

# CHATTERIS TOWN COUNCIL

## Minutes Dated 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2019

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Minutes of a meeting of Chatteris Town Council held on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2019 at the Council Chambers, 14 Church Lane, Chatteris.

**Present:** Councillors L Ashley (Mayor), I Benney (Deputy Mayor), J Carney, A Charrier, A Gowler, W Haggata, A Hay, F Newell M Petrou and I Taylor.

### 90) Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs P Murphy and J Smith.

### 91) Declarations of Interest and Dispensations to Speak and Vote on Declarable Pecuniary Interest Items

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

### 92) Open Forum

A large number of residents of Boadicea Court and a Chatteris shopkeeper were welcomed to the meeting.

The shopkeeper was upset that someone had complained about him putting furniture items for sale on the pavement outside the shopping arcade in the High Street. He pointed out other shopkeepers put items on the pavement and the local newspaper distribution points were also on the pavement (Cllr Hay suggested the newspaper company probably paid for them to be there).

The shopkeeper said he kept items placed on the pavement to a minimum, they just showed he was there. The Mayor said the Council had complained to environmental services about items of furniture in the corridor of the shopping arcade after receiving complaints that someone had been injured by a falling wardrobe. The shopkeeper denied anyone had been injured and said the wardrobe had been awaiting collection.

The Boadicea Court residents' representative said Cllr Hay had been in correspondence with a resident and a County Highways officer and had obtained an estimated cost (under £2,000) for the installation of double yellow lines in Boadicea Court. The residents had formed an action group and had agreed to go ahead and fund a scheme for double yellow lines for the entire length of the road and well positioned traffic calming features. The action group was already holding the funds for the work. They had also approached FDC's grounds maintenance contractors asking for a letter pointing out the problems they experienced and they were planning to approach other organisations such as the fire brigade. The

representative asked Cllr Hay if she would be willing to help them complete the necessary paperwork for the scheme.

Cllr Hay confirmed she would be willing to help and said she had passed on all the photographs and letters proving anti-social parking to the Highways Officer who had agreed to scan them so they could be tied in with the application.

The residents were concerned by the officer's suggestion that a full set of double yellow lines would not work as the residents would not be able to accommodate visitors. They challenged his suggestion that the problem of the parked cars would get displaced to somewhere else by pointing out the drivers could use Furrowfields Car Park. The officer favoured a DYL scheme which allowed some parking.

Cllr Hay promised to contact the officer and ask if he would be willing to meet with residents and discuss a suitable scheme.

### 93) Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> August 2019 were agreed and signed as a correct record by the Mayor.

### 94) Matters Arising from the Minutes

Min L17) Letter to Leader of County Council: As instructed the Clerk had written to the Leader of Cambridgeshire County Council, Cllr Steve Count, about the Roundabout near Jack's, the lack of a footpath along the A141 Fenland Way and the Wenny Road LHI Bid. A reply had been received from Place and Economy Officer Mr Graham Hughes.

**Roundabout:** Mr Hughes acknowledged the roundabout did not "lend itself well to use by large vehicles" and there needed to be a viable long term solution to ensure it was fit for purpose with minimal upkeep required. He said officers were looking at the drainage kerbs and ways to improve how the roundabout worked. Mr Hughes said he had asked officers to keep the Town Council updated. He also pointed out there was still the opportunity to sponsor the roundabout. Cllr Gowler said even if the kerb stones were replaced the roundabout would still not be fit for purpose. Councillors also complained about the alignment of the roundabout and the lack of visibility and said the mound of earth needed to be reduced to improve visibility. It was suggested getting rid of the roundabout and replacing it with traffic lights would be better but Cllr Newell said they were very expensive. Widening the road was also suggested. Cllr Benney said the best chance to change the roundabout would come if there was more development on the site and improvements were part of the planning conditions.

**Doddington Road Footpath:** Mr Hughes said requesting a new footpath along the A141 Fenland Way from the travellers' site to the roundabout at Jack's could either be processed as a Privately Funded Highway Improvement or as a scheme put forward for a Transport Investment Plan. He suggested discussing the details of the scheme with the Highways

Project team. Cllr Benney suggested provision of the footpath might be possible as a planning condition for the proposed Womb Farm development of 249 homes. Cllr Hay suggested writing to County Highways and asking if it was possible for them to request provision of the path as part of the planning conditions if the planning application was successful.

**Wenny Road LHI Bid:** Mr Hughes said he understood the installation of a pedestrian crossing was one of the planning conditions for the Cromwell Community College development. Cllr Hay said she believed this might be the case and agreed to look into the matter.

Min P20) Sale of Garage Land in Tithe Road. The Financial Officer had received a letter in reply to the Council's letter opposing the sale of the garage land at Tithe Road. She agreed to pass on the letter to members. Cllr Benney said details of the homeowner's rights would be included in the documents pack when the land went up for sale. The homeowner did not have rights of ownership of the land; the Mayor argued he had an established right of access over the land. The Financial Officer said Fenland claimed they owned the access to the site while the Mayor said the homeowner had up kept the land as FDC denied owning it. The land and other surplus FDC-owned land would go up for sale by auction on the 10<sup>th</sup> October.

Min 86) Retirement of Dr Szekely. The Clerk read out the letter she had sent to Dr John Szekely thanking him for his dedicated service to the town and its people for the past 33 years.

## 95) Police Matters

Members had received the following report on information received from the police in the past month:

### Local Police

Attached was the confidential report on the Fenland Neighbourhood Policing team's work over the past month.

The Town Council had been asked by the police if it owned a newly installed CCTV camera in Lancaster Way as it was pointing towards the children's play area. The Clerk assured them the Town Council had not installed the camera and did not own the play area. Force control replied stating the owner of the camera had been established and all appeared to be in order.

### Neighbourhood Alerts

7/8/19: Notification of launch of landmark Neighbourhood Watch Cybercrime survey.

15/8/19: Appeal for information following a fatal collision in Benwick.

20/8/19: Round-up of latest convictions and news for Fenland.

## 96) FDC, Street Scene, Section 106 and CCTV Updates

Members had a copy of the latest updates (**copy attached**).

## 97) Financial Officer's Report

### (1) Financial Statement

Members had before them a budgetary control statement for the Revenue (Precept) Account as at 27<sup>th</sup> August 2019 showing expenditure of £172,824.38 and income of £173,410.97 (includes a half year's 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.

### Pocket Park Name Signs

Members were advised that the Clerk had received a quotation of £500.80 from Cambs County Council to supply and install three name signs pointing to the location of the Little Acre Pocket Park.

A previous quotation of £1,039.94 had been received which included installing new posts for the signs. Members were advised that the signs could be attached to existing posts which would reduce the cost of the quotation to £500.80.

Members **approved** the quotation of £500.80 for the signs to be attached to the existing posts.

### Church Meadow Bench Re-positioning as per agenda item 10.

The Financial Officer advised Members that the church bench had been removed from the church grounds and taken to FDC store due to the continual vandalism. Two quotations had been received from two separate companies to relocate the bench, supply and install a concrete base and fix the bench to the base.

A quotation of £1,291.08 + vat had been received to install the bench at Furrowfields; a second quotation of £850.00 + vat had been received to install the bench in Little Acre Fen Pocket Park. This quotation included a hogging path to be installed to the bench from the original hogging path.

Cllr Haggata was disappointed that the bench had been removed from its original location and felt the Council "gave in too quickly" to pressure to move the bench and as a result it was now costing the Council extra money to relocate it.

Members agreed to relocate the bench to Little Acre Fen Pocket Park and **approved** the quotation of £850.00 +vat.

### Old Railway Line Overgrown Pathway

The Clerk had made several attempts to persuade the County Council to cut the Old Railway Line Footpath, as per the bridleway agreement between the Town Council & County Council. It had been agreed the County Council would cut the footpath twice a year but to date there had been no cuts in 2019. The Financial Officer reported there had been complaints regarding the overgrown state of the footpath and she had therefore obtained a quotation from a local contractor, of £576.00, to get the footpath cleared.

As the Town Council owned the footpath the Financial Officer advised Members that she was

concerned that there may be issues if it wasn't cut in the foreseeable future. The Clerk suggested that it might set a precedent if the Town Council paid for the cut and the County Council might not take on the duty in future years.

Cllr Hay agreed to contact the Head of Highways at County Council about the issue and it was suggested that, if necessary, the Clerk should go higher than Highways and contact the Leader of the County Council copying in Cllr Steve Crisswell.

If this failed Members agreed in principal to fund the work at a cost of £576.00 + vat.

The Financial Officer advised that there were funds available in the Recreation Ground 2019/20 budget to cover the cost of clearing the footpath.

#### Plumbing works to be carried out at Council Offices

Further to minute 87 the Clerk had received a quotation for the essential work outlined in the improvement notice drawn up by Anglian Water. A quotation of £865 had been received from a local plumber and the Clerk and F/O recommended that council approve the works as per the quotation. They stressed the urgent need to complete the work in time for the AW follow up visit on the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2019.

Members agreed to **approve** the works as per the quotation of £865.00

#### **98) Payment of Accounts**

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

Financial Officer	Payroll September	1,058.92
Clerk	Payroll September	1,537.81
Pension Fund	Payroll September	1,365.37
HMRC	Payroll September	630.10
Zen Internet	Website Sep-Oct	10.79
Onecom	Phone Bill August	76.49
Financial Officer	Reim Eye test & glasses re computer & reading docs	328.95
A Simpson	Allotments tap supply & fix	79.45
Cllr Benney	Reim mileage re civic events	31.50
Barclays Bank	Charges	12.80

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R J Warren	Grass cutting service Little Acre Fen Park	259.20
Viking	Stationary order	275.15
Viking	Stationary order	176.41
S Payne	Grass cutting & Gardening services	1,190.00
Total		7,032.94

**99) Re-Positioning of Church Meadow Bench – To Consider Quotations**

See minute 97) for decision to re-locate bench to Little Acre Fen Pocket Park.

**100) Street Lighting in Dock Road Update**

The Clerk had finally obtained the estimated cost of new street lights for Dock Road from Balfour Beatty after approaching both the District and County Councils. Balfour Beatty had stated the cost would depend upon the number of columns to be installed and the location but to install a 6m column with an LED lantern and all electrical connections would be in the region of £1700 + VAT. The energy cost would be approximately £10 per unit, payable to the network provider (UKPN), and Balfour Beatty could supply a maintenance contract for about £24 per unit.

The Clerk estimated it would take 3 or 4 columns to light the road to the corner (the end of the houses). The Financial Officer said the funds were available in the Nigh Time Street Lighting holding account.

Cllr Gowler asked if there were other areas of Chatteris without lights as he was fearful the Council would be creating a precedent by providing the lights and he asked where it would end. The Clerk pointed out neither the County or District Councils were prepared to install new street lights. They were usually installed as part of new developments but on this occasion development of Dock Road had been piecemeal and there had been no requirement for the developers to put in street lights. Cllr Hay said she believed the Town Council should provide lights for the residents.

Members agreed the Clerk should approach Travis Perkins (who had large premises at the end of the road) and ask if they would be willing to sponsor the lights as they would aid their premises.

### 101) Boadicea Court Yellow Lines Update

The issue had been discussed in Open Forum (minute 92) and Cllr Hay assured members that she would ask the Highways Officer to meet with residents to discuss their wishes and to advise them on their chances of success. Cllr Benney pointed out there was no-one to enforce the double yellow lines but Councillors agreed with residents' views that they would act as a deterrent.

### 102) Planning

Cllr Haggata presented the minutes of the planning working group meeting held on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> August 2019 (**copy attached**).

The group had made recommendations on planning applications a) to h) (as shown on the **appended list**). These were ratified by the full council who also considered four further applications.

It was agreed to return the applications to Fenland District Council and Cambridgeshire County Council marked as follows:

- a) No Objections on the condition that the Rights of Way to be maintained.
- b) No Objections
- c) Support, plans previously approved, however CTC still have concerns and reservations regarding parking and the width of the road.
- d) No Objections
- e) No Objections
- f) No Objections
- g) No Objections
- h) No Objections
- i) Support
- j) Support (Cllr Benney declared an interest and left the room while the application was discussed)
- k) Support
- l) Support

### 103) Update on Growing Fenland – Chatteris

Metro Dynamics had sent through the findings from the public consultation on the Growing Fenland- Chatteris interim report. The most popular options with survey respondents were:

- 1) Chatteris Outdoors
- 2) Grow our business base
- 3) Better car and bike parking management
- 4) Set up a commuter shuttle bus
- 5) New cycle infrastructure
- 6) Develop the provision of skills training for residents

- 7) A stronger cultural offer and evening economy
- 8) Zero Waste Chatteris

Consultant Mr Timms said the list more or less aligned with the Town Council's list. The only difference was it did not include mixed housing development but did include zero waste. He asked if the Town Council wished to swap zero waste with mixed housing and this was **agreed**.

The ideas to be dropped from the list were: On-street Wifi, Totem signage, EV Car Club and Community Festival.

Cllr Benney said another meeting of the Growing Fenland steering group was being arranged to sign off the final plan. This would then go to Local Councils and finally the Combined Authority. However the funding talked about at the beginning of the process was not available and Metro Dynamics had failed to identify any possible funding streams. Many local councillors felt the towns could have achieved much more with the £50,000 per town that was paid to the consultants.

Councillors agreed they would be interested to know how many people responded to the survey.

#### **104) Drains Issue**

Cllr Taylor had requested the issue go on the agenda. He said he had taken many photographs of blocked drains over the course of two weeks. The photographs refuted claims that the drains were regularly cleaned as there was rubbish clearly visible throughout the two week period.

He said he had received many complaints about the smell of drains in the High Street and he wished to ensure that the drains were cleaned and flushed through on a regular basis. A discussion took place on who was responsible for the work which included the need to unblock grates, gulleys, drains and channels across pavements. It was agreed it was either the responsibility of Highways or Anglian Water. The Clerk agreed to make enquiries.

#### **105) Traffic Issues**

Huntingdon Road: Mr Caddy had stated he was awaiting a target cost back from contractors for the Traffic Regulation Order and double yellow lines for Huntingdon Road.

LHI: The Clerk had received requests for the Council to make LHI bids for double yellow lines in Curlew Avenue (to stop inconsiderate parking by van drivers) and for white line painting at the junctions of St Stephen's Drive, Augustus Close and Wesley Drive with St Paul's Drive (following a near miss). The Clerk said residents were unaware that the Council could make just one LHI bid a year and this year's bid had already been submitted.

Road works: The latest bulletins listing road works & events affecting the highway had been received as had the IHMC Incident Report for July 2019. Events affecting the highway



included the application to close roads on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November for the annual Christmas Lights switch on event in Chatteris.

Parking: Councillors were concerned by vans and cars parked long term in Furrowfields car park and on council-owned land in the Hawthorns. The Clerk advised members to raise any concerns about cars parked on public land with Mrs Anne Marshall the Street Scene officer.

### **106) Correspondence**

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

Metalcraft: Six councillors expressed their intention of taking up the invitation to visit Stainless Metalcraft on the 16<sup>th</sup> September for an update on the planned Technology Park.

Free Food: It was agreed Aldi should be advised to go to the Parish Church with their offer of free food as the Church ran the foodbank.

### **107) Reports**

Cllr Carney said he had reported four faulty lights in Church Lane and the car park following the gas explosion in East Park Street which led to a loss of electricity. When FDC had inspected they found it was due to one of the columns, the source of power for the other units, was faulty due to low voltage. UKPN would be investigating. The explosion had also taken out the bulbs of the Gas Lamps outside the Council Chambers and the Clerk had called out the electrician but was still waiting for those lights to be fixed. As a result Church Lane was very dark and it was likely the CCTV camera was unable to function. The Clerk was seeking assurances the fault would soon be investigated by UKPN.

### **108) Items for the Next Agenda**

No items were put forward for the next agenda. Cllr Taylor gave his apologies for the meeting.

The following item (min 109) had been deemed confidential by Cambridgeshire County Council and was, therefore, held **In Committee**.

### **109) Operation London Bridge**