

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

**Minutes of a meeting held on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2019**

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

**L29 19/20 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr J Carney, who had emailed the Clerk about items on the agenda, and Cllrs Charrier and Hay.

**L30 19/20 FDC Update**

There was no FDC Update despite the Clerk requesting a more detailed update and listing the items which the Council would appreciate covered. She had also received no acknowledgement of the email she had sent regarding schemes for Section 106 funding.

It was agreed the Clerk should write to the Chief Executive expressing dissatisfaction and pointing out the Council was unable to answer questions from the public if they were not kept abreast of developments.

**L31 19/20 Matters Arising from the Last Meeting of the Group**

L25) Good Neighbour Scheme: Ms Mandy Brine, the Community Development Co-ordinator for Fenland and Hunts, had confirmed she could attend the November meeting to speak about the Good Neighbour Scheme. As requested the Clerk had invited about a dozen local organisations to send representatives to the meeting to hear about the scheme and help to decide if it would be of benefit to the people of Chatteris. Age Concern and the Community Car Scheme had both agreed to send representatives to the meeting and Pastor Robert Read, from the Community Church, said he would try and attend.

**L32 19/20 Little Acre Fen Pocket Park**

Cllr Haggata said further to his idea of expanding the pocket park he had made enquiries and discovered that agricultural land was worth about £8,000 an acre. He was keen to explore the possibility of buying a neighbouring field. The Clerk said one local land owner was very unlikely to be willing to sell, the other might consider selling unless they thought their field might one day come up for development. It was agreed to make an approach on a casual basis.

Cllr Smith said there had been limited work at the Park as a planned trip by the scouts had been postponed. However the pond was filling up nicely and the litter bins were in and visitors were using them (the Clerk agreed to look into a sign for the pond and to arrange the emptying of the bins). Cllr Smith said the mound was fine but the lower approach hill appeared to have been damaged and the soil had washed away. It needed to be built up again and re-seeded. Ground Ivy was worrying one of the members of FLAPP but the Clerk had

spoken to Jonathan from R J Warren who had agreed to investigate the problem and possible solutions, the best was likely to be digging it out. He had also stated that a problem weed, Common Mallow, would soon die off and would hopefully not flourish next year as it had been cut back before it seeded. Cllr Smith said the main area which needed attention was in front of the pumping station as there were plans to plant a hedge there.

She reported a few problems with motorbikes and bikes on the site.

The Clerk said the base for the bench was in but when Warren's went to collect the bench from the FDC store they found it was damaged and were busy repairing it before installing it.

Cllr Smith asked if it was possible that the Fen Tiger statue, which was still in Stainless Metalcraft's store, could be released and erected in the reeds near the pond (as per the folk tales about the Fen Tiger). The Clerk agreed to put the idea to Metalcraft.

Cllr Smith had drawn up a map for the community orchard and Orchards East had offered to have the map printed and mounted on a stand ready to be erected in the park.

The Rights of Way Officer had contacted Cllr Smith to say there were planings available to fill the potholes in the approach road to the Park but he asked if there was a farmer who could collect the planings from March Highways depot (and presumably fill the holes). Councillors suggested asking the Council's gardener for a price to carry out the work.

### **L33 19/20 Electric Vehicle Charging Points**

The Clerk had made enquiries into Electric Vehicle Charging Points and had heard from the Energy Projects Officer at the County Council who suggested looking at whether Chatteris had a location that met the criteria for a grant being offered by the Government to fund 75% of the cost of a charging point. If the criteria were met either the County Council or FDC could apply on behalf of the Town Council but the Town Council would have to pay for the charge point.

The Clerk said one of the criteria was that it should meet the needs of residents unable to charge at home due to a lack of off street parking.

Councillors were keen to pursue the idea as the nearest public charging points appeared to be in Ely. They suggested Church Lane car park or the market area in Park Street could be the ideal location as there were properties in Market Hill, Park Street and High Street without off street parking. They pointed out visitors to the town could also use the charge point while they enjoyed a cup of coffee or tea in a local tea shop or café.

### **L34 19/20 Town Signs**

In response to a query from County Highways, Cllr Carney had supplied photos showing the sort of sign he was proposing which would go beneath existing Chatteris name signs. The Clerk suggested the wording should be:

Triple Gold Winners, Anglian In Bloom, Home of the Renowned Christmas Lights

Members supported two of the ideas put forward and agreed it should be a simple, easy to read sign to match the existing signs.

A visitor had also complained about a lack of signs in Chatteris for the museum and the council chambers. The difficulty was a directional sign at the top of Church Lane would encourage motorists to drive the wrong way down a one-way street.

### **L35 19/20 Enchanted Cinema Idea**

The Clerk had been approached by a Cambridge company who organised cinema events, either in the open air or in village halls, etc. The Clerk pointed out there was already an indoor community cinema but suggested it might be worth pursuing the idea of an outdoor film screening in the summer, particularly as the 2019 Party in the Park had been so popular.

Members agreed if it was a family film they might be able to sell tickets for the event and venues were suggested with the Cricket Club field being agreed as the most suitable as there was already a bar and toilets on site. The Clerk was asked to obtain a price for such an event.

### **L36 19/20 Any Other Business**

Planning application: The Clerk said she needed to make an urgent submission on planning application F/YR19/0836/CERTLU – Certificate of Lawfulness of existing use and development: Use of building as Estate/Lettings Agency (A2 use) at 6 West Park Street. FDC planners were calling upon councillors expert local knowledge to help establish the history of the site. The owner of the site had sworn an affidavit that the property had been used as an estate/lettings agency since 1998. Although councillors could not remember exactly when the property changed from a dwelling to an estate agency they were able to confirm that it had been an estate/lettings agency for more than 10 years.

Sponsorship: The Clerk had been approached by someone who might be interested in sponsoring an area in Chatteris and she had suggested Jack's Roundabout. Cllr Smith agreed this was a good idea and promised to pass on details of those responsible for arranging the sponsorship of roundabouts.

Bikes: The organiser of the Healthy Fenland project had asked if the Council could suggest an area where a group of youngsters could get together and ride their mountain bikes. She had suggested the Pocket Park but the Clerk had assured her the Council did not wish to encourage mountain bikes at the Park. Councillors suggested the best place would be the drive beside the leek factory.

Cobbled Areas: Cllr Smith said all the cobbled areas around Chatteris were in need of cleaning to remove the moss which was growing between the stones. She said a small sweeper appeared to clean areas in March every week (particularly the City Road Car Park) and she asked if the cleaner could come to Chatteris on a regular basis. Areas which were in need of attention included Jubilee Gardens, Market Hill (bandstand) Gardens, Huntingdon Road gardens and the market area in Park Street. The Clerk said she would pass the request to

the FDC Street Scene officer who had already agreed to arrange the cleaning of the cobbled area outside the Ship Pub in Bridge Street.

**L37 19/20 Date of Next Meeting**

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2019.