

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

Minutes of a meeting held on Tuesday 20th March 2018

Present: Cllr J Smith (Chairman), I Benney, and W Haggata.

L72 17/18 Apologies for Absence

Cllrs L Ashley, J Carney, A Hay and F Newell sent apologies for absence.

L73 17/18 Matters Arising from the Last Meeting

L70. The Clerk said she had submitted an additional six forms in support of the footpath at the rear of The Elms.

L74 17/18 FDC Update

Mr Bob Ollier was welcomed to the meeting and gave the following report:

Little Acre Fen Pocket Park – the area had been sprayed off and work on the footpath would begin shortly. Mr Ollier asked about the gate and the Clerk said she was obtaining quotations.

Meadow at rear of Parish Church – the area had been sprayed off. A quotation had been received to put in a base and relay the slabs which had been taken up at the front of the Church. The cost was £1,802 and it was agreed this should be met from Section 106 funds. Mr Ollier agreed to raise the order and release the funds. It was suggested if possible the picnic bench, to be purchased by the Town Council, should be installed as the slabs were laid.

Meeks Cemetery – still awaiting a quote for the gates.

New Road Cemetery – there had been unsatisfactory restoration work following a couple of interments but Mr Ollier said the matter was in hand and the workman had been reprimanded.

Flower Beds – the flower bed at the Ely entrance to Chatteris had been refurbished. Mr Ollier had met with members of In Bloom to discuss the Station Street bed and Mr Ollier was awaiting their ideas. Cllr Smith assured him it was in the pipeline.

Wenny Recreation Ground – one quote had been obtained for the fencing but another was required for comparison. The bollards had still to be repaired/replaced.

The Clerk said a Councillor was concerned the removal of trees from the spinney had changed the character of the area and had asked if there were plans to replace the trees. Mr Ollier said most of the trees taken out were Elm suckers and he did not believe there was a need to plant more trees as there were self-seeded saplings growing. He admitted the character was different but explained this was because a large amount of brambles growing

between the spinney and the recreation ground had been removed and had opened up the area. Cllr Benney pointed out this would allow other plants to grow.

Cllr Haggata asked about the overgrown bushes between properties in Hazel Close/Juniper Drive and the Recreation Ground. Mr Ollier admitted these still had to be trimmed and it was now necessary to wait until the winter as birds had begun to nest in the bushes.

Tithe Green – the new goal posts had gone in. One resident was still not satisfied as there was only one set but Cllr Ashley had confirmed there had only been one set for many years. She also confirmed most residents had expressed their satisfaction on social media. Cllr Smith said there had been a request for goalposts on the land at the rear of Curf Terrace.

Huntingdon Road Recreation Ground – the gate had been repaired.

Oak Tree – the doctors’ surgery had complained about the branches of an Oak tree overhanging their car park. Mr Ollier said the tree was sound but he would be arranging for the vegetation growing along the boundary fence to be cut back and would dead wood the tree at the same time.

Car Park – still awaiting a price for repairs to the car park at Eastwood.

Fence between the Cemetery and The Orchards – Mr Ollier had inspected the fence and agreed the rails were rotting but he said the residents had built extensions to the fence and topped them with barbed wire so they appeared to have taken over responsibility for the fence. Cllr Benney said one of the properties had been burgled twice hence the alterations to the fence to improve security.

Old Auction yard – Mr Ollier was hopeful the trees would soon be cut back.

St Stephen’s Drive – the ditch between St Stephen’s and Furrowfields was in need of attention and Mr Ollier would be arranging the work.

Mr Ollier was thanked for his update and for attending the meeting.

L75 17/18 Little Acre Fen Pocket Park Update

Mr Philip Clark, a Community Green Spaces Manager at the County Council, had submitted a plan for the Little Acre Fen site suggesting the bund could be planted with native shrubs, bird and owl boxes could be erected in trees, the tree memorial garden could also be a mini community orchard, the wetland area with reeds should remain, a hedgerow should be planted along the side the grassed area behind the pumping station to create a wind break, a circular path could be created which could be mown 3 to 5 times a year and a wildflower area could be created by children as part of a community planting day.

The plan was similar to the one drawn up by Cllr Smith and councillors liked the ideas. Cllr Benney suggested creating a traditional Fens hedge by “laying” the hedge. Screening along

the pumping station was also suggested. Cllr Smith had been in contact with Anglian Water who seemed enthusiastic.

The Clerk had been advised the best time to plant trees would be October/November and it was agreed groups should be invited along to the help with the work. There should also be an open day sometime in May to launch the project to the public. The date to be agreed at the next meeting and the plans to be discussed at the Annual Town Meeting.

Cllr Carney had applied for some seeds using the Grow Wild Seeds scheme and had been successful in his application. Unfortunately In Bloom had not been successful with their application so Cllr Carney had offered to share the seeds between In Bloom and the Little Acre site.

Cllr Benney agreed to chase a quote from local steelworkers for the elephant gates. The Clerk had one quote, which was rather high, and would chase another from a company who had supplied the gates at Whittlesey.

L76 17/18 FACT Bus Service Update

Unfortunately there was no update as Ms Jo Philpott at FACT had asked for a meeting to be postponed and a new meeting date had yet to be agreed.

L77 17/18 Town Plan Report

Members continued working through the action points raised in the new Community/Town Plan, having reached the results of the Businesses survey they decided who was responsible for the actions, timescales for the work and how the action points could be delivered (**see attached sheet**). By the close all the action points had been addressed.

L78 17/18 Plans for the Annual Town Meeting

It was agreed to decide how the Town Plan should be presented at the Annual Town meeting at the next Leisure meeting.

Cllr Carney had drawn up a document listing the responsibilities of the different levels of local government and it was agreed this should be presented at the meeting and sent to Cromwell Community College as a brief for pupils.

The Clerk warned an email had been received asking how the Town Council could justify the 8% increase in its precept. It was agreed the Council should accentuate the positive things which had been achieved in the past year at the meeting and give examples of how its money had been spent and would be spent supporting the community – the youth club, maintaining the new CCTV camera at Wenny, increased grants to the Christmas Lights and In Bloom (who enhanced the town), support for Kingfishers Swimming Club thereby helping youngsters learn to swim, etc. It was agreed the increased cost should not be highlighted unless someone mentioned it and then the actual increase each week (just pence) should be quoted to show how little an 8% increase would affect a household budget. It should also be pointed out that councillors were volunteers as were those who ran the groups the Council supported.

It was agreed the Community Plan and the Council's achievements presentation should be ahead of the questions from the public on the agenda for the meeting.

L79 17/18 TrailTale

Cllr Smith took away an email about a TrailTale for Chatteris for perusal.

L80 17/18 Any Other Business

There was no other business.

L81 17/18 Date of Next Meeting

Dates were fixed for the next two meetings – 17th April and 8th May.