

CHATTERIS TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes Dated 11th August 2026

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Minutes of a meeting of Chatteris Town Council held on Tuesday 11th August 2026 at The Council Chambers, 14 Church Lane, Chatteris.

Present: Cllrs L Ashley (Mayor), J Carney, J Fuller-Gray, A Hay, A Jones, V Joyce, P Murphy and S Unwin.

65) Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs S Selman and M Siggee. Cllr C Marks also sent apologies for absence.

66) Declarations of Interest & Dispensations to Speak and Vote on Declarable Pecuniary Interest Items & Letter re: Registers of Interest

Cllr Hay declared an interest in the Museum and the King Edward Centre. Cllr Murphy declared an interest in planning, the KEC and the Museum; Cllr Unwin in In Bloom and Festival; Cllr Ashley in the KEC, Museum and Festival; Cllrs Joyce and Jones in the KEC and Cllr Carney in FLAPP.

67) Open Forum

There was one member of the public present but he did not wish to speak, only to observe.

68) Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Tuesday 7th July 2026 were agreed and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

69) Matters Arising from the Minutes

Min 52) Speeding New Road: Mr Wilson had written again as there had been an accident in New Road when a van ran into a parked car and ended up demolishing the railings and light control panel at the crossing. Mr Wilson said the van must have been speeding. The Clerk said she had passed Mr Wilson's name to Sgt Moulton as another person willing to carry out a Speedwatch check in New Road.

Min 63) Dog Fouling: The Clerk had reported the dog fouling in the Parish Churchyard and the lack of signs to the Street Scene officer. She had promised signs for the area (which had apparently gone up) and said a new Public Spaces Protection Order was due later in the year so all signs were being checked. New ones were on order for the multi-use games areas at Huntingdon Road Recreation Ground and Wenny Recreation Ground.

70) Police Matters

Members had a report of information received from the police in the past month including the following:

Local Police

Sgt Pete Mouton had responded to the email, about trouble at the Persimmon sites, sent to the Chief Inspector and the Police and Crime Commissioner. Sgt Moulton was happy for the response to be read out at the council meeting.

Neighbourhood Alert.

15/7/26: Notification that by the 15th July 12 drug-related arrests had been made in Fenland that month and request for the public to report any signs of potential drug dealing.

25/7/26: Behind the scenes feature which outlined the work of a Cambridgeshire Constabulary call handler.

29/7/26: Notification that more than 30 vehicles were stopped during a multi-agency operation aimed at disrupting criminality on the rural road networks. The day took place in Chatteris and 63 untaxed vehicles were reported to the DVLA, 12 vehicles were examined for illegal fuel, two advisory notices were issued by the Environment Agency, three £300 fines were issued for tachograph offences, one driver did not hold an operator's licence and nine prohibitions were given for mechanical defects. Numerous traffic offence reports were also issued for various offences.

30/7/26: Notification that action is being taken to try and stop farm machinery theft across Cambridgeshire.

31/7/26: Notification that the next community meeting with the police in Chatteris will be on Friday 14th August from 1pm to 2pm.

3/8/26: Latest Fenland court results for July.

The Clerk read out the reply from Sgt Moulton who said the police were well aware of the issues connected to the Persimmon developments. There had been a number of incidents reported covering a range of offences and many of the incidents detailed by the informant were historic in nature.

Unfortunately, the CCTV footage provided to the police had been of poor quality and had offered little evidential value. In addition, on a number of occasions those involved had been unwilling to support police action and had under reported, which had prevented the police from progressing investigations any further. Police had also advised Persimmon to improve site security and install CCTV, both of which were lacking originally. Since these measures had been introduced, there had been a noticeable reduction in calls for service.

Sgt Moulton said as with building sites across the country, these locations unfortunately remained vulnerable to theft and break-ins. He said the police would continue to monitor the area closely and respond to any concerns that were reported to them. He asked people to continue to share any further information received which would be assessed and acted upon as appropriate.

Sgt Moulton also promised to try and attend the next Council meeting.

A reply had also been received from the office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. The head of Governance and Compliance said FDC had been working closely with Persimmon Homes, local residents, the security company and the Community Safety Team over a number of months to address concerns relating to anti-social behaviour and unauthorised access to sites. Feedback indicated that the number of incidents had significantly reduced and the matter was considered to have been successfully addressed.

The Head said no further specific action was planned but she encouraged residents to continue reporting any criminal activity or anti-social behaviour so appropriate action could be taken.

Cllr Unwin said people who lived on the site had insisted nothing was being done and there were still break-ins and thefts from homes. She was worried people would not report problems once they knew the security officers were going. She asked if the replies could be made public and the Clerk said Sgt Moulton had been happy for his reply to be read out in a public meeting.

71) FDC Newsletter and CCTV Update

Members had a copy of the latest 3-monthly FDC Newsletter and the CCTV report from FDC for the first quarter of the year (**copies attached**).

Cllr Selman had been concerned that the police had not followed up incidents observed on the CCTV cameras which involved vehicles with registration plates visible. It was agreed she should put the question to Sgt Moulton at the next meeting. Cllr Joyce remarked that most incidents appeared to occur in Furrowfields car park.

Cllr Unwin asked fellow councillors if they had seen FDC's contractors out working on open spaces because she had not. Cllr Unwin said In Bloom had been told that because Chatteris was the only town entering In Bloom competitions they would receive extra help but the service offered had been "abysmal". This had resulted In Bloom carrying out work the contractors should have undertaken. In addition, the FDC shrubs and planting were dying in the heat because FDC no longer had a water bowser to water them. She asked FDC councillors to find out why the service had been so poor and pointed out the contractors were being paid while In Bloom volunteers, actually carrying out the work, were not being paid. Cllr Murphy said it was the responsibility of the FDC portfolio holders to make sure the work was being done but there were no portfolio holders from Chatteris. He suggested writing to Cllrs Boden, Hoy and Tierney.

Cllr Murphy also warned things were unlikely to get any better when Local Government Re-organisation took place.

72) Financial Officer's Report

Members had before them a budgetary control statement for the Revenue (Precept) Account as at 30th July 2026 showing expenditure of £119,460.42 and income of £173,340.08 (including a half year's precept income) compared with budgets, along with a bank reconciliation statement and a summary statement of reserves and funds balances.

Members were advised that the benches at the Market Hill gardens required refurbishment ahead of the Anglia in Bloom judging and it was agreed by the Mayor, the Clerk and the Financial Officer that the Town Council and FDC would each contribute 50% towards the cost of repairs, £180 per bench.

The Financial Officer advised that the cost for this could come from the open spaces budget.

It was **RESOLVED** that the report be noted and approved.

73) Grants to Voluntary Organisations

Members were advised that a charity called Caring Together which helped and supported unpaid carers of all ages, had been in contact to ask if the Town Council would consider giving a grant to the charity. The Clerk had asked the charity if there were any young carers in Chatteris they supported.

They confirmed that there were two young carers in Chatteris that regularly attended trips which were offered by the charity. Trips were offered across the county making it easier for young carers to get involved in an activity near them. Examples of some of these trips in Fenland were trips to Skylark Farm, roller skating in Wisbech, and Fenland Aqua Park in Whittlesey.

The Financial Officer advised that she was gathering more information and then she would send the charity a grant application form to complete.

The Mayor advised that the FO should contact the schools as they would have details of any young carers in the town that could be supported by the charity.

It was **RESOLVED** that the report be noted and approved.

74) Payment of Accounts

Members were advised that Chatteris In Bloom had requested the payment to Sigma Embroidery, for £353.74, be paid for out of the In Bloom watering budget. The invoice was for new polo shirts for the volunteers.

It was agreed and approved by Council for the invoice to be paid accordingly from the In Bloom watering budget.

Cllr Unwin said the monthly watering bill was atrocious because of the heat and lack of rain. In Bloom had lost many plants despite watering and had been fortunate that a local nursery had donated replacements. She admitted that the cost of the watering would deplete In Bloom's reserves. Cllr Unwin said the book written by Cllr Divine, inspired by In Bloom, was helping with costs.

Councillors queried the costs of some of the acts/services for the Midsummer Festival 'Around the World' project. The FO assured members that costs were covered by the Arts Council grant but said in some cases there was no break down to show how the costs were justified.

It was **RESOLVED** that the payment of the accounts below be noted and approved:

Payroll	August payroll	6,284.21
T Payne	14A Management Fee July (additional fee due to increase rent)	3.60
T Payne	14A Letting fee new tenant	360.00
T Payne	14B Management Fee August	72.00
T Payne	14A Management Fee August	75.60
F/O	Reim Petty cash & A Simpson (repair to tap)	250.00
Wave	RHS Allotments water	210.95
Wave	LHs Allotments water	498.59
Wave	14 Church Lane water	74.90
Cllr Selman	Reim Civic duties mileage	36.30
Cllr Selman	Reim Civic duties mileage	37.40
Cllr Selman	Reim Civic duties mileage	26.10
Cllr Selman	Reim Civic duties mileage	26.10
Kalibre Automatic	Museum automatic doors' repair	429.60
S Brooks	Sammy Magic, Summer Fun Show	195.00
Booster Cushion	Summer Fun Show	384.00
Mandinga Arts	Around the World production	10,000.00
KECCA	Room Hire Around the World production	80.00
KECCA	Room Hire Around the World production	108.00
S Gibb	Office cleaning	42.00
Chat Comm Car Scheme	Grant Vol Org	500.00
FDC	Trade Waste	28.00
The Wild Hub	Around the World production	350.00
Barclays	Bank charges	37.23
Lee Hasler	Around the World production	1,240.00
S Gibb	Deep Clean 14A Church Lane for New Tenants	109.87
Mousy Brown	Summer Festival	660.00
F stop Camera	Summer Festival	250.00
Kalibre Automatic	Annual service Park Street Museum	180.00
B Gas	Electricity Bill 2 Park Street	342.79

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B Gas	Gas Bill 14 Church Lane	15.65
Zen Internet	Website Jul-Aug	13.79
Warboys, Somersham & Pidley Internal Drainage Board	Allotments Drainage Rates	174.22
Chatteris In Bloom	Vol Org Grant	1,205.22
Sigma	In Bloom Polo Shirts	353.74
Rose Fire & Security	Fire Alarm Monitoring Annual Renewal	606.00
Chatteris Cricket Club	Vol Org Grant	500.00
CTS Security	Fire Call Point addressable, Museum	57.37
Jezo Events	Summer Fun Show	270.00
Middle Level Commissioners	Allotments Drainage Rates	191.08
David Richards	Printing for Summer Fun, Sum Fest & Street maps	542.60
Pro Plumbing	Call out boiler fault 14B Church Lane	168.00
RCAB	Face to face service & Associated works	1,716.00
F/O	Reim petty cash	81.85
Total		28,787.76

75) To Accept Quotations for Allotment Road Repairs

The Clerk had received two quotations from the Council's contractors for repairs to the roadway on the north side of the Honeysome Road allotments. The first quote for £1,050 plus VAT was to patch the roadway by supplying and installing 5 tonne of tarmac plainings to fill in and compact holes. The second quotation for £2,100 plus VAT was to dig off and remove site spoil from the roadway centre and sides, to grade down to form a camber for rain run-off and to install 3 inches of tarmac plainings and compact.

Members asked which would be the more permanent solution and the Clerk admitted it would be the higher cost scheme. She explained that under Council rules she would need to get two further quotations if members preferred that scheme.

Members **agreed** it would be best to carry out the additional works and the Clerk should obtain two further quotations.

76) To Accept Quotations for Road Closures on Remembrance Sunday

The Clerk explained that for the past few years the responsibility for organising and funding the road closures for the Remembrance Sunday parade and wreath laying ceremonies had fallen to town and parish councils, having previously been organised by the Royal British Legion.

In the past the manpower and signs to close the roads had been supplied by Ringways but they no longer offered the service. Mindful that she had soon to apply for the road closures, the Clerk had contacted seven companies, suggested by various people, that might be able to provide the service.

To date she had just one quotation from a Highways company but she had spoken to another provider the previous day who had agreed to provide a quote and had promised the quote would be substantially less than the quote provided by the Highways company. The new company was unaware that the Highways company was quoting £3,284.16 plus VAT. The Clerk said Ringways had charged £1,375 in 2025 but she had been unhappy with the number of personnel they had supplied. The FO said there was £2,125 in the budget for road closures.

The Clerk asked for permission to accept the new quote if it was less than the Highways company quote as time was of the essence in applying for the road closure order.

It was **agreed** she would email out the new quote when it was received, for members approval.

77) To Consider New Photocopier Contract

The FO and the Clerk had met a representative of another company to look at the possibility of changing the photocopier contract. Once the representative had looked into the paperwork he had admitted that it was too early to change as there was still a substantial portion of the contract to run and the costs of early release were too high.

78) Planning

Cllr Joyce (Chairman of the Planning Working Group) presented the list of plans (**see attachment**) to be considered at the meeting. It was agreed to return the plans to Fenland District Council marked as follows:

- a) Support
- b) Support

Members had received a copy of the latest update on Fenland 50, the new Local Plan for Fenland. The update stated that the Council had published a Gateway 1 self-assessment summary which explained how they were prepared for the new plan-making process and their approach to delivering a Local Plan within the Government's 30-month timeframe.

79) To Consider Backing MP re: Lack of Section 106 Funding

Members had before them a copy of a letter from MP Mr Steve Barlay outlining a number of local issues which had been raised with him in recent months.

One of the issues raised was missing community contributions from housing developers in Manea. Since this was also a problem in Chatteris it had been agreed to put the item on the agenda.

Cllr Unwin said according to a Facebook post a member of the public had made a Freedom of Information request and had found out that there was money which had been pledged for Chatteris in an account held by FDC. Councillors were unaware of any money from Section 106 payments destined for Chatteris.

Cllr Hay suggested contacting the planning department at FDC and enquiring. She also explained that Section 106 payments were agreed when outline plans were approved but once the full plans were submitted developers often claimed payment of Section 106 funds would make the development unviable.

The Mayor said when she first came on the council over 20 years previously there was a massive pot of section 106 money available for projects in Chatteris. But in recent years no money had been received. In neighbouring towns and villages developers paid either Section 106 or CIL money for every development. Her son had written to Mr Barclay about the lack of Section 106 payments for Chatteris and Mr Barclay had said he had asked FDC to be more transparent and produce a list of all the developments of 10 or more homes in Fenland and what each developer had paid.

The Mayor said younger people in the town were continually asking what the town had gained from the new developments and the new industries in the town and the answer had to be that nothing had been received,

It was suggested Town Councillors could approach the developers directly for funds but Cllr Unwin said it was not the job of town councillors; the money should be automatically paid. Cllr Murphy said FDC officers negotiated Section 106 payments with developers.

The idea of requesting CIL payments instead of Section 106 had been rejected by FDC in the past but if Local Government reorganisation took place the new authority would decide on the form of payments and this would be the same throughout the authority's area.

Members **agreed** to back the MP in his campaign for transparency and greater Section 106 payments and to write to planning officers regarding Section 106 payments for Chatteris.

80) Sportsman Field Update

Members had received a copy of an update on the possible transfer of the sports field behind the Sportsman Club to the Town Council. Cllr Hay had also spoken to the FDC officer looking into the transfer

The FDC officer said the owners of The Sportsman were querying boundaries but these were clearly outlined on registered title maps.

Requests had been made for the recreation ground to be valued.

With regards to changing facilities for the recreation ground: as a result of a sale of strip of open space to the Sportsman club in 2005 (by FDC) the club was now bound by a covenant not to use the property (changing rooms area) for any purpose other than as a changing area and storage area ancillary to the club. The changing rooms would continue to be made available even if the club closed. If the club was developed, requiring the demolition of the changing rooms, new changing rooms would have to be provided.

If the recreation ground transferred to Chatteris Town Council the covenant and its conditions would also transfer from FDC to CTC.

The Clerk said a new officer had now taken over responsibility for the transfer and she was waiting to speak to him about progress.

81) Survey of Empty Commercial Properties in Chatteris

As part of an information gathering exercise on empty commercial premises across North East Cambridgeshire, being carried out by MP Steve Barclay, the Clerk had been asked to complete a spreadsheet of vacant shops, offices, industrial units and commercial premises.

The Clerk had travelled around the town gathering the information and it had proved to be an interesting exercise. She had discovered that there were not that many vacant shops and offices because a number had been converted into residential properties but the unfortunate thing was that the worst looking ones were all either in the centre of the town or on the main road in. She had pointed out that she knew several owners had struggled with planning but some buildings were in a really bad and dangerous condition and the owners should be brought to task by FDC.

She was unsure if there were any empty units in the South Fens Business Centre but all the Enterprise Park units seemed to be let. There appeared to be just a few industrial units to let in Chatteris and she said with all the current building of giant new factory/commercial units it was really quite encouraging.

The Clerk had commented “if only all the building and the residential developments currently underway were bringing benefits for the community of Chatteris by way of Section 106 or CIL payments!”

Members had a copy of the vacant properties list. Cllr Murphy commented that conservation officers had blocked the proposed redevelopment of some properties, in particular 130 High Street.

82) To Approve Event Control Document & Risk Assessment for Remembrance Sunday

Members had received a copy of an Event Control Document for the Remembrance Sunday Parade and Wreath Laying Ceremony and a risk assessment prepared by the Clerk. The Clerk said the documents were required by the Safety Advisory Group at Fenland District Council.

SAG had been reluctant to accept previous documents so the new documents were based on Wisbech Town Council's control document and risk assessment (which FDC had praised).

Members **approved** the documents ready for submission to the Safety Advisory Group.

83) School Superzone Funding

The Clerk had been contacted by the Public Health Principal at Cambridgeshire County Council about School Superzone funding which was available for nature-based and creative projects which could improve the local environment for residents and pupils.

The Principal was keen to work with schools and pupils to co-design projects when schools returned after the summer holidays. She mentioned the underpass near Tesco's as a possible suitable location for a community art project and asked for any advice on ownership of the site.

The Clerk had confirmed that the site was owned by the County Council and had received confirmation that the Council would consider a request for a mural provided the artwork met certain criteria. She pointed out the current mural was badly in need of refurbishment and had recently had white paint thrown at it.

Members pointed out a local police officer had organised the painting of that mural by local schoolchildren and it was suggested the police might get involved again.

Cllr Murphy said the original mural was very good and the schoolchildren took a pride in it so there was initially very little vandalism/graffiti.

It was **agreed** that the mural was badly in need of refurbishment and to put the project forward for School Superzone funding.

84) Traffic Issues

Prospect Way Scheme: Detailed plans had been received for alterations to the footpaths and roads at Dock Road and Prospect Way. Members acceptance of the scheme was sought. Members were not in agreement with the scheme as they pointed out few pedestrians used the area and the money could be better spent restoring the footpath in London Road. The scheme did not appear to show any lights for the Dock Road area which were badly needed.

York Road: A resident had complained about the parking problems in York Road with the suggestion that each household should be allocated just one parking space outside their home. The Clerk pointed out the County Council were responsible for the road and did not issue residential parking permits for towns and villages outside Cambridge.

Disabled Parking: Confirmation had been received that the disputed disabled parking bay in Victoria Street would be implemented after getting approval.

Iretons Way: Cllr Divine had been consulted about proposed works to the highway near the new crematorium at Iretons Way, Mepal, and had been asked if the works should be carried out at weekends or during the week. He had spoken to the Clerk and had opted for weekend working.

Temporary Traffic Orders: Notification had been received of the following temporary prohibition of traffic orders: Part of London Road to facilitate water mains repairs between 9th and 11th September; Station Street to facilitate fire hydrant repairs between 7th and 9th September; Green Park to facilitate telecoms ducting between 22nd and 23rd September; Windsor Close to facilitate new ducting on 1st September.

Roadworks: The latest lists of planned road works in Fenland had been received, along with the August list of events affecting the Highways in the County.

85) Correspondence

Members had before them a list of correspondence received since the last meeting (**copy attached**).

CCTV: Cllr Joyce said he had been unable to log on and join the CCTV Partner Liaison Meeting which probably explained the low attendance at the meeting.

86) Reports

Cllr Sue Unwin reported that judging for Britain in Bloom would take place the following day.

87) Items for the Next Agenda

No items were put forward for the next meeting.