

CHATTERIS TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes Dated 7th July 2026

2830

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Minutes of a meeting of Chatteris Town Council held on Tuesday 7th July 2026 at The Council Chambers, 14 Church Lane, Chatteris.

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

48) Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs A Jones and S Selman. Cllrs C Marks (FDC) and D Divine (Cambridgeshire CC) had also sent apologies for absence.

49) 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 Siggee in the KEC and Cllr Carney in FLAPP.

Members had received a copy of a letter from Fenland District Council's Member Services team leader stating that under the new Section 32A of the Localism Act 2011 a member's home address should not be disclosed on the authority's public register of interest unless the member had requested otherwise. Details had still to be disclosed to the Monitoring Officer.

Cllr Murphy said all FDC members' addresses had been removed for safety and it was agreed the Clerk should write and clarify the situation with FDC with regards to addresses for Town Councillors which were presumably still visible on the FDC website and the Town Council website.

Members had also been asked to confirm that their registers were completely up to date and the Clerk asked to be notified of any changes so she could pass these to FDC so the registers could be amended accordingly.

50) Open Forum

A resident of the Persimmon development off Doddington Road attended the meeting to report frightening incidents which had taken place on the Persimmon development sites (off Doddington Road and off Fenland Way). She said there had been shootings, thefts and threats of violence and death. Security guards had been threatened and had boulders thrown at them. It was very frightening. The resident asked what would happen when the site closed in September and all security was gone.

Fuel and materials had been stolen off the site and she feared that once the developers had left garages and sheds would be broken into. She said incidents had continually been reported but the police had failed to sort the problem.

Cllr Joyce said he was aware of another resident in town who had suffered harassment, intimidation and threats with knives which had been reported to the police but the victim had apparently only had one visit from a police officer.

It was agreed the Council should report the problems to the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable.

Another resident said she was new to the area and had attended the meeting to get an idea of what the area had to offer. She said she would like to get involved in the community having previously lived in London where she volunteered as a school governor. Cllr Unwin said In Bloom was always looking for volunteers with different skills and the Mayor said the Museum was always looking for volunteers. The resident gave her contact details to the Clerk and was welcomed to Chatteris.

51) Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Tuesday 2nd June 2026 were agreed and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

52) Matters Arising from the Minutes

Min 43) Food Waste Recycling Service: More information had been received about the new weekly Food Waste Recycling Service. A press release stated the launch date for the service was 7th September 2026 and the food waste caddies' deliveries would begin on the 13th July 2026. A food waste instruction leaflet would be delivered with the caddies along with a Waste and Recycling in Fenland leaflet which would give an overview of all waste and recycling services in Fenland.

Cllr Murphy said FDC had a lot of problems with residents putting the wrong things in the bins and were frequently fined. He said anyone failing to use the correct bins would in future find their bins not being emptied. He asked people to please read the leaflet and make sure they knew which items went in which bin.

Min 28) Police Matters: The Mayor and Clerk had received a letter from another resident of New Road (Mr Simon Wilson) supporting the view that cars were speeding in New road and turning it into a racetrack. He claimed commercial vehicles were wearing down the speed humps which needed to be replaced and an additional hump added. He also asked if the road had been assessed as suitable for a permanent bus service. He was not in favour of a 20mph speed limit but ask about a speed survey.

It was agreed to advise Mr Wilson to speak to his neighbour Mr Stewart and Sgt Moulton about helping with a Speedwatch speed survey in New Road, so they had evidence of speeding. Members agreed the road did not warrant additional speed humps, particularly as

this would lead to the loss of parking spaces. Cllr Unwin said it had been difficult to get permission to put in the humps when they were part of the Safer Routes to School project. Cllr Murphy was concerned that pedestrians in the High Street used the humps as crossing points even though they were not zebra crossings. Cllr Joyce said there were alleged 'speeding' problems all around the town.

53) Police Matters

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

Local Police

No information had been received from the local police.

Neighbourhood Alert

3/6/26: Notification that a man involved in the hare coursing incident in Fenland last year had been handed a 10-year order.

9/6/26: Request to report anyone suspected of drink driving.

11/6/26: Encouragement to report domestic abuse and information on how a Fenland woman was helped.

15/6/26: Information about what neighbourhood policing is and how to get involved as Neighbourhood Policing Week began.

16/6/26: Notification that police motorcyclists will be carrying out extra patrols to try and reduce collisions. In 2025 11 motorcyclists were killed in collisions in Cambridgeshire and 56 were seriously injured.

17/6/26: Notification that local officers carried out a day of action focused on one of their priorities: vehicle-related anti-social behaviour and traffic offences.

22 & 30/6/26: Information about upcoming community meetings in Chatteris. One was held on the 29th of June and the next is on Saturday 11th July at Chatteris Library from 10am to 11am.

23/6/26: Request for help to prevent ATM thefts after a spate of such thefts across Cambridgeshire.

24/6/26: Information about a day in the life of a Fenland response police officer.

30/6/26: Appeal for information and sightings after a digger was stolen from a building site in Wimblington.

2/7/26: Notification that six suspected drink drivers had been arrested in Fenland since the World Cup 2026 began.

7/7/26: Fenland court results from June.

54) Financial Officer's Report

(1) Financial Statement

Members had before them a budgetary control statement for the Revenue (Precept) Account as of 23rd June 2026 showing expenditure of £85,597.27 and income of £162,682.47 (includes a half year's precept income) compared with budgets, along with a bank reconciliation statement and a summary statement of reserves and funds balances.

(2) Mileage

Members were advised that the Government approved mileage allowance payments had increased from 0.45p per mile to 0.55p per mile as from 6th April 2026.

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

The Clerk reported that the tenancy of 14a Church Lane had changed hands. There had only been a week between the previous tenant moving out and the new tenants moving in but she had arranged for the flat to be cleaned and re-decorated and it had transferred over in very good condition.

55) Grants to Voluntary Organisations

Members were reminded that the Council's current policy was to consider grant applications at full council meetings. Budget limitations meant that grants given by the Council were an expression of support for an organisation and were not at a level where, on their own, they could sustain a group's financial viability. The approved budget for grants in **2026/27** was **£5,000**.

Chatteris Community Car Scheme

Councillors were reminded that Chatteris Car Scheme applied for a grant in June and councillors agreed to defer the application and asked for more information before they would consider the grant.

Councillors had asked for confirmation that the grant monies would only be used for Chatteris Residents, as stated in the grant criteria document. Councillors also wanted to know if the Car Scheme had applied to other Parish Councils for grants.

Chatteris Car Scheme confirmed that any grant they received from Chatteris Town Council was used solely for the purpose of Chatteris Residents, even though they worked in neighbouring parishes. Under no circumstances would it be used for any resident living outside Chatteris town.

Residents of neighbouring parishes paid the full amount of the charge that was required for their journey, they did not receive a subsidiary like Chatteris residents.

Chatteris Car Scheme also confirmed that they had previously received grants from Doddington and Benwick Parish Councils but not Manea.

They advised that they were in the process of applying to all three Parish Councils for a grant for the current financial year.

Members considered the following applications and recommendations:

Organisation	Grant Application	
1.	Chatteris Car Scheme	The grant application is to go towards driver refreshment costs whilst waiting for customers at hospital appointments & computer & admin costs, The cost of fuel and the increase of mileage allowance is having a massive impact on the scheme which is causing the drivers to have to cover some of the extra costs themselves. They cannot continue to do this, and it is feared that some drivers may have to resign as they can't afford to keep paying out of their own pockets. Approved £500
2.	Chatteris Cricket Club	The grant application is to go towards the installation of 2 lane cricket nets. This is to help promote and provide cricketing opportunities from the age of 5 for people in Chatteris. The cost is around £31,000; the club has already sought funding from Sport England Movement Fund for £15,000 Approved £500

56) Payment of Accounts

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

Payroll	July payroll	8,280.46
T Payne	14A June Management Fee	72.00
T Payne	14B June Management Fee	72.00
Vision ICT	Annual Email Host .gov	336.00

March Stationery	Summer Fest Twenty20 Productions stationery	2835 6 of 11 54.21
Clerk	Reim Summer Fest sundries	110.63
KA Guembes	Summer Fest Twenty20 Production Workshops	450.00
Active Learning Trust	Hire of rooms Twenty20 Summer Fest	304.00
Seriously Funny Productions	Entertainer Summer Fest final payment	412.50
CTS Security	Maintenance service Fire, Intruder, CCTV, Monitoring Intruder in Museum	1,623.60
R Leney	Summer Fest Equipment sound systems	505.00
FDC	Trade refuse	33.25
First Rescue Training & Supplies	New replacement defib pads	372.00
Kalibre Doors	Supply & Replace Key switch to Museum front automatic doors	372.00
Laura Dennis	DJ Summer Fest	280.00
S Gibb	Office cleaning	28.00
Zen Internet	Website June-Jul	13.79
Peac Solutions	Photocopier Quarterly Rental	154.84
Mayday 240817	Printing over contract photocopier & Support tech	69.83
Onecom	Phone Bill 31/05/26	144.36
Onecom	Phone Bill 30/04/26	144.47
Zen Internet	Website May-June	13.79
John Cheung	Chinese Dragon Summer Festival	670.00

B Gas	Gas Bill Church Lane	2836 7 of 11 47.80
Viking Stationery	Stationery	193.73
Nationwide Building Society	Transfer from Barclays to 1-year fixed saver	15,000.00
Gorefield Alpacas	Summer Festival appearance	450.00
L Provis	Top of the Pops Band Summer Festival	650.00
RFO	Reim Mileage	33.22
Barclays	May-June Charges	8.50
Glasson Electronic	New Xmas Lights re extension	9,863.18
RJ Warren 14980	Gardening Services Open spaces	795.18
R J Warren 14981	Gardening Services Little Acre Park	323.76
RFO	Reim RSPCA donation re Reggae Man Summer Fest	20.00
Pro Plumbing	Service 4 boilers & supply & fix 2 x CO alarms	630.00
Cllr Selman	Reim Summer Fest sundries	19.00
Mistry Music	Dhol Drummers Summer Festival	300.00
Raskila	Lithuanian Dancers Summer Festival	150.00
C Panks	Painting at 14A Flat for new tenancy	757.98
Ely & Littleport Riot	Morris Dancers Summer Fest	100.00
Sandie Mellors	Summer Fest Floral workshops	2,500.00
Cary Outis	Supply & deliver hot air balloon, parade Sum Fest	1,500.00
D Smith	Emma Singer at Sum Fest	30.00

Laura Hodson	Summer Festival Dance group	2837 8 of 11 50.00
Mayday 242513	Printing over contract photocopier & Support tech	57.85
B Gas	Elec Bill Church Lane June	59.61
B Gas	Elec Bill May June Park Street	231.73
Bricstan Concert Band	Sum Fest Band	250.00
Total		48,538.27

57) Update on .Gov Email Addresses

After stressing the importance of all councillors signing up to their .gov email addresses at the last meeting, the Financial Officer asked those present at the meeting if they were using their .gov emails.

Cllrs Ashley and Fuller-Gray were using it, while Cllrs Carney, Hay and Murphy said they were using their FDC.gov accounts. Problems with his computer had led to a delay in Cllr Siggee signing up and Cllrs Joyce and Unwin were still struggling to sign up. Cllr Ashley said she would help Cllr Joyce.

The Clerk said she was aware that Cllr Selman was signed up and Cllrs Benney and Gowler both had FDC.gov accounts.

58) 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 (Cllr Unwin declared an interest)*
- b) *Support*
- c) *Support*
- d) *Strongly Recommend Refusal. There is no evidence that the trees are unhealthy and the trees were there when the conservatory was built. Why should the trees be felled just because the conservatory was built without a proper survey.*
- e) *Support (Cllr Fuller-Gray declared an interest and left the room while the plan was discussed).*

The Clerk updated members on the latest planning decisions from Fenland District Council. The following had all been granted planning permission:

Conversion of listed dwelling/shop to form 2 dwellings and installation of boundary fence and gate at 81 High Street.

Internal works to a listed building at 48 New Road.

Works to 1 Silver Birch, 1 Yew and 1 Sycamore trees within a conservation area at 23 Station Street.

Erection of a single-storey extension to rear of existing dwelling with balcony over at 94 Bridge Street.

Erection of an industrial building (B2) comprising 2 units and 2.4m high palisade fencing (part retrospective) at Farm Park, Short Nightlayers Drove.

Reserved matters application relating to detailed matters of appearance, landscaping and layout of 54 dwellings at land east of The Elms.

Works to 1 Eucalyptus tree covered by a TPO at 23 Station Street.

Fell an Ash tree and works to 4 Sycamore trees within a conservation area at The Old Rectory, Church Lane.

Retention of 1 monitoring borehole and associated headworks at Borehole northeast of Horseshoe Farm, Chatteris Road, Somersham.

The Clerk also reported that an appeal had been launched against FDC's refusal to grant planning permission for the erection of 152 dwellings and associated works, to include new accesses off the A142, at land south of The Elms. The Town Council had objected to the plan.

59) Midsummer Festival Report

The Clerk reported that the Midsummer Festival had been a great success and was very well received by residents and visitors from further afield. The parade was the most colourful and vibrant to date thanks to Mandinga Arts supplying some of the costumes and helping others to create their outfits and the inclusion of Chinese Lion dancers, Indian dhol drummers, a Tongan lion and a giant model of a hot air balloon. This was all possible thanks to an Arts Council grant.

Unfortunately, the number of those attending the event on the Saturday was slightly down due to the extreme temperatures but the event was still busy at all times and all the planned activities went ahead (with the alpacas moving to the Sunday when it wasn't quite as hot).

Although numbers were down on the Saturday there was an increased footfall on the Sunday when the weather was ideal and the family fun activities proved to be very popular, particularly the colour fun run, water fight, foam cannon and children's sports. Takings over the weekend amounted to £4,650 compared to £5,200 in 2025. Cllr Unwin said the main problem was the lack of available shade on the field.

The Clerk thanked the Festival committee and volunteers for all their hard work over the weekend and the team from FDC, under the leadership of Ms Isabel Edgington. She paid particular tribute to the FDC staff who worked on the Friday, the hottest day of the year, helping Festival committee members to get the site ready for the weekend.

60) Fens Reservoir Update

A feedback summary of the Phase Three Consultation on the Fens Reservoir had been received and Councillors had been sent a link to the document.

The Clerk had read through the document and highlighted some of the findings to Councillors. They were pleased to note that access concerns were being taken seriously as was the idea of an underpass to the site from Chatteris. Floating solar panels were being considered and safety measures for parking areas had been called for.

There was commitment to exploring opportunities for the reservoir to assist with local flood risk management and to carefully consider concerns raised about the suitability of local roads for construction traffic, in particular the poor state of the B roads and the already congested A141, A142 and A10. The idea of using a rail link was still being explored.

Many people were positive about the project's potential to create local economic opportunities.

The document acknowledged that people wanted a clearer, more real-world understanding of what the reservoir and its features could look like. They also wanted Anglian Water to think carefully about, and provide more information on, specific areas including construction impacts and traffic and transport and AW promised that they would be key considerations for the next stage of work.

Information had also been received about the next meeting of the Fens Reservoir Community Liaison Group on the 23rd July at Doddington Village Hall. Cllr Unwin said she and Cllr Selman would be attending.

61) Traffic Issues

Disabled Parking Bays: Cllr Divine had reported that both the disabled parking bays previously proposed, one in Victoria Street and the other in Newlands, would be granted permission despite the Town Council opposing the one in Victoria Street. He said Highways had never rejected a disabled bay request. Another application had been received for a bay in York Road. Once again the Town Council opposed the idea because there were already major parking issues in York Road and the disabled bay, which effectively took up two parking spaces, would make matters worse. Members also asked if an existing disabled parking bay in York Road was still being used.

Temporary Order: The Clerk had been notified of the temporary closure of Gibside Avenue on the 4th June to allow emergency communication pipe repairs. The notification came through on the 9th June!

Roadworks: The latest lists of planned road works in Fenland had been received, along with the July list of events affecting the Highways in the County and the TMC incident report for June.

62) Correspondence

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

Cllr Joyce said he would try and log on to the CCTV partner liaison meeting.

63) Reports

Dog Fouling: Cllr Siggee said he was known as the ‘dog poo councillor’ and had been called out yet again to deal with a problem; this time in the churchyard. He had picked up half a wheelie bin full of dogs’ mess from the green area at the rear of the church. Councillors agreed signs needed to go up and the Street Scene officer should be requested to carry out patrols. The area was covered by CCTV and it was suggested signs should go up to that effect.

In Bloom: With judging scheduled for the 14th July, Cllr Unwin said she was disappointed by the lack of help from FDC. When the council’s contractors saw In Bloom volunteers working on the bandstand (an area they were supposed to maintain) they did not bother to help. In Bloom had asked for the benches to be cleaned and re-painted but they were still waiting. Cllr Unwin said the small band of volunteers was getting fed up. Cllr Murphy offered to supply the names and contact details of FDC portfolio holders responsible for open spaces/public areas.

64) Items for the Next Agenda

No items were put forward for the next agenda but the Clerk reminded members that it had been agreed in March (min 231) that the August meeting would go back a week and would be held on the 11th August.