

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

Minutes of a meeting held on Tuesday 12th June 2018

Present: Cllrs J Smith (Chairman), L Ashley, A Hay, W Haggata and F Newell.

L8 18/19 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs J Burrow and J Carney.

L9 18/19 Matters Arising from the Last Meeting of the Group

L5) Annual Town Meeting: Cllr Carney sent a report that there had been complaints that insufficient was done to launch the Town Plan at the Annual Town Meeting. As a result the Town Plan team had subsequently been offered the option of a public meeting and launch of the Plan at the library and had been advised there was money in the budget to arrange a print run of the Plan.

However, the team Chairman had said the moment to launch the plan had passed so the Clerk had suggested putting the Plan on show at the Midsummer Festival. Organisations had been offered the opportunity to put up unmanned displays in the marquee over the weekend. The Chairman had agreed with the suggestion and the Clerk had printed out two copies of the Plan, visitors would be invited to read it and, if they wished, request a copy which could be sent by email or through the post.

Members pointed out the plan had been referred to on many occasions at the Annual Town Meeting but there had been insufficient time to go through it page by page. Cllr Smith suggested the most important thing was to ensure the Council were working on the action points.

However members agreed the plan should go on show at the Festival and suggested it should be reiterated that the plan was available to view on the Town Council's website. Cllr Smith said after the Festival one of the paper copies of the plan could go on the reference table in the library. She also suggested the website should offer readers the opportunity of a paper copy of the plan.

The only other criticism of the Town Meeting was the size of the Powerpoint presentation projected on to the screen as it was difficult to view from the rear of the room. It was agreed the projector should be positioned further back next year and the room needed more ventilation.

It was agreed that the home-made refreshments after the meeting had been well received.

L10 18/19 FDC Update

Mr Bob Ollier had sent his apologies.

Church Meadow: The Clerk said she and the Financial Officer were dissatisfied with the size of the new paved area at the Church meadow as it was only just big enough for the picnic table and many of the slabs had not been used. Unfortunately the Clerk was unsure what had been agreed between the contractors and Mr Ollier so she was hoping to meet Mr Ollier later in the week to discuss the issue and the possibility of increasing the paved area. Members agreed the work carried out did not represent value for money.

Grass Cutting: Members had received a number of complaints about grass cutting around the town. The cemetery was in a very poor state, verges had not been cut, grass cuttings were not being collected and the roundabout near Poundstretcher had been cut, badly. Cllr Ashley had submitted a complaint about grass cutting at Fairview Avenue. Cllr Newell had reported the problems at the cemetery and fly tipping at Dean Drove. Members acknowledged there was a problem with grass cutting across the district but pointed out there were no such problems in neighbouring districts. They also gave examples of how the public had carried out work which was the responsibility of the district and county councils.

L11 18/19 Little Acre Fen Project

Cllr Smith reported the Little Bloomers Gardening Group had created a bug hotel which they had installed at Little Acre Fen. There were concerns the hotel might be vandalised and the Clerk suggested putting up a notice saying who had created it, in the hope it would deter vandals.

The Clerk reported the gates had been ordered and she had been offered a large tree for the site which would be a challenge to move but it would hopefully be possible in the autumn.

The Clerk had also been approached by the Project Manager of Orchards East, Mr Jones, asking if there was anyone who could carry out survey work into old orchards in the area. Members were unaware of any old orchards in Chatteris but were interested in Mr Jones offer to help establish a community orchard by providing advice, assistance and fruit trees. It was agreed to take up his offer.

Cllr Haggata was keen to establish an observation platform on the bund as a look out post. Members were in agreement with increasing the height of the bund and creating an observation mound with a flattened top and a hill but were not in favour of a wooden structure as there were worries that it would be vandalised.

It was agreed a temporary sign should go up at the park stating the park had been created for the benefit of the residents of Chatteris, asking them to respect the area by removing all litter and forbidding all motorised vehicles.

In time a permanent sign could then be erected on the gates which would list the sponsors of the park (Honeysome Solar Farm, Section 106 Funding and Chatteris Town Council). Cllr Haggata said direction signs to the site would also be needed. The Clerk was also asked to approach Anglian Water about screening the pumping station.

There were concerns that the approach road to the site was still in a very poor condition. The Clerk had spoken to the County Rights of Way Officer who had suggested approaching Mr Christopher Lee at P J Lee & Sons (who farmed in the area) asking him to arrange for improvements to the roadway.

L12 18/19 Church Meadow Sign

Cllr Smith had drawn up a suggested design for a sign at the Church meadow with pictures and names of flowers and trees which could be spotted in the area around the edges of the sign and space in the centre for wording. It was suggested the background could be a faded picture of the meadow. It was suggested the wording should be simply “St Peters and St Pauls Churchyard Meadow Picnic Area” with a litter logo and a dogs on leads logo.

L13 18/19 Any Other Business

Town Centre: The Clerk reminded members it had been agreed at the full council meeting to invite the FDC Portfolio Holder for Growth, Cllr David Mason, to a meeting of the Leisure Working Group. It was agreed the next Leisure meeting should be held on the 17th July and all councillors would be invited to attend if Cllr Mason was able to be present.

Cllr Hay said the Market Towns Masterplan group would be appointing a consultant and it would be necessary to identify what the town needed to go forward. It was agreed the Town Plan was a good starting point. Cllr Haggata suggested it would be advisable to know what was attainable. Cllr Smith said something as simple as a noticeboard showing all planned events in the town would help.

It was agreed the town needed attractions to bring people into the town centre, including those who actually lived in the town. The town lacked coffee shops, restaurants and wine bars, which all helped to attract shoppers in other towns. Shop frontages were in need of transformation to make the town centre more attractive and shops needed to consider opening for either longer or different hours. The shops which appeared to do well were those which opened later into the evening and on Sundays. Cllr Haggata said he would like to see more shops on the Poundstretcher site.

Road Traffic Order: Members were asked if they had any objections to a Temporary Traffic Order banning traffic from Huntingdon Road from the 4th to 6th September to allow for works at the junction of Linden Drive. The diversion would be via Park Street, Market Hill, New Road, the A142 and Fenland Way. There were no objections to the order.

L14 18/19 Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 17th July 2018.

