

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

Minutes of a meeting held on Tuesday 15th January 2019

Present: Cllrs J Smith (Chairman), L Ashley, J Carney, A Hay and F Newell.

L54 18/19 Apologies for Absence

An apology for absence had been received from Cllr W Haggata.

L55 18/19 FDC Update

FDC Officer Mr Phil Hughes had informed the Clerk he would not be attending leisure meetings but the Clerk had requested written updates and had sent off a list of outstanding issues.

Mr Hughes had informed Cllr Haggata that FDC's horticultural officer would be in touch regarding works to the boundary hedges and bramble areas at Wenny Recreation Ground. The Clerk said Mr Hughes was also working on the best way to stop motorbikes and quad bikes accessing the field at the rear of The Elms and had sent out suggested solutions. Both the Clerk and local residents had requested fencing and a kissing gate (to allow access to The Elms from the newly created footpath).

Councillors said there had been problems with motorbikes along the Old Railway Line footpath on the previous Sunday and Dean Drove was also being accessed as the gate was continually being removed.

L56 18/19 Any Matters Arising from the Last Meeting of the Group

L52) Green Dog Walkers: Following the receipt of information from Whittlesey Town Council, the Clerk had obtained prices for the pet tags and poop bags which Whittlesey had given out when members of the public signed the Green Dog Walker pledge.

50 rolls of poop bags (750 bags) were available for £19.95 and engraved dog tags cost £225 for 100, £480 for 200 and £645 for 300.

Members had also enquired about arm bands and these cost £4.95 each.

Members agreed to initially purchase 100 dog tags and 100 rolls of poop bags and to contact Fenland District Council about launching the scheme. Cllr Smith said In Bloom volunteers would very likely help out on a stall launching the scheme as this would assist with their entry in the 2019 In Bloom competition. The Clerk was also asked to enquire if it would be possible to promote the scheme by putting signs on dog bins around the town.

L48) Roundabout near Jacks: Cllr Smith asked Cllr Hay if she had any further information about the roundabout near Jacks. Cllr Hay said she had only been assured cutting the

roundabout would be added to the list in the next financial year (beginning in April). Members agreed the roundabout was becoming even more overgrown.

L57 18/19 Little Acre Fen Pocket Park

The Clerk had been informed that the 12 fruit trees, being donated by Orchards East, would arrive in the week commencing 21st January. Cllr Smith requested help with planting the community orchard on either the 24th or 26th January (depending upon the weather and when the trees actually arrived). If it was not possible to plant on either date Cllr Smith said she would store the trees in her greenhouse.

The Clerk said she had met Jonathan from R J Warren on site whilst the company were busy making up the bund. The site had been cleared and levelled, the path re-defined and it was now all ready for seeding. Cllr Smith said it all looked good.

The Clerk said Warren's were prepared to re-direct the path around the gate and create a path to the dipping platform at a cost of just over £900 while the cost of just diverting the path around the gate would be just over £800. It was agreed both paths should be installed at the same time, when the pond and dipping platform had been created. Cllr Smith was keen to press ahead with creating the pond and the Clerk apologised that she had yet to obtain a 3rd quote but she and the Financial Officer were working on it.

Three people had agreed to join a Friends of the Park group following the very successful family tree planting day in November when over 50 people (adults and children) helped out. The Clerk had written an article for CentrepoinT giving an update on the park and once again promoting the Friends of group.

L58 18/19 Town Guide

Unfortunately no update on the guide, shown at the full council meeting, had been received. It was agreed it was imperative the guide was printed and distributed before the council elections in May and it was therefore agreed to give Cllr Patterson a deadline of the end of the following week to give Cllr Smith a chance to check the information to ensure it was as up to date as possible before it went to print.

L59 18/19 County Council Business Plan Survey

As agreed at the full Council meeting, members filled in the Parish Council version of the 2018 County Council Business Plan Survey. The pre-ambule stated the Council's views were required to give the County Council a better understanding of what was important to communities and what they should take into consideration when setting council tax rates.

Councillors reluctantly agreed to support a 4% rise in the County Council's precept (2% for adult social care and 2% general increase) but stated there should be greater investment in Fenland and less emphasis on Cambridge and South Cambs. In particular there should be greater investment in encouraging businesses in Fenland. Councillors also called for support

for better education in Fenland and improvements to the environment, pointing out roads, paths and roundabouts were neglected and the re-instatement of paths after utilities work was woefully inadequate.

L60 18/19 Date for Annual Town Meeting

The Clerk reminded members that the annual town meeting had to be held sometime between the 1st March and 1st June. The Council usually organised the meeting in May but this was difficult in an election year as it would mean the new council would be looking back on the work of the previous council. The rules of purdah meant it would be frowned upon to call a public meeting when the work of Councillors would be praised within six weeks of the election date (May 2nd 2019).

It was, therefore, agreed that the annual town meeting would be held on Friday 15th March 2019 at the King Edward Centre.

L61 18/19 Town/Community Plan Review

The Chairman said the Council had carried out many of the actions highlighted in the Town/Community Plan but she had identified a few points which had not been actioned and were relatively easy to carry out.

She offered to create a new Facebook page for the Council as there were ongoing issues with the previous Facebook page. She also offered to help put photographs of councillors on the website. She also suggested promoting the community car scheme and the Clerk was asked to enquire if FDC could put speeding signs on household bins.

The Clerk was also asked to suggest to Sgt Lugg that the police investigate the idea of using a room at the newly improved fire station so the public could speak to the police in private.

On encouraging use of the gym, members pointed out new signs had gone up when Freedom took over running the gym. The Clerk offered to put contact details for Freedom on the Council's website.

The Clerk was also asked to request a list of bin locations from FDC. Cllr Hay suggested approaching Cllr Murphy.

Cllr Smith was keen to see up to date street maps for Chatteris on public noticeboards. The Clerk was asked to approach David Richards printers and enquire if it was possible to increase the size of the map in the town guide as that was the most up to date map.

On the question of creating a directory of town businesses the Clerk was asked to approach Mr Ian Mason and ask for his list of businesses. Cllr Carney pointed out it would be necessary to seek the businesses' approval for their contact details to be made public.

On action which had been carried out, the Clerk said she and the Mayor had attended a transport strategy meeting organised by the combined authority and had put forward the

town's transport needs (including a southern bypass and better bus services and cycle routes). On developing cycling proficiency initiatives, the Council had agreed to help fund the safer cycling scheme, if required. The Council was also taking action on dog fouling by financing the green dog walker scheme and had put details of the pothole and faulty lights reporting scheme on the website. On distributing local newspapers, the Clerk pointed out the Fenland Citizen had established distribution points.

L62 18/19 Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 12th February 2019