

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

Minutes of a meeting held on Tuesday 17th September 2019

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

L20 19/20 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr J Carney who had spoken to the Clerk about items on the agenda.

L21 19/20 FDC Update

The only update from Mr Phil Hughes had been the line “work progressing as planned and good to hear In Bloom volunteers were successful with a gold.”

Members were not happy with the update and suggested writing to the Chief Executive of FDC complaining about the lack of a comprehensive update.

Cllr Haggata confirmed the bushes in Wenny Recreation Ground had not been cut back and were now very high.

The Clerk had a copy of a report to go to FDC Cabinet the following day on the state of play areas in Fenland. FDC was responsible for 8 play areas in Chatteris and the report gave a brief update on the condition of the equipment in each play area and the date the equipment was likely to need replacing. Three areas stood out as needing urgent attention – Larham Way and St Paul’s Drive, where the lifespan of the equipment was just 1 year, and Huntingdon Road where it was suggested replacement should be in a maximum of 2+ years.

The Clerk reminded members that the Town Council had been asked how it wished to spend its Section 106 money, currently being borrowed by FDC for tree works in the cemeteries, in April 2020. To date the Council had only requested the provision of a goalpost at the Willey Terrace play area.

She also reminded members that the Sec 106 money had originally been designated for Larham Way. It was, therefore, agreed to **recommend** that the Council request the Sec 106 money be spent on the Larham Way, St Paul’s Drive and Huntingdon Road play areas. Members pointed out the latter was very well used.

It was also agreed to refer Mr Hughes to 2.4 in his report which stated that FDC worked with Town and Parish Councils, usually allowing them to take the lead on broad decisions of what to replace or refurbish, in order to incorporate local knowledge of the area to ensure the new provision met local needs. Members pointed out this had not happened at Wenny Recreation Ground.

Councillors were delighted that In Bloom had once again won Gold despite the poor state of the FDC tended gardens at the Bandstand. It was agreed to send the In Bloom committee a letter of congratulations.

Cllr Ashley reported that the walkway at the rear of Fairway backing on to James Gage Close was overgrown with brambles. It was agreed to ask the Street Scene officer to investigate and determine who was responsible for the upkeep of the area.

L22 19/20 Matters Arising from the Last Meeting of the Group

The Clerk said all matters arising were either on the agenda or had been reported back at the full council meeting on the 3rd September.

L23 19/20 Little Acre Fen Pocket Park Update

Cllrs Ashley and Hay were pleased to report that the Old Railway Line Footpath had finally been cut (for the first time in 2019) making it easier to reach the park.

The Clerk reported the bins should be going in any day. The Friends of Little Acre Pocket Park (FLAPP) were understandably not keen to empty the bins so she would be asking the Council's gardener to regularly empty the bins. Cllr Smith said the pumping station fenced area was being used as a litter bin but one of the FLAPP members had offered to try and remove some of the rubbish using a long litter picker.

The Clerk reported R J Warren's had been given the order to collect the bench, which had been removed from the Church Meadow, and install it in the park.

At the previous evening's FLAPP meeting it had also been reported that a large number of weeds of a particularly virulent type were coming through again at the park. Cllr Carney had agreed to research herbicides which would kill the weed but not the grass. In addition the reeds were encroaching on areas, in particular the hedge, and needed to be pulled out and cut back.

A date had been set for the official opening of the park, Saturday 18th April 2020. Various ideas for the event had been discussed by FLAPP, including guided tours, a treasure hunt, colouring competition, refreshments, face painting and glitter tattoos. The Clerk said it was important to invite representatives of groups who had supported the park both financially and practically and this was agreed.

Cllr Smith said the group had applied to Healthy Fenland for some funding to purchase items such as a strimmer and sturdy wooden tree stakes. The group was also keen to plant a hedge to screen the pumping station. They were looking at other sources of funding and the Red Tile Wind Farm Trust had been suggested. Cllr Hay confirmed the Trust had given a grant for soil improver to a Warboys' group.

Cllr Smith said the group was also keen to improve the drove which led to the park and she had arranged to meet the new Rights of Way Officer later in the month to look at the drove. It

was suggested approaching Mick George requesting aggregate to improve the road might be the way forward. The Clerk pointed out she had applied through the official channels for funding from Mick George for the Pocket Park but had been turned down but agreed a direct request might work.

Cllr Haggata asked if it might be possible to expand the pocket park by purchasing adjacent land. The idea was discussed and it was agreed to make tentative approaches to one of the adjacent landowners.

L24 19/20 Electric Vehicle Charging Points

The Clerk had approached ACRE to ask if any councils had installed Electric Vehicle Charging points. Unfortunately they were not aware of any but suggested an officer from the County Council, Maddie Alpar, might be able to help. They said the Clerk at Balsham Parish Council had also expressed an interest in learning more about the idea.

In the meantime the Clerk had received notification that the Department of Transport would be providing an extra £2.5 million funding for EV charging infrastructure on residential streets. It was suggested town and parish councils could request district and county councils investigate the idea if there was a growing demand in the community.

Cllr Hay promised to make enquiries at the County Council and the Clerk said she would try and raise the matter at the Local Councils conference in November.

L25 19/20 Good Neighbour Scheme

The Council had expressed an interest in the Good Neighbour Scheme and the Community Development Co-ordinator for Fenland and Hunts, Mandy Brine, was keen to attend a meeting and speak about the scheme. She had been unable to make the September meeting but had sent through information about the scheme.

Councillors felt the scheme seemed to replicate many of the functions of existing groups and agreed it would be best to invite representatives of local groups to attend the meeting with Ms Brine so they could give their views and the Council could gauge the appetite for such a scheme. It was agreed to invite Ms Brine to the November meeting to give the Clerk time to send out invitations to groups.

L26 19/20 Town Signs

Cllr Carney had reported that the sign on the approach to Chatteris from Huntingdon had been replaced, the Doddington Road sign was ok, the sign from Ely was ok and the sign from March was a little shoddy.

He suggested under the town name sign there should be a sign stating Triple Gold Anglia in Bloom Winners and Home of the Renowned Christmas Lights.

Members agreed this was a good idea and suggested the Clerk contact Highways to ask if it was possible and for a price. A total of 5 signs would be needed for all the approach roads to Chatteris.

L27 19/20 Any Other Business

Boadicea Court: Cllr Hay said she had attended a very productive meeting between Highways officer Mr Andi Caddy and representatives of the Boadicea Court. It had been agreed to apply for double yellow lines on each side of the road but not to go for traffic calming measures. Mr Caddy had been very helpful giving advice on how to complete the application form and the consultation process the residents would need to undertake.

Other Road Issues: Cllr Hay said she had also been approached about a roundabout or traffic lights at the junction of New Road and the A142 to make it safer. She said although it had been acknowledged it was a more dangerous junction than the Wenny Road/A142 junction it still did not meet the criteria because there had been insufficient accidents.

The final enquiry had been about replacing the white lines at Burnsfield Estate and this was being investigated.

Memorial: Cllr Smith said the RAF Memorial Stone had received funding from Jacks Supports. Major Larke had raised over £4,000 of the estimated £5,000 needed for the memorial.

L28 19/20 Date of Next Meetings

Tuesdays 15th October and 12th November 2019.