

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

Minutes of a meeting held on Tuesday 18th April 2017

Present: Cllrs W Haggata (Mayor and Deputy Chairman of group), A Hay, and J Smith.

L79 16/17 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs J Burrow and J Carney

L80 16/17 Any Matters Arising from the Last Meeting of the Group & FDC Update

There was no official FDC update but Mr Bob Ollier had passed on information to the Clerk during the month.

DJ Booth: Members had been informed that it was not possible to visit a DJ Booth in situ as the Chatteris one would be the first in the UK. This concerned members and Cllr Smith was against the idea of committing money to something that could not be seen or heard in advance. Cllr Haggata still feared the device would encourage the youths to play music and said problems with noise at the skatepark had recently died down.

Members agreed to recommend that other ideas should be considered for the CAFY money, which had been allocated to the project.

Benches: The Clerk confirmed the picnic bench at Furrowfields had been ordered.

Cllr Haggata had reported vandalism, which had resulted in one bench along the Old Railway Line being completely destroyed and another damaged, to the police. The Clerk had asked the creator of the bench to visit and report back with the cost of repairing or replacing the benches.

Skatepark Opening: Members asked if the scheduled skatepark opening on the 25th April was going ahead. The Clerk said it was unlikely due to purdah for the upcoming elections but agreed to check.

Hedgerows: The Clerk said Mr Ollier had proposed ripping out the untidy hedge at Church Lane car park and preparing the land for replanting in the autumn. Members supported the idea. Mr Ollier also suggested redesigning the planting bed at the Station Street/Station Road as most of the sleepers were now rotten. Members agreed Mr Ollier should be asked for ideas for the site and if necessary funding should be taken from Section 106 to pay for the project.

L81 16/17 Plans for Annual Town Meeting

The Clerk said she would be sending out invitations to the annual town meeting to organisations and businesses in the next couple of days. Organisations would be invited to give a short report on their progress from the floor.

It was agreed to ask Cllr Carney to include information about the pocket park and gas lamps projects in the revised Powerpoint presentation, including photos of Little Acre Fen, and to also mention the next project would involve the promotion of the waterways.

Mr Andy Smith, Chairman of the Town Plan group, had agreed to give an update on the plan's progress now that the questionnaire answers were being analysed and this would go on the agenda for the meeting. MP Mr Steve Barclay had sent his apologies for the meeting.

L82 16/17 Gas Lamps Project

The Clerk had been sent a provisional programme for the gas lamps project works to be carried out in May. The builder had pencilled in a date to dig the holes. The electrician was unfortunately working away at the beginning of May but this was unlikely to hold up the project.

The Clerk asked if the plan was to shut off the existing light-sensitive security lights on the building completely and use the gas lamps as security lighting when it was dark or would the gas lamps come on in the evening and the security lamps at night (the Clerk explained lights were required throughout the hours of darkness to enable the CCTV camera opposite to cover the building). It was agreed the idea was for energy-efficient gas lamps to replace the energy guzzling security lights. The Clerk warned the light on the side of the building would still be required.

Cllr Smith offered to forward a brochure on planters. These would be positioned to protect the gas lamps from vehicles. She said it was possible to have the civic crest on the planters; members agreed this would be a good idea. Cllr Smith said she also had all the information on gas lighting in the town and the heritage element of the project would need to be emphasised in interpretation boards. There would be an opening ceremony for the project and organisations and companies who had contributed to the cost of the scheme would be invited and acknowledged.

L83 16/17 Little Acre Fen Pocket Park

The Clerk said two grant applications for funding for the Pocket Park project had been submitted and answers were awaited. In addition she had registered the Town Council as a Tree Charter branch. Members agreed there was a need to plant more trees as there were too few in Fenland.

L84 16/17 Any Other Business

Cycling: County Cycling team project officer Mr Jason Tyrrell had responded to the Council's request for a meeting by suggesting he could meet on Friday 21st April in the afternoon. Cllrs Haggata and Smith confirmed they could meet Mr Tyrrell at 2pm that day.

Tree Survey: The Clerk said she had been alerted to the fact that the Council should have regular surveys of all the trees on land it owned or was responsible for. Without such a survey

the Council's insurance would be invalid if someone was injured or a vehicle/building, etc. was damaged by a falling tree. Unfortunately the Council had never had such a survey and a quick inspection of Council land showed there were five trees at Bridge Street, about seven at Little Acre Fen and a large number along the Old Railway Line footpath. As a result she had requested three companies quote to carry out a full survey of all the trees. She warned this could prove to be a costly exercise for the Town Council as all recommended work would have to be carried out.

Two companies had sent in estimates; the first said the cost was likely to be around £500 while the other quoted £220 plus VAT. As the cost was less than £750 there was no necessity to obtain three quotations and the work did not have to be agreed by the full Council. It was agreed to ask the second company to carry out the survey at a cost of £220 plus VAT. The Clerk was asked to remind Mr Ollier that he had agreed to carry out works to two overgrown trees in the High Street.

Leisure Strategy: The Council had been sent a copy of Fenland District Council's revised Draft Leisure Strategy and asked for comments. The Clerk said the strategy was rather woolly with the problems facing FDC outlined along with suggested priorities but nothing about individual towns. Cllr Hay said three options for operating the leisure centres in Fenland were being considered: i) status quo, FDC to continue to run them; ii) FDC to set up a management body to run them; iii) outside contractors to run them. She said the decision would be made the full council.

Members agreed the Clerk should ask Mr Phil Hughes, Head of Leisure Services, to look into Chatteris Leisure Centre handling the bookings for the AWP and if outside contractors were to be brought in, for the bookings to be part of any agreement.

Projects: Cllr Haggata said with the gas lamps project well underway and the pocket park project awaiting grant decisions, the Council should be looking to the next idea and that should be a mooring/landing stage on the Forty Foot River. It was agreed to look into the scheme later in the year.

Poundstretcher: The Clerk was asked to enquire if Poundstretcher were still planning to move to the Tesco site in Chatteris.

Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 9th May 2017.