

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

**Minutes of a meeting held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2019**

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

**L38 19/20 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs J Carney and A Charrier.

**L39 19/20 Speaker: Mandy Brine on Good Neighbour Scheme**

Mrs Mandy Brine, Community Development Co-ordinator for the Care Network, was welcomed to the meeting as were the following representatives of local groups:

Mrs Hilary Coates of Come and Be Heard

Mrs Elizabeth Lampitt of the Emmanuel Church

Mrs Freda Aspinall of the Over 50's

Mr Phil Couldridge of Chatteris Car Scheme

Mr Ron Hodson of the Good Companions

Mrs Janis Averell of the Chatteris Morning WI

Mrs Dee Potter of Age UK

Mr Robert Read of Chatteris Community Church

Mrs Brine began by explaining that a couple of years ago Fenland District Council approached Care Network for assistance in helping town and parish councils to set up Good Neighbour schemes.

Mrs Brine admitted many of the features of the Good Neighbour scheme were already happening in the community but said this was a way to formalise arrangements. Volunteers would be asked to help vulnerable, elderly and disabled people in a variety of ways from shopping, collecting prescriptions, dog walking or simply be-friending them.

A scheme could be set up with an Innovate and Cultivate Fund grant of up to £2,000, from the County Council. This would enable the Care Network to help with advertising the scheme, DBS checks, policies and procedures, setting up a bank account and forming a committee. Mrs Brine said there were a number of such schemes around the county but few in Fenland. Aims of the scheme included helping to keep people safe in their homes and tackling social isolation.

Mrs Brine admitted that once the scheme was up and running and sustainable the Care Network would draw away. She said a co-ordinator would need to be appointed to run the scheme. Cllr Smith was concerned that the co-ordinator might be contacted at any time of the day or night and Mrs Brine admitted boundaries would have to be set to manage people's expectations. Mr Couldridge, the co-ordinator for the Community Car Scheme, said people

could call their scheme at any time but the phone was on silent and he simply checked it on a regular basis.

Mrs Lampitt asked if the scheme was linked to the Cinnamon Trust but was assured it was not.

Mrs Potter said Age UK ran a Help at Home service which gave short term help to those newly out of hospital who needed extra help. They also had a be-friending scheme which was on-going and involved volunteers visiting people to target social isolation. Although there was only a short waiting list for both, recruiting volunteers was difficult.

Pastor Read said another scheme in Chatteris, Holiday at Home, also tackled isolation. Cllr Smith said the library ran a service to take books to those who were unable to visit the library. Mrs Averell asked how it was possible to determine that people were genuinely in need and not just lazy.

Mrs Brine was thanked for attending and left the meeting.

Cllr Smith then asked those present to consider if the Good Neighbour Scheme differed from schemes already operating in the town and if it was needed. She asked if there was any interest in setting up such a scheme.

Those present agreed it would be duplicating services already operating and pointed out it was already difficult to recruit volunteers.

It was agreed that bringing so many groups together to learn what went on in the town had been helpful. Cllr Smith suggested the Town Council could help to advertise what was available in the community and could organise another get together for representatives of the groups in the town to share ideas and to advertise the volunteering opportunities available in the town.

The representatives were thanked for their input and for attending the meeting.

#### **L40 19/20 FDC Update**

Following complaints about the lack of an FDC report at the previous meeting, Mr Phil Hughes had replied to the Clerk's questions and submitted a full report in mid-October as follows:

Wenny Recreation Ground: Mr Hughes said the Wenny Rec play area work was progressing well. There had been some issues with some old play surfacing that was not planned to be replaced, but was being replaced as the contractor felt that it's condition was poor. That had added some cost, but should not have delayed works too much. The weather had also been pretty poor – slowing things down slightly.

Mr Hughes said FDC had no plans to address any trees or bushes along the border with Juniper Drive Estate. If a homeowner had bushes / trees overhanging their property then they

were entitled to remove the offending vegetation and could deposit it next to the tree / bush that it came from for FDC to remove.

Cllr Haggata was very disappointed to hear about the decision on the trees and said he had been assured by an FDC officer that the work would be carried out. It was pointed out the bushes in Furrowfields Recreation Ground had been cut down, although the work was not required and this had led to complaints from local residents, yet FDC would not carry out work where it was required. Cllr Haggata said he would ask the residents to submit a letter of complaint. Cllr Ashley pointed out if the vegetation damaged fences FDC would be left with a bill for repairs. Cllr Hay said Cllr Murphy was the portfolio holder. Cllr Smith said the person who had complained about the Furrowfields work to FDC had not received a response.

Sec 106 Funds: Mr Hughes said a further report was going to FDC's Cabinet in November regarding planned play area expenditure. This would include a table of expenditure in the short term for the District and currently included Larham Way / Huntingdon Road and Cricketers Way play areas. These were subject to change and Mr Hughes said he would have further information following the Cabinet meeting. Any works would not commence until after the start of the new financial year and would also need to include a period whereby FDC applied for matched funding from a third party to maximise what could be achieved for the community from the funding already in place.

The Clerk pointed out only £5,734.29 was left in Section 106 funds for Chatteris following the works to Wenny Recreation Ground and the works to trees in the cemeteries. She reminded members that the tree works payments were due to be reimbursed in the new Financial year and suggested asking how much had been spent on the Wenny Rec project so the Council could calculate how much should be returned to Section 106 funds. This was agreed.

Churchyard: Following discussions with the Church, Mr Hughes reported FDC would be installing wooden bollards to prevent drivers parking on the grassed areas. There would also be a drop bollard fitted to allow the Church Warden to regulate use of the church grounds.

Cemeteries project: Mr Hughes said tree works had started in Meeks cemetery, with New Road cemetery works due in the coming month. New Road would have the front wall tidied up and similar work to the grassed area would take place in Meeks over the winter.

Other ongoing projects: Mr Hughes said FDC would top up sustainable beds where there were a few spaces and would also change the rear Bandstand gardens bed. They were also intending to address the 'RAF bed' at the Church.

#### **L41 19/20 Matters Arising from Last Meeting**

L33) Electric Vehicle Charging Point: The Clerk said she was still trying to find out which FDC officer she should contact regarding the idea for a point in Chatteris.

#### **L42 19/20 Little Acre Fen Pocket Park**

Following Cllr Smith's suggestion that the Fen Tiger statue could be sited at the Pocket Park, the Clerk had met a representative of Stainless Metalcraft, creators of the eight foot statue, at the Park. He had agreed that positioning the statue amongst the reeds around the pond would be an ideal location. The Clerk said a concrete pad would need to go in so the statue could be bolted to the pad.

The Clerk had ordered two additional directional signs to the Pocket Park as the 3 originally produced all pointed in the same direction - which was the wrong direction for two of the posts! Those signs could all be used down West Street while the new signs would be used at the top of Blackhorse Drove and the Old Railway Line footpath. The additional cost was £63.

Members agreed the Clerk should also purchase two signs for the pond one stating: Warning Deep Water and the other: Children should be Supervised at All Times. It was also agreed she should purchase a lifebelt and holder.

Cllr Smith reported there had been a few problems with quad bikes at the park and she was finalising the design for the community orchard sign to be funded by Orchards East. The next meeting of FLAPP (the Friends group) would be the following Monday. The group had been successful in their application for funding from the Stainless Metalcraft Community Fund and would spend the money on plants to screen the pumping station and stakes.

#### **L43 19/20 VE Day 75 Commemorations**

After registering the Council's interest in taking part in the Cry for Peace on the 8<sup>th</sup> May 2020, the Council had received further information about events which could be planned to mark the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day. These included a toast to the heroes of WW2, a piper playing Battle's O'er, bells ringing out for peace, parties and special church services on the following Sunday.

Members queried if parties could be organised and if the RBL were planning anything. The Clerk suggested the beacon could be lit although it was pointed out it would still be light at 7pm when the Cry for Peace was made and the church bells were rung.

#### **L44 19/20 Any Other Business**

LHI: The Clerk had received a feasibility study for the LHI application for Wenny Road and the Council had been asked if it wished to change its contribution of 10%. The total cost of the scheme was £16,304.41 and this would include an advisory 20mph zone outside the school during pick-up and drop-off times and traffic calming (three speed cushions) to work in conjunction the new raised table (crossing). The Town Council would be responsible for the maintenance of the school wig-wags. Members **agreed** the Town Council's contribution should be increased to £6,000.

Rural/Market Towns Group Invitation: The Town Council had been asked to join a new group being set up by the Rural Services Network. The organisation was seeking to establish a group of rural/market towns to present the views of those towns. Over 200 towns with populations of between 3,000 and 30,000 people were being approached and in Cambridgeshire - in addition to Chatteris - Ely, St Ives, Cottenham and Eye were being approached. The cost of membership would be £150 per annum. It was agreed the Clerk should enquire if other towns were interested in being involved and if there were any benefits to being involved.

**L45 19/20 Date of Next Meeting**

It was agreed there would be no December meeting and the next meeting would be the 14<sup>th</sup> January 2020. Cllr Smith asked for the Fens Biosphere to go on the agenda and the Clerk was asked to obtain more information about the project and to ask for FDC's opinions of the scheme.