwalks, noting that here was a roll of weldmesh left over from the earlier work – proposed and seconded by Cllrs A Oulton and C Ashton.</p>
117	<p>Friends of Hob Hey Wood (Registered Charity 1099786) Deferred until later in the meeting.</p>
118	<p>Tree Matters Deferred until later in the meeting.</p>
119	<p>Community Orchards Deferred until later in the meeting.</p>
120	<p>Rights of Way Deferred until later in the meeting.</p>
121	<p>Manley Copse The community planting event planned for Saturday 17 March was noted. The Committee had previously agreed to hire a tracked chipper. Cllr Oulton reported that the cost would be £80 for hire, plus £20 delivery plus approximately 10 litres of diesel. The expenditure was approved – proposed and seconded by Cllrs F Sutton and C Ashton.</p>
122	Cheshire's Sandstone Ridge
122.1	<p>Cllrs Ashton and Oulton had been nominated by the Committee to be points of contact to liaise with the Sandstone Ridge Trust (Minute 62). Cllr Ashton reported that they had met SRT and now had a much better understanding of the benefits that the SRT's Lottery funded project looking at ways of promoting the area's qualities could bring to the economy and environment of Frodsham. She circulated an infographic summarising the 230 km² area of the Sandstone Ridge at a glance and showed members a range of information leaflets produced the SRT.</p>
122.2	<p>R1: After hearing that the Sandstone Ridge Trust had agreed to meet half of the cost, it was agreed to recommend to Council that a strapline saying "Gateway to the Sandstone Ridge" should be added to the town boundary signs at a total cost of £1,067.54+£35 delivery + VAT, shared equally with the SRT, proposed and seconded by Cllrs P Martin and F Sutton.</p> <p>Cllr Oulton reported that he had held informal discussions with the North Cheshire Rail Users Group about the possibility of a similar sign being displayed at Frodsham Station and he would continue to encourage NCRUG to take this forward.</p> <p>Cllr P Martin left the meeting at 8.13pm</p>
116	Hob Hey Wood
116.1	<p>It was noted that a meeting with potential volunteers will be held at Frodsham Community Centre at 10am.on Saturday 10 March. Invitations had been sent to all volunteers, councillors and resident members of the Environment Committee, and 6 potential volunteers had confirmed that they would attend. The meeting had also been publicised by notices in Hob Hey Wood, via the Townfield Lane action group and on the FTC website and social media.</p>
117	<p>Friends of Hob Hey Wood (Registered Charity 1099786) The current Trust Deed and the bank balance of £1,385.22 was noted.</p>

No	Item
118	Tree Matters
118.1	It was noted that the contractor who carried out a site visit in November 2017 had failed to submit a written quotation. Despite approaching 4 other tree surgeons, only one price has been received to date. The Committee expressed disappointment that, given the difficulty in obtaining quotes, the fact that planning authority approval is needed for tree works in the conservation area and the ban on tree works during the nesting season, the work would have to be deferred until October 2018, but that preparatory work should continue to ensure the works are completed in the autumn.
118.2	No other tree issues were raised.
119	Community Orchards
119.1	Mr Blundell reported that 25 trees had been planted in Ship Street Community Garden with the assistance of volunteers from TSB, 4 th Frodsham Scouts and others. Mr Blundell had been able to save 11 of the 24 trees that had been damaged by vandals. FTC had funded 13 replacement trees, and a further 12 had been funded by Mersey Forest. Mr Blundell had completed the pruning of the Hob Hey Wood Community Orchard and would prune the Ship Street trees on Sunday 11 March at 10am.
120	Rights of Way The Council had been notified of barriers that had been erected on the ramped tracks to Tanks 4 and 6 on Frodsham Marsh and concerns that this might have an adverse impact on walks planned as part of the Frodsham Festival of Walks. Cllr Ashton said that these had been discussed at a recent meeting of the Wind Farm Liaison Committee she had attended, and that their purpose is to protect against illegal fly-tippers. It was agreed to contact Peel Energy to seek clarification, check that the tracks in question were accessible to pedestrians and were not designated as bridleways and, if necessary, request that the gates be opened to allow access during the Festival of Walks. The Administrative Officer reported that CWAC had inspected and ordered repairs to a damaged handrail at Jacob's Ladder, reported by a resident.
123	Website Information The Committee reviewed a list of community land owned by Frodsham Town Council and the Committee responsible for each site. It was agreed that the list, together with a map, should be added to the FTC website and members of the public encouraged to raise any concerns with the appropriate Committee.
124	Great British Spring Clean Cllr Oulton reported that this event, organized by Cllr L Jones and supported by a number of Councillors had taken place on Saturday and Sunday 3 & 4 March. On Saturday the land behind Costa Coffee was cleaned and on Sunday the surrounds of the Community Centre were tackled. The number of volunteers was probably reduced by the bad weather and the Frodsham Singathon but the Committee thanked all those who volunteered.
125	River Weaver Navigation Society Cllr Oulton reported that he had not received details of any recent meetings.
126	Clerk's Items The Administrative Officer reported that Cycle North Cheshire had sent through a link to their updated Frodsham Cycle map, which would be added to the FTC website. The reprint, sponsored by FTC under its grant scheme would be available in the coming weeks.
127	Date of the next meeting: Tuesday 1 May at 7pm at Castle Park House.

Meeting ended 8.35pm.

Committee: Cllr C Ashton, Cllr L Brown, Cllr L Jones, Cllr P Martin, Cllr A Oulton, Cllr F Sutton & Cllr P Williamson
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