

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

**Minutes of a meeting held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2016**

**Present:** Cllrs J Burrow, J Carney, J Carney, W Haggata, A Hay and F Newell.

**L1 16/17 Apologies for Absence**

An apology for absence had been received from Cllr J Smith.

**L2 16/17 Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Group**

Cllr Newell proposed Cllr Burrow should be re-elected chairman of the group. This was seconded by Cllr Hay and agreed by everyone.

Cllr Hay proposed Cllr Haggata should be re-elected vice chairman of the group. This was seconded by Cllr Carney and agreed by everyone.

**L3 16/17 Any Matters Arising from the Last Meeting of the Group**

L73) Leisure Survey: The Clerk reported that a meeting to discuss the sports facility and playing fields strategy documents was being lined up with Mr Richard Cassidy, Mr Phil Hughes and Cllr Michelle Tanfield. The Clerk had initially contacted the Leader and Chief Executive of FDC but Mr Medd had passed it over to the officers responsible for leisure.

L64) Larham Way Tree: The Clerk reported that the new tree which had been planted at Larham Way (to replace the Ash Grove tree) had unfortunately been cut down by someone with an axe. There was also evidence of trees in the wood at Wenny and the churchyard being attacked by an axe and the Clerk had asked the police, CCTV operators and Street Scene officers to be on the lookout for the perpetrators.

**L4 16/17 FDC Update**

Mr Bob Ollier had sent his apologies but had submitted the following report:

1. I have asked Gravity to attend to the turfing around the skate park as I was not happy with the standard; they have now arranged for a contractor to sort this out and get it to my satisfaction and they are expected on site this week.
2. As soon as this turf is sorted, I have instructed ISS to put the stabilising netting over the turf to secure it.
3. The machine that ISS hired in to do the seed preparation works, broke down last week, and they are chasing up the repair so they can continue the preparation and seeding.
4. Three new litter bins have been installed, plus two as part of Gravity Skate park scheme, so five in total have been installed.
5. A new skate park sign has also been installed.

6. Three seat/bench bays were installed with the footpath. The two benches (to be funded by the Town Council) are due for delivery later this week and ISS will install as soon as they arrive.
7. We have also cut down around 40 **dead** Elm trees through the woodland area.
8. I am still waiting for Highways to complete the snagging list for the pathway and also install the bollards and hammer head; these were missed out when they were on site.
9. The new trees will be planted next week at the very latest.

The report was noted.

#### **L5 16/17 CCTV Provision at Wenny Recreation Ground**

The Clerk reported costs were being sought for an additional CCTV camera at Wenny Recreation Ground after Community Safety Manager Mr Aarron Locks had explained that the skatepark was only partially covered by the existing camera and at night the visibility was greatly reduced or completely ineffective. There was no point in replacing the camera with a better one as the existing camera was a very good specification. Moving the existing camera would result in parts of the main play area and shelter no longer being covered by CCTV.

#### **L6 16/17 Projects' Progress**

Gas Lamps: Cllr Haggata reported that he had received a cheque for £3,000 from Court Leet towards the Gas Lamps Project at a presentation event the previous evening. Cllr Haggata said the group was very keen on the project and he promised to keep them up to date on progress. It was agreed the Clerk should send a letter of thanks.

The Council had received a letter from the Feoffee Charity turning down the Council's application for a grant because it did not meet the charity's objectives to help the poor and needy of the town.

The Clerk had informed the architect that the Council wished to see the project completed by the end of November but had not received a reply and she believed he had just suffered a bereavement.

Little Acre Fen Pocket Park: Cllr Haggata said thanks to the Court Leet donation there was now surplus from the solar farm money which could be used to create the pocket park. Cllr Newell asked if there could be a tie up with the youth and Cllr Carney suggested youngsters could be involved in planning the park and the schools could be approached. He also suggested the Chairman of In Bloom Mr Carl Harrison might have ideas for the area. It was agreed that the project should be professionally planned but the community should be involved in its development. The Clerk reminded members that Tesco's had a fund which could be used to create pocket parks if the community was involved. Unfortunately she had not had the time to pursue the idea. She was also being offered trees by residents which could be planted on the site. Cllr Carney said the first move should be to block off vehicular access to the Old Railway Line from the site. Cllr Burrow said all ideas for the area should be put in the mix. It was agreed that at the next meeting of the group a brief for the professionals

should be fleshed out. The Clerk was hopeful funds might also be available from the Section 106 pot.

Councillors then moved on to discuss concerns that Chatteris was being put to the back of the queue as far as Fenland was concerned. Cllr Burrow suggested making a note of every time Chatteris missed out.

Cllr Hay said she and Cllr Newell had brought up the fact that Chatteris was the poor relation. Councillors could not think of anything FDC had planned for Chatteris in the next three years.

It was **recommended** that the Town Council should write to FDC as follows:

- 1) It should be pointed out that there were reports in the press about planned expenditure in Wisbech and March but there was no mention of Chatteris.
- 2) What plans does FDC have for Chatteris in the next three years?
- 3) How much per capita has been spent on Chatteris in the past three years?
- 4) What projects has FDC completed in Chatteris in the past three years?
- 5) How is spending prioritised?
- 6) What is FDC doing to encourage businesses to come to Chatteris?

Cllr Haggata said there should be attempts to sell Chatteris as a great place for businesses to set up and for people to live.

## **L7 Plans for Annual Town Meeting**

Cllrs Burrow and Carney ran through a PowerPoint presentation they were working on for the Annual Town Meeting based on the theme of 'Putting Chatteris on the Map'.

In addition to the usual reports by the Mayor, the Financial Officer, the Clerk, from FDC and the County Council and the opportunity for questions, there would be reports from the Community Plan Team, Chatteris Christmas Lights, Chatteris In Bloom, Chatteris Town Football Club and Chatteris Netball Club.

The presentation would look back at achievements in the past year, previous Town Council achievements, the Council's ongoing support for organisations, the Tesco fund and current and future challenges.

## **L8 Any Other Business**

Local Highways Officer Mrs Pam Joyce had responded to the Council's concerns about the damage to the car park at the top of the Old Railway Line footpath due to lorries being forced to turn around when they discovered the old Huntingdon Road was no longer a through road. Mrs Joyce had pointed out she could put up a sign warning it was unsuitable for HGVs but was unsure if foreign drivers would understand it. A more visible sign – an HGV sign with a

cross through it – would require a TRO and would come at an enormous cost. It might be possible to put up a larger ‘dead end’ sign but Mrs Joyce suggested initially approaching Bartlett’s and asking if they would be willing to give better advice to foreign companies. Councillors agreed this should be the first approach.

**L9     Date of Next Meeting**

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2016. Cllrs Carney and Hay gave their apologies for the meeting.