

Frodsham Town Council

Minutes of a meeting of the **Environment Committee**

held in Town Council Office, Castle Park
On **Tuesday 2 May 2017**, at **7pm**



Present: Cllrs A Oulton (Chair), C Ashton, V Kirk, P Martin and F Sutton.

In Attendance: Cllr J Critchley, Mr J Beswick, Mr T Blundell and 2 members of the public.
Mrs H Catt (Town Clerk) & Mr P Morris (Facilities Manager).

Meeting 12

No	Item	Action
	Cllr Oulton apologised for the late start to the meeting due to a site visit to Manley Road Copse.	
205	Apologies for Absence	Cllr L Brown.
206	Declarations of Interest	Cllr F Sutton – Crowmere Cllr V Kirk – UEOG.
207	Minutes of Meeting 11 held on 4 April 2017	An amendment to item 193 submitted by Cllr V Kirk to delete “It was disappointing that so few councillors showed interest in the presentation at full council” and substituted with “Cllr Kirk commented on how disappointed she was regarding the behaviour of some councillors prior to and during Mr Colin Watson's presentation. Mr Watson had indeed commented on the somewhat 'negative' reception he had received from some councillors” was agreed . The minutes, as amended, were approved and signed as a true record.
208	Opportunity for the Public to Speak	None.
209	UEOG Working Group	The meeting planned for 3 May had been cancelled due to Purdah rules as a General Election has been called.
210	Tree Matters	None.
211	Rights of Way Maintenance	
211.1	Blue Hatch – FP110	It was agreed that TC should send a copy of the letter from North Cheshire Rail Users Group regarding the footpath from Station Car Park to Blue Hatch. She should point out that FTC doesn't appreciate them suggesting taking up the issue with us as we have limited budgets too. She will also point out the potential Health & Safety issues involved.
211.2	CWAC Liaison	Cllr Ashton reported that she has visited all the footpaths with the CWAC Officer, who has now produced a definitive list of footpaths that should be maintained. She will give a list of footpaths to FM & TC which FTC will maintain. Some issues identified by FFOW Leaders had been resolved before the walks took place. The steps issue raised by Cllr Critchley had been investigated and CWAC may try & even out the steps. There was a vote of thanks to Cllr Ashton for this work and to Cllr Sutton for organising the Liaison meetings. There is no urgency to get new Footpath maps as a box has been found in storage. Mr Blundell asked what the total length of the footpaths in Frodsham was but this was not known. FFOW attendees were told that the footpath maps were now free but they were free to make a donation to the Mayor's Fund.
211.3	Footpaths	TC will chase CWAC Officer about the new waymark post where the stile used to be near the Hoverforce site.
212	Hob Hey Wood	
212.1	Boardwalks	The improvement & repairs are almost completed. FM is delivering the final timber and mesh to the site on 11 May and the working party is planned for 20 May. Generally, the feedback is that they have done a wonderful job. TC will circulate a copy of Graham Bondi's Report, which include other things that needed doing.
212.2	5 Year Development Plan	In progress.
213	Community Orchards	

No	Item	Action
213. 1	Ship Street	The site remains the responsibility of Community Committee until it is fully cleared. A working party last Friday had started to clear the site. An area was left untouched due to a wasp nest – FM to investigate. The fence panels will be taken by the Pony Sanctuary and Cllr Oulton will ensure the cement posts are ground down to street level – FTC agreed to purchase the grinding wheels. It was agreed to leave any planting of trees until the Autumn. Mr Blundell will look at suggested plans in the meantime – budget for this will be discussed at future Environment meetings.
213. 2	Bowden Lock	No feedback yet from the Canal & River Trust.
213. 3	Hob Hey Wood	There are 6 posts missing – it was agreed that FM would replace them.
214	Festival of Walks	No formal report on FFOW is available yet. It has been really successful. There was a vote of thanks to the Working Group and walks leaders for all their hard work. Also, a special thank you to Liz Kenny, Admin Officer, for improved use of social media to promote the festival. There is to be a wash-up meeting of the Working Group on 11 May. The potential of having additional festivals was discussed but it may be difficult given the time it takes to develop and organise the walks.
215	Manley Road Copse	All the trees have been removed. Although the site look a mess it will be difficult to do much further clearance work as we have entered the nesting & breeding season. There had been a good site visit, involving local residents, just before the meeting. Cllr Oulton stated that we wanted to keep the site as a quiet space for local people which required the minimum of maintenance. FM pointed out that it hadn't cost FTC over the years as Mr Beswick had been maintaining it. The area needed a basic management plan. The residents could form a 'Friends of MRC' group to help with long-term maintenance. It was agreed that FM would put up a post and rail fence to fill the gaps in the hedge but leave the entrance open until we finalise what to do with the space.
216	Crowmere	The netting of the fish had been completed. A report from the Fishery was circulated. Cllr Sutton gave a brief background to Crowmere. The water is vastly improved; the condition of the fish, as stated in the fishery report, proves this as does the improvement in the smell. She had been given some Yellow Flag Iris by TC and her husband and had ordered some marginal plants for the spit. It was agreed that Cllr Sutton should be reimbursed for these plants (£31.08+VAT) – Cllr Sutton didn't take part in the vote. TC will get a price for Biochemical Oxygen Demand test.
217	Litter Picking	The next litter picking session is planned for Saturday 13 May at Salt Works Farm. Cllr Martin will let TC know about any football fixtures. He also agreed to lead on this. Social media will be used to advertise the event.
218	River Weaver Navigation Society	Cllr Martin agreed to contact the Society and report back. Cllr Ashton stated that the Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group were interested in this area too.
219	Urgent Matters	Mr Beswick tabled two photographs of Snidley Moor before it was covered in trees.
220	Item for next agenda	Poppies Kemp Tree – TC to get an update from CWAC Cllrs L Riley & A Dawson. Air Quality – At a meeting after the General Election due to Purdah rules.
221	Dates of next meetings:	6 June.

Meeting ended 8.40pm

Committee: Cllr A Oulton (Chair), Cllr C Ashton, Cllr L Brown, Cllr V Kirk, Cllr P Martin & Cllr F Sutton
Town Clerk: Mrs H Catt
Frodsham Town Council, Castle Park, Frodsham WA6 6SB
Tel: 01928 735150 Email: council@frodsham.gov.uk Website: www.frodsham.gov.uk