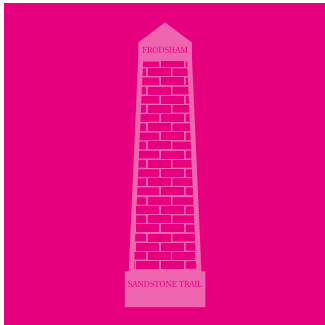


# Frodsham

## TOWN COUNCIL



## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Frodsham Town Council (FTC) has had a fairly stable year experiencing only two resignations. Cllr Ginny Kirk (Overton and Five Crosses Ward) and Cllr Mallie Poulton (Waterside Ward) were replaced respectively by Cllr Adam Wordsworth (elected in October 2017) and Cllr Leander Wilson (elected unopposed in February 2018).

In July 2017 our Town Clerk Hazel Catt completed her training and became fully qualified, making FTC eligible to achieve General Power of Competence status, making it easier for us to meet our obligations.

Our focus continues to be on improving the efficiency of the council and managing the budget closely. The main efficiencies are:

- We have moved from the ground floor of Castle Park House into a small first floor office. The rent is considerably lower and reception staff costs are now reimbursed by Cheshire West and Chester Council.
- Full Council meetings are now only held once every two months and, following a trial period, all Committees followed suit. This has reduced the administrative burden allowing staff to progress day to day council business.
- We have continued to focus on our financial performance. The Town Clerk has further refined the presentation of financial data allowing Committees to review their budgets before proposing any expenditure.

The precept for 2017-18 was held at the 2016-17 rate. Overall, we spent £23,270 less than budgeted for and achieved almost £51,102 more income than expected. There was no requirement to use any reserves to support the work of the council.

**Judith Critchley**

Chairman Frodsham Town Council 2017-18

## MAYOR'S REPORT

Our year as Mayor and Mayoress unfortunately started with the atrocities in Manchester. As Manchester and Frodsham share a common emblem in the bee, we decided to cancel some activities planned for the summer so there was no chance of them being confused with Manchester events.

We also decided to concentrate our attendance at functions and events to Frodsham whenever possible. We particularly enjoyed simple moments like judging a cake competition at a school fete and spending the afternoon chatting to residents of a local care home.

However, we did attend some events outside of the town, including a charity walk in Blackpool and The Showmen's Guild Annual Luncheon in Blackburn.

We decided not to hold a Mayor's Ball at this time of austerity as we thought it was unfair to 'chase the same pound' from residents and the business community. Nevertheless, we have raised funds that will be used to help to train residents in the use of automated external defibrillators and would like to thank "Love Frodsham" for their support.

We thoroughly enjoyed our year in office and hopefully we represented our Town with dignity. We would like to thank everyone who invited us to events and supported our fundraising.

**Cllr Alan Oulton and Mrs Lorraine Oulton**

Frodsham Town Mayor and Mayoress 2017-18



# FRODSHAM TOWN COUNCIL SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

## Services

FTC provides the following services:

- Allotments – We provide 27 allotments for residents at three sites.
- Cemetery – Tarvin Road, Frodsham.
- Bus Shelters – We provide and maintain 11 bus shelters.
- Footpaths and Bridleways – We monitor, maintain and promote public rights of way in the Town in conjunction with appropriate agencies.
- Playgrounds – We maintain 4 play areas.
- Recreation Grounds, Public Walks and Open Spaces – We endeavour to preserve the Town's open spaces and the recreation grounds at Crowmere, Churchfields, Hob Hey Wood, Fluin Lane and London Road Fields, Manley Road Copse, Marl Pits, Marshlands Tree Garden and the Wild Flower Meadow in Overton Memorial Field.
- Roadside Seats – We maintain 30 roadside seats.
- Town Clocks – One at the junction of High Street and Main Street, and the other above Kash22 on Church Street.
- Grants – We provide grants for local clubs and organisations.
- Community Orchards at Ship Street, Churchfields, Hawthorne Road and Hob Hey Woods.
- Defibrillators in 7 locations.

## Activities

FTC, often working in partnership with others, delivers the following activities:

- Frodsham Festival of Walks
- Frodsham Christmas Festival
- New Year's Fireworks

## Supporting others

FTC provides support to the following:

- Frodsham Neighbourhood Plan
- World War 1 Commemorative Working Group
- Park Lane Community Group
- Red Lion Bowling Club
- Frodsham Youth Association



## ATTENDANCE AT COUNCIL MEETINGS IN 2017/18

	Full Council	Cemetery Committee	Community Committee	Environment Committee	Events Committee	Planning Committee	Policy & Process Committee	No. Meetings Attended	Overall Attendance
Cllr Caroline Ashton	64%	75%	67%	89%	100%	80%		47	78%
Cllr Linda Brown	91%	100%	78%	33%				24	73%
Cllr Donna Critchley	82%		78%		43%	65%	100%	40	73%
Cllr Judith Critchley	100%	100%	100%		100%	100%	100%	57	100%
Cllr Rob Holt	27%		0%				13%	4	14%
Cllr Liam Jones	91%		67%	33%				17	74%
Cllr Virginia Kirk (resigned 1 Aug 2017)	50%		0%	100%				4	50%
Cllr Paul Martin	64%			89%	14%			16	59%
Cllr Mark Nield	64%		67%					13	65%
Cllr Alan Oulton	91%		78%	100%	71%	50%	75%	41	79%
Cllr Michelle Parker	55%				57%			10	56%
Cllr Lord Frank Pennington	100%	100%	100%		86%	95%	88%	56	95%
Cllr Mallie Poulton (resigned 22 Jan 2018)	100%		100%		100%	100%	83%	36	97%
Cllr Tom Reynolds	73%							8	73%
Cllr Fran Sutton	36%		11%	56%				10	34%
Cllr Pat Williamson	64%	75%	11%		29%			13	42%
Cllr Leander Wilson (elected 28 Feb 18)	100%							1	100%
Cllr Adam Wordsworth (elected 20 Oct 17)	67%							4	67%

# HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR



## PARK LANE PLAY AREA

Exciting new play equipment for young children has been installed, along with safety flooring and new fencing.

## TOWNFIELD LANE PLAY AREA

A new long-term lease was negotiated at a fair rent. Local parents, children and schools were closely involved in choosing new equipment, which was installed in May 2018.

## CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

Huge crowds turned out for the annual Frodsham Christmas Festival and Parade. The activities included a Festival Market, Santa's Grotto, Christmas Fayre, entertainment from local schoolchildren, reindeer, a unicorn, fairground and firework display.

## NEW YEAR'S EVE FIREWORKS

The firing area for the annual fireworks display was moved from Churchfields to a site with no public access to enhance public safety. Free glowsticks were provided to residents who gathered at Churchfields to enjoy the display, whilst many others watched from their gardens or other locations in the town.

## MANLEY ROAD COPSE

Volunteers replanted this small FTC-owned wooded area with native British trees and shrubs provided by the Woodland Trust. The carved bench was refurbished by two local residents.

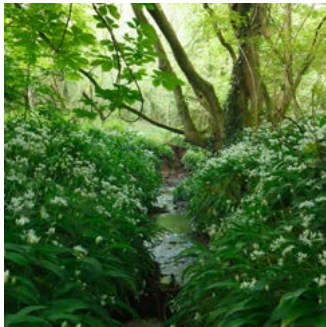
## HOB HEY WOOD

With the assistance of The Mersey Forest, a five-year management plan has been drawn up for this beautiful ancient semi-natural woodland. The Conservation Volunteers rebuilt boardwalks and bridges and improved drainage in the spring of 2017. Early in 2018 a Friends of Hob Hey Wood group was established to co-ordinate the work of local volunteers willing to help with conservation and maintenance tasks.

## FRODSHAM FESTIVAL OF WALKS

The 14th Festival of Walks took place at the end of April 2017 with a programme of 24 walks for all ages, and interests. Over 850 walkers participated in the Festival, breaking all previous records. The high attendance was helped by excellent weather on most days and additional publicity.





## STAFF

Our long-serving Facilities Manager Paul Morris retired, moving to North Wales. The job title was changed to Estates Manager and we welcomed Lionel Rimmer to the post in February.

## CLEAN-UP WEEKENDS

Councillors and resident volunteers participated in three community clean-up weekends through the year, blitzing areas at Saltworks, the Community Centre and land behind Costa Coffee and the Queens Head.

## CHRISTMAS GIFT VOUCHERS

967 Frodsham residents over the age of 70 received and spent £10 gift vouchers. 10% of the vouchers were donated to local good causes and the remainder were spent on Christmas treats with 27 local businesses.

## FRODSHAM FESTIVAL OF YOUTH & COMMUNITY

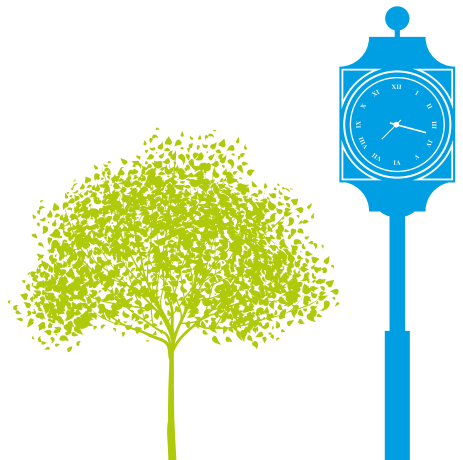
St George's Day was marked with a Parade and church service at St Laurence Church. There were also young people's activities, including a fun fair.

## EVENTS SPONSORSHIP SCHEME

FTC Events Committee set up an Events Sponsorship Scheme with a budget of £750 to help community groups with grants towards the costs of running events.

## FRODSHAM CEMETERY

Design work was commissioned to plan for expansion into the upper field when the current burial area becomes full.



# WW1 COMMEMORATION WORKING GROUP

The Group had another fruitful year by:

- Commemorating Passchendaele with an exhibition of photographs and stories of men of Frodsham who died during the battle, the Poppy Cascade at Frodsham Community Centre and screening “Passchendaele” at St Laurence Church.
- Organising a talk on “Reminiscences of WW1” by Paul Knight and exhibiting photographs of the Group’s work at Frodsham Library.
- Following re-engraving of Staff Nurse Ethel Saxon’s name on the Trinity Memorial earlier in the year, arranging a re-dedication and making contact with Ethel’s great-niece who came from Cardiff with her husband to lay flowers at the Memorial.
- Facilitating renovation of St Laurence Church War Memorial and access to the Memorial.
- Commemorating Zeebrugge Campaign with a tribute to Able Seaman Leonard Ellams who died during the Campaign and laying of a wreath at his grave in St Laurence Churchyard.
- Geoff Abnett, Group member, visiting memorials in France and Belgium and laying a wreath
- Supporting the application for listing of Overton Hill Memorial Fields railings and gates.
- Participating in the two Remembrance Services in Nov ‘17

Plans for future events include an exhibition at Castle Park Arts Centre, where the Poppy Cascade will be displayed for the last time; erection of an Information Board at Overton Hills Memorial Field (subject to the Town Council’s approval); and supporting Frodsham Players for their performance.

The Group’s sponsorship was transferred by the Town Council to Castle Park Arts Centre Trust in September. Meetings were held once a month (twice in August, none in December).

Finally, we thank all our supporters and the Town Council’s staff who made our achievements possible.

**Pammi Taylor**

# NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP

During 2017/2018, the Steering Group met regularly and extended its ongoing consultation with Frodsham residents. The focus has been on meeting younger residents who will be the main beneficiaries of a successful plan. The Scouts, Guides and Brownies have given plenty of lively and constructive input.

Sessions held at the Library and other meeting places identified green spaces which should be protected for the future. Frodsham Town Council now plans to register its own green spaces as Assets of Community Value.

The team is devising policy statements that form the heart of the plan alongside a Call for Sites to ensure transparency and rigour in identifying sites which might be developed in the future.

Frodsham is heavily constrained by surrounding Green Belt, Flood Plains, Conservation Areas and Sites of Special Scientific Interest. It is important that the future needs of the community are met through appropriate planning. Suggested development sites will be assessed by an Independent Planning Specialist against three criteria:

- is the site suitable?
- is the land available?
- is the proposed option achievable?

Suggesting a site does not mean it will be automatically included in the Plan, nor that planning permission will be granted. Planning permission will have to be sought through the statutory process.

The community’s views about the sites will be sought and considered before a draft Plan is submitted for external examination via Cheshire West and Chester Council. There will be a referendum before the Frodsham Neighbourhood Plan is implemented.

The draft plan should be ready for submission to CWAC in October 2018. Consultations with the community will continue both on social media and around the town.

This is your plan! Steering Group meetings are held regularly – please come along if you would like to get involved. Details on our website.

**Peter Vickery and Cllr Caroline Ashton**



## PCSO REPORT

In November 2017 we opened up our new Frodsham Community Police Base in the Fire Station so I now book on duty in Frodsham and spend longer in my beat area. For over two years I had to travel from Blacon Police Station, so this move back to Frodsham works very well.

My important work in schools continues. My Let's Walk courses teach road safety to children in Years 3 and 4. E-safety talks to various year groups help them stay safe online. I also attended various school events such as summer fairs, etc.

I continued to be very active in Helsby High School with weekly drop-in sessions for students and staff to discuss any issues. I recently completed the Transition Talks for pupils in feeder schools which help prepare them for the move up to high school.

I held Panna Cage Football sessions at Frodsham Youth Club and talked to the young people on a range of topics such as drugs, alcohol and child sex exploitation.

I fulfilled a personal ambition with a 5-a-side football tournament at Frodsham Leisure Centre. 10 local primary schools entered the event which was won by Kingsley CP School. All players received a medal and the winners and runners-up each received a small trophy. The winning school also collected a larger trophy and a voucher to spend at Best Sports in Runcorn. The event was designed to provide closer links between the schools, young people and Cheshire Police.

I organised bike marking events to help reduce bike thefts and I also delivered Operation Shield property marking kits around Frodsham making the town less attractive to potential thieves.

I gave talks to various local organisations and have undertaken Ward Walks with councillors and local residents.

**Neil Flanagan, Police Community Support Officer**

# END OF YEAR FINANCIAL REPORT

**Payments** This table shows the Actual payments against the budget:

2017-18						2016-17
	Budget	Actual	VAT	Total	Actual v. Budget '-' = less than	Actual
Environment	10,000	5,816.00	1,127.35	6,943.35	-4,184.00	9,332.38
WW1 Group	2,500	2,500.00		2,500.00	0	294.58
Community	33,100	38,531.28	4,408.54	42,939.82	-2,018.72	33,685.00
Cemetery	6,476	7,193.95	924.14	8,118.09	717.95	4,238.48
Events	14,450	12,889.52	1,077.07	13,966.59	-1,560.48	
P&P	126,362	120,645.45	3,820.85	124,466.30	-5,716.55	132,334.54
Capital/projects	67,500	49,541.36	8,986.08	58,527.44	-17,958.64	17,904.29
	260,388	237,117.56	20,344.03	257,461.59	-23,270.44	197,789.27

Overall the expenditure budget was underspent by £23,270.44.

**Receipts** This table shows the actual income against budget:

	Budget	Actual	Balance
Total Receipts	231,836	282,938.28	51,102.28

We over-achieved our income target by £51,102.28.

As the receipts/payments were above £200,000 the figures submitted with the Annual Return need to be worked on the Income and Expenditure basis rather than the receipts and payments basis above.

Copies of the full accounts, both in Receipts & Payments and Income & Expenditure format are available from the Office on request – 01928 735150 or [council@frodsham.gov.uk](mailto:council@frodsham.gov.uk).

## GRANTS AWARDED IN 2017-18

Organisation	Amount	Project Supported
Weavervale and Sandstone Cycle Forum.	£510	Printed maps of 'Family Friendly Frodsham Cycle Routes', Forum's website and labelling for cycle parking facilities in town.
Frodsham Community Centre	£1,000	Singathon one day singing festival
The Zodiac	£1,000	Portable keyboards and stands, amplifier, storage facilities
Frodsham History Society	£150	Exhibition and loan materials on history of local shops
Castle Park Arts	£500	Temporary covers to enable outdoor events, plus additional seating and electrical equipment
Frodsham Parish Hall	£1,100	External sign boards to make building more welcoming, and literature carousel
4th Frodsham Scouts	£3,500	Two-year old replacement 17-seat minibus for transporting young people for scouting activities
Weaver Words Literature Festival	£300	Literary events, creative community workshops and writing competitions
Total	£8,060	

**Photos courtesy of** Cheshire Police, Clive Dyke, Frodsham Life/Frodsham & District Photographic Society, Sue Kellett, Liz Kenny, Lionel Rimmer, James Wallace