

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

Minutes of a meeting held on Tuesday 14th March 2017

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

L71 16/17 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

L72 16/17 Any Matters Arising from the Last Meeting of the Group

The Clerk said the requested letters had gone out that day and all other matters were on the agenda.

L73 16/17 FDC Update

Mr Bob Ollier gave his apologies that he was unable to attend the meeting but he had met the Clerk the previous day to look at the positioning of the picnic bench and to give an update.

CCTV: Mr Ollier said he had been advised that the Assets and Projects team at FDC had started to put together the tender documents for the CCTV at the skatepark and this would be sent out asap.

DJ Booth: Mr Ollier had obtained design specifications and images of the DJ booth from the manufacturers Kompan. However Kompan were unwilling to supply a booth for demonstration purposes as the units were made to order. Instead they had sent a video clip of a booth operating. Unfortunately as members pointed out this gave no indication of the noise effect on neighbouring properties. Cllr Newell said the unit would be funded by CAFY money and Mr Ollier had advised her it would appeal to the youths using the skatepark. March had been interested in purchasing one but did not have the funds. Cllr Haggata remained sceptical, he was convinced local residents would complain about the noise and felt it would be damaged by the youths. He also felt the booth would encourage the young people to play their own music outside the booth operating hours. Cllr Hay suggested youths would still play their music without the booth and the booth could result in less noise as the volume could be controlled. Cllr Smith was keen to see a booth operating before making a decision and asked where the nearest one was located so she could visit it.

Skatepark: The Clerk said Tuesday 25th April at 4pm was being suggested as the date when the skatepark would be officially opened and the new table tennis table would be installed. (Cllr Smith gave her apologies). It had been agreed pupils of Cromwell Community College should be invited to the opening.

Picnic Bench: The location of the picnic bench at Furrowfields had been agreed but Mr Ollier had advised against certain types of bench including the one chosen by the group. The bench chosen was made of recycled plastic but Mr Ollier said a similar one had been installed at Wisbech and had been vandalised. Youths had used cigarettes to melt the top of it. He recommended a hardwood bench. Members agreed to the bench suggested.

The Clerk said as the bench was more expensive (£948 instead of £599) the bench would need to be purchased in the current financial year and the concrete base and installation costs would be met from the next year's budget.

Hedgerows: The Clerk had asked about overgrown hedgerows encroaching on Wenny Recreation Ground and Mr Ollier said he would look into cutting them back in the winter. Cllr Smith asked what FDC's plans were for the hedge in Church Lane car park, which now had a large section missing, and the island bed at the junction of Station Street and Station Road as the slats were rotten and soil was seeping out.

L74 16/17 Annual Town Meeting

It was agreed the annual town meeting of 2017 should be lower key. Cllr Carney had offered to update the Powerpoint presentation and this was agreed. The Clerk suggested instead of asking organisations to make a presentation they could be invited to give a brief update from the floor. This was agreed.

Members agreed that the main purpose of the meeting was to update residents on progress in Chatteris, hopefully there would be an update on the Town Plan following the submission of the questionnaires. Tea, coffee and biscuits would be served.

Members also agreed that invitations should go out to organisations and businesses. Cllr Smith offered to deliver invitations in the town centre. It was also agreed the event, on the 19th May, should be advertised on the noticeboard, website and on Facebook.

L75 16/17 Promotional Leaflet for Chatteris

Members agreed the leaflet which Cllr Smith had designed was very good. All revisions were now complete and it was ready for printing. Unfortunately the format changed slightly when the Clerk tried to print it out on the office equipment but Cllr Smith was trying to sort the issues. It was suggested a price for printing could also be obtained from a local printing firm.

Cllr Smith was keen to see copies of the leaflet delivered further afield, in other towns, to bring in visitors to Chatteris. She also suggested putting some in the Aldi store, the library, the museum and the estate agents.

L76 16/17 Gas Lamps Project & Little Acre Fen Project Updates

Gas Lamps: The Clerk was pleased to report the gas lamps had been collected and were now being refurbished. The architect had asked about the colour of the lampposts and sign and asked if the Council wished to see some gilding if funds remained. The Clerk had sought the advice of Mr Chris Howes who suggested any colour but black as the country was no longer in mourning for Prince Albert. He said railway (or canal) colours were popular; dark greens, dark reds or blues and he suggested midnight blue would look good.

Members favoured dark green and asked how much gilding would cost.

The Clerk said the architect was struggling to get another quote for the groundworks. Cllr Hay said she would chase up one of the local builders who had been asked to quote.

Little Acre Fen Pocket Park: The Clerk said she had not yet found the time to complete the application forms for funding but would do so as she now had all the figures she needed. Unfortunately the WI were not in favour of the scheme as the previous trees on the site had died. Cllr Smith said the trees were only twigs supplied by the Woodland Trust and they did not appear to have a good survival rate. In her experience more mature trees survived better. The Clerk said many of the trees which had been offered were sturdier than twigs.

L77 16/17 Any Other Business

County Council Cycling Project Officer Mr Jason Tyrrell had responded to the Councils request for a meeting to discuss future cycling and walking projects. He said he was happy to meet with councillors to discuss future initiatives but warned they would be S106 funded and there would, therefore, be restrictions on the type and location of the works. But he admitted it was worth having local ideas in advance of available funding.

Members agreed it would be best to meet Mr Tyrrell in Chatteris when he began work on the cycle path improvements along the A141 to Honeysome Road (hopefully in April) and show him the areas they were considering. Cllr Haggata was particularly keen to see a cycleway installed from the Slade End roundabout to the Tesco's site and the underpass into town.

L78 16/17 Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 18th April 2017 at 7pm.