

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

**Minutes of a meeting held on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2017**

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

**L61 16/17 Apologies for Absence**

Cllrs J Carney and J Burrow.

**L62 16/17 Any Matters Arising from the Last Meeting of the Group**

L52) DJ Booth: Cllr Haggata said he was opposed to the DJ booth as youths had been playing boom boxes at the skatepark again to the annoyance of neighbours. Cllr Haggata was concerned that even if the times of the booth were restricted it would encourage the youngsters to play their own music after the booth shut down and it would be difficult to restrict the music.

Cllr Newell said the secretary of CAFY was anxious to know if the project was going ahead as he had the funds to pay for it.

It was agreed a demonstration of the booth was urgently required.

L55) Environment: Cllr Hay said she had reported to an FDC meeting that Chatteris In Bloom had been downgraded due, according to the judges' report, to the open spaces and street scene work by FDC. Cllr Smith said there did not appear to be a similar problem in Wisbech. Cllr Hay said part of the problem last year was due to the fact that FDC and Circle Housing were using different contractors for the first time and there were issues with who was responsible for particular areas. Cllr Smith said ironically the judges rated Salem Court very highly but that was due to the work of the residents.

**L63 16/17 FDC Update**

Unfortunately Mr Ollier was on annual leave until the 7<sup>th</sup> March having been off sick prior to that and there was no update on any of the FDC issues except the picnic bench. The Clerk said Mr Phil Hughes at Fenland had requested details of the bench required and had promised a meeting to decide on its position.

Cllr Hay said she had taken up the issue of a lack of activities in Chatteris, advertised on the Active Fenland app, with the portfolio holder Cllr Michelle Tanfield. Cllr Tanfield had given a list of activities going on and planned for Chatteris. Cllr Hay said there were plans to bring in a management firm to run all four leisure centres in Fenland.

Cllr Haggata was disappointed that Mepal Outdoor Centre had closed. It was agreed to write to the leader of East Cambridgeshire District Council, Cllr James Palmer, asking: i) what plans there were for the centre; ii) the ideas which had been explored and iii) if they had considered putting in a professional company to run the facility. The letter would explain that the Town Council had an interest in the facility which was on Chatteris' doorstep. It was agreed to copy in Mr Steve Barclay MP.

#### **L64 16/17 Plans for the Annual Town Meeting**

The Clerk reported the letter had been written to Mr Joe Perry congratulating him and asking him to attend the meeting. It was agreed Stainless Metalcraft should also be invited to attend and give a short talk on their successes.

Cllr Hay had attended a meeting when Metalcraft had made decisions on the first applications for their community funding. It had been agreed to give money to the bowls club (Cllr Hay had declared an interest and left the meeting) and Chatterjam (the book festival which Cllr Smith said was due to be attended by a number of well-known children's authors). There had been a request for funds for the railings around the war memorial but it had been agreed a working party of trainees to help with the work would be a better idea. Cllr Hay said two other groups had received funding and the £500 available had been allocated. The funding group appeared to favour well written applications which did not seek the full £500 and offered match funding.

Cllr Smith suggested the ideas for the pocket park should be raised at the annual town meeting and questionnaires handed out and Cllr Haggata was keen to see Mr Barclay at the meeting so he could be asked about transport to Manea rail station and his enquiries into the dealings of LEP.

Cllr Haggata suggested plans for the meeting should be confirmed at the next Leisure meeting when the question of food would be discussed and Cllrs Burrow and Carney would be asked if they could update the Powerpoint presentation. If Cllrs Burrow and Carney were unable to make the meeting they would be asked for the information in advance.

#### **L65 16/17 Promotional Leaflet for Chatteris**

Members had copies of Cllr Smith's excellent promotional leaflet for Chatteris. As requested the Clerk had gone through the leaflet and suggested a few minor amendments and members also made a couple of suggestions. Everyone agreed the leaflet was far superior to any tourism leaflet produced by FDC.

## **L66 16/17 Gas Lamps Project**

The Clerk said she unfortunately had no good news on the gas lamps project. She had e-mailed the architect to express concerns that the project was not moving forwards and to express it was imperative the project was completed before the last weekend in June at the very latest.

In response Mr Davis had given his apologies (again) and had said he was still waiting for a correct quote from the metal worker before going out to contractors to seek quotes for the “grubby” building work. The Clerk said it was embarrassing facing groups who had given money for the project when there was still nothing to show them.

It was agreed the Clerk should go back to Mr Davis and ask him to get the builders’ quotes at the same time as the metalworker’s and point out donors were putting pressure on and it was becoming embarrassing. It was suggested he could also be asked why the posts could not go up and the lanterns be added later.

## **L67 16/17 Little Acre Fen Project**

The Clerk reported she and Cllr Smith, with help from Cllr Carney, had been working hard on the two grant applications for the Little Acre Fen Pocket Park project. The Big Lottery Fund (Reaching Communities) application was almost ready to be submitted. If the scheme was considered to be viable a second application form would have to be completed.

Once the lottery fund application had been submitted the Clerk would continue with the Grantscape application, which had to be completed on-line, using information contained in the lottery application.

In the meantime organisations were being approached seeking their support for the project. In Bloom and the Allotments Association had already indicated their support provided the area was regularly maintained. It was suggested also approaching the cycle group, U3A and Active Fenland.

If further support was required it was also suggested Somersham Parish Council could be approached for their views.

It was also agreed to seek financial support from the Section 106 fund. The Clerk said she also had to enquire about revenue costs – the likely costs of regular grass cutting and maintenance.

## **L68 16/17 Public Mooring on the Forty Foot River & Letter from Inland Waterways Association**

The Mayor had been approached by the chairman of the Inland Waterways Association seeking his support for a bid to get the Government to transfer the Environment Agency navigations to the Canal and River Trust. The letter pointed out the Environment Agency managed some of the UK's river navigations which were under threat of closure due to limited funding. Horseway Channel in Chatteris was one such navigation and it had been unnavigable for years since the Environment Agency closed Welches Dam Lock in 2006. It was **agreed to recommend** the Council lobbied MP Mr Steve Barclay asking him to support the move to transfer navigations to the Canal and River Trust.

The Clerk had been contacted by former councillor Mr Chris Howes about plans for a public mooring on the Forty Foot river to serve Chatteris. Mr David Thomas, of the Middle Level Commissioners, had stated he could see no reason why an appropriately designed scheme for a public mooring on the Forty Foot would not be looked on favourably. He stated a statutory body, such as the Town Council, would need to adopt the facilities post construction.

Mr Howes had acknowledged it was unlikely the Town Council would be prepared to meet the cost of building the moorings without external financial assistance but the Council was a likely candidate to adopt the moorings once built. He suggested seeking advice on how March financed their new moorings a couple of years ago.

Members agreed they would not fund such moorings but might be prepared to adopt the facilities. Cllr Haggata suggested the moorings would be built on land owned by Mr Alan Rickwood and a public footpath ran to the site. However Mr Thomas suggested the land was owned by MLC and would, therefore, require their agreement and a nominal rent.

Members agreed they should help to move the project forward and the first course of action should be to find the cost of moorings. It was also suggested seeking the MP's support for such a project. It was agreed the moorings would help to promote tourism by encouraging those on boats to tie up and make their way into town.

## **L69 16/17 Any Other Business**

Cllr Newell said she had been approached about the need for more trustees for the Museum. It was confirmed the Council had a full complement of representatives on the trustees (Cllrs Newell, Haggata and Ashley) and it was suggested some of the helpers in the museum might be prepared to join the trustees.

## **L70 16/17 Date of Next Meeting**

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2017.

