



Minutes from the Meeting of Frodsham Town Council held at 7pm on **Monday 23rd January 2023 in Gallery 2, Frodsham Arts Centre**

Members of the public were invited to join the meeting.

Meeting 6

Attended by: Cllr Hayes (Chair), Cllr Anstice, Cllr Lofts, Cllr Lowrie, Cllr Stockton, Cllr Sumner and Cllr Wade.

Also attended by: Z. Dean (Locum Town Clerk), Cllr L. Riley, Cllr C. Basey and PCSO Neil Flanagan.

90. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllrs Ashton and Griffiths due to ill health.

Apologies were also accepted from Cllrs Eakin and McKeown due to work commitments.

91. Declarations of interest

NOTED: Cllr Anstice declared an interest as an employee of CWaC.

92. Approval of Minutes

RESOLVED: To accept and sign the Minutes from the meeting held on 28th November 2022.

RESOLVED: To accept and sign the Minutes from the meeting held on 16th January 2023.

Council noted that Cllr Ross no longer qualified as a Town Council following no meeting attendance in the past six months. Council to write to Mr Ross informing him of this.

93. Requests from Members of the Public to Speak

No members of the public were present.

94. PCSO report

PCSO Flanagan circulated a report in advance of the meeting. The Council noted that the Anti-Social behaviour in the town was slowly getting better, and the implemented measures were working. All incident figures in each area had come down, despite this report including the two-week Christmas break. The mobile CCTV vehicle had been placed in a number of locations around Frodsham. The police force had also been working alongside representatives from the Weaver Vale Housing Trust; with both organisations dedicated to reducing ASB in the area. Continued disruption from individuals will place their tenancy agreements in jeopardy. PCSO Flanagan also noted that some young people had been arrested for offences.

The police have community work planned in local schools. More support had been received from Cheshire Police recently, as well as the Beat Manager and city officers.

The local police force are also encouraging residents to have their bikes forensically marked.

95. Cheshire West and Chester Council elected councillors

Cllrs Riley and Basey attended the meeting, providing a verbal report, covering three main projects.

Saltworks Project

Work is due to start in February/March to include tree planting, painting of equipment, installation of new benches, redesign of footpaths and repositioning of the existing log seating. Cheshire West & Chester Council is currently engaging with residents. A graffiti artist has been commissioned to work with young people and create new art for the space. Positive engagement work through the youth club has also made the Council optimistic for a positive public reaction and willingness to self-police the area. The Council is keen to create zoning for the open spaces, encouraging dog walkers to follow a route and not cut across the football pitch. Several funding sources have been acquisitioned for this project.

Castle Park

There was an assurance that councillors were pushing for work to the conservatory to be undertaken as the Chief Executive was present at the most recent meeting of the Trust. A Health & Safety review is urgently required. Estimates for the repair work are due to be brought before the March meeting. An alternative option to lead needs to be considered, however members noted it was a challenge since there is no CCTV in the area.

The Council is investigating a variety of sites and equipment for accessible usage. CWaC is planning on having the area zoned for holding events. An upcoming reading challenge event will feature chainsaw artistry on 24th February 2023. Trees have also been planted to refresh the Castle Park tree trail. Frodsham Town Council will be invited to the official opening.

History Boards

A sub-group has been set up to update and replace the history boards across Frodsham, with the addition of interactive QR codes. CWaC wishes to engage with local people to showcase the history of Frodsham.

Other Updates

A new highways contractor has been appointed and the Council is hoping for a seismic improvement. Councillors noted that there had been a battle over gritting routes as many Frodsham residents do not live on the primary and secondary Council gritting routes. It was suggested that the winter scheme needed to be revisited. It was noted that Frodsham Town Council's gritting scheme is for pavements and not roads, originally CWaC was supplementing grits bags.

The Council is currently seeking "age-friendly" volunteers to inspire brighter communities.

Cheshire West & Chester's budget is undergoing scrutinisation but will likely result in the maximum 5% increase, which is a sizeable amount for a Band D property. Members noted that this is the highest taxed district in the county. The budget will see £20M extra funding for local schools, £1.8M for the shared propriety fund towards adult education and maths. £1.2M for the active travel support fund. Residents can now borrow an iPad from the local library for a six week hire period.

Town Councillors enquired about fibre optic broadband in the town, noting that the scheme had not been rolled out in Lakes Ward. This area is due to continue over the next three years, as Frodsham has quite a large grey area for coverage. The official rollout is complete, with fibre broadband running through a number of additional new poles. It was noted that it may be necessary for residents to ask their provider if they can access fibre broadband.

96. Accounts

RESOLVED: To approve and sign the Month 9 Accounts as presented.

97. Financial Regulations 2023-2024

It was noted that, following recommendations from the Council's Accountant, this item would be deferred to allow for amendments to be made.

98. Risk Assessment

- a) **RESOLVED:** To adopt the Risk Assessment Policy 2022-2023.
- b) **RESOLVED:** To adopt revised Risk Assessment in accordance with recommendations from the internal auditors with regard to procurement procedures.
- c) **RESOLVED:** To adopt the Risk Management Policy 2023-2024.

99. Training

- a) **RESOLVED:** To adopt the Training Policy.
- b) **NOTED:** The councillor training to date. It was noted that there had not been a great uptake in 2022 for training, much of which is still offered online.
- c) The Chair urged members to review the list of training courses.
NOTED: The training courses provided by Cheshire Association of Local Councils. The Chair requested that all Council Signatories attend financial training. Members requested a brief summary of training sessions from ChALC for all courses listed, in order to ensure relevance at Town Council level.

100. Local Government Award Scheme

- a) Council noted that the deadline to register for the Local Government Awards Scheme was 5th May 2023.
RESOLVED: To enter the Local Government Award Scheme, in the hope of achieving the Foundation level prior to the local elections.
- b) **NOTED:** The requirements for application to the Local Council Awards Scheme.
- c) **NOTED:** That a minimum of 11 out of 16 councillors must be elected in order progress with the Award Scheme.

101. Christmas Lighting Management

Following a recommendation from the Events Committee held on 6th December 2022:

RESOLVED: To appoint KDE for the management of the town's Christmas lighting scheme for a three year period, as per the quotation.

NOTED: Members requested a clause is added to the agreement to protect the Council should there be any issues with the service delivery.

102. Churchfields Plat Area

Following a recommendation from the Amenities Committee held on 12th December 2022:

- a) **RESOLVED:** To award the work to the Council's contractor who is familiar with the area at a cost of £3780, as per the quotation.
- b) **RESOLVED:** To waive Financial Regulations (ref 11D) in order to award the work to the Town Council's current Grounds Maintenance contractor.

103. Youth Council Meeting

Council noted that there is requirement for schools to be involved with local democracy. The Chair was keen to encourage the junior councillors. Members considered holding separate, more informal meetings, involving a number of local schools.

RESOLVED: The Chair to liaise with schools and junior councillors.

104. Close of meeting – 20:01

Date of next meeting: 27th March 2023 at 7pm.