



Frodsham

TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes from the **Amenities Committee Meeting** held in Gallery 1, Castle Park Arts Centre, Castle Park, Frodsham, WA6 6SE on **Monday 14th November 2022 at 7pm**

Members: Cllr Griffiths (Chair), Cllr Sumner (Vice Chair), Cllr Eakin, Cllr Hayes, Cllr Lofts, Cllr Lowrie, Cllr Stockton and Cllr Wade.

Attended by: Cllr L Sumner, Cllr Eakin, Cllr Hayes, Cllr Lofts, Cllr Lowrie, Cllr Stockton, Cllr Wade, Cllr McKeown (Non-committee member) and (Z. Dean Locum Town Clerk)

Also attended by: 2 Members of the Public

Meeting 5

19. Apologies for Absence

NOTED: Apologies were received from Cllr Griffiths – unwell.

20. Declarations of interest

NOTED: Cllrs Wade and Sumner declared an interest in item 25 on the agenda as members of the Green Gates Community Project. Cllr Sumner declared an interest in Climate Action Group as a member.

21. Requests from the Public to Speak

No members of the public present wished to speak.

22. Approval of minutes

RESOLVED: The minutes of the meeting held on 10th October 2022 were approved and signed.

23. Play Areas

- (a) Committee noted that the new springers at Church Fields play area was due to be installed last week.
- (b) The 2022 ROSPA reports had been sent to Northwich Town Council and officers were awaiting quotations.
- (c) Committee noted that an updated quotation to replace the whole of the guard rail had not yet been received.

24. Frodsham Memorial Hill Project

- (a) Committee noted that the works at Memorial Hill had been well received. The project was largely complete but the top dressing to the path had not yet been added. Council awaiting final invoices from Horticon and newly seeded grassed areas are to be signed off in the spring.
- (b) It was **RESOLVED:** to approve the additional payment of £1,100 to HDD for the overrun to the contract length of two days. Committee noted that the overrun was caused by Horticon Ltd for which there would be no additional fee.
- (c) The project had reached a level of completion suitable for the Remembrance Day wreath laying on 11th November. No further updated received.

25. Ship Street Play Area

- (a) The committee noted that the works at Ship Street Play Area had commenced on 14th November, following a national delay on delivery of play equipment.
- (b) The Locum Town Clerk read out an update received from Stephenson Halliday: The company initially quoted for 6 site visits during construction period, assuming the construction period would be 2 months long. However, the construction programme is now longer – 13 weeks. Stephenson Halliday had now completed 6 site visits (and issued site notes) and proposed to do another 3 site visits throughout November until practical completion. The cost of this would be £730

(including site notes and expenses).

Committee noted that the delays were not due to the fault of the management team and

RESOLVED: To pay the fee of £730.

26. Town Clock

(a) The committee received an update on the delay of the clock repair.

(b) It was noted that the new date for repair was 22nd November 2022, prior to the town's light switch on.

The committee enquired as to whether there was a guarantee on the clock and whether it would still be valid. Committee noted that an annual service of the clock had been agreed at the last committee.

27. Christmas Lighting

(a) The Chair updated the committee on this item, noting that £500 had previously been budgeted for each tree, instead 4,000 LEDs per tree were required. The committee discussed longevity of lights and experience of specialist companies. Members noted that at this late stage, any tree lights which had been quoted for would not be installed prior the Frodsham Christmas Festival. Instead, it would be the beginning of December.

(b) Following a proposal from Cllr Eakin, seconded by Cllr Lofts, it was **RECOMMENDED:** To light all three trees in Church Street using LITE Ltd as per the quotation.

NOTED: Committee noted that they wished for LITE to be placed on high alert for this project, following Frodsham's Full Council meeting on 28th November, to complete this work as soon as practicable.

ACTION: Locum Town Clerk

28. Anchor Bolt Testing

Committee received the anchor bolt testing inspection report.

RESOLVED: To seek quotations for work required as per the report, in preparation for next year.

ACTION: Locum Town Clerk

29. Allotments & Green Spaces

An email had been received from Cheshire West & Chester Council noting that a planning application may trigger some small Section 106 funds to enhance existing open spaces. The following sites were suggested:

- Amenity/natural greenspace – **£4,647.50** Marshlands tree garden, Hawthorn Road or Community Centre lower recreation field.
- Play sums **£2,634.50 & £1584** – the updated Play Strategy suggest Churchfield play facility as a medium priority with Castle Park and Fountain Lane as low priority.
- There will also be a small allotment so will allocate to either Ash Drive, Churchfield allotments or as a contribution towards new provision.

NOTED: That more trees were required at Marshlands under the Amenity Fund and Japanese Knotweed also needed to be removed at the area which would be expensive.

Under Play Sums, committee suggested replacement safety flooring was required at Churchfields, and a disabled swing. **Committee requested that these items were added to next year's budget.**

30. Cycle North Cheshire

(a) Committee noted the minutes and documentation from 26th October 2022.

(b) After suspending Standing Order for the purpose of Public Participation, Committee received a presentation from Ashley McCraight. The group's goal is to encourage more active travel, to make crossings safer, and to improve signage and general information. The group also wished to explore micro-mobility transport; the need for good cycleways to encourage bike usage. Encouragement of e-bikes was also an aim, along with improvements to air quality in high traffic areas of Frodsham.

Standing Orders were reinstated.

(c) Committee **RECOMMENDED:** that £30,000 be set aside in the 2023/2024 Budget for these and other CNC Schemes, on the proviso that all individual funding requests come back to Amenities Committee before expenditure is incurred.

31. Climate Action Group

(a) Committee noted the minutes and documentation from 26th October 2022.

(b) The committee noted the future sub-projects would be used to enhance the assets in Frodsham and could include:

- Moss filtration device to reduce pollution hotspots, Marl Pits & Marshlands: Biodiversity, carbon sink and nature trail
- Community orchards
- Tree planting on community field
- Refill scheme
- A printed newsletter

The committee noted that this group was not as far advanced as the previously discussed CNC Group, but a collaborative partnership could operate in a similar way.

(c) Committee **RECOMMENDED:** That £10,000 be added as a contingency in the 2023/2024 Budget to aid the Climate Emergency work in Frodsham.

32. Planting Schemes Summer 2023

Committee noted that there would be an increase of at least 10% on plants from summer 2023 onwards, which the contractor must pass on from the nursery.

33. Clerk's report

There was no further report

Date of next meeting – 12th December 2022

Close of meeting

The meeting closed at 20:15.