

# Frodsham Town Council

## Minutes of a meeting of the Environment Committee

held in Town Council Office, Castle Park  
On **Tuesday 1 May 2018**, at **7pm**



**Present:** Cllrs A Oulton (Chair), C Ashton, L Jones and F Sutton.

**In Attendance:** Mr J Beswick and Mr T Blundell  
Mr Y Barwise, Mersey Forest  
Mrs H Catt (Town Clerk) and Mr L Rimmer (Estates Manager)

### Meeting 9

No	Item
128	<b>Apologies for Absence</b> Apologies were <b>received and accepted</b> from Cllrs L Brown and P Martin. Cllr P William was not present and had not sent apologies.
129	<b>Declarations of Interest</b> None. It was noted that Cllr Oulton has ceased to have an interest in Hoverforce.
130	<b>Minutes of Meeting 8 held on 6 March 2018</b> The minutes of the last meeting were <b>approved</b> as an accurate record and <b>signed</b> – proposed and seconded by Cllrs F Sutton and C Ashton.
131	<b>Opportunity for the Public to Speak – None.</b>
It was agreed to take Item 134 as Mr Barwise, Mersey Forest, was attending to present the item.	
134	<b>Friends of Hob Hey Wood</b>
134.1	The draft Constitution for the Friends of Hob Hey Wood was discussed and it was agreed it should be presented to the next meeting of the Friends Group which is planned for Wednesday 16 May, 7pm at Castle Park House for adoption and election of the officers. Once completed it would be possible to open a bank account and to apply for funding for the maintenance work needed to deliver the 5-year Plan. It was <b>agreed</b> that the volunteers would need direction in the Woods initially and that Mersey Forest could provide that support including staff time, tools and materials @ £1050+VAT – proposed and seconded by Cllrs A Oulton and F Sutton. <b>EP1.</b> Cllr Oulton suggested that a meeting of the Trust could be held before the July Council meeting to seek permission to use the funds for the Hob Hey Woods Friends Group's activities.
134.2	The existing Charitable Trust (Friends of Hob Hey Wood) owns some but not all the land but has been moribund for some time. TC didn't know what decisions had been made about this in the past and would need to carry out research and report back. There are funds in the Trust's account and it might be possible to get the Trustee (Frodsham Town Council) to agree to this funding being used by the Friends Group in the future. This new group, which would be an unincorporated voluntary group would be an activity-based group which would plan and organise group working parties in the Woods. If it opened a bank account it would be able to apply for grants to support the work, which would be agreed with FTC as land owner. It was <b>agreed</b> to change the name of the new group to Hob Hey Wood Friends Group to avoid confusion with the Trust.
132	<b>Charter for Trees, Woods and People - Discussion deferred to the next meeting.</b>
133	<b>Hob Hey Wood</b>
133.1	The quotation from TCV for the repairs to the boardwalks @ £1098.05+VAT was agreed – Proposed and seconded by Cllrs A Oulton and C Ashton. <b>EP2.</b> It was also suggested that a pilot area could be identified to trail recycled plastic to repair the boardwalks.
133.2	There were about 18 people at the Volunteers meeting on 10 March and were keen to get involved in the management of the Wood. There was an event on Sunday 22 April held in the Wood, which provided the volunteers with more practical information about what was involved. The next 2 events would be managed by Mersey Forest using the funding agreed at 134.1.

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

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No	Item
133.3	The need to seek permission to cut down any trees as there is probably a blanket Tree Preservation Order on the woods was <b>noted</b> . TC will investigate and report back. Also it is the nesting season. Cllr Oulton offered to carry out training with the volunteers on tree management at just the cost of LANTRA registration. The Estates Manager could also undergo training in Tree Management.
133.4	It was suggested at the Community Committee Meeting that Hob Hey Wood could be one of the pilot areas for making application for the Active Spaces Project, Fields in Trust, which could provide £5000 to pay for increased activities. Cllr C Ashton reported that Active Cheshire were also keen on working with FTC on this project. Mersey Forest have a Cheshire Nature for Health project which offered another opportunity for partnership working.
<b>134</b>	<b>Friends of Hob Hey Wood</b> - This item was discussed earlier in the meeting.
<b>135</b>	<b>Tree Matters</b>
135.1	Four quotations have been received for the hedge and tree work on Howey Lane ranging from £950 to £1520. TC will check if they all include balancing the trees on the Churchfield side in their quotations. She will also start the process of getting permission for the work as it is a conservation area. No work will take place during the nesting season.
135.2	Concern was raised about the cutting of the hedge over Easter at Manor House School. TC will check who gave permission as it is during the nesting season. Cllr Oulton thought it might have been a safety issue.
<b>136</b>	<b>Community Orchards</b> The Estate Manager reported damage to Hawthorne Road Community Orchard which appeared to have been caused by dogs running round the area. He has been making visits to check the area and reported that the grass has started to grow back and no further damage as been seen.
<b>137</b>	<b>Rights of Way</b>
137.1	CWAC have acknowledged the problems at Straight Length but due to budget cuts are having to concentrate on health and safety issues. TC will ask for permission for the Estates Manager and Mr Beswick to re-install the signposts.
137.2	A resident had raised concerns about sheep worrying in fields by Footpath 19 & 20. FTC has already agreed to revisit the signage on its lands after CWAC introduce the new Dog Control Orders. In the meantime, it was <b>agreed</b> to put up temporary signs to ask people to keep their dogs on a lead in this area.
137.3	CWAC have stated that the plans to close Footpath 26 were still being investigated and that anyone with first hand evidence of it's use as a footpath to should get in touch with them as soon as possible. Mr Beswick had a record he had made in 1991 that the footpath wasn't still viable. The possibility of applying for a Deviation along the private road was suggested.
137.4	Concern was raised about the grass, bracken and nettles growing quickly along footpaths. TC will contact CWAC to find out when these will be cut back.
<b>138</b>	<b>Manley Road Copse</b> The tree and hedge whips have been planted in the hedge with post markers and are growing well. In the Autumn there will be a review to see any standard trees are needed. Mrs Beswick was thanked for strimming the area.
<b>139</b>	<b>Cheshire's Sandstone Ridge</b> TC has been trying to get a revised quotation for adding the logo to the strapline to the town boundary signs "Gateway to the Sandstone Ridge" but it had not arrived in time for the meeting. Mr Beswick reported that the Sandstone Trail Challenge (33 miles) is to be held on 12 May.
<b>140</b>	<b>River Weaver Navigation Society</b> It was <b>agreed</b> to take out membership of the RWNS @ £7.50 per annum – proposed and seconded by Cllrs A Oulton and C Ashton. Cllr Oulton has attended their AGM and they were keen to work with us.
<b>141</b>	<b>Clerk's Items</b> - None
<b>141</b>	<b>Date of the next meeting:</b> Tuesday 3 July at 7pm at Castle Park House.

Meeting ended at 8.50pm

**EP1.** It was **agreed** that the volunteers would need direction in the Woods initially and that Mersey Forest could provide that support including staff time, tools and materials @ £1050+VAT – proposed and seconded by Cllrs A Oulton and F Sutton

**EP2.** The quotation from TCV for the repairs to the boardwalks @ £1098.05+VAT was **agreed** – proposed and seconded by Cllrs A Oulton and C Ashton.