

Frodsham Town Council



Minutes from the meeting of **Frodsham Town Council Amenities Committee**
held on
Tuesday 8th December 2020 at 7pm via Zoom

FRODSHAM TOWN COUNCIL AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Meeting 5

Attended by: Cllr J Critchley (Chair), Cllrs Ashton, Griffiths, Nield, Lord Pennington, Poulton, Sumner, McKeown, Wade, D Critchley & J O'Donoghue (Clerk)

Also attended by: 4 members of the public

63. Apologies for absence

To receive apologies

Noted: Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Hayes.

64. Declarations of interest

To note any declarations of interest on items which are on the agenda

Noted: There were no declarations of interest.

65. Requests from the public to speak

Members of the public are invited to speak on items which are on the agenda in accordance with FTC policy on public speaking at meetings: <https://frodsham.gov.uk/policies-procedures/>

Noted: Sian Day attended the meeting to talk about Frodsham Roots (Appendix B) and expressed an interest in being involved with both Manley Road Copse and Marshlands. Vivien Shaw (WI) attended the meeting and reported that the WI may be interested in becoming involved with Manley Road Copse and that this will be discussed by the organisation in the new year. 1 member of the public attended and raised concerns regarding Manley Road Copse and the lack on maintenance currently taking place.

66. Minutes of meetings to be approved

To agree and sign the minutes of the Amenities Committee Meeting held 13th October 2020.

RESOLVED: It was agreed to include Cllrs Poulton and McKeown in the list of attendees and then approve and sign the minutes.

67. Frodsham Roots

To receive a written report and agree any action to be taken (Appendix B).

Noted: The report was noted and agreed that more volunteers are needed.

68. Hob Hey Wood

To note written report provided (Appendix C) and consider budget request for 2021-2022.

RESOLVED: It was resolved to allocate a budget figure of £5,100 within the Council's accounts.

Committee Members: Cllr J Critchley (Chair), Cllrs Ashton, Griffiths, Hayes, Nield, Lord Pennington, Poulton & Sumner

69. Manley Road Copse (Overton and Five Crosses Ward)

To receive an update from Cllr Critchley with regard to establishing a Friends Group and consider budget request for 2021-2022.

Noted: Cllr Critchley provided a report and it was agreed, in principle, that a Friends Group could mirror the Hob Hey Wood group with the support of FTC.

70. Ship Street Community Orchard

To note a request from a local resident for Frodsham Town Council to plant trees and agree action to be taken.

Noted: No decision was reached and it was agreed that the Clerk will contact T Blundell for advice.

71. Marshlands (Castle Park Ward)

71.1 To note communication with Cheshire West and Chester Council Environmental Protection Officer with regards to contaminated land and consider what further action is required.

Noted: It was noted that the Clerk had received an email from CWAC which stated that the land was not on the contaminated land register and CWAC would consider its investigation and any subsequently identified remedial requirements through the development process. They do not carry out investigations themselves but are able to supply a list of contractors who could do so if required.

71.2 To consider carrying out a survey to have the ground conditions properly investigated.

Noted: It was decided not to proceed.

71.3 To consider carrying out a professional tree survey.

Noted: It was noted that there is a "tree book" with details of each commemorative tree planting over the years however there was uncertainty as to the location of the book. It was agreed that the Clerk will contact T Blundell for further information.

72. Grounds Maintenance

72.1 To consider Service Level Agreement #1 and determine whether any changes/additions need to be made (copy provided to Cllrs) from April 2021.

Noted: No decision was made and it was agreed to defer the item to an Extraordinary Meeting week beginning 14th December 2020.

72.2 To consider Service Level Agreement #2 and determine whether any changes/additions need to be made (copy provided to Cllrs) from April 2021.

Noted: No decision was made and it was agreed to defer the item to an Extraordinary Meeting week beginning 14th December 2020.

72.3 To consider budget request for 2021-2022 for Grounds Maintenance.

Noted: No decision was made and it was agreed to defer the item to an Extraordinary Meeting week beginning 14th December 2020.

73. Grounds Maintenance Tender 2021 – 2022

To note the requirement of FTC Financial Regulations to obtain 3 quotations; approve tender documents and timeline.

Noted: The process was noted.

74. Play Areas

74.1 To note the recent play area inspections carried out on 20th November 2020 by Northwich Town Council and agree action to be taken. Works identified as follows:

Top Road	Weed kill and jet wash path surface Cut hedge back to fence line Clean flat swing Slide painting
Park Lane	Cut grass and trim hedge
Townfield Lane	Clean & repair split rubber on embankment slide Trim hedge
Churchfields	Repair bench Improve safety surface under blue swing Replace missing wood on bridge Fill in goal mouth Weed kill under bridge Trim perimeter hedge

Noted: It was noted that individual prices had been obtained for each item by the Clerk from Northwich Town Council and that works would be carried out at the correct time of the year as necessary. Quotes were circulated to all Cllrs. No agreement was reached.

75. Budget Amenities Committee

To consider request for budget 2021-2022.

RESOLVED: It was agreed as follows: Play areas £10,000, tree works £2,000, Hob Hey Wood £5,100, defibs £2,000, replacement tree wrapping £12,000, bulbs £100, rent and rates £2,000, street furniture £2,000, Xmas light bulbs £750, Manley Road Copse £2,000, Marshlands £2,000.

An extraordinary meeting will be held week beginning 14th December 2020 to determine grounds maintenance and additional maintenance budget items.

76. To receive a report from the Clerk

Noted: There was no further report

77. Date of next meeting – to be confirmed

78. Close of meeting – 8.20pm



Friends of Frodsham's Green Spaces

Background

There are a number of green spaces across Frodsham that are owned by Frodsham Town Council for the benefit of the local population and natural environment. The Friends Group at Hob Hey Wood demonstrate what can be done by local people, with support from the Council, to help maintain and enhance local green spaces.

Opportunity

To establish a programme of volunteering across Frodsham Town council owned green spaces which could deliver a number of exciting outcomes:

- Support the maintenance of local green spaces and further build our already vibrant civic community
- Promote local green spaces and encourage their appreciation and care in the community, with health and wellbeing benefits for those that use them
- Enhance the natural environment to improve biodiversity and opportunities for climate change adaptation

It is recognised that there will be a range of roles available to suit people with different skills, interests and time commitments. This will include volunteers associated with a particular activity, event or campaign e.g. conducting an ecological assessment, butterfly survey, Tree ID day, tree planting, wildflower sowing. However the primary focus will be to encourage Friends Group volunteers who will work at a site over an extended period, to support maintenance, organise events and activities, or help with group administration

This will require a range of resources, including:

- Leaflets/ flyers for neighbourhoods around green spaces to promote the formation of friends groups
- Resources and support - how to set up a group, governance information, basic maintenance advice, access to training
- Tools and appropriate storage

In addition to time spent recruiting and supporting volunteers and applying for funding.

Proposal

For Frodsham Root Network (FRN) to support FTC with the recruitment of volunteers across its green spaces, to:

- Help develop and design the required resources to set up and manage a 'Friends' group
- Support with the recruitment of volunteers and ongoing administration for the long term management of green spaces
- Develop funding bids to help groups to achieve their goals for the sites, getting the most out of them for the benefit of local people and wildlife.

FTC would remain legally responsible for the land and any statutory maintenance requirements, as is the case with Hob Hey wood. It is not usually an option for charitable funds (i.e. from grant applications) to be used towards statutory responsibilities, however money allocated to maintenance budgets could be used as 'match funding' to leverage additional funds.

FRN is currently being set up as a social enterprise and these services will require funding to make them sustainable. In the short term it is anticipated that sufficient funds could be secured through grant applications i.e. as per the 'volunteer co-ordinator' project identified in the Strategic Environment Plan for Frodsham. ¹

About Frodsham Root Network

Frodsham Root Network is being set up to connect people who want to protect, improve and enjoy green spaces. We want to provide a single point of contact for landowners, volunteer groups and the community; so that volunteers can get the support they need to make their projects happen and the public can more easily access the nature on their doorstep. The goal is to see a network of high quality, biodiverse, well maintained and well used green spaces, for a healthier, happier community where people and nature can thrive.

There are a number of activities that Frodsham Root Network could help to develop or deliver to achieve this goal (subject to funds!). This will build on the amazing work that is already taking place across the town to engage people in the natural environment - e.g. Frodsham Festival of Walks and the work of hundreds of volunteers and community groups across our town.

¹ [Strategic Environment Plan for Frodsham, The Mersey Forest, 2018](#)

Due to lockdown, we have only held one volunteer day since then, with numbers restricted to six. Despite this, some of the members have been performing solo activities during this time: litter picking and clearing of areas ready for the tree planting season. With most of the leaves fallen, we’ll be performing some sweeping of the boardwalks to prevent rotting and make them easier to walk on.

We entered a competition to win a ‘disease-resistant elm’ tree and were successful. These trees are 100% resistant to Dutch elm trees which is still killing elms in Hob Hey Wood and endangering the rare white-letter hairstreak butterfly that lives there. In January, we’ll hold a tree planting ceremony to get this elm into the ground, hopefully, securing the future of the colony of butterflies.

Calendar sales are going well. We’ve sold the 100 printed with support of the council and had 50 more printed (costs covered by HHWFG). This has been an extremely valuable income generator for the group.

We have 220 trees to plant in the wood in December. We’re hoping to get them in the ground early in the month with two sessions to give as many people as possible a chance to plant a tree (limited to six people per session, of course).

For the Amenities Committee Meeting in early 2021, I will produce a full report of the groups activities in 2020, together with plans for 2021.

I would like to put £5,000 in the budget for maintenance in Hob Hey Wood by FTC. Some of the boardwalks in the southern part of the wood may need replacement in late 2021 and there's a bridge and steps that may need attention at the same time. This would need to be performed by FTC contractors similar to the replacement of the northern boardwalk. For like-for-like replacement, I suspect £5,000 will more than cover it. HHWFG currently have no plans that would need FTC support (although we will be asking for £100 in February to renew the group's liability insurance).