

Frodsham Town Council

Minutes from the
The Amenities Committee
held on Tuesday 10th December 2019 at 6pm
in the Town Council Office, Castle Park, Frodsham



Meeting 2

Attended by: Cllrs J Critchley, Griffiths, Hayes, Nield, Lord Pennington Ashton & J O'Donoghue (Town Clerk)

Also attended by: M & J O'Sullivan (Hob Hey Wood Friends Group), T Blundell.

No	Item
17	Apologies for absence RESOLVED: Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllrs Poulton, Wade, Sumner and Jones.
18	Declarations of Interest NOTED: Cllr Mostyn-Jones declared an interest in item 24 as an allotment holder.
19	Minutes of Meetings
19.1	To approve and sign the minutes of the Amenities Committee Meeting held on 8 th October 2019 RESOLVED: It was proposed by Cllr Lord Pennington, seconded by Cllr Ashton and agreed to approve and sign the minutes.
20	Opportunity for Public to Speak
21	To receive a report from Tracy Etherington, Falls Prevention Co-ordinator, Age UK Cheshire NOTED: Tracy Etherington provided a thorough report and it was agreed that FTC would help to promote the service through Frodsham Life. Cllrs agreed to provide contact details for businesses and organisations who would be able to help promote the service.
22	Hob Hey Wood To receive a report NOTED: Mark O'Sullivan attended the meeting and provided a thorough report which is appended to the minutes (Appendix A). RESOLVED: The Town Clerk will make the application for £2,500 through Big Lotteries Awards For All for the south west boardwalk replacement with Cllr Ashton as the second named contact on the application form.
23	Play Areas To note weekly and monthly inspections have been carried out by Northwich Town Council NOTED: The inspections reports were noted.
23.1	To receive an update and agree any action to be taken NOTED: Works have been instructed and the Clerk will chase progress. No decision was made in regard to the recommended removal of the swings and rockers at the entrance to the play area.
24	Allotments To receive an update and agree any action to be taken RESOLVED: It was proposed by Cllr Lord Pennington, seconded by Cllr Griffiths and agreed to: accept the quotation from Northwich Town Council to reduce the height of the hedge at Churchfields to 6ft on the field side; accept the quotation from Northwich Town Council to carry out an annual cut to the top and field side of the hedge. Clerk to request NTC to requote for hedge cutting at the London Road site on the inside and top only as CWAC cut the outside.
25	Budget 2020-2021 To consider and approve budget to be recommended to full Council RESOLVED: It was proposed by Cllr J Critchley, seconded by Cllr Ashton and agreed to request a budget of £59,630.00. This does not include the Over 70's voucher scheme or winter gritting scheme which are both the responsibility of the new Policy, Process & Revenue Committee.

No	Item
26	Clerk's updates To note information items NOTED: Tom Blundell attended the meeting and the Clerk circulated his report which is appended to the minutes (Appendix C). No decision was made as to replacement tree planting.
27	Next meeting – 11 th February 2019
28	Close of meeting NOTED: The meeting closed at 7:11pm.

APPENDIX A

Hob Hey Wood Friends Group Feedback

Recent works in wood

We've had our final volunteer day of the year, tree planting. We've now planted over 1,400 trees in the wood of fourteen native species since the group was formed in May 2018.

We've had 5 volunteer days since the last Amenities Committee meeting (we added an extra one for tree planting), which gave 105 hours of volunteer time. This work was focussed on ground clearance for the tree planting, followed by planting of the 420 trees given to us by the Woodland Trust. Visitors can see evidence of this in various areas of the wood.

We also dealt with flooding of the surfaced path from the main bridge towards Bradley Lane which was starting to be affected by heavy rain. We improved the drainage; flooding has not been an issue since.

Next volunteer day 19th January.

Social media and feedback

Facebook page now has 288 members. About 3 posts per week. Lots of comments on posts praising the work that the group is performing. We continue to promote the wood and the friends group with photographs of the wood and its wildlife, and posts about the group's activities.

Grant applications

Tesco bags of help will be Jan-Mar 2020. Grants have been reduced £500 – 2,000.

Awards for All application. To be performed by FTC (draft submitted to Jo).

Work for 2020

Lots planned for 2020:

Bluebell planting; live hedge planting; boardwalk and drain cleaning; more tree planting; continuing work on SW path; FFOW; completion of repairs to path from main bridge to Bradley Lane (this will require 1 tonne of aggregate which FTC have agreed to fund).

If we can gain funding, we'd like to replace the NE boardwalk which is becoming rotten.

APPENDIX B
2020-2021 BUDGET REQUEST

MAINTENANCE (SLA Lowthers)	
London Rd/Fluin Lane field (litter pick X 14, grass cutting/strim X 14/hedge cutting X1)	
Churchfields field/community orchard/play area (litter pick X 14, grass cutting X 14/strim/hedge cutting X 1)	
Top Road playing field (litter pick/grass cutting X 14)	
Townfield Lane playing field (litter pick/grass cutting/strim X 14)	

Committee Members: Cllrs J Critchley (Chair), Lord Pennington, Neild, Hayes, Griffiths, Sumner, Mostyn-Jones, Ashton, Poulton, Jones, Wade

Memorial site (litter pick/grass cutting/strim X 14/mow meadow X 1/clear undergrowth behind railings X 1/strim by railings and gates X 1)	
Ship St community orchard (grass cutting/strim X 7)	
Park Lane (litter pick/grass cutting/strim X 14/hedge cutting X 1)	
Hawthorne Road community orchard (litter pick/grass cutting/strim X 7)	
Hob Hey Wood community orchard (litter pick/grass cutting/strim X 7)	
Cemetery (sweep roadways X 3/empty gullies X 1/mow front banks X 2/empty soil bin X 2/empty grass bunker X 2/cut front hedge and perimeter X 2/strim outside gates X 2)	£ 16,000.00
MAINTENANCE (SLA NORTHWICH TOWN COUNCIL)	
RoSPA play area inspections and litter pick X 12/ weekly checks	
Defibrillator checks X 12	
Allotment inspections X 12	
Cemetery (grass cutting every 7-10 days during growing season/leaf blowing and collection/move material within cemetery and soil bins/maintain cemetery garden/maintain grave areas/clean and maintain cemetery toilets/general monitoring x 52 weeks)	
Festival of Walks banners (make frame for Tarvin Road/fix and remove banners x 5)	
Apply herbicides around graves/beds/trees and roadways at cemetery as required	
Community orchards weed spraying around trees and strimming	
Memorial field and memorial weekly checks and litter picking	
Community fields weekly checks and litter picking	
Crowmere & Marl Pits weekly check and litter picking	
Marshlands grass cutting/hedge trimming/pathway strimming/weekly litter pick	
Manley Road Copse weekly walk/hedge cutting and strimming	
Hob Hey Wood monthly walk through/minor maintenance/fallen trees/footpath strimming	
Weekly allotment check	
Planters x 4 weekly checks/weeding	£ 17,000.00
HANGING BASKETS (SLA NORTHWICH TOWN COUNCIL)	
To plant/hang/take down hanging baskets X 49 and lampost baskets X 14	£ 2,400.00
To water all baskets (based on 40 visits @ £122.50/visit)	£ 4,900.00
Rent & rates	£ 2,000.00

Street furniture	£ 1,000.00
Xmas lights	£ 750.00
OTHER	
Play area repairs	£ 3,000.00
Annual play inspections	£ 500.00
Daffodil bulbs	£ 80.00
Tree works	£ 2,000.00
Hob Hey Wood	£ 5,000.00
CAPITAL PROJECTS	
Replacement tree lights (wrap)	£ 5,000.00
TOTAL BUDGET	£ 59,630.00

APPENDIX A
TREE REPORT

Community Orchard trees

Winter pruning has started in the four orchards, and I have agreed to a request from Frodsham Transition Initiative to train volunteers sometime in January or February. I am waiting for a response from FTI.

In March/April the grass will need cutting and the bases of the trees weedkiller sprayed in all of the orchards.

Churchfield orchard

Four trees have been vandalised in Churchfield orchard and need replacing. The FTC notice board and posts have been removed.

Hob Hey Wood Orchard

Four trees in the original orchard have died probably due to water logging. Recommend that they are replaced by pear trees.

Ship Street and Hawthorne Road

Six of the recently planted trees have died due to vandalism.

In summary, 14 fruit trees need replacing, approximate price of £15 per tree Churchfield notice needs replacing and winter pruning to be finished.