

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

Minutes of a meeting held on Tuesday 14th August 2018

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

L25 18/19 Apologies for Absence

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

L26 18/19 FDC Update

There was no FDC Update from Mr Bob Ollier, who was away from the office until the 29th August.

Cllr Haggata asked the Clerk to chase up Mr Ollier about FDC cutting back the trees and hedges at Wenny Road Recreation Ground which backed on to Holly Mews and Hazel Close.

L27 18/19 Matters Arising from the Last Meeting of the Group

L19) Gate: The manufacturers of the gate for Little Acre Fen Pocket Park had confirmed the posts would be installed on the 29th/30th August and the gate would be hung a week later. Padlocks would be required for the gate. It was agreed a key for the padlock would be offered to Anglian Water and the Council would hold the other key.

The Clerk reported that a local estate agent had claimed that a nearby landowner had a right of way over the land and that a farmer was being denied access because of the bollards. The Clerk had pointed out that the deeds showed the only people who had right of way over the land were Anglian Water to access water pipes. She challenged the estate agent to provide written evidence of his claim and to date there had been no further communications. Cllr Newell, who had been involved when the land was purchased by the Town Council, confirmed no-one, bar Anglian Water, had a right of way over the land. Cllr Haggata pointed out a tractor running over the site would ruin what the Council was trying to do to improve the area.

L28 18/19 Little Acre Fen Pocket Park Update

Cllr Smith reported that a small group had met with a representative of Froglife to discuss the development of a pond in the reed area of the land and a dipping platform. The representative had already sent plans for the area to the Clerk and was enthusiastic about the project. The Clerk was now awaiting likely costs of the project and information on how much spoil would be needed to create a large viewing mound on the site. Cllr Smith had also made contact with a representative of Anglian Water who was happy in principle for the Council to disguise the fence of the pumping station. It was agreed he should be sent plans of hedging for the area so

he could agree and hopefully Anglian Water might be prepared to help with the cost of hedging. Natural hedging such as beech, maple and blackthorn had been suggested.

Cllr Smith said she also had a contact with the Cambs, Beds and Northants Wildlife Trust and was hoping for ideas on how to generate volunteer interest in the project. One idea was to invite local people along to a tree planting day and supply refreshments.

It was agreed the formation of a Friends of the Pocket Park group would be a great idea as the group would take ownership of the area and help to maintain the pond. The Clerk had been contacted by one lady keen on seeing wildflower areas in the town who had expressed an interest in helping.

Cllr Smith was also planning to attend a Great Fen event, where children took part in bug hunts, pond dipping, etc., in the hope they would be able to share ideas with her.

Cllr Carney had drawn up a draft agreement which people wishing to purchase memorial trees on the site would need to sign. The Clerk had compared the agreement to those issued by other local authorities and made a few minor amendments. Members went through the agreement made a few further changes and arrived at a document (attached) to submit to the full council for approval. It was agreed a map would be needed along with tags or numbers on the trees so the Council could identify which tree belonged to which family.

The Clerk had contacted four nurseries asking them for the price of supplying semi-mature or mature Silver Birch, Hornbeam and fruit trees along with stakes and guards against deer. Three companies had responded, one suggesting the choice of trees might not be correct for the site. Members favoured the company who had supplied the commemorative tree for Cllr Stimson as they had offered a good follow up service and their costings were reasonable. It was agreed the Clerk should ask if a representative of the company would be willing to visit the site and advise on the best type of trees for the area. When people requested a commemorative tree the price quoted would include the cost of the tree, delivery, stakes, guards and planting.

Cllr Haggata pointed out the creation of the pond, mound, dry pond and tree planting were all improvements to the area which it was possible to achieve within the next few months.

Cllr Smith said she was planning to include a walking route map in the next town guide which would include the pocket park and the Old Railway Line Footpath.

L29 18/19 Church Meadow

With the paved area at the Church Meadow complete, the Financial Officer had suggested the Council could look at extending the existing footpath so it reached the paved area and picnic table as this would allow access to the picnic area for disabled people.

This was agreed and it was also agreed to look into the provision of another bench on the site, either a smaller version of the existing bench or the butterfly bench which a member of In

Bloom had commissioned. Cllr Smith agreed to make enquiries about the butterfly bench. It was also agreed the existing bench required more securing brackets to ensure it was not stolen. Cllr Smith suggested putting more bird boxes in the area.

The Clerk reported an officer from FDC had been out to look at the position for a new bin and this had been agreed upon. Once the bin was installed Cllr Smith suggested putting a plaque on the table asking people to put their litter in the bin provided.

L30 18/19 Any Other Business

Photos: Cllr Newell reminded the Clerk once again about the need to put up photographs of the last three mayors on the Council Chambers wall. It was agreed to ask Mr John Chambers and Cllr Carney to have their photographs taken before the September Council meeting.

Planters: The Clerk reported the planters for the Gas Lamps Project would be delivered by Stainless Metalcraft on the 16th August and she would then arrange for them to be installed. Once in place publicity photographs would be taken and Stainless Metalcraft would officially be thanked.

L31 18/19 Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 18th September 2018. Cllr Hay gave her apologies.