

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

**Minutes of a meeting held on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2018**

**Present:** Cllrs L Ashley, J Carney, A Hay, W Haggata, F Newell and J Smith

**L1 18/19 Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Group**

Cllr Ashley proposed Cllr Smith was re-elected Chairman of the group, seconded by Cllr Carney and agreed by all.

Cllr Ashley proposed Cllr Newell be re-elected Vice Chairman of the Group, seconded by Cllr Haggata and agreed by all.

**L2 18/19 Apologies for Absence**

An apology for absence had been received from Cllr Benney.

**L3 18/19 Any Matters Arising from the Last Meeting of the Group**

L84) Meadow at the rear of the Parish Church: The Clerk reported she and the Financial Officer had met with a representative from R J Warren's to view the area earlier that day and had agreed where the stones would be laid to form a hard standing for the new picnic bench, which was ready to go in. It was hoped the work would be carried out the following week. Cllr Smith suggested the new information board could not only point out it was a picnic area but could also identify the trees on the site.

Benches: The Clerk reported the bench at Wenny Recreation Ground still required attention. The Clerk and the Financial Officer had also met with the Town Council's gardening contractor to discuss his work and had arranged the re-instatement of the bench at Horsegate Gardens.

Flower Bed: Cllr Smith reported In Bloom were still waiting for FDC's contractors to edge the flower bed in Station Street and seed the area at the front.

Tourist Signs: The Clerk agreed to contact Mr Gary Edwards and Mr Trevor Watson at FDC about the brown tourist signs, the possibility of more signs directing tourists to the town centre, refurbishing the interpretation signs in the town and updating the map outside the police station. It was suggested town businesses could sponsor the signs. Cllr Carney asked if Section 106 money could be used to improve/supply signs and Cllr Hay suggested copying in Cllr Mark Buckton to any correspondence as he was FDC's portfolio holder for tourism.

**L4 18/19 Little Acre Fen Pocket Park Project**

Cllr Carney had visited the site at the weekend and reported the footpath was now complete. However the ground was now drying out and the Clerk had discussed re-seeding the area with the RJ Warren representative and had suggested it might be advisable to delay re-

seeding until the autumn when there was a better chance the seeds would germinate. The plan was also to plant trees in October. In the meantime the Clerk had requested a quote to keep the area sprayed over the summer. She pointed out there was provision in the budget to cut the grass in the area over the summer and these funds could be directed to the spraying. Cllrs Smith, Carney and Haggata along with the Clerk were planning to meet at the site to discuss where certain things should go. Little Bloomers were keen to begin work on bug houses for the park.

Cllr Smith had drawn up a list of organisations and individuals who might be willing to give advice and help. These included:

Froglife, a volunteer at Lattersley Nature Reserve, the Friends of Ringsend Nature Reserve, Cambridgeshire Bird Club, Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire Wildlife Trust, a contact for Needingworth Reserve and Rebecca Robinett at FDC.

Cllr Carney said he would make enquiries about forest schools.

It was reported the road approaching Little Acre Fen was still in a dangerous state and the Clerk said she would attempt to contact Lee's about promised repairs.

The Clerk had spoken to a manufacturer of signs about a sign for the Pocket Park and now just needed to know about wording. It was agreed it should be headed Little Acre Fen Pocket Park and should explain the Town Council were trying to improve a facility for all to enjoy. It should also contain wording and symbols to indicate all motorised vehicles (including motorcycle and quad bikes) were prohibited. It was also suggested the sign could go on the gate and the bollards at the entrances to the site. Cllr Haggata suggested directional signs to the park might be needed in future.

The Clerk was still awaiting a reply from the firm chosen to manufacture the gates but she was continuing to chase. Members stressed the urgency of installing the gates.

R J Warrens had offered a bin for the site but members were unsure if FDC could be persuaded to empty it. Warrens had suggested whoever maintained the site could also be asked to empty the bin. It was agreed a clear up after your dog sign would be needed.

## **L5 18/19 Final Plans for Annual Town Meeting**

Members had before them a paper copy of Cllr Carney's Powerpoint presentation for the Annual Town Meeting. It was agreed Cllr Haggata, as the Mayor, would introduce the item and give an overall picture of the presentation.

Councillors said they were prepared for each topic they had agreed to talk about. Cllr Ashley would speak about the FACT Ely Shuttle Bus, Cllr Haggata would speak about businesses in the town and then hand over to Cllr Benney to talk about a business forum. Cllr Hay suggested asking Cllr David Mason, portfolio holder for business development at FDC, along to the meeting.

Cllr Carney would speak about Little Acre Fen Pocket Park and the background. Cllr Haggata would speak about the Council's support for organisations through grants, Cllr Carney about the meadow at the rear of the Parish Church, Cllr Newell about youth provision, Cllr Haggata or Cllr A Carney about the George Clare VC commemorations and Cllr Smith about the gas lamps project.

Cllr Hay said she would give the County Council report and the Clerk was asked to remind Cllr Murphy about giving the FDC report. It was suggested he could speak about litter services and the new refuse collection app.

The Clerk stressed the need to keep referring back to the Town Plan and the fact that the Council had been through the plan and these were some of the ways it was responding to the Action Points.

Cllr Haggata said he would point out how development was necessary and would benefit the town.

## **L6 18/19 Any Other Business**

Photographs: Cllr Newell raised the issue of the missing photographs of Mayors on the Council Chamber wall. The Clerk admitted it was her fault and agreed to take action.

Gulleys: Cllr Smith said the gully outside Greetings shop in the High Street was still blocked and flooded every time it rained. It was an open grill type and collected rubbish.

Rail: Cllr Haggata said he had attended a meeting about the development of Manea and Whittlesey rail stations. He believed the Town Council should be consulted and should be more proactive in helping to develop services at Manea. Unfortunately it was a slow process.

All Weather Pitch: The Clerk said she and the Financial Officer had met with the new financial director at Cromwell Community College, Mrs Elizabeth Fox, who said she was not happy with the current booking system for the All Weather Pitch and was about to introduce an on-line system linked to the college's website. In future payment for bookings would have to be up front and booking would be on a first come, first serve system although it would be possible to book pitches for up to a year.

Mrs Fox was fully aware the AWP needed to make more money to ensure the finance was there when the mat needed replacing but she was hopeful the mat would last longer than suggested as it was well maintained.

The Clerk and Financial Officer had given their blessing to the on line booking system, pointing out it was something they had encouraged in the past. Unfortunately the school appeared to be receiving little help from the FA but Mrs Fox was determined the AWP would be used to its full potential in the future; news welcomed by the Clerk and FO.

## **L7 18/19 Date of Next Meeting**

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2018

