Agenda Item

CHATTERIS TOWN COUNCIL
LEISURE AND GENERAL PURPOSES WORKING GROUP

Minutes of a meeting held at the Council Chambers, 14 Church Lane, Chatteris, on Tuesday 20th October 2026

Present: Cllrs A Jones (Chairman), L Ashley, J Fuller-Gray, A Hay and S Selman.

Apologies: Apologies had been received from Cllrs V Joyce and S Unwin.

L15 26/27 Matters Arising from the Last Meeting

L8) Dog Control Questionnaire: The Clerk had completed the questionnaire.

L10) Rights of Way Survey: Mr Alex Ashley had completed the survey.

L13) Local Government: Cllr Hay said Fenland District Council had held an extraordinary meeting of the Council on the 19th October to discuss changes to the planning system. Councillors had voted unanimously against the changes to planning laws which they said eroded democracy. However, they were advised that the new laws would have to be followed and the Council's constitution would have to be changed to comply with the new laws imposed by the Government. Cllr Hay said there was also talk of Cambridgeshire getting a Development Organisation.

L16 26/27 Future Scooters Event

The Clerk reported that the scooter coaching session, planned for the 29th October, had been advertised on social media by Future Scooters and immediately 15 young people signed up. The poster had been forwarded to Cromwell Community College by the Clerk and Cllr Ashley had shared the information on What's On in Chatteris. Cllr Ashley suggested if the event was a success the Council should look at ways to fund a follow-up event, possibly in the Easter holidays. She suggested the Police and Crime Commissioner's Prevention Fund might be a source of funding and Cllr Selman said another possibility was an Awards for All grant. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact Mr Robert Windle to see if he would be interested in covering the event for Fenland Radio.

L17 26/27 Section 106 Payments & Sportsman Field

The Clerk's enquiry to the Planning department at FDC about Section 106 payments for Chatteris had finally been answered after she had copied in the portfolio holder for planning. The Section 106 Monitoring Officer had confirmed that FDC currently held £48,458.66 in Section 106 contributions for the provision of or improvements to facilities within the area of Chatteris Town Council with regard to Public Open Space.

The email said the Leisure team were the owners of the contribution and would determine how it should be spent but the Town Council could contact Mr Phil Hughes if they had a specific project which the money could match fund or be used as a contribution towards. The

email then went on to explain section 106 funding and advised the Council that if they wished to request contributions on any new larger schemes within Chatteris they would need to highlight the requests on the formal consultation response to the planning application. The Clerk pointed out the Council always did this and had been requesting Section 106 payments for years.

It was suggested the money could be used to develop facilities on the Sportsman field if the Town Council was able to take over the field. The FDC disposal surveyor had now stated that the land would need to be sold to the Town Council for £30,000 subject to Council approval and contract.

Members agreed they had no intention of paying for land which, it was believed, had been gifted to Chatteris. The Clerk and museum staff had been looking into the history of the land and it was believed FDC had been asked to administer the land not take over ownership when local government reorganisation took place in 1973 but at some date FDC had registered the land in their name. It was agreed to ask for the records which showed that FDC had bought the land.

Members pointed out FDC had failed to maintain the land sufficiently to allow it to be used for football pitches and the Town Council wanted to take over the land and re-instate the football pitches as there was a desperate need for pitches for the youth football teams.

It was agreed to continue making enquiries into the history of the land (Cllr Hay said her husband would be able to help) and to **recommend** that the Town Council wrote to FDC saying they were not prepared to pay for the land but did want to take on the maintenance and re-establish the badly needed football pitches.

L18 26/27 Tourist Information Proposal

The Clerk had been asked if the Council would be interested in StorieD, a browser-based walking tour platform. The system drafted a fully narrated self-guided walking tour and the owners of StorieD said they were prepared to build the first few stops of a Chatteris tour at no cost or obligation to the Council. The Clerk had been referred to an existing tour of Hereford.

On investigation councillors found that it appeared that it was free to use the platform for a month then there was a charge. It was agreed the Clerk should make enquiries of Hereford and should ask the owners how they made money.

L19 26/27 Community Nature Recovery Plan

The Community Nature Engagement Officer had suggested the Town Council consider taking along a large map of the parish to a community event and encourage people to chat about what they were doing for nature in their gardens to build up a picture of ‘nature friendly gardens’ in the parish. The officer offered to print a map. It was pointed out the Midsummer Festival was the only suitable community event and someone would have to run the stall as the Festival committee had too few volunteers so could not help.

L20 26/27 Any Other Business

Slab: The Clerk had enquired why a concrete slab had been installed in Meeks Cemetery. She was informed it was the base for a new bench and another would be installed in the old section of the New Road Cemetery. It was agreed to ask if they were memorial benches and who was paying for them.

Invitation: The Clerk had received an invitation to a Nature Recovery from the Ground Up event on the 15th November at Wicken Fen National Nature Reserve. The event was to mark the unveiling of a community engagement kit which could be loaned out to parishes to support local nature events. It was agreed the Clerk should pass the invitation to Mr Ian Mason.

Mural: The Clerk had been contacted by a community mural artist based in the northeast who spent a lot of time in Ely. In addition to painting murals, he also organised community workshops and consultations. It was agreed to ask the artist if he had contributed to any artworks in Ely.

L21 26/27 Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 10th November 2026.