

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

Minutes of a meeting held at the Council Chambers, 14 Church Lane, Chatteris, on Tuesday 16th September 2025

Present: Cllrs A Jones (Chairman), L Ashley, J Fuller-Gray, V Joyce, and S Unwin.

Apologies: Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs A Hay and S Selman.

L15 25/26 Any Matters Arising from Last Meeting of the Group

Any matters arising were on the agenda.

L16 25/26 Little Acre Fen Pocket Park & Old Railway Line Updates

The Clerk's only update was to inform members that some bulb planting had taken place at the pocket park.

Cllr Joyce said there were a number of scrambler motorbikes using the pocket park again and Cllr Ashley said one of the FLAPP volunteers was becoming disillusioned due to the track damage they were causing. Cllr Ashley suggested mentioning it to the police.

L17 25/26 Sportsman/Fairway Playing Field Update

The Clerk said she was still waiting for Fenland to sort the legal issues surrounding the site. She and the Mayor had met with two businessmen keen to invest in padel facilities in the town.

Cllr Joyce gave the name of a resident who was knowledgeable about the history of the Sportsman site, who would be helpful should evidence that the town had been gifted the site be needed.

L18 25/26 Meeks Cemetery Update

The saga of Meeks Cemetery maintenance continued. The gentleman who had argued the site should be cleared of much of its vegetation to respect the graves, had responded to the Clerk's notification that the Town Council had decided that the needs of those visiting graves and the wildlife needed to be balanced; the war graves should be accessible, the main avenue cleared of saplings and the fortnightly cutting schedule should be maintained but other areas should be left in their wild state. The gentleman said he was disappointed to see the emphasis placed solely on war graves while other memorials were not similarly acknowledged. He argued that the dignity of the site and the respect owed to those interred should extend to all graves. He had also written again to FDC Open Spaces Manager Mr Kevin Wilkins pointing out the authority's duties. In response Mr Wilkins had stated remedial works would be carried out during the winter period and the works would be discussed and planned after a meeting with the Wildlife Trust when it would be decided how FDC should manage the site

going forward. Mr Wilkins had also promised to update the Clerk on any new recommendations from the Wildlife Trust.

Cllr Ashley was fearful that cutting back vegetation might make some graves unstable, but she agreed that some of the brambles needed to be cut back. Cllr Unwin said 10 to 15 years ago the site was better maintained and volunteers were regularly looking after it.

It was agreed to monitor the situation over the winter.

L19 FACT Bus Service Update

The Clerk had requested information on how the Friday free bus and the bus service to Cambridge were going and the financial position. She was still awaiting the information but promised to have the figures by the next leisure meeting.

On other bus services, Cllr Ashley had received a request for the bus from Chatteris to Manea, which travelled down New Road, to stop near Green Park/Queensway. Cllr Jones confirmed it was the Tiger 7 bus service to Wisbech and the Clerk said Cllr Carney was currently campaigning to get the bus to stop at Manea railway station.

Cllr Ashley pointed out if the bus stopped at the end of New Road residents of Green Park and Queensway could catch it into town to save them the long walk.

It was agreed to support Cllr Carney in his bid to get a stop at Manea railway station, to ask him to support the Town Council's bid to get formal bus stops in New Road and to write to the Combined Authority (operators of the service) asking them to install the bus stops.

L20 25/26 Any Other Business

Plans: Members were asked to consider four planning applications as the consultation period for all four was up before the planning working group meeting on the 30th September. Cllrs Carney and Selman had put forward their recommendations (which were considered) and the Clerk had asked all councillors to submit any comments by 10am the following morning.

It was agreed to put forward the following observations:

F/YR25/0648/TRCA - Works to 1 London Plane tree within a Conservation Area at 2 Wenny Road - *Support*

F/YR24/0952/RM - Reserved Matters application relating to detailed matters of appearance, landscaping, layout and scale pursuant to outline permission F/YR23/0349/VOC, to erect 245 dwellings and associated landscaping and infrastructure (Phase 1 and part Phase 2) at land south east of London Road – *Lift original objection and support the application as construction traffic is coming off the A142, not London Road.*

F/YR25/0667/TREEEX - 5-day notice: Fell 1 Oak tree covered by TPO 1/1967 at land south of 16 Bridle Close – *Recommend Refusal and request tree officer look into this case. Councillors also challenge the claim the tree is damaging the house due to distance involved.*

Councillors accept the tree is now in a poor state but when an application to fell the tree was made (and refused) just over a year ago the tree was very healthy. How can a tree with a TPO fail so miserably in a year? Has it been tampered with or vandalised?

F/YR25/0530/F - Revised application for change of use of existing paddock land to dog exercising areas including the erection of 2 x shelters, a detached dog grooming hut and a 1.8m high boundary fence, and the formation of associated hardstanding at land south of Wenny House, Iretons Way – *Re-iterate original comments: Will only support if fencing is of industrial grade, 2 metres high and set into the ground and there is a double gate system at the entrance to each field. These conditions should be imposed on safety grounds due to the fields' close proximity to the A142. The revised plans do not appear to address these concerns.*

Maize: There were complaints that tractors and trailers accessing the anaerobic digester had used main roads in the town, including the High Street and Huntingdon Road, and had distributed piles of maize along those roads. It was argued they should be using the bypasses. There were also complaints that the tractors and trailers were parking on footpaths near Aldi. It was agreed to report the problems to the police.

Skatepark: The Clerk said she had received a request for a skateboard only skatepark as the skaters were receiving verbal harassment from scooter riders who used the existing skatepark. The Clerk had explained the council had no funding to build another skatepark due to the expense involved.

Footpath: Cllr Fuller-Gray said working with County Councillor Daniel Divine she was striving to get a footpath along London Road to Seasons Garden Centre. They were planning to meet with the manager of the centre the following day to gauge his support for the scheme. They also hoped to get support from customers and were looking at organising polls (including one on Facebook) and articles in the press and Cllr Fuller-Gray was hoping to get the support of MP Mr Steve Barclay. She had written to County Highways who had commented that the garden centre was granted planning permission in August 2016 without any requirement for a footway, as a result Highways had no grounds to require that one was provided. The officer further commented that he could see evidence of a trodden track on the roadside verge but was not aware of a formal footway. At this stage, should the Town Council wish to secure a footway, they would need to privately fund it, or consider it for a Local Highway Initiative bid. However, installing a kerbed footway could result in some drainage complexities and the officer said he was unaware of any immediate solution.

L21 25/26 Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 14th October 2025