

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

**Minutes of a meeting held at the Council Chambers, 14 Church Lane, Chatteris, on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2025**

**Present:** Cllrs L Ashley, V Joyce and S Selman.

**Apologies:** Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs J Fuller-Gray, A Jones and S Unwin.

**L9 25/26 Any Matters Arising from Last Meeting of the Group**

Any matters arising were on the agenda.

**L10 25/26 Little Acre Fen Pocket Park & Old Railway Line Updates**

The Clerk had been helping FLAPP and In Bloom volunteers the previous evening tidy and prepare the park for the In Bloom judging on the 21<sup>st</sup> July. She reported that the park was generally looking OK although like all areas it was suffering from a lack of rain. Fortunately the mallow made it look more attractive as it was green with purple flowers.

FLAPP Chairman Ian Mason had cleaned out the pond which had very little water in it. Plants donated by Delfland Nurseries had been planted in newly created beds and there had been a general tidy up. Unfortunately, there was a build-up of rubbish in the Anglian Water enclosure and the Clerk had sent a message asking if Anglian Water could tidy it.

The bund had been extended and the pipes, which would provide crawl through tunnels for the children, were ready to go in. A member of In Bloom was organising the work, which was being funded by Persimmon Homes and their contractors. She was awaiting a slide to go down the side of the bund.

FLAPP would be installing a stone plinth on the bund which a plaque could be attached to. It was agreed the wording on the plaque should be “Bill’s Hill, In Memory of Bill Haggata, former Mayor of Chatteris”. It was agreed that there should be an unveiling of the plaque ceremony when Bill’s widow and family would be invited, along with representatives of Persimmon Homes and the contractors and members of FLAPP and In Bloom.

Cllr Selman asked if Community Payback could be asked to cut back the weeds from the path. The Clerk reported the Willow trees around the park had grown enormously and were in need of works. She would ask Warren’s for a quote to cut them back in the autumn.

Cllr Ashley said it would be great if the park could be extended into the next field and a nature reserve created.

## **L11 25/26 Sportsman/Fairway Playing Field Update**

The Clerk had been copied in to correspondence between Cllr Carney and the Leader of Fenland District Council, Cllr Chris Boden, as Cllr Carney had argued the need for a swimming pool and had expressed his concern that the proposal had been dropped from the Fenland Inspire! shopping list.

Cllr Boden denied the swimming pool had been dropped and said he had been talking with the portfolio holder and the officer about the proposed footprint of the pool and the need for the pool and leisure centre to be connected. He said he would be making the true position clear at an Overview and Scrutiny Panel meeting.

The Clerk said she had yet to receive a reply to the email she had sent complaining that the swimming pool had been dropped and asking instead for investment in the Sportsman/Fairway Playing field site and the transfer of the land to the Town Council. It was agreed that the Clerk should chase the matter after the next full meeting of Fenland District Council.

The Clerk had also been in correspondence with Mr Phil Hughes at FDC regarding the possibility of installing padel courts at the Sportsman site. Mr Hughes suggested contacting March Bowls Club for advice as they had submitted a planning application for courts. He said FDC were hoping to put them in at Whittlesey and suggested they were a good investment. He also said a local businessman had asked about dropping padel courts into the space next to the leisure centre but he said that area was set aside for the swimming pool.

The Clerk had said it was a shame that Chatteris was on its own again when FDC were helping Whittlesey and Wisbech and she pointed out the Sportsman field was likely to be an ideal location. She also said she would be approaching the local businessman to discuss the project. In return Mr Hughes had warned about putting the courts too close to residential housing because the noise could upset people. The Clerk said this ruled out the other possible site, next to the tennis courts, but it was still possible on the Sportsman site, as long as it was the furthest possible point from housing.

Cllr Joyce said he hoped the District Councillors for Chatteris would support the Town Council's efforts in order to bring the project forward for the benefit of the people of Chatteris.

## **L12 25/26 Completion of Public Rights of Way Hierarchy Consultation**

Cllr Ashley's son Alex had completed a survey of the footpath Rights of Way in Chatteris and Cllr Fuller-Gray had arranged for someone to survey the bridleways. They had both helpfully given comments on obstructions and the state of the footpaths and bridleways and had included instructions on a map (from Alex) and photographs (from the rider).

It was difficult to answer questions about the ranking of the Rights of Way as the colours on the maps did not correspond with the legends but it was agreed that all the Rights of Way should be ranked higher as the majority were C or D (the lowest rankings).

It was also agreed that the Council should call for all Rights of Way to be maintained and kept open as a priority as it was important that residents should have access to the countryside.

It had been reported that footpath 24/25 had been blocked by the developers of the Tithe Barn estate and it was agreed that the footpath should be checked and reinstated as soon as possible.

It was agreed the Clerk should send copies of all the comments, annotated maps and photographs to the Highways officer responsible for the consultation.

**L13 25/26 Any Other Business**

Cllr Joyce commented that it was once again disappointing to see such a low turnout for a meeting.

**L14 25/26 Date of Next Meeting**

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2025