



Frodsham

TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes from the **Amenities Committee Meeting** held in Gallery 1, Castle Park Arts Centre, Castle Park, Frodsham, WA6 6SE on **Monday 10 October 2022 at 7pm**

Members: Cllr Griffiths (Chair), Cllr Sumner (Vice Chair), Cllr Eakin, Cllr Hayes, Cllr Stockton, Cllr Wade

Attended by: Cllr L Sumner, Cllr Eakin, Cllr Hayes, Cllr Wade, Cllr Lofts (non-committee member) and L Bosman (Administrative Officer)

Also attended by: 2 Members of the Public

Meeting 4

1. Apologies for absence

NOTED: Apologies were received from Cllr Stockton and Cllr Griffiths

2. Declarations of interest

NOTED: Cllrs Wade and Sumner declared an interest in item 13 on the agenda as a member of Green Gates Community Project. Cllr Hayes declared an interest in Hob Hey Wood Friends Group. Cllrs Eakin and Sumner declared an interest in Cycle North Cheshire.

3. Requests from the Public to Speak

NOTED: Mr Ian Parkin spoke in relation to item 9 and asked if the lights in the trees on Church Street which have been out for some time could be repaired in time for the Christmas Parade.

4. Approval of minutes

RESOLVED: The minutes of the meeting held 8th August 2022 were approved and signed.

5. Play Areas

- (a) To note the RoSPA Annual Play inspection reports circulated to all councillors
- (b) To consider any action to be taken
- (c) To note that reports of antisocial behaviour reports should be submitted via 101.
- (d) To receive an update from HDD of the latest position.

NOTED: Due to administrative issues, the RoSPA Annual Play inspection reports were issued with short notice. However, it was noted that there was a high risk item at Churchfields and a further moderate risk item was also noted at Churchfields. **ACTION: Locum Town Clerk**

RESOLVED: It was noted that the safety flooring at Churchfields is crumbling and suggestion was made that FTC initiate a conversation with its Service Level Provider to obtain quotes for the repair, to be presented for approval at the next Amenities Committee meeting.

6. Frodsham Memorial

- (a) To note that the works began on 25th August with a scheduled timescale of 8 weeks.
- (b) To note that part of the car park will be allocated to storage and welfare for the duration of the works.
- (c) To note that reports of antisocial behaviour reports should be submitted via 101.
- (d) To receive and update from HDD of the latest position.

RESOLVED: Cllr Hayes reported that FTC has received communication from HDD Project Manager - Claire Halestrap; the project is going reasonably well, most of the path edgings are in, the topping stone and tarmac are to be done last, all the drainage is in, the area around the memorial is just awaiting pointing up. The contract sum of £114,000.00, at present FTC have £111,000.00 committed, currently £2,890.00 not allocated, but we do have some contingencies and provisional

sums, however, whilst excavating for the wall and steps to the front of the memorial, the contractors did not hit bedrock as had been expected. The absence of bedrock means that it will require more concrete for the wall foundation than anticipated, and now in the process of a re-design in the wall foundation and obtaining a price for the extra concrete. It is anticipated that the cost will be within the £2,890.00 remaining in the budget for the contract. HDD are looking for areas to save money, to ensure that the project comes in on budget. Once the re-design has been done and costs have been calculated we will know whether the project is still within budget or if Council needs to look for additional funds. Cllr Hayes advised that if any Cllrs would like a site visit, to contact the FTC office and that can be arranged with the contractor. All on track for Remembrance Day.

7. Ship Street play area

- (a) To note that the works are scheduled to begin on 8th August with a scheduled timescale of 13 weeks.
- (b) To note that the play area will be locked for the duration of the works and that PCSO Neil Flanagan will have access to the area.
- (c) To note serious incident of antisocial behaviour in September delayed works – all reports of antisocial behaviour should be submitted via 101.
- (d) To note that seeding and planting will take place after all ground works have been completed (this is likely to be the week commencing 10th October), after which the site will be closed until the play equipment is delivered.
- (e) To receive an update from Stephenson-Halliday of the latest position.

RESOLVED: Cllr Hayes provided an update from Project Manager from Stephenson-Halliday, who had now taken over from RSK. Expected delivery date for the play equipment is week commencing 7th November, the date for completion of all the works is currently 28th November. Cllr Hayes also advised that an updated construction programme was sent and the project is on track.

8. Town Clock

- (a) To note that 2 faces of the Town Clock have now stopped working. The clock was last serviced in November 2021.
- (b) To note that, because of the location of the clock at a busy junction, two clockmakers are required to safely carry out maintenance work, with an early start to complete all the work before the traffic becomes too busy.
- (c) To approve a quote for £750 plus parts from Smith of Derby (clockmakers) to carry out an annual service of the clock, including using their best endeavours to rectify the faults.

NOTED: The Committee approved the quote for £750 for Smith of Derby clockmakers to carry out an annual service and reparation of the clock on a 12 month rolling basis. **ACTION: Cemetery Clerk**

9. Christmas Lighting

- (a) To note that new commercial lighting is now available in sections of 5m, to allow for tree growth and potential repair and which will preserve any investment made.
- (b) To approve the replacement of wrapped lights for three trees located on Church Street at a cost of £514 per tree excluding installation.
- (c) To approve the sourcing of quotations for the installation of wrapped lighting.

NOTED: The Committee approved the purchase of the replacement lights. Cllr Wade noted that one of the branches of the tree outside the dentist is hanging loose and needs removing. It was agreed to report this to CW&C. It was approved to source quotations for the installation of the lighting.

ACTION: Locum Town Clerk

10. Cycle North Cheshire

- (a) To note the minutes from the meeting held 26th August 2022
- (b) To consider progression of the aims of the group

RESOLVED: Cllr Sumner provided an update on the project, advising that it has been split it into three main areas which promote active travel in Frodsham, one area will look at how we can improve junctions and crossing points, looking at maps and points of interest in Frodsham and adding in safe cycling routes. The third area will look at public transport and the possibility of an e-bike scheme or a dial-a-ride scheme. The Committee agreed to support the group in a potential budgeted project for 2023.

11. Hob Hey Wood

- (a) To approve a request to install a handrail on a steep stepped section of the footpath to secure the safety of all walkers at a cost of £300 (materials only). Hob Hey Wood Friends Group has agreed to construct and install.

RESOLVED: To approve the repairs to the stepped section of the footpath as above.

12. Marshlands

- (a) To note that Frodsham Tree Solutions has completed a tree survey at a cost of £450.
- (b) To note the findings of the survey and authorise quotes to be obtained to carry out remedial works classed as high priority

RESOLVED: Cllr Eakin pointed out that there is some Japanese Knotweed in the area near the sub-station and the Sea Scouts. It was approved to obtain specialist quotes as a High Priority for the removal of this and to carry out a tree survey.

ACTION: Locum Town Clerk

13. Community Orchards

- (a) To note that Mr Tom Blundell has notified us that he is unable to continue caring for Frodsham's community orchards.
- (b) Mr Blundell organised the planting of the first community orchard in Frodsham in Churchfield in 2012 to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee, followed by orchards in Hob Hey Wood; Ship Street and Hawthorn Close. As a volunteer, he pruned the trees in springtime and in the autumn and arranged for replacement trees in case of disease or vandalism.
- (c) To note that the Hob Hey Wood Friends Group have indicated that they are willing to take over responsibility for maintaining the orchard in Hob Hey Wood.
- (d) To approve the sourcing of quotations to maintain our community orchards.
- (e) To note that Cheshire West & Chester Council's Total Environment team is looking for expressions of interest from parish and town councils who are potentially interested in creating a new community orchard within their areas or who can secure land to do so, and agree action.

RESOLVED: It was approved to source quotations to maintain our community orchards. It was also agreed to approach CW&C with a view to looking into the green area at Saltworks Farm and the area by Francis Road as potential community orchards.

ACTION: Locum Town Clerk

14. Commemoration of the Queen's Reign

- (a) To consider commemorating the late Queen Elizabeth II reign of seventy years by the planting of seven commemorative Oak trees within the Memorial field.
- (b) To consider requesting Mr Tom Blundell be present as an honorary guest at a tree planting ceremony to acknowledge and thank him for his service to our green areas in Frodsham.
- (c) To approve the sourcing of quotations in support of the above considerations.

RESOLVED: To approach the local schools to ask if they would also like to be involved in the tree planting.

ACTION: Locum Town Clerk

15. Golden Gateways Initiative

- (a) To note that the Town Council has been approached about an initiative that celebrates the Commonwealth Games gold medal-winning Team England athletes by installing a plaque at a location relevant to their route to glory. Athletes choose these locations based on where they believe their 'journey' in their competing sport began. Nathan Maguire, who won the 1500 metres T54 wheelchair race at the 2022 Commonwealth Games has nominated Frodsham Railway Bridge as his Golden Gateway.
- (b) To decide whether to support this initiative.

RESOLVED: To approve the installation of a plaque for the Golden Gateways initiative.

ACTION: Locum Town Clerk

16. Clerk's report

To receive any additional report and consider any actions to be taken.
There was no further report

17. Date of next meeting – 14th November 2022

18. Close of meeting