

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

Minutes of a meeting held on Tuesday 13th February 2018

Present: Cllr J Smith (Chairman), L Ashley, I Benney, J Carney, F Newell and W Haggata.

L64 17/18 Apologies for Absence

Cllrs J Burrow and A Hay sent apologies for absence.

L65 17/18 Matters Arising from the Last Meeting

L60) Cllr Carney said he was still looking for his Powerpoint presentation for new councillors.

L66 17/18 FDC Update

Mr Bob Ollier was welcomed to the meeting to give the FDC Update.

Pocket Park, meadow at Parish Church & Tithe: Mr Ollier said work had begun on clearing the vegetation at Little Acre Fen and work would begin on the meadow at the rear of the Parish Church at the beginning of March. The vegetation would be sprayed and the area re-seeded with a grass mix. A wild flowers bed would be created with the possibility to extend it if it was successful. The information board which had been displayed at the site was once again in Mr Ollier's possession and could be reinstated if desired. The goal posts at Tithe green were about to go in.

Meeks Cemetery: Mr Ollier said tree work at the cemetery had been completed. Two more trees had to be felled for safety reasons as ivy had strangled the crowns of the trees.

Unfortunately the contractors had hit the gate which had disintegrated. A blacksmith would establish if it was possible to repair the gate which was old and in a poor state. The fencing had also obviously been patched on many occasions and a complete refurbishment was needed but this would be very costly.

Mr Ollier also said he was looking at removing the vegetation on the fence between the cemetery and the doctors' surgery.

Cllr Carney said he had seen complaints on social media about the trees which had been removed. The author claimed healthy trees had been cut down. Mr Ollier said on a second visit to the site it had been agreed that the conifers were half dead and were not worth saving. Mr Ollier had assured the tenant of the neighbouring house that he would only agree to trees being removed for health and safety reasons. The Yew trees which had been cut down were likely to start sprouting again from the stumps. Cllr Smith said the works would make it easier to keep the area tidy.

A142 Wenny Road Entrance: The sleepers forming the flower bed at the entrance were rotten and needed to be removed, Mr Ollier reported. He said the new contracts manager for ISS was aware of the job and would create a smaller but improved flower bed.

New Road Cemetery: A resident of The Orchards had complained about an Oak tree in New Road Cemetery. Mr Ollier had inspected the tree and arranged for a branch to be removed but the remainder of the tree was healthy and should not be felled.

Station Road: Mr Ollier had still to discuss plans for the Station Road flower bed with In Bloom members. Cllr Smith asked if FDC contractors would be able to maintain the bed and Mr Ollier said it might be possible if it was a fairly simple arrangement.

Recreation Grounds: Mr Ollier said he was still waiting for a quote to repair the fencing at the Wenny Recreation Ground play area. The bench at Furrowfields had been installed. As attempts had been made to unbolt and steal the memorial bench at the top of Horsegate Gardens, Mr Ollier suggested asking the gardener to check the bolts were intact every time he visited Furrowfields.

About 20 dead trees had been removed from Wenny Recreation Ground and the spinney. Mr Ollier warned there were two dead trees which appeared to be in the Recreation Ground but were actually in the garden of a neighbouring property.

At Huntingdon Road Recreation Ground, Mr Ollier said he now had the parts needed to repair the gate.

Car Park: A quote was being obtained to tidy up the car park at Eastwood (which led to the gym) but Mr Ollier did not have the funding to re-surface it.

Church Footpath: Work was about to be ordered to tarmac the area at the front of the Parish Church. Mr Ollier asked how the Council wished to use the York stones which would be removed. Two areas were suggested – the pocket park or the meadow at the Parish Church. The latter was favoured.

Cemetery: Cllr Benney asked if the fence between the cemetery and The Orchards belonged to Fenland District Council as it was rotten. The only thing intact behind 2 and 2a The Orchards was the concrete posts. Mr Ollier said FDC were the owners and agreed to investigate.

L67 17/18 Little Acre Fen Pocket Park

The Clerk said she had been advised by the County Rights of Way Officer that a bollard was unlikely to be a deterrent to those trying to access the pocket park using a vehicle. Ms Karen Champion had suggested installing “elephant gates”. These galvanised gates could be unlocked and fully opened but when shut had a gap in the middle wide enough to allow access for a horse or a pedestrian. The Clerk had a quotation for a set of gates prepared for Whittlesey. R J Warren had also suggested they might be able to obtain the gates and Cllr Benney kindly offered to approach a Chatteris steel manufacturing company for a quote.

The Clerk had also met with County ecologist Mr Phil Clark at the site to explain the plans for the area. Mr Clark had confirmed there was no vegetation of interest on the site, bar a few trees and a small damp area where reeds were growing. He suggested retaining the reeds. He also put forward ideas for the site and agreed to draw up a plan.

Mr Clark said he could advise on types of trees, hedging, etc., which could be planted on the site and advised trying to set up Friends group by holding a morning when plans for the area could be on show. If it was not possible to set up a Friends group he suggested using an established group such as In Bloom to apply for grants for the area. He advised using the Council's money for such items as the gates but seeking grant funding for trees, hedging, etc. The Clerk had been very enthused with Mr Clark's ideas and he had agreed to help in any way he could.

Cllr Smith offered to look into grant funding for wildlife projects available from the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Biodiversity Partnership. Cllr Carney had been speaking to a gentleman involved in the wildlife project in Somersham and he had also agreed to help with advice.

Cllr Newell said she had been unsuccessful in finding anyone at County willing to consider replacing the gate at Dean Drove. The Clerk gave her contact details for Ms Champion.

L68 17/18 Plans for Annual Town Meeting 2018

Cllr Smith said the Chairman of the Community Plan Committee was keen for Councillors to launch the plan at the Annual Town Meeting. It was agreed some of the action points should be highlighted, with updates on how the Town Council would be meeting those points (probably one or two points from each section). It was agreed once the action points had been addressed the points to be highlighted could be selected. Cllr Carney offered to update the Powerpoint presentation shown the previous year.

The Clerk had drawn up a list of organisations/clubs and businesses to invite to the meeting. Members filled in gaps and Cllrs Smith and Benney kindly offered to deliver flyers to businesses in the centre of the town and take a poster to the South Fens Business Centre.

L69 17/18 Town Plan Report

Members continued working through the action points raised in the new Community/Town Plan, deciding who was responsible for the actions, timescales for the work and how the action points could be delivered (**see attached sheet**).

L70 17/18 Any Other Business

The Clerk requested all completed forms, supporting the footpath through the spinney at Wenny Recreation Ground and behind The Elms, by the 19th February so she could submit them before the deadline of the 23rd February.

L71 17/18 Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 20th March 2018.

