

CHATTERIS TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes 6th January 2026

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Minutes of a meeting of Chatteris Town Council held on Tuesday 6th January 2026 at The Council Chambers, 14 Church Lane, Chatteris.

Present: Cllrs L Ashley (Mayor), S Selman (Deputy Mayor), I Benney, J Fuller-Gray, A Gowler, A Hay, M Siggee and S Unwin.

174) Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs J Carney, A Jones and V Joyce.

175) Declarations of Interest & Dispensations to Speak and Vote on Declarable Pecuniary Interest Items

The Mayor declared an interest in the Festival, Museum and KEC; Cllr Unwin declared an interest in In Bloom and Festival; Cllr Selman in Festival, the WI and the Community Car Scheme; Cllr Hay in the Museum, the KEC and the Combined Authority; Cllr Benney in planning, Cllrs Gowler and Siggee in the KEC and Cllr Fuller-Gray in Festival.

176) Open Forum

Cllr C Marks was present but did not wish to speak so it was agreed to move on to the next item on the agenda.

177) Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 2nd December 2025 were agreed and signed by the Mayor as a correct record after an amendment to a sum recorded in minute 163) which should have read: an increase of £20,000 not £20,000,000.

178) Matters Arising from the Minutes

Min 158) Lights at Wenny Recreation Ground: The Clerk had researched previous paperwork on solar lights and found that the cost of a solar light in 2020 was about £1,000, it was likely to be substantially more now. However, in the meantime two possible sources of funding for lights at Wenny Recreation Ground had come to light, she said. Fenland District Council had been awarded £1.5m to improve recreation grounds in Fenland and as part of the planning conditions for the development at The Elms the developers had to agree to provide £67,000 for Wenny Recreation Ground. The Mayor suggested also applying for lights at Furrowfields Recreation Ground. It was **agreed** to request FDC find the money for the lights from one of the funds.

179) Police Matters

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

Local Police

Sgt Pete Moulton, head of the local Neighbourhood Policing Team, had accepted an invitation to attend the Town Council meeting on the 3rd March. In the meantime, he had asked to be informed of any issues.

Neighbourhood Alert

2/12/25: Latest news from the courts for the Fenland area.

4/12/25: Update from March Neighbourhood Policing Team, including notification that parking patrols took place at Glebelands Primary School.

10/12/25: Update from the March Neighbourhood Team, including notification that speed checks were carried out in Huntingdon Road, Chatteris, and everyone was abiding by the limit.

15/12/25: Apologies that the community meeting scheduled to be held in Chatteris Library on the 13th December did not go ahead but notification of an online meeting on the 23rd December.

22/12/25: Notification that the Police and Crime Commissioner, Darryl Preston, had launched a short survey asking residents to tell him their views on how much they would be prepared to pay towards policing in 2026/27. There was a link to the survey on the Commissioner's website.

23/12/25: Thanks to those who donated to the Fenland Toy Appeal, which helped more than 80 families across Fenland.

180) FDC & Street Scene Updates

Members had received a copy of the latest FDC and Street Scene reports (**copy attached**).

Cllr Siggee said on Christmas Day he had four phone calls about dogs running loose in the New Road cemetery and fouling everywhere. He had investigated the next day and cleaned up 14 bags of dog excrement. Over the course of eight days he filled 63 bags with excrement. He was also stopped by a resident in the Post Office angry that a dog was off the lead in the cemetery and when the resident asked the owner to put the dog on a lead he was told where to go. The problem with fouling was not confined to dogs running loose, dogs on extendable leads were also fouling, said Cllr Siggee. This was all despite the fact that dogs were banned from the cemetery. Cllr Siggee asked if a board could go up warning visitors that the cemetery was being monitored. He said the main concentration of the problem was to the left-hand side and the rear of the cemetery.

The Mayor said the Town Council had asked if dogs on leads could be allowed in the cemetery but FDC were adamant that there should be a ban on dogs in New Road cemetery. Cllr Unwin said she had had similar calls to Cllr Siggee and this had been a long standing problem; there were also problems with dog fouling in Meeks Cemetery.

It was agreed to contact the Street Scene officer and ask her to take action and put up signs.

Cllr Unwin was also concerned that she had been trying to report that FDC's contractors Tivoli were not doing their job but the FDC officer responsible for open spaces was not getting back to her. She was advised to contact his boss.

Cllr Hay said she would be contacting the FDC manager for recreation as the Chatteris gym had been closed between Christmas and New Year with very little notification. The closure was due to a shortage of staff. She had also discovered that the dance studio would be closed for two weeks from the 19th January as the floor was being replaced but again this had been poorly advertised.

181) Financial Officer's Report

Members had before them a budgetary control statement for the Revenue (Precept) Account as at 22nd December 2025 showing expenditure of £209,124.80 and income of £251,268.16 (includes a full year's precept income) compared with budgets, along with a bank reconciliation statement and a summary statement of reserves and funds balances.

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

182) To Approve Final Budget & Precept for 2026/27

The Financial Officer presented the final budget report and reminded Members that the proposed first draft precept budget was approved at the December's full Council meeting with no amendments, and that this final report had no further amendments/additions to be considered.

Members were asked if they agreed to the final budget which was then **approved**.

Members were reminded that the final budget proposed an increase of £20,000 to the Precept, making the precept £209,500, an increase of 9.55%.

The impact this had on a band D household was an increase of £ 4.80 per year (8.18%) based on the estimated tax base of 3570. The annual precept for a Band D household would be estimated at £58.68 - currently £53.88.

The proposed budget was made up of reduced expenditure in some budgets and small increases in others.

The annual income from the rental of the two flats at 14 Church Lane, the rental of two community rooms by the NHS at Church Lane and the rental of the 1st floor at 2 Park Street allowed the budget to reflect many benefits to the residents of Chatteris without significantly impacting the household precept, said the Financial Officer.

The difference in the budget to the precept amount was £4,630 This would come from the general fund without taking it below the required level.

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

183) Payment of Accounts

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

Payroll	Payroll January 26	6,462.78
Barclays	Debit Charges	8.50
The Christmas Decorators	Installation & takedown Xmas Lights	1,992.00
Onecom	Inv. 7709801 Inv. date 13/11/25 Phone bill	135.78
Onecom	Inv. 7728085 Inv. date 15/12/25 Phone bill	134.51
V Joyce	Reim Sundries Xmas party	130.50
Zen Internet	Nov-Dec 25 Website	13.79
Zen Internet	Dec 25-Jan 26 Website	13.79
Mayday	Printing over contract on photocopier	49.44
PEAC	Lease, Photocopier	154.84
Ringway	Traffic Management Re Remembrance Parade	1,650.00
SJ Bull	Entertainer Xmas party for Over 75's	200.00
RBL Poppy Appeal	Remembrance Wreath	20.00
UK Tool Hire	Cherry Picker hire re Xmas Lights 01/11-02/11/25	456.00
Fiveash	Repair shower leak & shelf at Flat 14B Church Lane	45.00
RFO	Reim Xmas Party sundries	56.24
RFO	Reim Nov petty cash	96.93
S Izzo	Reim Sundries Meeting	51.00
S Gibb	Xmas Party cleaning & serving food etc	87.75

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SLCC	Membership renewal	316.00
Avanti	Road Management Xmas Lights switch on	3,132.00
S Selman	Reim Summer Fest Sundries	155.40
L Ashley	Reim Sundries Xmas party	100.75
Rose Fire & Security	Call out re Security Alarm	259.33
Housden's Caterers	Xmas Lunch food	1,379.29
L Ashley	Reim Xmas Dinner Voucher for raffle	55.00
S Selman	Reim Xmas Party sundries	130.82
Clerk	Reim Microsoft renewal license	84.99
T Payne	Quick Fix Windows & doors, repair lock to communal door to flats	70.00
T Payne	Management Fee Flat 14B Jan 26	72.00
T Payne	Management Fee Flat 14A Jan 26	72.00
Total		17,586.43

184) Planning

Whilst there had been no formal planning meeting, members had been consulted on four planning applications with a deadline for comments ahead of the Council meeting. Members ratified those comments and considered one further application. The following comments were passed to Fenland District Council:

- a) Strongly recommend refusal. This is an enormous extension to a facility which already causes major problems with traffic congestion and filthy roads, which adds to the dangers of a red route. Roads are subsiding under the weight of the large vehicles. The congestion on the roads is also likely to increase when work begins on the reservoir. There are continuing problems with odours which are very obnoxious at certain times of the year. This extension brings the development even closer to Chatteris so more homes will be affected by the smell. Current measures to reduce the odours (as promised with the last

planning application) do not work and this problem will also be exacerbated with the extension. Have methods to alleviate the smell problems improved since the last application? However, the Town Council recognises that this application is likely to be approved and sees no reason why an obviously very successful business should not make a contribution to the communities it affects. There should be significant Section 106 contributions for the communities of Chatteris and Manea and mitigation in the form of safety measures on the A142, including more regular cleaning of the road, average speed cameras and a footpath/cycleway. The tractors make their way through Chatteris on many occasions so there should also be contributions to road safety measures in the town, in particular improvements to the Slade End roundabout.

- b) Support
- c) Support. Will the height of the lights have any effect on neighbouring properties?
- d) Support works but do not support felling as there is no justification for the felling. Report from FDC tree officer needed please
- e) Noted. The roof line is not in character with existing properties

The Clerk updated Councillors on the latest planning decisions from FDC as follows:

The application to remove condition 5 (balcony) and vary condition 6 (approved plans) of the planning permission for the erection of a 3-storey, 3-bed dwelling at land east of 24 Pound Road had been granted permission despite continued opposition from the Town Council.

Also approved were:

The BNG for an application to form a manege, temporarily site a static caravan, erect flood lights and change the use of agricultural land to equestrian use at 1 Stocking Drove.

The installation of replacement doors to 3 Eden Crescent.

The felling of the Oak tree at 16 Bridle Close.

Permission in principle to erect 1 dwelling at land north of 120 London Road.

The Clerk said two applications supported by the Town Council were due to be determined by FDC's planning committee the following day and the recommendation on both was to refuse as they were classed as 'elsewhere locations' where development was restricted. The two applications were: the change of use of land for residential use and the siting of a mobile home to be used as an annexe (and the removal of an existing mobile home) at Bromsgrove House, Honeysome Road, and permission in principle for up to 4 dwellings at land north east of 134 London Road.

(Councillors Benney and Marks left the room while all planning issues were discussed).

185) To Agree Dates for Council Meetings and Annual Town Meeting

The following dates for 2026 were agreed upon:

Dates of Full Council Meetings

Tuesdays: 6th January, 3rd February, 3rd March, 7th April, 5th May, 2nd June, 7th July, 4th August, 1st September, 6th October, 3rd November, 1st December

Date for Annual Town Meeting

Friday 1st May

Dates of Planning Meetings

Tuesdays: 27th January, 24th February, 31st March, 28th April, 26th May, 30th June, 28th July, 25th August (TBC), 29th September, 27th October, 24th November.

Dates of Leisure Meetings (could be subject to change)

Tuesdays: 13th January, 10th February, 10th March, 14th April, 12th May, 9th June, 21st July, 15th September, 13th October, 10th November.

186) Tenants' Update

The Clerk had been informed by the Council's letting agents that under the Renter Rights Act 2025 new tenancy agreements would have to be introduced from 1st May and these would be periodic contracts. The current contracts with the tenants were due to be renewed in March and the Clerk and the Financial Officer had agreed that these should become periodic contracts to save the expense of issuing new contracts just two months later.

The tenants of both 14a and 14b Church Lane were very reliable and officers were happy that they should be offered the new contracts.

187) Well Being Café Update

A report had been received from Youths of Fenland , who run the Well-Being Café at the Emmanuel Church for young people, funded by Chatteris Town Council.

They reported that an average of 80 young people attended sessions with some sessions attracting up to 107 young people, most were aged 11-17 from Cromwell Community College but some were younger and attending with family members. Feedback was very positive with young people saying they felt valued, they liked the continuity of contact each week and trust and positive relationships had been built. Young people felt they could speak to the organisers to get guidance and support and the café helped to improve their health and well-being by providing a safe space. It also encouraged them to attend school and walk home with their friends.

Topics of discussion included school, drugs and alcohol, vaping, positive relationships, bullying, friendships, family, aspirations, sexuality and mental health.

Members were encouraged by the report but there was some disappointment that the youth club for younger children had been unable to take place for some time due to staffing problems. The Mayor and Clerk were due to meet the director of Youths of Fenland on the 14th January to discuss progress. They were asked to enquire if the well-being café had applied to Tesco's for help towards the cost of the hot chocolate and biscuits.

188) Fenland Way & Doddington Road Footpaths

The Clerk and County Councillor Daniel Divine had attended an on-line meeting with a Highways officer to discuss the development of footpaths in Doddington Road and Fenland Way and a proposed crossing over Fenland Way.

He reported Persimmon Homes were due to make improvements to the footpath along Doddington Road and at the Slade End roundabout and County Highways were proposing to create a Toucan crossing over the A141 Fenland Way close to the roundabout and extend the 30mph zone so it covered the new crossing.

The Clerk said she had pointed out that Persimmon Homes had a planning condition to install a footpath along to the A141 Fenland Way from the entrance to the travellers site to the Tesco's site so pedestrian could safely make their way into town using the underpass. The extended footpath would mean that from Doddington Road there would be no need to cross over the A141. The officer said he was not aware of the commitment but agreed to look into the matter and later confirmed that the path had been approved for Persimmon Homes to deliver.

Councillors pointed out there was no need for a Toucan crossing if the path was delivered. They did not believe it would be used, as pedestrians would either continue to cross using the keep left signs island at the roundabout or would make their way to the underpass.

189) Roadside Data Collection Request

The Council had been approached by Tsien (UK) Ltd who are based in Chatteris and operate under the name of Kestrel Radar Sensors. The company design and manufacture roadside vehicle detection systems using radar sensory technology. Their systems help to detect queuing traffic for temporary traffic signals, etc. which helps to improve road safety and reduce congestion.

Having secured funding to develop next-generation radar devices the company were seeking permission to trial the new devices on local roads.

The Clerk pointed out County Highways would have to issue the permissions but she asked if the request had the backing of the Town Council.

Members agreed it was a very good idea and they fully backed the devices being trialled in Chatteris.

190) Traffic Issues

West Street: The Clerk had received several complaints about the state of West Street, particularly about the potholes near the development site. She had advised one complainant to report the potholes to County Highways and to report the mud on the road to planning enforcement. She had also reported the potholes and had received confirmation that an order had been raised to repair the potholes. Councillors also reported problems with potholes in

Wood Street. They were encouraged to report all potholes on the County Council's website and it was pointed out the more times a fault was reported the more likely it was to be repaired quickly.

Victoria Street: Cllr Divine had sent through a reply he had received regarding HGVs using Victoria Street and the safety of children using scooters on the road. It had been confirmed that: i) the current signage indicating restrictions for HGVs was fully compliant and HGVs using the road were breaking the law and should be reported to the police, who could take action; iv) it was the duty of parents/guardians to ensure children understood the Highway Code and always rode scooters and bikes in the correct direction of travel.

Stocking Drove: Cllr Fuller-Gray had raised the issue of an open trench across Stocking Drove and reported the issue had been resolved.

London Road: The person who had called for a crossing on London Road (near the Wood Street junction) was not satisfied with the Council's reply that stated that using the build outs made it reasonably easy to cross the road safely.

Traffic Orders: Notification had been given of the following temporary traffic orders:

The closure of Wenny Road (between Wenny Court and Allens Yard) from the 16th to 20th February to facilitate a new gas connection.

The closure of Stocking Drove between the 5th and 9th January to facilitate pipe and headwall connections.

The introduction of a temporary 40mph speed limit on Fenland Way to facilitate access construction works. The dates given were between 1st February and 1st August but members said the restriction was already in place.

The closure of the Forty Foot Bank Road (between the B1096 and Ibbersons Drove) from the 12th January for six weeks to facilitate carriageway repairs. The Clerk said she had written to Highways pointing out the dangers of the road and requesting major repair works. Cllr Marks warned the Benwick Road was also due to be closed at the same time.

The closure of part of the A1101 at Outwell from the 4th January to 13th February to facilitate the completion of development works.

Roadworks: The latest lists of planned road works in Fenland had been received, along with the highways events diary for January and the TMC report for November

191) Correspondence

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

192) Reports & Items for the Next Agenda

There were no reports or items put forward for the next agenda.

Exclusion of public and press. Under the Public Bodies (Admission to meetings) Act 1960 (2) it was **resolved** that members of the public and press be requested to leave the meeting by reason of the **confidential nature of the business about to be transacted**. The following item was considered **In Committee**:

193) CCTV Cameras Funding