

CHATTERIS TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes Dated 3rd July 2018

1830

1 of 8

Minutes of the meeting of Chatteris Town Council held on Tuesday 3rd July 2018 at the Council Chambers, 14 Church Lane, Chatteris.

Present: Councillors W Haggata (Mayor), L Ashley, I Benney, A Carney, A Hay, P Murphy, F Newell, K Patterson and J Smith.

51) To Accept Apologies for Absence

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

52) Declarations of Interest & Dispensations to Speak and Vote on Declarable Pecuniary Interests

Cllrs Hay, Murphy and Newell declared an interest in all planning matters as members of Fenland District Council's planning committee.

The Mayor sought permission to raise an item in committee at the end of the meeting. The item was not on the agenda but required an urgent response. Permission was granted.

53) Open Forum

Three members of the public were welcomed to the meeting.

A trader in the High Street asked if there had been any updates on the matter of UPVC windows in the Conservation Area.

He then introduced the other two visitors and asked if the Council could help speed up their planning application. The two visitors said they were the new owners of the former Sewsmart shop in the High Street and planned to turn it into a tearoom. They explained there appeared to have been a muddle over their planning application and they were seeking help to sort the problem. Cllr Newell offered to look into the issue and contact the planning officer involved.

54) Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Tuesday 5th June 2018 were agreed and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

55) Matters Arising from the Minutes

Min 43) Market Towns Masterplan: A suggestion had been made that an employee of Stainless Metalcraft should be the business representative on the Chatteris Stakeholder Group for the Market Towns Masterplan. All members agreed this was an excellent idea.

Min 44) Former Budgens Store: The Mayor had received notification from the Co-op that they were not looking to acquire the former Budgens shop in Chatteris. However there was

news that Tesco's had applied for a licence to sell alcohol in the half of their store not occupied by Poundstretcher.

Min 44) Post Office: Cllr Newell had contacted an officer at FDC regarding the Post Office business rates. The officer confirmed she had escalated the complaint to the specialist NNDR team at the Anglia Revenues Partnership and had requested they urgently review the case.

56) Police Matters

Members had a copy of the latest monthly review from the Fenland Neighbourhood Policing Team. One of the priorities for the month had been targeting ASB vehicle nuisance of motor cycles and mini moto's on open land in Chatteris and March.

Cllr Hay said officers had caught a motorcyclist riding without a helmet near the Festival ground.

Members were concerned there appeared to be low activity by the police in Chatteris. Cllr Ashley suggested the Council should complain about the complete lack of police presence at the Midsummer Festival throughout the weekend. The Clerk said she understood the police had been called when there had been trouble at the Festival late on Saturday evening but they failed to respond. It was agreed to write complaining about all the issues.

57) FDC, Street Scene, Section 106 and CCTV Updates

Members had a copy of the latest updates (**copy attached**) and these were noted.

58) Financial Officer's Report

Financial Statement

Members had before them a budgetary control statement for the Revenue (Precept) Account as at 25th June 2018 showing expenditure of £68,037.48 and income of £97,467.99 (including a half years precept income) compared with budgets, along with a bank reconciliation statement and a summary statement of reserves and funds balances.

It was **RESOLVED** that the report be noted and approved.

The Clerk reported that she and the Mayor had visited Stainless Metalcraft to view the planters to go outside the Council Chambers. The planters were complete but now needed to be polished and this work could not be undertaken by apprentices so the cost, £352, would have to be met by the Council. In addition, to preserve the planters, Metalcraft suggested they should be lacquered when complete and this work could be undertaken, at a cost of £200 plus VAT, by Artistica Metalica. The Financial Officer confirmed there was money left in the budget to pay for the work.

Members **resolved** that Metalcraft should be given the go ahead to polish the planters at a cost of £352 (excluding VAT) and Artistica Metalica to lacquer the finished product at a cost of £200 plus VAT.

59) Grants to Voluntary Organisations

- [1] Members were reminded that the Council's current policy was to consider grant applications at the April, July, October and January meetings each year. Budget limitations meant that grants given by the Council were an expression of support for an organisation and were not at a level where, on their own, they could sustain a group's financial viability.
- [2] The approved budget for grants in **2018/19** was **£3,250**. Applications for consideration by Members at the meeting were scheduled, with recommendations. A late application from Magpas Air Ambulance was tabled at the meeting. The Read to Succeed campaign was for information only as it was previously approved by Councillors at the June Council meeting.
- [3] It was **RESOLVED** that the report be noted and all applications were approved as listed below.

Applicant	Amount Requested	Amount Granted	Spending Power
1. Read to Succeed Steve Barclay Campaign New reading books for children in Fenland.	150	300	S137
2. Chatteris Town FC Young Lillies New youth teams set up at Chatteris Football Club. Need new goals so teams can play at West Street ground.	250	350	S137
3. MAGPAS Air Ambulance Help towards running costs.		250	S137

60) Payment of Accounts

It was **RESOLVED** that the payment of the following accounts be noted and approved:-

Financial Officer	Payroll July 2018	1,028.80
Town Clerk	Payroll July 2018	1,497.37
HMRC	Payroll July 2018	628.71
Cambs Pension	Payroll July 2018	1,281.95
Zen Internet	Monthly Website fee	10.79
Barclays	May & June Bank Charges	13.49
BT	Q Bill	358.23

		1833 4 of 8
J J Butler	Squirty Wirty Summer Fun	195.00
Booster Cushion	Summer Fun	330.00
JezO's Events	Services for event production at Summer Festival	2400.00
Clerk	Reimbursement mileage & primer paint re artist working at Summer Festival	45.00
S Payne	Grass cutting service 4 x weeks June	800.00
Cash	Petty cash	44.06
S Selman	Summer Festival items	170.98
C Sievewright	Re: Fruity Clave Samba Band at Summer Festival	150.00
W Haggata	Mayors Allowance	500.00
Total		£9,454.38

61) Planning

Cllr Ashley (Chairman) presented the minutes of the Planning Working Group meeting held on Tuesday 26th June 2018 (**copy attached**).

The group had made recommendations on planning applications a) to d) (as shown on the appended list) and these were ratified by the full council. Members then considered applications e) to g) and agreed to return the plans to Fenland District Council marked as follows:

- a) Support
- b) Support
- c) Support
- d) Support in Principle. Members were pleased to note the developers have recognised the on-going problems with surface water drainage in the area and the swale and plan to include a filter drain system discharging into the main surface water drainage system. They were, however, concerned about the impact on the junction of New Road and the A142 from vehicles leaving the development and believe the dangers, which already exist and are likely to be exacerbated, should be addressed by Highways. Members suggest Section 106 contributions should be used to improve the junction by the installation of re-active traffic lights.
- e) Noted. Request tree officer considers application (Cllr Benney declared an interest).
- f) Support
- g) Support

62) Leisure & General Purposes Working Group Report & Recommendations

Cllr Smith (Chairman) presented the minutes of the Leisure and General Purposes Working Group meeting held on Tuesday 12th June 2018 (**copy attached**).

L10) Church Meadow: The Clerk had finally managed to meet with Mr Bob Ollier to view the new paved area at the Church meadow. Mr Ollier had agreed the paved area was smaller than agreed with the contractors. On ringing them the contractors said they had stopped work because of objections raised by the Vicar. Mr Ollier had asked them to return and increase the paved area. Unfortunately in the meantime a number of slabs had been stolen so there were now an insufficient number to create a pathway for wheelchairs and buggies from the churchyard to the picnic bench. Members expressed their disappointment but suggested it might be possible to install a pathway at a later date.

63) Chatteris In Bloom

The Clerk had been copied in to correspondence between the Chairman of In Bloom and Mr Bob Ollier regarding the state of the flower beds which were the responsibility of Fenland District Council. The main concerns were that the flower beds had been planted too late with what appeared to be second rate plants and had not been properly watered ahead of judging day on the 6th July. The Chairman had acknowledged that many of the problems were down to the contractors employed by FDC. The Clerk pointed out members of In Bloom had been working very hard day and night to ensure their displays were once again of gold standard.

Members agreed to a suggestion that the Clerk should write to Mr Richard Cassidy, at FDC, expressing disappointment at the poor performance of the contractors.

Cllr Smith said she was aware the contractors had experienced problems early in the season when their mowing equipment was stolen but she pointed out there were other jobs outstanding which they could have undertaken while they were waiting for new mowing equipment.

64) Chatteris Midsummer Festival 2018

The Clerk reported that the Festival had gone really well at the weekend. There had been a record number of groups and people taking part in the walking parade and although takings on the gate were slightly down this was probably due to the large numbers in the parade. Two new ventures had been popular, the pamper evening and the horse show, while the special stage, foam cannon and pyrotechnics show at the Party in the Park had been huge hits with hundreds of people enjoying the music on the Saturday evening. The Festival had been helped by the hot and sunny conditions throughout the weekend. Unfortunately the heat had been too much for dogs and the Clerk had been forced to cancel the dog show on the Sunday

which left a gap in the arena programme which the announcer worked hard to fill with dancing and competitions.

The Financial Officer was concerned that people had still slipped in with the parade avoiding payment, although more entry fees had been collected from people waiting for the parade to begin. She promised a solution to the problem was being sought. The good news was that the donation buckets contained more money and takings were up on the Sunday.

The Clerk and Financial Officer were thanked for their work on the Festival. The Clerk asked if flowers and chocolates could be purchased as a thank you to the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Festival who had both been involved throughout the 10 years of the Festival and had given an enormous amount of their time for free every year. Members fully **supported** the suggestion.

65) 20mph Speed Limit Information and LHI Bid

The Clerk had received information on points to be considered before applying for a 20mph speed limit zone. The information pointed out changing the speed limit and introducing nothing but a change in the sign was highly unlikely to ensure compliance unless the road and highway environment was amended. In addition a 20mph speed limit would only be considered in areas where the mean speed of traffic was 24mph or lower and would only be considered in areas with high traffic calming or other measures that ensured self-enforcement.

The cost of introducing a 20mph zone would be £4,500 to £16,000 (the Clerk suggested in Wenny Road the cost was likely to be at the lower end as only two signs would be needed).

In the meantime the Mayor had met with pupils at Cromwell Community College and received a letter signed by a number of pupils calling for the Council to install a zebra crossing outside the school. Members agreed they would prefer a zebra crossing but the Clerk warned this would be a lengthy process if the Council applied for LHI funding as this would not be implemented until 2019/20.

Cllr Ashley said she believed there was a zebra crossing outside every other secondary school in Cambridgeshire. She pointed out the problems already existed and would only get worse as the number of pupils increased. Cllr Patterson agreed it was unreasonable to wait over a year for a crossing.

It was agreed the Clerk should write to County Highways requesting a crossing as a matter of urgency and should include a copy of the letter from the pupils. In the meantime she would complete an LHI application for a crossing.

The Council had also received a letter from a resident of St Paul's Drive about the dangerous parking along New Road. The resident pointed out there were often near misses as motorists tried to avoid oncoming cars and parked cars. He suggested parking should only be on one side of the road and asked the Council to look into the problem and submit an LHI bid. Members agreed parking in New Road was a problem, especially with motorists parking on

the hatched area before the crossing, but were unsure if they could apply for LHI funding for more than one scheme. The Clerk agreed to enquire.

66) Traffic Issues

Bollard: The Clerk was pleased to report that she had received confirmation that work had begun on surveying the ground ahead of installing a bollard at the cut through between New Road and Green Park.

Resurfacing: Notification had been received that the Chatteris to Warboys Road (A141) would be closed overnight from the 10th to 14th September for resurfacing works. Details of a very long diversion route were included.

Licence Charge: Notification had also been received that the County Council would waive the £210 fee for a licence to excavate the highway for its local council partners.

Bulletin: The latest road works & events affecting the highway bulletins had been received.

67) Correspondence

Members had before them a list of correspondence received since the last meeting (**copy attached**).

Cllr Patterson expressed an interest in the councillor training sessions being proposed by Doddington Parish Council.

68) Reports

Cllr Patterson said she had been working with Cllr Smith on revising the Town Guide. She had compiled some ideas for modernising the publication and handed those ideas to the Clerk.

69) Items for the Next Agenda

No items were put forward for the next agenda.

The following item Min 70) All Weather Pitch, was taken in **In Committee** due to the sensitive nature of the information.