

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

**Minutes of a meeting held at the Council Chambers, 14 Church Lane, Chatteris, on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

**Present:** Cllrs A Jones (Chairman), L Ashley, A Hay, V Joyce and S Unwin

**Apologies:** Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs S Selman and J Fuller-Gray.

**L1 26/27 Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman of Group**

Cllr Ashley proposed Cllr Jones be re-elected Chairman, seconded by Cllr Hay and agreed by all.

Cllr Jones proposed Cllr Unwin be elected Vice Chairman, seconded by Cllr Ashley and agreed by all.

**L2 26/27 Visitor: Artist Mr Richard Savage**

Mr Savage was welcomed to the meeting and said a Weekend of Making had been organised by MarketPlace for the first time in 2026. It was a successful event, with many elements, which had primarily been held at the King Edward Centre with other events in the library, the Bricstan Room and in Savage Arts Studio.

On that occasion Mr Savage said he had been teaching pastels and drawing. He had been asked to be more involved in 2027 and was currently looking at ideas for a collage. He had explored the idea of a map of Chatteris and was thinking of what could be illustrated on the map representing Chatteris and the surrounding area.

His idea was to produce a large picture which could be displayed. One idea was to mount laminated A4 sheets of artwork on large foamex boards. This would be easy to put together, easily transported between venues and stored in a small space.

The museum had also mentioned creating a map so Mr Savage said the collage might have a different theme.

Cllr Unwin said County Councillor Daniel Divine was putting together a map of all the areas tended by In Bloom for a children's book he was writing. It was agreed the Clerk should pass his contact details to Mr Savage.

Cllr Ashley said a collage tapestry of the Fen areas around Chatteris, which was created several years ago, was on display in the King Edward Centre and might provide some inspiration.

Mr Savage said the idea was to split the collage into sections and get as many people involved as possible on the artistic side, including children. The aim was inclusivity. Cllr

Ashley said the U3A ran art classes and it might also be possible to work with art students at Cromwell Community College.

Cllr Unwin spoke about the need for an arts centre in Chatteris.

Mr Savage explained he wanted the collage to be artistic rather than a list of places in town but he was looking for creative areas of the town which could be included. The Fen Tiger at the Pocket Park, the Old Railway Line, the Church, recreation grounds and skateparks were all mentioned.

The Clerk asked what would become of the collage when it was created as other pieces of art had been created in the town which had struggled to find a permanent home.

It was suggested the collage could go on temporary display in various venues in the town such as the KEC and the Church and could then find a permanent home on the Council Chambers wall if required.

Mr Savage said he was open to ideas from anyone and passed on his telephone number. He was thanked for attending.

### **L3 26/27 Any Matters Arising from the Last Meeting of the Group**

It was agreed that the new format of the Annual Town Meeting had been a success, attracting about 30 people. The Mayor gave out 18 certificates to nominated volunteers, many of whom were present.

The Clerk was a little concerned that some organisations had nominated people and then failed to let them know to turn up to the meeting but the certificates had been presented after the event.

It was agreed that there was little interest in the stalls which were set up but the certificates had been a winner and should be repeated in 2027. A list of possible recipients was already being compiled.

### **L4 26/27 Little Acre Fen Pocket Park & Old Railway Line Update**

Large piles of wood shavings had been dumped on the car park at the allotments. The Clerk had put up a sign warning that fly tippers would be prosecuted but the dumping had continued, apparently under cover of darkness because no-one had spotted the offenders.

Cllr Joyce had been to inspect the piles and said the wood shavings could be used to create a made-up surface through the Pocket Park and to extend the made-up surface along the Old Railway Line. The Clerk said she would ask the council's contractors if this was possible as she had no idea how to get rid of all the shavings which had been dumped. She was looking into purchasing an infra-red wildlife camera to try and catch the offender's vehicle details.

The Clerk admitted the Pocket Park was not looking at its best because FLAPP members were currently out of action. The newly created planting beds needed to be weeded and she would be chasing up the contractors to cut the bund.

#### **L5 26/27 Nature Recovery from the Ground Up**

The Clerk had submitted the idea of putting forward a community nature recovery plan for the green area which was to be left as open space when the 93 houses were built off Wenny Road. This had been accepted with the officer suggesting that existing sites, such as the Pocket Park, should also go into the plan. The deadline for the submission of quotes was the 15<sup>th</sup> May.

The Clerk had explained that she did not have the time to submit the plan at present and with Mr Ian Mason due to have an operation and Cllr Unwin so busy with In Bloom and Festival, she asked for the plan to be put on hold for a couple of months. This had been agreed and it was agreed to look at the idea again in the autumn.

Cllr Unwin said it was essential that other groups and members of the community were involved in the project and she suggested contacting the Friends of Wenny Meadow and asking them to be involved in the project, which would give them access to professional advice. It was agreed the Clerk should pass on information about the project.

#### **L6 26/27 Any Other Business**

LHI: The Clerk said the LHI application for funding for a footpath along London Road would not be going ahead as the cost of the footpath was so much that the LHI budget and parish contribution would likely only cover 10% of the cost of works. As a result, the LHI project manager had asked if the Town Council had an alternative scheme to put forward.

Cllr Unwin asked if it would be possible to apply for funding for alterations to the roundabout at Wenny Estate in Chatteris. At present if cars were legally parked on the road around the roundabout buses and cars were mounting the roundabout to get past. This had been damaging the grass and plants put in by In Bloom.

A meeting had been held with Highways officer Mr Nick Munns a few weeks previously and the idea was put forward that the area which was being damaged should have the kerb stones removed and the area covered in architectural cobbles so motorists could safely drive over them without damaging the floral display.

It was agreed the Clerk should enquire if it was possible to put the scheme forward.

Pride In Fenland Awards: The Council had been asked if it wished to nominate someone for a Pride in Fenland Award. It was suggested Sue and Andrew Spooner should be nominated for all their hard work at the museum. This was agreed and the Mayor and Clerk said they would complete the nomination form.

Cllr Unwin asked the Clerk to send details of the awards to the Chairman of In Bloom as Cllr Unwin wished to nominate Miss Anne Wells.

#### **L7 26/27 Date of Next Meeting**

It was agreed the next meeting would be held on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2026.

