

Frodsham Town Council



Minutes from the meeting of
Frodsham Town Council Amenities Committee be held on
13th July at 7pm at Main Street Community Church

FRODSHAM TOWN COUNCIL AMENITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES

Meeting 1

Attended by: Cllrs Griffiths, Lowrie, Hayes, Sumner, Stockton, Wade & J O'Donoghue (Town Clerk).

Also attended by 4 members of the public

1. To appoint a Chair of Committee

RESOLVED: Cllr Griffiths was appointed Chair until May 2022.

2. To appoint a Vice Chair of Committee

RESOLVED: Cllr Wade was appointed Vice Chair until May 2022.

3. Apologies for absence

To receive apologies.

RESOLVED: Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs McKeown and Hayes.

4. Declarations of interest

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

NOTED: There were no declarations of interest.

5. 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: Members of Helsby Angling Club attended the meeting to request support in developing the ponds at Saltworks to be totally inclusive fishing areas following negotiations with Cheshire West and Chester Council. The Council agreed to write to the Club expressing their support for the project and the Club agreed to keep FTC informed as to progress. **ACTION: JO**

6. Approval of minutes

(a) To approve the minutes of meeting 9 held 19th April 2021

RESOLVED: The minutes from the meeting were approved.

(b) To approve the minutes of the extraordinary meeting held 26th April 2021

RESOLVED: The minutes from the meeting were approved.

7. Amenities working group

To note the report from the meeting held on 8th June 2021.

NOTED: The report from the meeting was noted.

8. Amenities Committee Terms of Reference

To approve the Terms of Reference.

RESOLVED: The Committee Terms of Reference were approved.

9. Planning and Amenities Committee

To consider a proposal to recommend to full Council that the Planning and Amenities Committee be merged and meet monthly on a Tuesday at 6.30pm.

RESOLVED: It was agreed not to separate the two Committees. Planning Committee will continue to meet on the 3rd Monday of the month at 6.30pm. Amenities Committee will meet on the 3rd Monday of the month at 7pm until October 2021 and will then meet every other month until March 2022.

10. Quotation for repair/replacement of hanging basket brackets

To note the quotation received and agree action to be taken.

RESOLVED: The quotation was accepted and the Clerk will instruct the works.

ACTION: JO

11. Crowmere Lake

(a) To note that a resident has requested permission to introduce carp to the lake and the unsuitability due to the size and topography of the habitat

NOTED: The request was noted and it was further noted that Cllr Griffiths has contacted the resident to explain and that the request has been withdrawn.

(b) To agree action to be taken

RESOLVED: It was agreed that no further action is required.

12. War memorial car park

(a) To note the anti social behaviour reported to Frodsham Town Council and action taken to date

NOTED: The following report has been received from Mike Henry (Frodsham Beat Manager - Chester Rural):

- Since the start of May 2021 there have been 8 reported incidents of ASB on the memorial car park or adjoining road area. In the main these relate to vehicles speeding along the road and groups gathering in vehicles in the Memorial car park with their lights on and littering.
- Police have stopped and spoken with the drivers on several occasions and advised them about their behaviours however, there have been no criminal activities identified.
- The most recent report is on 13th of June 2021 about speeding vehicles.
- Several residents in the area have been spoken with and advised to contact the local council about making the Memorial car park a less desirable area to meet up and gather but Police have not received any update in relation to this matter. It appears that this has only become an issue during Lockdown.
- Police officers have been paying attention to the area as much as commitments allow and engaging with individuals in the area. There has been no speeding enforcement as this road is not registered as an enforceable road using speed monitoring equipment (TRUCAM). Residents have been advised of the process for reporting their concerns around the speed limit being too high (60mph) for the area but Police have not received any update in relation to this.
- There has been no evidence that vehicles are speeding however there seems to be the perception that they are due to the noise made by the vehicles driving on the road.
- PCSO Flanagan has also been using social media to spread the message of the effects that the behaviour of some is having on the residents.
- PC Henry has asked if Frodsham Town Council could lobby Cheshire West and Chester Council for speed monitoring equipment to be placed in this location to give Police a true reflection of the issue.

(b) To agree any action to be taken

RESOLVED: It was agreed that the Clerk will contact CWAC Highways to request speed

monitoring equipment to be placed in this location to give Police a true reflection of the issue.

ACTION: JO

13. War memorial path

- (a) To consider appointing a Project Manager for the works (to produce the specification, support tender process, appointment of contractor and overseeing the project from conception to completion)

RESOLVED: It was agreed to appoint a Project Manager to produce the specification, support tender process, appointment of contractor and overseeing the project from conception to completion.

- (b) To consider a proposal to request formal quotations for memorial path

RESOLVED: It was agreed to defer this item pending appointment of a Project Manager.

14. Green Gates Community Group

- (a) To receive a report

NOTED: It was noted that there are 2 options for Ship Street play area, either to reinstate as a park or to sell the land. The Community Group have stated that if FTC are prepared to reinstate the play area then they will work with FTC to achieve that aim.

- (b) To agree actions to be taken

RESOLVED: The Committee resolved to recommend to full Council that the area be reinstated as a play area. This will be considered at the meeting to be held on 26th July 2021.

ACTION: JO

15. Grounds maintenance

- (a) To note that a costs benefit analysis has been carried out to determine whether to consider employing a groundsman

NOTED: The analysis was noted.

- (b) To consider the reviewed SLA and decide whether to go out to tender with the document (tender documents previously approved) using Contract Finder as (previously agreed)

RESOLVED: It was unanimously agreed to approve the reviewed SLA and start the tender process. Cllr Hayes and the Clerk to action.

ACTION: JO

16. Benches

- (a) To receive an update from Cllr Griffiths

NOTED: Cllr Griffiths provided an update and it was noted that the Police have offered advice on the location of the benches and that the benches will require a budget of approximately £9,000.

- (b) To agree action to be taken

RESOLVED: It was unanimously agreed to request a budget of £9,000 at the full Council meeting to be held on 26th July 2021.

17. Play area maintenance

- (a) To note the inspection reports carried out 6/07/2021 and works required

NOTED: The inspection reports were noted.

- (b) To note the quotations received for play area repairs

NOTED: The quotations were noted and it was agreed that Cllrs Hayes and Ashton will visit each of the sites and the Clerk will have delegated authority to instruct works authorised:

ACTION: HH/CA/JO

- (c) To note the quotations received for play area grounds maintenance

NOTED: The quotations were not received in advance of the meeting.

18.Replacement trees

(a) To note that the Welcome Back fund is designed to encourage people to visit their local shops post COVID-19

NOTED: It was noted that the Welcome Back fund is designed to encourage people to visit their local shops.

(b) To note that the Committee agreed on 19th April 2021 to use funds from the Community Infrastructure Levy to purchase 21 trees at £15/tree including stake

RESOLVED: It was agreed to use funds from the Community Infrastructure Levy to purchase 21 trees at £15/tree including stake.

ACTION: JO

19.Hob Hey Wood

To receive an update from Hob Hey Wood Friends.

NOTED: The update was noted and is appended to the minutes (Appendix A).

20.Manley Road Copse

To accept the WI/Manley Road Copse Constitution

21.Frodsham and Helsby Future Offer (Cheshire West and Chester Consultation)

To receive an update from Cllr Stockton

NOTED: Cllr Stockton provided a report and it was noted that: out of the 1115 people who responded to the Brio survey 330 were from Frodsham and Helsby (30%); there are 3 first tier hubs (Chester, Winsford, Northwich) and 3 second tier hubs (Neston, Christleton and Frodsham); respondents to 5 of these hubs were satisfied with their offers; Frodsham had a majority of respondents who disagreed with the offer; Neston had £2.2 million spent in 2018 on Brio facilities and Chester is currently spending £600,000 on upgrading; respondents were asked why they use Brio, 37.04% said fitness 34.06% said swimming; the distance from home or work were also reasons to use Brio; Frodsham and Helsby are the only hubs with no swimming facilities. Cllr Stockton stated that Ellesmere Port has difficulties with transport and CWAC has said more facilities in Frodsham are needed. There was general dissatisfaction with facilities in Frodsham and respondents were asked what improvements were needed (376 replies). The key responses were better Frodsham facilities and a desire for a swimming pool. However there are plans to refurbish the existing Frodsham Brio centre (painting, flooring and repairs)next week at a cost of £110,000 and further discussions will take place in September.

22.The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC)

To consider taking part in a tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022.

RESOLVED: It was agreed to take part in a tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022.

23.Clerk's report

To receive a report from the Clerk

24.Close of meeting

The meeting closed at 8.35pm.

SUMMARY

5	Helsby Angling Club	Write letter of support
6a	Minutes	Minutes approved - held 19th April
6b	Minutes	Minutes approved - held 26th April

9	Meeting dates	Planning Committee will continue to meet on the 3 rd Monday of the month at 6.30pm. Amenities Committee will meet on the 3 rd Monday of the month at 7pm until October 2021 and will then meet every other month until March 2022.
10	Hanging baskets	Quote accepted, TC to instruct.
12b	Belemonte Road	Clerk to contact CWAC to arrange speed monitoring equipment
13a	War Memorial path	It was agreed to appoint a project manager
14b	Ship Street play area	It was agreed to recommend to FTC that the area be returned to a children's play area
15b	Grounds maintenance SLA	It was agreed to go out to tender with the existing document
16	Benches	It was agreed to ask FTC for a budget of £9,000
17	Play equipment maintenance	HH and CA to visit the play areas to confirm works required and TC to instruct necessary works.
18b	Trees	It was agreed to carry out tree planting with funds from CIL
22	Queens Green Canopy	It was agreed to take part in the tree planting initiative

HHWFG Update for FTC Amenities Committee Meeting: 13/07/2021**Hob Hey Wood Friends Group Birthday**

On 23rd May, Hob Hey Wood Friends Group reached its third birthday! In that time, we've planted over 1,600 native trees and put in several hundred volunteer hours to improve the facilities for visitors and wildlife alike. Hopefully, we can continue to improve Frodsham's beautiful ancient woodland over the coming years.

Volunteer days

Since the last Amenities Committee Meeting, Hob Hey Wood Friends Group have held two volunteer days, both of which were free of the 'rule of six' (which meant that we weren't limited to six volunteers).

The two volunteer days resulted in 48 volunteer hours.

Most of the tasks carried out were maintenance activities:

- Overhanging branch removal (after a request from a member of the public).
- Working on the new south west path.
- Clearing a blocked drain.
- Clearing and cleaning the steps in the woodland.
- Bracken and bramble clearance.
- Litter picking.

The most obvious (to visitors) job we carried out was the installation of a new notice board (see photo). This shows seasonal highlights from the woodland, information about some of the wildlife to see, together with (soon) a map. Hopefully, the notice board will be kept up to date with all the happenings in the wood.

Social media engagement

Our website is up to date and has over 3,000 'hits'. Our Facebook page now has 725 members with a considerable input from others, sharing their photos and news from the wood.

Future plans

- Continue to work on the new path.
- Tree planting (in autumn).
- Invasive species control.

Mark O'Sullivan 08/07/2021