



Frodsham

TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes from the **Amenities Committee Meeting** held in Gallery 1, Castle Park Arts Centre, Castle Park, Frodsham, WA6 6SE on **Monday 12th December 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 (Acting Chair), Cllr Eakin, Cllr Hayes, Cllr Lofts, Cllr Lowrie, Cllr C. Basey (CWaC) and Z. Dean (Locum Town Clerk)

Also attended by: 1 x Member of the Public

Meeting 6

34. Apologies for Absence

RESOLVED: To receive and accept apologies for absence from following councillors:

- Cllr Stockton – unable to attend
- Cllr Griffiths – unwell
- Cllr Wade – unwell
- Cllr L. Riley (CWaC) – work commitments

35. Declarations of interest

Cllr Sumner declared an interest in the Green Gates project.

36. Requests from the Public to Speak

A member spoke in support of item 39 – Wheelchair Accessible Swing, representing parents of children with disabilities in the Frodsham area. The member of the public thanked the Council for raising this item at committee; expressing the opinion that Castle Park would be a preferred location. Committee noted that Churchfields site was too steep for wheelchair access.

Cllr C. Basey read out an email on the above subject, noting that the Castle Park Trust is supportive of this initiative, however the play area is owned by Cheshire West so collaborative working would be required. Due to the fact that Castle Park sits within a conservation area would affect the type of equipment which would be achievable. There is a possibility of digging into a banked areas to fit in with the protected view of the site. Other possible locations were identified to include Saltworks and Green Gates. Cllr Basey stated that there would be red tape to navigate for this project.

The Chair requested that item 39 was brought forward for discussion earlier in the meeting to benefit the members of public in attendance.

39. Wheelchair Accessible Swing

- (a) The weight of the platform is the key safety matter to be considered, therefore care and consideration is needed when identifying a safe area to site a swing.
The committee discussed various types of accessible swings which had been circulated to members for information. It was noted that fencing around an accessible swing would be divisive, due to the fact that the concept of the swing is to ensure inclusivity.
The committee noted that further research was needed and users of the facility would be kept in sight for the project.
- (b) Committee noted the features of the Ability Swing, with an enclosure, and ability to lock the swing, which is designed to be installed in an open play area.
- (c) Committee noted the “Every Child Matters” green paper for background information.
- (d) **RESOLVED:** To agree the swing in principle, working out the finer details with regards to safety, style, and location later. Committee noted they wished to work with CW&C Council through match funding.

- (e) **RESOLVED:** To agree, in principle, to add provision to the budget, whilst working collaboratively with Cheshire West & Chester Council to complete more research on the project.

37. Approval of Minutes

RESOLVED: To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 14th November 2022.

38. Play Areas Repairs at Churchfields

- (a) Committee noted the previously identified issues with regards to thickness, drainage, trip hazard edging and holes in the current tiger mulch surfacing. It was noted that tiger mulch was not the best solution for this playground.
- (b) **RESOLVED:** To accept the quotation to supply and fit new U-bolts and reattach the swing.
- (c) Committee noted the trip hazard at the edge of the swing set surface.
- (d) Members considered the repairs required for the wooden bridge, noting that the carpet surfacing repair was currently low risk and further research was needed for this.
- RECOMMENDED:** To undertake urgent repair work to the guardrail and timber sleepers on the bridge, as per sections 2 & 3 of the quotation, totalling £3780.
- (e) Committee considered the use of weedkiller instead of a strimmer for greater longevity. It was noted to request a more environmentally friendly option to keep the area free from algae.

40. Budget 2023/2024

RESOLVED: To put forward a provision of £20,000 for a wheelchair accessible swing on the basis that match funding and/or other funding would be generated with assistance from CWaC Council. Committee noted that further research into playground surfacing would be required.

RESOLVED: To include a contingency fund of £20,000 for generalised repairs to play areas. Town Clerk to draw up budget for committee to review.

41. Ship Street Play Area

Committee received an update on Ship Street play area. Additional topsoil was required for the site, and the proposed completion date had changed to January 2023.

The committee wished to express its dissatisfaction with the site management of the project and noted to check the contract with regards to late work.

42. Town Clock

- (a) The Town Clock is now fully functioning following recent repairs in November. Smith of Derby has recommended additional works to the clock due to damage caused by traffic vibrations. Committee requested an update on an SLA for the town clock.
- (b) Committee noted that Council would have to bear the costs of the traffic management in order for the above work to be completed.
- RESOLVED:** To send a request to PP&R to add £5,000 to the 2023/24 budget for the Town Clock.

43. Bench Relocation Request

Committee requested that the cemetery plans are checked with the Cemetery clerk in order to find a suitable location to fit in with the current look of the cemetery.

RECOMMENDED: To relocate the memorial bench to Tarvin Road Cemetery, working with the resident.

44. Trees at Green Gates

A request from a member of the public had been received to consider topping the trees in Green Gates regarding nuisance leaves.

Committee discussed this item, noting that topping trees can result in increased tree growth, decay, and breakage in branch stubs. Tree topping can also damage the look of the landscape.

Committee noted that it was not in favour of removing greenery, but may consider works if trees grow to overhang properties in the future.

RESOLVED: To not take any action with the trees at the current time, writing to the resident to inform them of this decision.

Date of next meeting – 9th January 2023

Close of meeting

The meeting closed at 20:00