Frodsham
TOWN COUNCIL
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Minutes from an Extra Ordinary Meeting of Frodsham Town Council held in Castle Park Arts Centre Castle Park, Frodsham WA6 6SE on Monday 19th October at 6.30pm

ATTENDED BY: Cllrs J Critchley (Chair), D Critchley, R Drapeur, H Hayes, A Holman, J Hook, C Hughes, R Lofts, P Lowrie, J Moorcroft, M Nield, M Sadler, B Wade, G Wood (Vice Chair) & J O'Donoghue (Town Clerk)

ALSO ATTENDED BY: 10 members of the public

MEETING 5

1. Apologies for absence

   To approve apologies for absence: https://frodsham.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Absence-Apologies-Policy-2024.pdf

NOTED: There were no apologies.

2. Declarations of interest

   To note any declarations of interest: https://frodsham.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/DECLARING-INTERESTS-FLOWCHART-—-QUESTIONS-TO-ASK-YOURSELF-output.pdf

NOTED: There were no declarations of interest.

3. Public Open Forum

   To invite members of the public to speak on items on the agenda: https://frodsham.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Public-speaking-at-meetings-2023.pdf

NOTED: The Chair opened the public participation session. In view of the number of people wishing to speak, the normal public participation period was extended.

Representations in support of the Frodsham Artisan Market referred to the additional footfall generated by the market, the customer base attracted from outside Frodsham, support for independent traders, promotion of the town and the wider benefits experienced by comparable market towns.

Concerns raised by local businesses included pressure on parking, congestion, access to existing businesses, the effect on established Saturday trade, direct competition from some stalls and particular safety and access concerns regarding the market immediately before Christmas. A Sunday market was suggested by some speakers as a possible alternative.

A representative of Independent Street Events Ltd, referred to the three years of operation of the market, its contribution to independent traders and town-centre promotion, and the 75.6% support for continuation identified in the independent business survey. The Council was asked to reach a decision so that traders and the operator could plan for 2027.

A representative of Find It In Frodsham advised that the group wished to work collaboratively with Independent Street and the Council. Matters identified for further consideration included parking, the location and

duplication of stalls, the pre-Christmas market and opportunities to use the market to promote the wider town centre.

4. Business Survey

To note the independent business survey report.

NOTED: Council considered the independent business survey. Members noted that 305 surveys had been issued and 46 responses received. Members discussed the response rate and the need to consider both the positive findings and the concerns raised.

Discussion included the original purpose of the market in supporting the town centre following Covid, the extent to which the market had achieved that objective, the importance of existing bricks-and-mortar businesses, the views of residents, parking and traffic management, and the possibility of further engagement and review.

Members generally recognised that the survey identified matters requiring further work, particularly parking, traffic and congestion, while also identifying support for continuation of the market.

5. Artisan Market

a) To note the report provided by the Town Clerk.

NOTED: Council considered whether to grant Independent Street a further 12-month licence to operate the Frodsham Artisan Market from March 2027.

Members discussed whether the market should continue in its present form and the scope for future changes, including parking arrangements, traffic management, the number and location of stalls, possible Sunday operation, engagement with local businesses and residents, and the establishment of a working group or similar forum.

The Town Clerk advised that Traffic Regulation Orders were currently in place until December 2026 and that arrangements would be required for January and February 2027. Members also discussed the cost implications of obtaining Traffic Regulation Orders for individual months compared with a longer period. It was noted that Independent Street Events Ltd meet all the costs of the TROs.

b) To consider providing a licence agreement for Independent Street Events for the period March 2027 to February 2028.

RESOLVED: Cllr G Wood proposed that a 12-month licence be granted to Independent Street for operation of the Artisan Market from March 2027 to February 2028. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Wade. A named vote was requested and taken as follows: Cllrs R Drapeur, H Hayes, A Holman, J Hook, R Lofts, P Lowrie, M Nield, M Sadler, B Wade, & G Wood (Vice Chair) voted in favour of the proposal; Cllrs J Critchley (Chair), D Critchley & J Moorcroft voted against the proposal; Cllr C Hughes abstained from the vote. The motion was carried 10:3 in favour of granting a further 12 month Licence to Independent Street for the operation of the Artisan Market from March 2027 to February 2028.

6. Close of meeting

The meeting closed at 7.21pm.

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Actions

Action	Lead	Timescale/Note
Prepare the 12-month licence for Independent Street covering March 2027 to February 2028, in accordance with the Council's resolution.	Town Clerk	Before commencement of the new licence period.

Progress the necessary Traffic Regulation Order arrangements for the remaining 2026/27 market dates and future dates as required.	Town Clerk/Independent Street, as applicable	In sufficient time for the relevant market dates.
Bring forward arrangements for structured engagement on issues raised by the survey, including parking, congestion, stall mix/location, local business impact and resident views.	Council/Town Clerk	For further Council consideration.
Consider the form and membership of a working group or other forum involving the Council, Independent Street, local businesses/Find It In Frodsham and resident representation.	Council	Subject to a properly convened future agenda item.