

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

Minutes of a meeting held on Tuesday 19th January 2016

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

L46 15/16 Apologies for Absence:

There were no apologies for absence as everyone was present.

L47 15/16 Any Matters Arising from the Last Meeting of the Group

The Clerk reminded members that Mr Howes' three recommendations for the way forward with the Waterways Project (L39) had not been put to the full Council for approval. It was *agreed the following ideas should be recommended to the full Council:*

- 1) To get the Fens Waterways Link included in the Local Plan;
- 2) To provide a mooring and re-instate the dock on the Forty Foot near Chatteris;
- 3) To make people aware of the linear park and encourage them to use the resource.

L48 15/16 FDC Update

Mr Bob Ollier had sent his apologies and had reported that a ditch had been dug from the skatepark to the wood to take some of the water away. The banks of the skatepark would shortly be turfed over stabilising matting.

Cllr Haggata repeated his request for a cluster of trees to be planted between the skatepark and the nearest housing estate to form a noise barrier and to help soak up excess water. Cllr Templeman was concerned the trees would block the CCTV camera's view of the skatepark and the youngsters would then be able to cause trouble unobserved. It was agreed to request a site meeting with Mr Ollier to discuss the best position for the trees. Cllr Carney also agreed to raise the question about the view of the site from the CCTV camera at the CCTV liaison meeting.

Cllr Templeman claimed FDC were refusing to clean out the bus shelter in East Park Street. She was advised to speak to the portfolio holder Cllr Murphy.

L49 15/16 Gas Lamps Project Update

Cllrs Smith and Haggata reported that an application had been submitted to WREN for funding for the project. The Clerk had found it difficult to complete the financial side of the application and Mr Ollier had been helpful in advising her how to make the submission. However the application had now raised a number of queries, particularly on the financial

side. The Clerk explained once a decision had been received from Red Tile Wind Farm Trust it would be simpler to make the application as WREN was looking for confirmed third party funding. It was agreed grant applications should also be made to Feoffee and Court Leet charities. Cllr Hay said the application to Red Tile would be considered at a meeting on the 26th January.

L50 15/16 Speakers Dr Marianne Bryant and Mr Ian Mason on Resurrecting the Millennium Walk

Dr Bryant and Mr Mason were welcomed to the meeting. Mr Mason began by explaining they were hoping to resurrect Rotary's Millennium walk which ran for 21kms around Chatteris. Most of the walk was designated footpaths but there was one section which was a permitted footpath.

Cllr Carney said he and the Clerk had met with Mr George Munns a couple of years previously to discuss the permitted footpath and whilst Mr Munns was happy for the walk to go over his land the sticking point had been neighbouring land owned by Lord De Ramsey. At that time the estates manager was not keen on the public accessing his land but a new manager was now in situ and appeared to be more amenable. Mr Mason suggested it might be possible to find another route to avoid the permissible section.

Mr Mason said Cambridge Geological Society were currently surveying the Fen Edge area and were also looking at the islands – Chatteris, March and Ely. The idea was to create walks around the Fen Edge and around the islands. Dr Bryant explained there were already walks around most of the areas and it was just a question of resurrecting them.

The aim was to put together a leaflet similar to the one produced by the Rotary Club with more information about the natural history, etc. Dr Bryant explained there were a number of specialists who could be called upon to help with the content of the leaflets.

Dr Bryant was asked how the Council could help and she explained support would be helpful if permission was being sought from landowners. She had also been advised that in the near future footpaths not shown on the definitive county map would be closed so there was a need to make sure the footpaths were on the map. Dr Bryant said part of the Rotary route was closed off and the landowner was making it inaccessible.

Mr Mason explained there was also a need for new signs in some areas. The Clerk said a former rights of way officer at the County Council had advised her that signposts were available but the County did not have the manpower to put them up and would willingly supply them to volunteers who could put them up.

Cllr Hay asked if the route was on the new tourism website. Mr Mason said parts of it were as they were parts of other walks but he did not want to advertise all the route before permissions were sought. Cllr Smith said walk leaflets were in great demand at the library.

Cllr Carney said the ownership of land could be determined through Land Registry and the Council could send a letter asking owners if they would allow their land to be used as a route. Mr Mason admitted there would need to be different options for the route as few would want to walk the full 21kms. The Clerk suggested a variety of routes back into the town should be considered.

When asked about costs and the way forward, Dr Bryant said she was looking to obtain an ordinance survey map which showed the contours on a scale map so the route could be mapped, permissions would then be sought, a leaflet produced and the route signposted. There would then be the costs of printing the leaflet and launching the project. The Clerk said the Town Council might be able to provide some financial help as it was a tourism project to promote the town.

Cllr Haggata asked if the project had any deadlines and suggested it could be tied in with the Tour of Cambridgeshire Cycle race which it was hoped would come to Chatteris in 2017.

Cllr Burrow was keen to support such projects to raise the profile of Chatteris.

L51 15/16 Engagement with the Community – Plans for Annual Town Meeting

It was agreed the annual town meeting should take place on Friday 20th May at the King Edward Centre.

Cllr Burrow stressed the need to get the momentum back after a quieter meeting in 2015. He pointed out there were several projects underway – the Tour of Cambridgeshire, the Waterways Project, the Community Planning team preparing the new town plan and the millennium walk – and the meeting would be an opportunity to talk about those projects.

It was suggested representatives of the projects could be asked to give a short, punchy presentation. It was also agreed to invite representatives of some of the larger organisations in the town, who received funding from the Council, to give a presentation on the organisation, future plans and how the Council's money had been spent. The presentations would act as a sales pitch for volunteers. The organisations suggested included the Christmas Lights, In Bloom and the Museum.

The groups would be asked to give a two to three minute presentation answering the questions: i) Who are you? ii) What do you do? iii) How has the Town Council assisted you?

Cllr Hay suggested inviting every organisation in town to the meeting and Cllr Burrow was also keen to invite local businesses.

It was agreed there would not be time for every organisation, who had received financial help from the Town Council, to speak but there could be slides listing them and they could be invited to bring along leaflets promoting their organisation.

Cllr Templeman also suggested a slide listing organisations for youths in the town and it was agreed there should be others listing groups for the elderly, interest groups, sporting groups, etc.

It was agreed again that the theme of the meeting should be 'Putting Chatteris on the Map'.

L52 15/16 Any Other Business

Queen's Birthday Celebrations: The Council had been asked if it had any plans to mark the Queen's 90th birthday. Councils were being encouraged to light a beacon on the Queen's actual birthday on the 21st April.

Cllr Carney agreed to light the beacon on that date and suggested the Salvation Army band could be invited to play at the ceremony and the Town Crier could be asked to attend. The Clerk said she would register that the Council would be lighting the beacon and an official light time would then be supplied. Cllr Carney requested no parking cones for the area near the beacon to stop cars parking beneath it.

Cllr Templeman said the Royal British Legion and the Parish Church were planning to organise a street party within the church grounds to mark the Queen's official birthday on the 11th June.

L53 15/16 Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 9th February 2016.