

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

Minutes of a meeting held on Tuesday 13th December 2016

Present: Cllrs J Burrow (Chairman), W Haggata, P Murphy and J Smith and Mr Bob Ollier, FDC's Parks and Open Spaces Manager.

L43 16/17 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs J Carney, A Hay and F Newell.

L44 16/17 Any Matters Arising from the Last Meeting of the Group

All matters arising were on the agenda.

L45 16/17 FDC Update with Mr Bob Ollier

Exercise Area: Mr Ollier was welcomed to the meeting. He began by showing members plans for an outdoor gym/exercise area and explained why he was keen to see Chatteris become the first town in Fenland to benefit from such an area.

Mr Ollier said in the past couple of years he had been approached by various people keen to run boot camps on open spaces in Chatteris. The MUGA at Furrowfields, Wenny Recreation Ground and the pitch behind the Sportsman had all been used but it had not been possible to seek payment from those running the boot camps even though they were charging people to take part.

Mr Ollier then began to consider a purpose built area for boot camps and had sought a design from Kompan which included a wet pour surface with a running track and three fitness stations (an outdoor gym).

The main problem had then been where to site it – Furrowfields, Wenny and Huntingdon Road Recreation Grounds were all rejected as they would be difficult to police. Mr Ollier then suggested the grass area outside the gym might be the ideal location. The gym operators would be able to charge those organising boot camps to use it (and ensure they had the correct public liability insurance, etc.) but residents of the town who were not taking part in a charged for activity would be able to use it for free. Part of the proceeds would go to the gym staff and part to Mr Ollier's budget for maintenance of the area.

Mr Ollier said the plans shown would cost about £42,000 and funds were available in the Section 106 holding account.

Cllr Haggata welcomed the idea and agreed Wenny was not the right place for it. Cllr Smith said near the gym was the ideal location. Cllr Murphy said the only problem was Fenland did not own the land next to the gym; it was believed it was either owned by Cromwell

Community College or the County Council. It was agreed that if the Town Council wished to see the scheme go ahead, the Clerk and Mr Ollier should approach the Principal of the College to seek permission to site the exercise area next to the gym.

Cllr Smith asked if any money would be available to improve the car park at the gym but was informed there would be no funds available.

It was **agreed to recommend the full council supported the proposed scheme.**

CCTV Camera: Mr Ollier then moved on to the Town Council's request for a CCTV camera overlooking the new skatepark at Wenny Recreation Ground. He said the biggest problem was getting power to the site and produced a map showing four possible routes (including one which ran the full length of the recreation ground). The favoured route was to lay power cables from the Elms. The estimated cost was about £40/50,000 (which would come from Section 106 funds) and Mr Ollier warned that the costs of maintenance and repair would fall to the Town Council. If the Council were in favour Mr Ollier would go out to tender for the work and anticipated the camera would go in June/July time. Cllr Smith asked if it would be a wireless camera as there were plans to make all cameras wireless.

It was **agreed to seek the Council's views on the project.**

DJ Booth: Mr Ollier said he had been approached by Cllr Newell who informed him that Chatteris Action for Youth had folded and had funds amounting to about £5,000 left which should be spent for the benefit of youths in Chatteris. She asked about a scheme for the skatepark since part of the proceeds had come from fund raising for the skatepark.

Mr Ollier suggested spending the money on a DJ booth, a steel construction which would be concreted into the ground near the skatepark. Youngsters would be able to plug their i-phones into the booth, wind it up and play their music through speakers. Council Officers would have control over the hours the booth could be used and the level of noise it was able to generate.

Cllr Haggata was concerned the idea would receive objections from nearby residents and warned it would have to have a low decibel output. Mr Ollier said the suppliers could be asked to bring a demonstration model along so audible tests could be carried out and he reiterated that the Council could control noise levels. **The Council's views are sought.**

Bench: Mr Ollier had sent through ideas for picnic benches which could be positioned at Furrowfields. The Clerk suggested siting one just outside the play area near the MUGA in Furrowfields so it could be used by dog walkers and parents watching their children in the play area. This was agreed. Mr Ollier warned it would need a concrete base and a short stretch of footpath to it so the costs of installation would be about £1,000.

Mr Ollier was thanked for attending the meeting.

Members studied the bench designs and agreed to **recommend** purchasing a square table surrounded by four benches made from recycled plastic. The cost was £600.00.

Cllr Smith said a bench at the entrance to Salem and Lyons Court in Wimpole Street was in a poor state of repair. It was agreed to enquire who owned the bench, Fenland or Roddons.

L46 16/17 Little Acre Fen Project

The Clerk reported she had met with Mr Tom Tree of the CGM Group to discuss the Little Acre Fen Project. On showing him the site and Cllr Smith's draft plans, Mr Tree appeared to know exactly what the Council had in mind and confirmed the Group would be able to carry out the work (and the maintenance). He explained he had worked on similar projects and even gave advice on possible funding sources. Mr Tree agreed to draw up costings for the work.

Cllr Smith said the main thing was to clear the site, create a decent pathway through it and to close it off to vehicles by creating pinch points and installing barriers. Once the site had been set up it would be possible to introduce more features and to get the community involved.

L47 16/17 Gas Lamps Project Update

Members were disappointed to learn there had been little progress on the Gas Lamps Project. The Clerk showed pictures of detailed designs which the architect had submitted and she had been copied in to correspondence between the architect and the structural designer seeking final technical information to allow him to complete the design and seek construction prices.

This followed an e-mail from the Clerk pointing out the grant offer from Red Tile was about to expire and Mr and Mrs Howes were fed up with storing the lampposts in their garden. Unfortunately the structural designer had not responded as requested to the architect's e-mail.

Cllr Haggata was frustrated by the lack of progress but said it was too late to pull out and find another architect and admitted he would hate to see the project fail.

L48 16/17 Plans for Annual Town Meeting 2017

Councillors Haggata and Burrow began by agreeing that there was a need to promote Chatteris and for councillors to talk about the town in a positive way. Cllr Burrow said promoting a positive vision of the town encouraged people to get involved and the Town Council should be loud and proud about Chatteris.

It was agreed the town had more to be positive about – particularly Stainless Metalcraft being at the centre of the nuclear industry – and should use the Annual Town Meeting to update people. Cllr Burrow hoped there would be news on such projects as the pocket park and the exercise area and also suggested mentioning other projects in the pipeline. Cllr Haggata felt it was important to update people on what had been mentioned at the 2016 meeting, even admitting that the Tour of Cambridgeshire cycle race would unfortunately not be coming to Chatteris.

Cllr Burrow was anxious to see representatives of the town's businesses in attendance and spoke of the need to advertise the meeting earlier. It was agreed to once again send out invitations to the meeting, including to the town's MP, those involved in the tourism industry, a representative from the health service and a representative from Stagecoach. It was also agreed to ask other organisations to explain how the Town Council had helped them.

The Clerk told members that the questionnaires for the Town Plan were about to be distributed (including a special questionnaire for businesses) and replies were requested by February. She suggested the Annual Town Meeting might be the ideal opportunity for the Town Plan group to explain what the questionnaires had revealed.

Cllr Burrow suggested the leisure group should start to formalise plans for the annual meeting at its January meeting and this was agreed.

L49 16/17 Any Other Business

Leaflet: Cllr Smith had produced a draft promotional leaflet for Chatteris which listed food outlets, shops and attractions in the town and included a map. Cllr Burrow suggested including information from businesses but it was pointed out the leaflet was aimed at tourists. It was suggested it would be helpful to have copies in Aldi since many people used the new shop but did not visit Chatteris. Cllr Smith admitted the leaflet would need to be regularly updated as shops and take-away's changed. She asked if any shops had been missed and offered to continue working on the design.

Cllr Smith was concerned that a brochure advertising festivals and events in Fenland failed to make any mention of the Christmas Lights. It was agreed it would be advisable if the Council was able to review any promotional material before it was published.

War Memorial: Following requests from the Royal British Legion and Cllr Dick Mandley for improvements to the war memorial, Cllr Murphy had met with the new technical officer at Fenland District Council, Mr Kevin Gautrey, to discuss the possibilities. Cllr Murphy admitted the grass at the rear of the war memorial was in a bad state due to cars continually running over it but he queried whether a small fence would prove to be a deterrent. He pointed out this would lead to problems maintaining the area and he was not confident the PCC would agree to the fence. However Mr Gautrey felt the existing railings around the war memorial were worth preserving, suggesting pristine new railings would look out of place. He agreed to obtain the costs of stripping the railings down to bare metal and re-painting them and installing up-lighting for the memorial. He also agreed to meet with Major Norman Larke to discuss the RBL's requirements.

Church Clock: Cllr Murphy said he had also pointed out to Mr Gautrey that the Church clock was in a poor state of repair and was in desperate need of re-gilding. Although the clock was on the church it was the duty of Fenland District Council to upkeep it and Mr Gautrey agreed to obtain costs for the work.

L50 16/17 Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 24th January 2017.

