

**CHATTERIS TOWN COUNCIL
LEISURE AND GENERAL PURPOSES WORKING GROUP**

Minutes of a meeting held on Tuesday 12th April 2016

Present: J Burrow (Chairman), W Haggata, J Carney, A Hay and J Smith.

L68 15/16 Apologies for Absence:

An apology for absence had been received from Cllr F Newell.

L69 15/16 Any Matters Arising from the Last Meeting of the Group

Skatepark: Cllr Haggata praised the contractors who constructed the skatepark. He said he had received complaints one weekend about the amount of rubbish and graffiti at the park but by Monday it had all disappeared. His only concern was a gap between the earth mound at the side of the skatepark and the concrete bowl of the skatepark as he feared it was a hazard. Cllr Haggata was also concerned by the rubbish and broken glass near the existing seat in the recreation ground and asked about signs warning that those who littered could be fined. He also commented that the planting of the new trees had yet to take place.

L70 15/16 FDC Update

Mr Ollier had reported that he was generally happy with the County Council's installation of the footpath at Wenny Recreation Ground. He said he or the contractors would make good the problems highlighted at the full council meeting, in particular the piles of mud would be spread out and bollards would be installed to stop vehicles accessing the footpath/cycleway. Seeding and re-seeding would soon take place. Mr Ollier said he would also be tidying up the wood and this would include the removal of 12 dead Silver Birch trees.

The lack of CCTV coverage of the skatepark was discussed. It was agreed to ask if it would be possible to either: a) replace the camera with one with a longer range; b) install an additional camera covering the skatepark or c) re-position the existing camera. It was suggested even a dummy camera might be helpful.

L71 15/16 Projects' Progress

Gas Lamps: The Clerk had informed the architect that the funds were in place for the gas lamps project and had asked him to find someone to carry out the work. Mr Davis had stated that a number of tasks needed to be undertaken to get to the point where tenders could be sought.

Cllr Haggata said the museum had some globes and swan neck fittings for the lamp standards. Cllr Smith said the original lanterns were triangular but it might be possible to use the museum's collection. Cllr Haggata suggested telling Mr Davis the Council had a target date for the completion of the project – November 2016.

Little Acre Fen: The Clerk had sent off an e-mail seeking farmer Mr George Munns' advice and possibly help with the project but had yet to receive a reply. She agreed to send the e-mail again. Cllrs Haggata and Smith were both in favour of a pathway meandering through the site to the Old Railway Line footpath rather than a direct route past the water treatment plant.

It was agreed the Clerk should ask Mr David White to sketch out a plan for the site. Councillors believed there would be more support for the project if there was a proper plan.

The Clerk had information about a Bags of Help scheme run by Tesco's which used the proceeds of the 5p charge for carrier bags for local community green space projects, such as new pocket parks. It was agreed to pursue the idea and to also approach the Woodland Trust. Cllr Burrow said if the Council was successful in getting funding – as it had done for the gas lamps project – this was a crucial part of going forward with a project.

Old Railway Line: Cllr Smith said Mr Ken Perrin and others were looking out for the news trees along the Old Railway Line. Mr Perrin had put up posters and trees which had been pulled up had been replanted.

L72 15/16 Plans for Annual Town Meeting

The Clerk had compiled lists of businesses and organisations and their contact details and had drafted invitation letters to the annual town meeting which she would send out to those on the lists. She asked members if there were any other businesses and organisations she should be contacting and suggestions were made.

The Clerk had sent out invitations to speak at the meeting to Chatteris In Bloom, Chatteris Christmas Lights, Chatteris Museum, the Community Plan Team, the Football Club, the Netball Club and Mr Tom Caldwell, from the Tour of Cambridgeshire cycle race.

The Community Plan team, In Bloom and the netball club had all agreed to take part. Unfortunately Mr Caldwell had sent his apologies as he would be too busy organising the 2016 race but he confirmed he was still hoping to incorporate Chatteris in the race in 2017 and was happy to come along after the 2016 event. The Clerk said she had been sent maps of the 2016 route which could be used.

Cllr Hay said if the football club were not able to attend the bowls club might be prepared to give a short talk. It was believed Mr Mason from the Museum would also be willing to speak.

Cllrs Burrow and Smith requested flyers for the meeting which they could hand out to businesses and shops in the town centre.

Cllr Burrow said a key part of the agenda would be imparting the Council's vision by stating what had been achieved and where the Council was going in the future. He and Cllr Carney had already given such a talk to the Rotary Club and would work on a presentation for the 20th May.

L73 Any Other Business

Surgeries: Cllr Hay said she hoped to hold a surgery every month as a town and district councillor and asked if she could hold the surgeries in the Council Chambers. She stressed the surgeries would be non-political and she would pass on questions to ward councillors. She invited other councillors to join her at the surgeries.

The Clerk said she would enquire if it was permissible to use the Council Chambers and would put an item on the agenda for the May full council meeting.

Leisure Survey: The Clerk had that day been e-mailed copies of two documents - one of which was over 200 pages long and the other 170 pages long - by Mr Phil Hughes at FDC. The documents were a Sports Facility Strategy and a Playing Pitch Strategy for Fenland which set out what was needed to support sporting infrastructure in the area over the next 19 years. The work was a joint project between Sport England and Fenland District Council and Mr Hughes had pointed out the documents were important as they helped to identify investment required in the future and would support funding bids.

The Council was given until the 20th April to make any comments. The Clerk had managed to print off a copy of the playing pitch and indoor sports facilities action plans for members and sought their comments.

Members were horrified to note that whilst the need for increased swimming provision in Fenland had been identified there was no mention of the need for a swimming pool in Chatteris. Cllr Hay said as the only market town without a swimming pool surely an additional pool should be in Chatteris. Cllr Smith said she found the action plan quite insulting as Chatteris appeared to be an afterthought. All councillors agreed that Chatteris needed a swimming pool pointing out this would take the burden from other pools.

The Clerk said the report highlighted high levels of obesity in Fenland and the fact that residents of Chatteris were the least active. Cllr Smith said this supported the need to make provision for more sports facilities in the town, particularly for those who were not competitive, such as swimming. Councillors pointed out swimming appealed to all ages and abilities.

Another recommendation was that FDC worked with neighbouring authorities to facilitate increased levels of activity in Chatteris and Whittlesey. Councillors pointed out this was only viable if there was adequate public transport to neighbouring towns.

On the playing pitches action plan, Councillors pointed out that those who suggested the hedge should be taken down between the football club and the cricket club clearly had no understanding of the personalities involved and were not looking at the practicalities. The report did not address the real problems in a constructive way. The Clerk was concerned that the report claimed Fairlees (presumably Fairledes) field belonged to the Parish Council when

it actually belonged to FDC. Councillors said the lack of use of the 3G pitch was down to the cost of hiring the facility.

Councillors agreed that to give just one week to comment on the documents was discourteous.

L74 15/16 Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 10th May 2016. Cllr Smith gave her apologies.