

CHATTERIS TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes Dated 4th September 2018

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Minutes of the meeting of Chatteris Town Council held on Tuesday 4th September 2018 at the Council Chambers, 14 Church Lane, Chatteris.

Present: Councillors W Haggata (Mayor), J Carney (Deputy Mayor), I Benney, A Carney, F Newell, J Smith and I Taylor.

96) To Accept Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs L Ashley, J Burrow, A Hay and P Murphy. Cllrs A Carney and I Benney apologised they would be late and arrived during the meeting.

Cllr Newell explained that her three fellow District Councillors were at an important meeting at Fenland District Council. However she had left the meeting early to attend the Town Council meeting. She pointed out it was unfair of FDC to organise a meeting on the same night as the Town Council meeting. It was agreed to write expressing the Town Council's disapproval since FDC were aware the first Tuesday of every month was the date for the Town Council meeting.

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

Cllrs Newell declared an interest in all planning matters as a member of Fenland District Council's planning committee.

98) Open Forum

One member of the public was welcomed to the meeting. The High Street trader said he had attended a meeting about windows in Wisbech and appreciated those councillors who had spoken up for him.

He also said he was giving up his second hand goods business in the High Street after 25 years of trading. This decision was due in part to the fact that the former Budgens shop was to become a charity shop. He pointed out charity shops enjoyed unfair advantages as they did not have to pay rent, business rates and had their rubbish collected free of charge by FDC. The trader said his premises had already been re-let to a Chatteris business and he would continue with his removals and house clearance business.

99) Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Tuesday 7th August 2018 were agreed and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

100) Matters Arising from the Minutes

Min 83) Mobile Bank: FDC had confirmed that Lloyds Bank had submitted a car park use application form to use Furrowfields Car Park for a mobile bank. They had also given details of their public and property liability insurance and the application had been agreed subject to the bank being willing to pay fees which were in line with market traders fees and charges.

Min 90) Memorial: Cllrs Benney, Haggata, Murphy and Smith had attended the meeting about plans to erect a memorial for the victims of the Lancaster bomber crash near Chatteris in 1945. The Mayor reported that several aircraft had actually come down in the area and the plan was to erect one memorial for all the aircraft. Various sites where the memorial could be located were discussed, including Market Hill Gardens, Jubilee Gardens, the Parish Church grounds, the top of Huntingdon Road and Bridge Street. A final decision on where it should go had not been taken and more research into the crashed aircraft was being undertaken as the plan was also to produce a booklet. Cllr Smith said the cost of plaques was also being researched and a follow up meeting would be held in January. (Cllr A Carney joined the meeting at this point).

Min 88) In Bloom: Cllr Smith reported that at the last In Bloom meeting plans for the future were discussed. The Chairman then said she would not be standing as Chairman again, the planting co-ordinator also said she could not continue and Cllr Smith said she would not continue as Vice-Chairman as she was unable to commit so much time to the project although she would continue to help. As a result an appeal for new helpers had gone out and a recruitment evening was being held. Cllr Smith said volunteers needed to give a 12 months commitment as work went on all year round. It was hoped new volunteers would be able to shadow existing volunteers.

Cllr Smith said the In Bloom awards ceremony was being held in September and the group would then find out if they had managed to retain their gold award. She pointed out In Bloom volunteers were paying to attend the ceremony out of their own pockets.

101) Police Matters

Members received the following report:

Local Police

Please see attached the confidential report from Sgt Lugg on the Fenland Neighbourhood Policing team's work over the past month.

Sgt Lugg also replied to the Council's follow up letter regarding policing at the Midsummer Festival. He promised to pass on the Council's comments to the operations officer so they could form part of the risk assessment for the 2019 Festival.

As a result Pc Andy Morris contacted the Clerk to assure her that a thorough risk assessment would be carried out in 2019 taking into account issues at the 2018 festival. Assistance would also be sought from the special constabulary to provide warranted special constables dedicated to the event, although their attendance could not be guaranteed.

Sgt Lugg also said had his team of PCSOs been on duty they would have attended the Festival as an engagement opportunity, however they were not on duty and he was unable to deploy a team from another area as the risk assessment did not allow for this.

Neighbourhood Alerts

16 & 23/8/18: Invitation to nominate your neighbour for the Neighbourhood Watch and Co-op Insurance Best Neighbour and Hero Next Door awards.

17/8/18: Warning that fraudsters are contacting overseas students and visitors to the UK via their mobile phone or social network account and purporting to represent UK or foreign law enforcement.

Cllr Smith said she had reported two youths with rucksacks climbing about on the roof of the Budgens store to the police.

The Mayor said motorcycles were continuing to use public land at Wenny Road.

It was reported that Neighbourhood Watch in Chatteris had apparently ceased operating. Cllr A Carney said no-one had turned up for a recent meeting of the organisation held at the King Edward Centre.

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

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

The Clerk pointed out that according to the Section 106 update most of the money remaining was for improvements to Larham Way play area. Since the area had already been reinstated, following the development of the underpass, it was agreed to ask if the money could be used for another purpose. The Mayor suggested, if possible, it could be used for a cycle link from the underpass to Doddington Road. Members also asked if remaining 106 funds could be used to update the interpretation boards and brown tourist signs around the town.

Members reported that the pathway along Wenny Road, near its junction with Birch Fen Drove, was almost impassable due to overgrown vegetation as was the footpath along London Road outside the former Travis Perkins site. The Clerk agreed to pass on the complaints to relevant officers.

103) Financial Officer's Report

Financial Statement

Members had before them a budgetary control statement for the Revenue (Precept) Account as at 28th August 2018 showing expenditure of £89,313.99 and income of £103,967.34 (includes 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.

104) Payment of Accounts

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

£

Financial Officer	Payroll September 2018	1,028.80
Town Clerk	Payroll September 2018	1,497.37
HMRC	Payroll September 2018	628.71
Cambs Pension	Payroll September 2018	1,281.95
Zen Internet	Monthly Website fee	10.79
Barclays	Bank Charges	24.79
Town Clerk	Reim Mileage & Summer Fest flowers for 10years of work by two volunteers	75.77
Viking	Stationery order	149.28
Viking	Stationery order	74.02
Artistic Metalica	Lacquer aluminium planters re Gas lamps project	240.00
Wave	Water Bill LHS of Honeysome Rd Allotments	84.68
S Payne	Grass cutting Service	600.00
Cash	Petty cash	
CCCA King Edward Centre	Summer Fun Room Hire	128.00
Laura Dennis	Summer Festival Entertainment services	600.00
Fran Orridge	Summer Festival Party In the Park Bands & entertainment organiser	200.00
CIB	2 nd payment of watering service	689.88
Joe Papworth	2 nd payment Chatteris Youth Club	1,071.66
BT	Final Bill	78.54
Total		£8,464.24

105) Planning

Planning applications a) to d) (as shown on the **appended list**) were considered and it was agreed to return the following recommendations to Fenland District Council marked as follows:

- a) Support
- b) Support
- c) Support

- d) Recommend Refusal, insufficient information as to why the trees need to be removed.

The Clerk updated members on the latest planning decisions from Fenland District Council. Permission had been granted for an extension to 4 Southampton Place, the erection of an office at 24 Doddington Road, an extension to 43 Cricketers Way and the conversion of an outbuilding to a 1-bed annexe at 1A West Park Street.

Members had also received a copy of a press release from FDC following the review of FDC's planning service by a peer challenge team. The report stated that the Council had made significant alterations to its planning service and had significantly improved its performance. The report also made recommendations on how to further improve the service, including training for town and parish councils, utilising resources to deliver the growth agenda and developing an investment strategy to stimulate the local market to deliver housing.

106) 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 14th August 2018 (**copy attached**).

FDC Update: The Clerk agreed to email Mr Ollier about cutting back the trees and chasing up a reimbursement payment for the Town Council who had paid RJ Warren to install paving at the Church Meadow. The work was due to be funded from the Sec 106 pot.

Pocket Park: It was reported the pocket park at Little Acre Fen was overgrown with weeds and the Clerk agreed to ask R J Warren to spray the area.

Cllr Carney reported on a meeting with Mrs Ellie Buckton, from Care Network England, who had a pot of money to promote healthy living projects. The plans for the pocket park were outlined and she appeared to be enthused by the project. She agreed to find out if the Town Council was eligible to apply for healthy living funding for the project.

Memorial Trees: Members had a copy of the proposed agreement for memorial trees and unanimously **agreed** it was suitable, subject to the choice and prices of trees being included. (Cllr Benney joined the meeting at this point).

Church Meadow: Cllr Smith said she had litter picked the Church Meadow area, spoken to young people using the bench and had also chased up FDC to ensure the new bin was being emptied. Cllr Carney stressed lately there had been no issues with those using the bench.

107) Growing Fenland – Chatteris

Members had a copy of the minutes of the first Growing Fenland – Chatteris stakeholder group meeting held on the 23rd August.

Cllr Benney, who had been elected Chairman of the group, also gave a report. He said Mr Justin Wingfield, FDC's Head of Business and Economy, outlined the Market Towns Masterplan Project process and there was a brief discussion on how the project could benefit

Chatteris. Cllr Benney said a number of ideas were put forward including changing the postcode, retaining teachers, improvements to the local infrastructure, improved transport links and additional housing.

Cllr Benney said the plan appeared to be to bring forward a few of the ideas and the consultants would then look at funding sources. The stakeholder group appeared to be just a consultation group. FDC would have input into the package the consultants put together and some objectives would tie in with the other towns.

When asked about changing the postcode, Cllr Benney explained that support industries for Cambridge wanted a CB postcode. The Cambridge influence spread for a 20 miles radius and Chatteris fell within that radius so a CB postcode would encourage businesses to come to Chatteris.

Cllr Benney said the key to more retail was more housing but Chatteris had to be sold as a package and in addition to housing it needed to offer jobs. Small industrial units were needed rather than office units.

The Mayor said Mr Wingfield had spoken of engaging with the local community but it had been pointed out this had already been done as part of the consultation for the community/town plan.

The Mayor had been disappointed that timespans for delivering the ideas raised by the project were not shorter and had been concerned about where the funding would be found, especially as funding from Europe was drying up. Cllr Benney said the Combined Authority did have some money and Mr Wingfield was talking about short term, medium term and long term projects and had advised the group to aim high.

The Mayor said it had been revealed that two national businesses had expressed an interest in moving to Chatteris. He asked if anything had been done to follow up the enquiries and pointed out FDC should be out seeking business. Cllr Benney warned that the magic number for retail was a population of 18,000, so housing was the key. As the town grew more corporate money would be attracted. He said media advertising for Chatteris was required.

Cllr Smith asked if the head boy and head girl of Cromwell had been approached about serving on the stakeholder group. It was agreed to raise the idea following pupils return to school. The Mayor pointed out he had invited the school along to Council meetings but they had not taken up the offer.

108) To Agree Issues to Raise with Mr Steve Barclay MP

The Clerk reminded members that she and the Mayor had been invited to a Parish and Town Council Round Table event with MP Mr Steve Barclay on the 21st September. The event was being billed as the opportunity to discuss key issues which affected parish and town councils and their parishioners. The Mayor of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, the Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioner and leaders of FDC and East Cambs District Council were all scheduled to speak at the event.

Each Parish and Town Council had been asked to forward the top three issues impacting on the local community and the Clerk asked for the main issues affecting Chatteris. It was agreed to forward the following:

- 1) Fenland District Council is failing to promote Chatteris – all the focus is on Wisbech.

- 2) Housing development in the town has stalled, despite outstanding applications for 1,500 homes, and this means Section 106 funding to improve facilities in the town is drying up.
- 3) Businesses are suffering from high business rates, lack of support for new businesses and unfair advantages enjoyed by charity shops.

Cllr Newell asked if she could also attend the meeting and the Clerk agreed to request a place for Cllr Newell.

109) Speeding in Huntingdon Road and Wenny Road

An email had been received about speeding and parking issues in Huntingdon Road and the Mayor had responded to complaints by a resident of Wenny Road after a speeding car, being pursued by the police, crashed into his neighbour's house.

The Clerk said she was attempting to find qualified contractors to put up the MVAS mountings on lampposts in Chatteris and once in place she proposed putting the MVAS up in Wenny Road initially and then moving it to Huntingdon Road. Members agreed this was the way forward.

The author of the email had also complained about plans to remove the double yellow lines from 51 to 55 Huntingdon Road to solve the parking issue in Huntingdon Road. He complained this would lead to safety issues as he would be unable to see when leaving his drive. He said James Fuller Scrapyard had also objected to the proposal and claimed that there were now parking spaces available without the removal of the lines. The Clerk pointed out it was the Town Council's recommendation that the lines should be removed.

110) New Managers of Chatteris Leisure Centre

Councillors had received a copy of a press release from FDC stating that they had awarded a leisure management contract to not-for-profit leisure trust Freedom Leisure and the company would take over the running of the district's four leisure centres, including the Chatteris Leisure Centre.

Freedom Leisure would begin a 15-year partnership with the Council in December 2018 and should save taxpayers hundreds of thousands of pounds a year, said the press release. FDC would maintain full ownership of the sites but Freedom Leisure would take over the management and operation of the leisure centres. One of the largest leisure operators in the UK, Freedom Leisure was a not-for-profit organisation which reinvested surpluses into its facilities to increase active participation.

Cllr Newell commented that Freedom Leisure had a really good reputation and Cllr Smith said staff at Chatteris Leisure Centre appeared to be keen on the appointment and hoped it would see an end to lone working at the centre. Staff had told her the Chatteris centre was performing well.

111) Traffic Issues

Traffic Management Training: The Council had been offered two places on a traffic management course to be held at Fenland Hall on the 19th and 26th September. Successful trainees would gain a qualification allowing them to close sections of the public highway for pre-planned events. The costs of the course would be met by the County Council. Cllr A Carney expressed an interest in attending the course but fellow councillors were worried about the liability implications.

Resurfacing: Notification had been received that the B1050 Chatteris to Somersham Road would be re-surfaced in November. As a result the road would be closed 24/7 from the 29th October for 25 days. A signed diversion route would be in place for the duration of the scheme. In the meantime a temporary prohibition of traffic order from Stocking Drove, Chatteris, to Long Drove, Somersham, would come into force on 3rd September and the speed limit would be restricted to 40mph in Chatteris Road, Somersham and London Road, Chatteris.

Notification had also been received in advance that pedestrians would be prohibited to walk along Harold Heading Close to Southampton Place while emergency cabling works were carried out in August.

Bulletins: The latest bulletins listing road works & events affecting the highway had been received as had the IHMC Incident Report for July 2018.

112) Correspondence

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

Museum Request: Members considered a request from the Museum Treasurer to install a multi-screen and projector in the back room of the museum and an information board in the reception area. The Clerk had requested more information on the information board since the reception area was a shared facility. The treasurer had explained it was a screen which would stream a scrolling list of forthcoming events, similar to the one in the doctors' surgery. The treasurer invited the Council to make use of the facility for advertising such events as the Christmas Lights switch on and the Midsummer Festival. The Mayor explained that the Museum had applied to ACRE for funding for the items, likely to cost about £4,000. The Museum Trustees had been asked if they would initially purchase the equipment if there was a guarantee that ACRE would reimburse the money. As Museum Trustees Treasurer, the Mayor said he would be drawing up an agreement which would include a financial penalty if the money was not repaid by a certain time. ACRE were also asking for proof that the Council was happy with the project. Members **agreed** that the equipment could be installed in the museum and reception area.

The Mayor said the museum treasurer was doing a first class job and had presented him with a cheque for £500 to pay into the trustees account.

Cambridgeshire Local Councils Conference: Cllrs Benney and Smith expressed an interest in attending the conference along with the Clerk and Financial Officer.

113) Reports

Cllr Benney said the owner of the Cross Keys Inn was a keen re-enactor and was drawing up plans for a Medieval Festival in Chatteris in 2019. He hoped to run a weekend event outside the Church and would be seeking the permission of the Town Council and the Church.

114) Items for the Next Agenda

No items were put forward for the next agenda.

The following item (115) All Weather Pitch Carpet Replacement Fund) was taken **In Committee** due to the sensitive nature of the business to be transacted.