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Frodsham Town Council

Castle Park, Frodsham,
Cheshire WA6 6SB



TOWN MEETING Saturday 7 July 2018

Minutes of the Town Meeting held on 7 July in Parish Hall, Church Street, Frodsham at 1pm.

Present: Cllrs C Ashton, J Critchley, L Jones, P Martin, A Oulton (Chair), T Reynolds, P Williamson and A Wordsworth.
CWAC Cllr L Riley
Mr P Victory, Frodsham Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group
Mr D Smith, John McCall Architects.
Mrs H Catt, Town Clerk
Twelve residents.

No	Item
1	Apologies for Absence Apologies had been received from Cllrs L Brown, D Critchley, M Nield, Lord F Pennington and F Sutton. Also CWAC Cllr A Dawson.
2	Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting The minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 23 March 2018 were noted.
3	Annual Report 2017-18 Frodsham Town Council's Annual Report was noted.
4	Unaudited Accounts 2017-18 The unaudited accounts for 1 April 2017 – 31 March 2018 summary included on the back page of the Annual Report was noted. The accounts are available on FTC website. The regular reports that go to council, every 2 months, are also included in the agenda papers in the calendar entry for each meeting.
5	Public Right of Inspection As the meeting was held during the Public Right of Inspection of the Unaudited Accounts and Annual Return, all the records were available at the meeting.
6	Written Resolutions The following resolutions were discussed:
6.1a	Resolution 1: The town council offer the land in ship Street for use as allotments for the town residents and non-commercial ventures. The tenancy to be held by a not for profit group who would manage the land for a period to be agreed and then reviewed. Proposed by Mr L Blake. Mr Blake explained that he was taking a positive approach to finding an alternative use of the land. He wanted to encourage local residents to grow their own food and was proposing setting up a committee to take overall responsibility for the development of the space including a play area and allotments. He had established a Facebook page and attracted 56 people who were interested in the idea. He was concerned that Saltworks didn't provided a viable alternative as the area suffered from significant Anti-social Behaviour problems and parents wouldn't let their children go there. He was also concerned that Ship Street itself could not accommodate any further increase in traffic.
6.1b	Another resident was concerned about the need for improving the local infrastructure, schools, doctors, etc. if more houses were to be built. Traffic on Ship Street is already dangerous. Any money from the sale of any green space should be spent on facilities for children. Cllr T Reynolds was concerned that hadn't been sufficient consultation with residents in the area. A resident from Top Rad area agreed the money should be used for community benefit. She felt there weren't enough facilities for older people and would like to see a community-based gardening project that would engage with all ages. Another resident from the Ship Street area agreed there hadn't been enough consultation. He was also concerned that the field at the moment was a fire hazard. He would prefer to see the area as a toddler play area.

No	Item
	<p>CWAC Cllr L Riley stated there were no current planning application in the system so it wouldn't show up on local searches. This was just an opportunity to share ideas and views before any decisions are made. It gives communities a chance to get together to make plans. There is an opportunity for the community to take local ownership of Saltworks and take control and manage the space at Saltworks. Increasing community activity would reduce ASB. Cllr Williamson explained how the Park Lane community group had developed to save the little park. It took a long time and involved many fruitless applications for grants but finally the Town Council had agreed to keep the play area and provided the funds for the new equipment.</p>
6.2a	<p><u>Resolution 2:</u> that the field is returned to its original use, as a playing field, for the local children. Proposed by Mrs B Wade. Mrs Wade was concerned that was insufficient safe play areas for the 6 estates that had been built in this area. The suggested alternative, Saltworks, was not safe or suitable due to all the ASB. There is also a large elderly population that would appreciate a seating area.</p>
6.2b	<p>Cllr Reynolds agree this could become a space for integration and involvement. CWAC Cllr Riley asked people to report the issues around ASB and lack of cleanliness to CWAC on-line, using the App, by telephone or at the library. The more people ring to complaint the more chance something will be done. There is not a shortage of green space at Saltworks, but it needs tlc and local people could get more involved. The Neighbourhood Plan gives an opportunity for local people's views about green space to be expressed. She felt Frodsham wasn't getting a fair deal at the moment. There are issues relating to improving communication with residents which FTC will need to take on board. She suggested developing having a Community Ambassador Scheme where a volunteer in each street would pass on information. FTC have 3 noticeboards, a website, and other social media platforms. It will be renting space in Frodsham Life too. A resident encouraged residents to attend council and committee meetings to express their views and find out what is going on. She also reported that audio recordings of the meetings are available on the website for people who couldn't attend.</p>
7	Reports from other organisations
7.1a	<p>Castle Park Trust CWAC Cllr L Riley, who is a member of the Trust Executive, gave a brief update on progress towards bringing the park under local control. Currently the park is managed by CWAC, on behalf of the Trust, but there are limited resources being spent on the development and maintenance of the park. CPT are working closely with Castle Park Arts Trust to relaunch the Friends of Castle Park. The tennis courts have recently been refurbished in partnership with a local tennis club. They want to encourage more festivals and events on the park. Social prescribing – Natural Health Service - where GPs prescribe community activities rather than drugs could be developed around the park. She reported that most schools already have active growing spaces and reminded residents that the community garden at the end of Ship Street had to close due to lack of volunteer support to keep it going. The office accommodation at Castle Park House will continue. The new tenant for the ground floor is planning to develop it as a conference and events space.</p>
7.1b	<p>A resident was concerned that the £2m refurbishment of the house and gardens, completely ignored the rest of the park, which is completely overgrown. Cllr Riley agreed and said the next step would be to get control of the grounds and employ local people to carry out the ground maintenance. Issues around lack of public transport were discussed. Sustainability of Friends Groups was a concern. Park Lane Community Group used to involve over 60 people but it has dwindled down to 3 or 4.</p>
7.2	<p>Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Mr P Vickery gave a verbal update on the progress towards developing the Neighbourhood Plan for Frodsham. The Plan relates to future land use and will guide the Planning Department in its decisions about development plans once it is approved. The Neighbourhood Plan sits alongside the Local Plan. They are developing 4 policy areas at the moment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic development and visitor economy • Housing and built environment • Recreation and leisure health and wellbeing • Transport and access

No	Item
	They have engaged Active Cheshire to produce a report about Active Design. They have also recently had a Call for Sites which are being tested for suitability and availability. He encouraged anyone who is interested to come along to the meetings, which are alternatively during the day and evenings. There is information on their website.
7.3	Others – none.
8	Goods Shed CWAC's consultation on the future of the Goods Shed ends on Friday 13 July and all residents were encouraged to submit their comments directly to the consultation. Comments made on Facebook would not be considered.
9	Ship Street Land
9.1	The intention to sell the land on Ship Street had been publicised in the Standard for 2 weeks in February.
9.2	Mr D Smith, John McCall Architects, on behalf of Weaver Vale Housing Trust outlined their proposals for the land if they were to successfully purchase it. The concept was for a mixture of types and tenures with 2 x 2-bedroomed Disability Discrimination Act-compliant bungalows and a mix of 2 and 3 bed-roomed properties. There will be affordable rented and shared ownership options with immediate priority being given to local people. There have been no decisions made these were just ideas to stimulate ideas and discussion. There will be full consultation at the planning application stage but that is a long time off. The architects will be contacting local schools to involve the children in the design work – educating and inspiring them. Full traffic surveys and liaison with the Highways Department will also be part of the process. There will be a pre-application stage where CWAC Officers will have input into the development plans. FTC would be able to set conditions on what type of development they want to see. CWAC will release FTC from the covenant on the land in exchange for a percentage of the nett capital receipt. This will be invested in Saltworks.
9.3	There was a display where residents could add post-its to make suggestions as to how the Capital Receipt could be spent if the land were sold.
10	Cemetery The proposal to extend the cemetery for burials into the upper part of the land was also displayed. There is space available for approximately one year, with only 17 burial plots left and the cemetery will be closed to new burials if the extension work is not carried out. Internment of cremated remains will be unaffected.
11	Cenotaph Plans for the renovation of the Cenotaph and Memorial Gates and other work are underway following a conditions survey carried out in 2017. The work has been out to tender and costs are around £107,000 (£77,000 for the cenotaph itself and £30,000 for the gates. Residents are encouraged to attend the Cemetery Committee meetings - the next one is 14 August. The potential to construct a footpath to improve access and add lighting is also under discussion.
12	Royal British Legion Thank You Campaign FTC is proposing to purchase a permanent silhouette and asked those present to indicate on the display which of the 7 silhouettes they would prefer. They cost £250+VAT each. The nurse silhouette would link to the book which the WW1 Commemoration Working Group had reprinted about the hospital that was in Frodsham.
13	Issues from members of the public to consider PCSO Neil Flanagan carries out ward walks, involving ward councillors. The next one is on Waterside Ward on Sunday 29 July at 4pm.
	Cllr A Oulton thanked everyone for their attendance.

Meeting closed at 3pm.