

CHATTERIS TOWN COUNCIL

LEISURE AND GENERAL PURPOSES WORKING GROUP

Minutes of a meeting held at the Council Chambers, 14 Church Lane, Chatteris, on Tuesday 15th September 2026

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

Apologies: There were no apologies as everyone was present.

L8 26/27 Fenland Dog Control Order Questionnaire

Views were sought on the renewal of FDC's dog control order. The Order covered basic expectations around managing dogs in public spaces.

The Clerk said the existing order covered picking up dogs' faeces, keeping dogs out of specified areas (primarily fenced-off play areas and cemeteries) and keeping dogs on leads in restricted areas, such as open children's play areas and cemeteries closed to new burials.

Members agreed to most of the points made in the questionnaire but did not agree that existing rules that dogs should be excluded from cemeteries where people were still laid to rest should continue. They argued that the dogs could be a comfort to the bereaved and should, therefore, be allowed in if they were on a lead.

They also stated that dogs should not be allowed in fenced-off children's play areas but they should be allowed off-lead on open recreation grounds (Wenny and Furrowfields in Chatteris) as long as the dogs were under control.

L9 26/27 School Superzone Work

The Clerk had received a letter from the Community Nature Engagement Officer at the County Council, Stephanie Barrett, passing on information about the Public Health team who were looking at whether Cromwell Community College could be the first School Superzone in Cambridgeshire. Ms Barrett suggested this could produce some links with nature projects in Chatteris for a Nature Recovery Plan.

Cllr Unwin said she and Mrs Sandie Mellors had met with representatives of the Schools Superzone team the previous week to look at possible projects around the town. This included the underpass mural which Cllr Unwin suggested needed cleaning up and updating but could basically be repeated. Cllr Selman sent over examples of how Chatteris was perceived in WI cross stitch works in case they were helpful.

Cllr Unwin had also suggested the possibility of a mural on the side of the Off Licence shop in Wenny Road and possible artists to be employed were discussed. She said the team had also gone into Cromwell and businesses to get different views and the officers appeared to be really interested in working in Chatteris. She said the project work was likely to be undertaken before April due to the funding.

L10 26/27 Cambridgeshire Rights of Way Improvement Survey

The Council had been asked to complete a Rights of Way Survey as the County Council was currently reviewing its Rights of Way Improvement Plan and had asked for priorities for the future of countryside access in Cambridgeshire.

It was agreed that those who regularly walked the public footpaths/rights of way should be encouraged to complete the survey. The U3A walking groups, Emily Morris and Alex Ashley were all mentioned as possible candidates and it was also agreed it should be advertised on social media. The deadline for responses was Sunday 11th October.

L11 26/27 Walking Guide Request & Observations from Walk

A request had been made for a link to a Cambridgeshire Walking Guide to be added to the Council's website. This was agreed.

A new resident in the town had undertaken a walk through the town and sent in his views and concerns to the Mayor. Whilst he described Chatteris as warm and welcoming, he was concerned about the high speeds of vehicles through the town centre and Bridge Street; the heavy congestion at Slade End roundabout and the uneven and narrow pavements. His suggested improvements included speed humps and a 20mph speed limit through the town centre to Bridge Street; traffic lights at the roundabout and a review of the condition of pavements.

The Mayor had asked the resident to report his concerns about speeding traffic to the police and promised to bring his letter to the attention of councillors. It was suggested he should also be advised to contact County Councillor Daniel Divine as most of the comments should be directed to Highways.

L12 26/27 Future Scooters CIC Proposal

The Clerk had been approached by Future Scooters CIC who run youth engagement scooter coaching programmes designed to increase confidence and skills in young people and create a positive use of skateparks. Schemes had been delivered in neighbouring towns and the owner had asked if Chatteris would be interested.

The Clerk had requested more details and had been sent information about the schemes which included weekly sessions for 6-12 weeks (costing from £3,500 to £5,000) and a one-day community ride costing £950. A resident of Chatteris had asked the group to come to the town.

Members agreed it would be a good idea to organise a one-day community ride during the half term week and see if there was good engagement. If it was popular and successful further funding could be sought for a programme of sessions. The youngsters themselves could be encouraged to fund raise to help towards the costs.

The Clerk reminded members that the Council still held funds raised by youths in Chatteris for the Skatepark and suggested this could be an ideal use of the money.

It was agreed that the day should be fully advertised in schools and via Youths of Fenland activities and Rob from Fenland Radio should be invited along. It was also agreed that Joanna should check on the age range for participants.

It was **agreed** to recommend to the full council that the funding be found for a one-day community ride event.

L13 26/27 Any Other Business

Local Government Re-organisation: Cllr Hay said she had attended an FDC meeting when it had been confirmed that due to the re-organisation of local government being put on hold (while a review of unitary authorities was carried out), elections to Fenland District Council would go ahead as usual in May 2027. There would be elections for three seats representing Chatteris South and three representing Chatteris North and Manea. Cllr Hay said some authorities had spent considerable sums preparing for re-organisation but fortunately FDC was not one of those, the main expenditure had been on officers' time.

Criminal Funds: Notification had been received that the Police and Crime Commissioner had announced funding for 12 projects across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough from his Prevention Fund. The projects included: the establishment of two marine training corps at Murrow and Wisbech; money to FDC for more litter picking and clean-up work, for graffiti removal equipment and for monitoring cameras that could be placed at fly-tipping hotspots across the area. A sum had also gone to Fenland Community Safety Partnership towards the cost of deploying a CCTV mobile device to target and disrupt anti-social behaviour in Wisbech. A number of youth projects across the county had also received funding, including youth work at Ramsey skate park. It was suggested the Town Council could apply for a grant in future, possibly towards the cost of a Future Scooters course.

Guide: The Council had been offered free copies of the new Cambridgeshire Guide to Independent Living. It was agreed to order three boxes of 60 guides so these could be available for collection from the council chambers, the library, the KEC, etc, and copies could also go in the goody bags of those attending the Over 75s Christmas Party.

Once Upon a Time in Fenland: Cllr Selman had attended an event in Ramsey held in a yurt when an acting group had put on a production called 'Once Upon a Time in Fenland'. The actors had engaged with young people during the day and had created songs including lines written by the children, who were delighted to hear their words come to life. Cllr Selman suggested it would be popular in Chatteris and had passed information to the museum. Cllrs Hay and Ashley said they would raise the matter at the next museum trustees meeting.

Invitation: An invitation had been received to attend an event to celebrate the end of the second year of the Support Fenland project on the 13th October. The Mayor, Cllrs Selman and Unwin and the Clerk expressed an interest in attending as the project had helped various organisations in the town including the festival.

L14 26/27 Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 20th October 2026

