

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

Minutes of a meeting held on Tuesday 12th March 2019

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

L68 18/19 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs J Carney and F Newell. Cllr Carney had met with the Clerk earlier in the day to discuss item L73.

L69 18/19 FDC Update

Mr Phil Hughes had responded to points raised by the group as follows:

- a) Request for bench to go back at Wenny Recreation Ground – *the bench will go back when the Market Hill bench is refitted. The contractor has suggested benches are checked once a year to ensure bolts are tight, not rusty and will hold. Councillors suggested the checks should be more frequent.*
- b) Request for works to Alder hedge to be carried out as a matter of urgency – *the job will have to wait a few months and we will pick it up later in the season.*
- c) Complaints about overhanging trees at New Road cemetery – *please pass complaints to parks&greenspaces@fenland.gov.uk*
- d) Council not happy with FDC's plans to spend Section 106 money on the cemeteries and Market Hill gardens – *this council has no option but to spend money in the cemeteries to ensure they are safe and fit for purpose. It is up to members if they wish to cancel or guide the Market Hill works. Councillors are firmly opposed to Section 106 money being spent on the cemeteries. It is up to FDC to find the money elsewhere.*
- e) Invitation for Mr Hughes to attend a Council meeting – *Mr Hughes agreed to attend once he had some costings.*

L70 18/19 Matters Arising from the Last Meeting of the Group

L65) Green Dog Walkers: Members were reminded the launch of the scheme had been delayed until the end of purdah. The dog tags had been purchased.

L65) Street Map: The Clerk was still waiting for instructions on the size and number of street maps required. It was agreed it was particularly important to replace the map in the noticeboard outside the former police station. Cllr Haggata said he was due to visit the police station (now a museum) and would seek permission to update the map.

L71 18/19 Little Acre Fen Pocket Park

Cllrs Haggata and Smith and the Clerk had met the contractors on site to look at the bund. Cllr Haggata was keen to see the bund expanded into a taller hill in one corner and the cost of the work was being sought.

The Clerk was still awaiting a date when work would begin on the pond after giving the other contractor the go ahead.

Cllr Smith was also keen to get a quote for the stones for the dry pond/river. The contractors had mentioned they might be able to get a large tree trunk which could be used as a seat and something for the children to climb on. It was suggested the Friends group might be able to approach Mick George asking for the stones to be donated.

The Clerk confirmed a Friends group had been set up and the next meeting was on the 4th April. It was hoped they would look at some fund raising ideas. Cllr Smith confirmed the group was aware of the Council's plans for the site.

Cllr Smith said she was putting together a display for the Annual Town Meeting showing how the pocket park had progressed.

L72 18/19 Growing Fenland – Chatteris Update

The Growing Fenland – Chatteris team had met and fully discussed the Chatteris Masterplan interim report which had been prepared by the consultants. A few items were to be tweaked before the report went out to the public. Cllr Haggata said one of the main concerns was that the team would not be taking the report forward and looking for funding. The sums available from the combined authority had been discussed but were not great when spread across Fenland.

The plan was for the consultants to give out copies of the Masterplan interim report at the Annual Town meeting and to include a consultation sheet which could be returned to the Town Council. Cllr Smith reiterated the need to stress the difference between the plan and the community/town plan. Cllr Haggata said the group had decided Chatteris should be marketed as an “aspirational community” and the consultants had suggested it should be promoted to the outside world as Chatteris Outdoors – pointing out the opportunities around Chatteris such as sky diving, angling, boating, walking and bird watching.

L73 18/19 Final Plans for Annual Town Meeting

It was agreed that as part of the meeting Cllrs Haggata and Carney should make the following presentation on follow-ups to the community/town plan.

Cllr Haggata would make it clear that throughout the year the Council had been working on action points raised in the community/town plan; some of the achievements were mentioned in the Mayor's report and others were noted in the Annual Report.

Cllr Haggata would also point out there was not time to go through all the actions but he and Cllr Carney would highlight work which had been carried out in response to issues raised under the headings of Transport and The Environment.

On Transport, Cllr Haggata would explain he had met with County Officers to discuss a new Fenland Transport Strategy and had stressed the importance of improved public transport. In addition the Council had agreed to join forces with neighbouring parishes to fight for a better bus service between Chatteris and Ely and the Growing Fenland presentation would mention a push for better public transport.

Growing Fenland would also refer to a drive for safe cycle routes and Cllr Haggata would report the Town Council had agreed to help fund the Bikeability scheme for primary school children, if required. He would also mention the FACT bus service and the 20mph speed signs erected by Mick George Ltd.

It would be stated that Councillors did consider a proposal for a one way system through the centre of the town but rejected the idea, as they had done in the past, because it was felt Railway Lane would be unable to cope with the additional traffic.

On The Environment, Cllr Carney would talk about the development of the Little Acre Fen Pocket Park and invite visitors to view the exhibition being set up by Cllr Smith.

He would also point out the Town Council helped Fenland District Council develop the meadow area at the rear of the Parish Church and helped the County Council to create a new footpath, Chatteris 32, through the spinney at Wenny Recreation Ground and the rear of The Elms.

The plan was to help Fenland District Council (and enforcers Kingdom Services) tackle the problem of dog fouling by launching a Green Dog Walkers scheme in May and Cllr Carney would mention that the Council regularly reported fouling hotspots to FDC.

He would also state that the Council had paid for new litter bins to be installed (in London Road, Doddington Road and at the rear of the Church) and requested a map showing the location of all litter bins in Chatteris.

Cllr Carney would say Cllr Smith had created a leaflet promoting Chatteris which was funded by the Town Council and a new town guide would shortly be launched.

He would conclude by saying in addition to giving out almost £3,000 in small grants to local organisations, the Town Council gave major grants to the Christmas Lights, In Bloom (including payment for a contractor to water the plants), the Museum and the King Edward Centre. The Council also financially supported two reading schemes.

It was agreed that homemade cakes and savouries would be served at the end of the meeting along with tea and coffee.

L74 18/19 Any Other Business

Royal Visit: In view of the impending visit by HRH Princess Anne to Stainless Metalcraft, it was agreed to ask the County Council to tidy up the roundabout near Jacks and to request FDC ensure all the areas around Metalcraft were clean and tidy.

Next Project: With the Pocket Park project coming to a conclusion, Cllr Smith suggested the group should be looking at the next project. The landing stage on the Forty Foot river was suggested.

L75 18/19 Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 16th April. The Clerk gave her apologies as she would be on holiday.