



AMENITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES

Meeting 8

Attended by: Cllr P Griffiths (Chair), Cllr H Hayes, Cllr P Lowrie, Cllr R McKeown, Cllr Stockton, Cllr Wade, Cllr Sumner (from 7.10pm) and J O'Donoghue (Town Clerk)

Also attended by: 1 member of the public

102. Apologies for absence

To receive apologies.

RESOLVED: Apologies were accepted from Cllr Eakin and Cllr Ashton.

103. Declarations of interest

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

NOTED: Cllr Hayes declared an interest in Hob Hey Wood and Cllr Wade declared an interest in Ship Street play area.

104. 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: The tenant of the field adjacent to Top Road play area attended the meeting to discuss item 110d on the agenda. It was noted that 2 public footpaths pass through the field and dog walkers regularly use the field to exercise their dogs both on and off lead. Notices are in place requesting dog walkers to keep to the way-marked paths and keep dogs on leads as there are 3 bullocks in the field. It was noted that the bullocks are castrated males and as such are non-aggressive.

105. Approval of minutes

To approve the minutes of the meeting held 7th March 2022

RESOLVED: The minutes from the meeting were approved and signed.

106. Actions from the meeting held March 2022

(a) To note actions taken as follows:

93(b)	Cycle North Cheshire	It was agreed to set up a Zoom working group to look at collaborative ways of working and to include an invite for interested members of the public to attend. It was noted that Cllr Sumner, Cllr Lowrie and Cllr Eakin would like to be involved with the group. Meeting to be advertised on social media.	JO sent email to all cllrs to ask whether they wished to be involved. Contact details for LS, PL and PE shared with Steve Pemberton to arrange meeting, inform FTC and FTC to advertise meeting on social media.
95	Benches	Clerk to chase licences for benches with CWAC.	

96	Memorial path	It was agreed (5:1) to: approve the fee for the extra works around the memorial; commit to new planting; approve the quote for tree removal. It was further resolved to put the contract out to tender inviting AJK Plant Hire, WE Parsons, Ground Control and Horticon to submit tenders for the works.	Clerk to liase with HDD and circulate tender documents once received. Confirmed fees and trees 8/03/2022.
97(a)	Play area repairs	It was resolved (5:2) to accept the quotation in the sum of £1,704.20 for supply and install Ranger Tri Table to replace damaged one and secure 1 x goal post. Clerk to instruct.	Instructed 8/03/2022
97(e)	Play area repairs	It was agreed that the Clerk will obtain quotes from NTC for items identified in the report provided by Cllr Sumner	Quotes requested 8/03/2022
98(a)	Ship Street play area	Clerk to follow up railing painting with Warbreck due to lack of progress and concerns regarding repair of railings.	email sent to Warbreck asking for an update 8/03/2022
98(c)	Ship Street play area	Clerk to circulate all design documents and cost sheet once provided by RSK.	Circulated 6/04/2022
99(c)	Hob Hey Wood	It was agreed to accept the quote, provided to Hob Hey Wood Friends, in the sum of £500, from Hilldale Ltd and make the payment to Hob Hey Wood Friends.	Transfer made 8/03/2022

(b) To agree any further actions to be taken

NOTED: The actions were noted. Cllr Sumner reported that a meeting with Cycle North Cheshire has been arranged for next week.

107. Amenities Committee Accounts 2021 to 2022

To note Amenities Committee annual expenditure against budget as at 31 March 2022 together with expenditure for March 2022 (Month 12) as follows:

	Actual Month (12)	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Funds Available	% Spent
<u>170 Amenities</u>						
2021 Grounds Maintenance SLA	3,008	36,560	35,329	(1,231)	(1,231)	103.5%
4760 Play areas add works	0	380	0	(380)	(380)	0.0%
4803 Play Area repairs/refurb	2,055	3,541	20,000	16,459	16,459	17.7%
4804 Tree Works	0	810	2,000	1,190	1,190	40.5%
4805 Hob Hey Wood	500	5,461	5,100	(361)	(361)	107.1%
4806 Defibrillator Maintenance	0	167	2,000	1,833	1,833	8.3%
4807 Replacement Lights	0	0	12,000	12,000	12,000	0.0%
4808 Bulbs	0	0	100	100	100	0.0%
4809 Rent & Rates	0	0	2,000	2,000	2,000	0.0%
4811 Street Furniture	0	758	2,000	1,242	1,242	37.9%
4812 Xmas Light Bulbs	0	538	750	212	212	71.7%
4813 Additional grounds maint	196	911	0	(911)	(911)	0.0%
4814 Manley Road Copse	0	516	2,000	1,484	1,484	25.8%
4815 Marshlands	0	0	2,000	2,000	2,000	0.0%
4990 Sundries	(325)	0	0	0	0	0.0%
4991 Memorial path EMR	0	2,063	30,000	27,938	27,938	6.9%
4999 Ship Street Play Area	2,260	2,260	150,000	147,740	147,740	1.5%
5000 Annual RoSPA	325	325	325	0	0	100.0%

NOTED: The actions were noted

108. Benches

To receive an update

109. Memorial path

- (a) To note that works are progressing, documents have been approved and put out to tender to 3 companies, one of which has declined to tender due to volume of work and time-scales.
- (b) To note that tenders must be returned by 12.00 hrs on Thursday 19th May 2022, by email clearly marked Tender for Frodsham Memorial Path. The return address for tenders is: Town Clerk, Frodsham Town Council - townclerk@frodsham.gov.uk.
- (c) To note that the tender will be marked on 40% quality and 60% price basis. The Method Statements/Programmes and proposed Sub Contractors will form the basis of the quality marking element, the pricing schedule the basis for the price section.
- (d) To note that the documents that must be returned are. 1. Answers to the 'Project Specific Questions' which should include: 2. the Form of tender; 3. Methodology inc method Statements; 4. A proposed programme of works, 5. List of proposed sub contractors 6. A priced schedule of works, including a digital copy in excel format, for Frodsham Memorial Path. 7. Evidence that the company holds the following • Employers Liability Insurance to a value of £10 million, • Public Liability Insurance to £5 million, • Professional Indemnity Insurance £0.25 million.

NOTED: Progress was noted.

110. Play areas

- (a) To note the play area inspections carried out in April 2022 and circulated to members of the Amenities Committee with the agenda.

NOTED: The inspection reports were noted.

- (b) To consider the quotation received from Northwich Town Council for replacement goal posts at Churchfields as circulated to members of the Amenities Committee.

RESOLVED: It was agreed to accept the quotation as follows:
To remove 1 x remaining goal post, supply and install 2 x new full size goals (24x8) and 8 sockets (to allow for posts to be moved) £3,135.00.

- (c) To consider additional quotation for works identified in the play area reports

RESOLVED: It was agreed to accept the quotation as follows:
Churchfields Play Area To remove graffiti £24.50 **Park Lane** To indent the coping with matching stone £350.00 To remove graffiti from roundabout £24.50 To supply and install 2 x springers, excavate area, and install Notts Sport Carpet Safety Surface in Olive Green £3771.00 **Top Road** To clean the sign £24.50 **Townfield** Fill hole in middle of climbing frame £98.00.
Clerk to seek clarification on painting required on Townfield Lane play area and consult with Chair,

- (d) To receive a report from the Clerk with regards to Top Road play area and note that a meeting has been arranged with Peter Atkinson (Rights of Way, CWAC) to discuss maintenance of the public rights of way.

NOTED: It was noted that a complaint has been received in relation to aggressive livestock preventing access to the small play area in a corner of the field. Following discussions with tenant it was noted that the bullocks are over 3 years old and have been castrated rendering them docile and non- aggressive.

(e) To agree further actions to be taken.

NOTED: It was agreed to consider at a future committee following a meeting with PROW officer.

111. Ship Street play area

(a) To note that a meeting took place on 4th May 2022, attended by Cllr Griffiths, Jo O'Donoghue (Town Clerk) and Colin Burke (Contracts Manager, Warbreck Engineering and Construction) and it is estimated that the works will be completed in approximately 10 days depending on the weather.

NOTED: It was noted that the works are proceeding at a very slow rate, despite the good weather and consideration was given to cancelling the works with the current contractor.

(b) To note that a meeting took place on 6th April attended by Cllrs Hayes, Griffiths, Wade and Jo O'Donoghue (Town Clerk) and that it was anticipated that tender documents would be available for approval before the end of April 2022.

NOTED: It was noted that the programme is running slightly behind schedule and agreed that the Clerk will request copies of all tender documents before they are issued.

(c) To receive a report from Cllr Wade following a meeting with Green Gates Community Project

NOTED: There was no further report.

112. Clerk's report

To receive any additional report and consider any actions to be taken.

RESOLVED: An additional report, provided by Hob Hey Wood Friends Group was circulated prior to the meeting. It was unanimously agreed to provide £900 from the £5,000 budget for Hob Hey Wood for installation of bat boxes (Appendix A).

113. Meeting dates

To agree the meeting dates for 2022 to 2023 for recommendation to full council.

RESOLVED: It was agreed to recommend meeting to take place on the 2nd Monday of each month immediately following the Planning Committee Meeting.

114. Close of meeting

NOTED: The meeting closed at 7.50pm

A local young ecologist (and licenced bat handler), Tom Kenwright, is interested in setting up a bat monitoring programme in Hob Hey Wood, supported by FTC and HHWFG.

After meeting with Tom, I must admit to being quite excited about the potential of such a programme as it has several wide-ranging benefits:

i) The environment. Bats as a group are declining in Britain. One of the reasons is the lack of roost spaces. Although Hob Hey has bat roosting spaces, Tom feels that it could benefit from more; putting up bat boxes would increase the number of bats able to roost safely there. Hopefully, this would increase the number of bats living in and around Hob Hey and Frodsham.

ii) Science. Hob Hey is a poorly recorded site with a lack of information on many species including bats. Discovering the number and types of bats that use roosts in Hob Hey would be a genuine addition to the science of bats in Cheshire, especially if we discover roosting Nathusius' pipistrelle (which has been proven to feed in Hob Hey, but no information on roosting is yet available).

iii) Community. The way the bats would be monitored is by the use of removable bat boxes. The boxes would be taken off the trees and the bats identified and counted. These bat monitoring days could be made open to the public, giving Frodsham residents the chance to get close to these most secretive of animals. HHWFG group would support hosting such open days which would, I suspect, be popular with children and adults alike!

Tom has offered his time free of charge, the only cost would be the purchase of the removable boxes. These are between £60 - £100 each; I feel that £900 would give us enough money to fit enough removable boxes to make the open days worthwhile. HHWFG would also make some permanent boxes (which would add to the number of roost spaces but would not enable removal for examination of the bats).