

CHATTERIS TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes Dated 7th January 2020

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Minutes of a meeting of Chatteris Town Council held on Tuesday 7th January 2020 at the Council Chambers, 14 Church Lane, Chatteris.

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

180) Apologies for Absence

Cllrs A Charrier and P Murphy sent apologies for absence. Cllr Benney sent apologies that he would be late and arrived during item 183).

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

Cllr Hay declared an interest in all planning matters as vice chairman of Fenland District Council's planning committee. (Cllr Benney declared an interest in planning matters at the start of item 193).

182) Open Forum

A total of 17 residents were welcomed to the meeting.

Thirteen residents of The Elms were invited to speak first and their spokesman said they wished to express their serious concerns about the planning application from Fenland District Council to build two dwellings on the car park at The Elms. The spokesman said residents had made their representations to FDC and the consultation period had been extended to the 18th January. Their main concerns were access rights, flooding issues and the loss of car parking.

The spokesman said when The Elms was built in the 1970s it was an award winning development with car parking provision. The deeds of at least one property included provision for parking. He suggested FDC were acting outside their remit in seeking to build on the car park and said the County Council had pointed out the loss of the car park would force cars to park on neighbouring roads which were not built for parking. The residents urged the Town Council to object again to the plan and the spokesman suggested the plan should be withdrawn as it was causing unnecessary distress for local people.

The residents were assured that the Town Council's planning working group had unanimously agreed to object to the plan but the town council's powers were limited. Residents were urged to attend the FDC planning meeting when the plan would be discussed.

Cllr Newell suggested the residents should take along their evidence of flooding and deeds from properties and should give due notice that they wished to speak at the meeting. The spokesman said FDC had clearly removed some of the provisions in the original deeds when the properties were sold.

Cllr Haggata said he was prepared to attend the FDC planning meeting, representing the Town Council, to speak against the plan.

Two residents of Boadicea Court attended the meeting to update members on their campaign to get double yellow lines along the road. They said residents were annoyed because they had been told the cost of providing lines would be roughly £1,800 to £2,000 and they had now received an estimate for £4,150. Cllr Hay said she had sent emails querying the sum and had requested a breakdown of the costs from the County Council. She had also suggested the scheme could be advertised and implemented at the same time as the Huntingdon Road works to cut down the costs. She promised to speak to the Chair of Highways later in the week.

The residents pointed out the parking problems were getting worse and were likely to increase following the opening of a new restaurant in Market Hill which was proving to be very popular.

183) Speakers from Connections Bus

Ms Debbie King, Connections Bus Lead Youth Worker, and Ms Chloe Stewart, Cambs County Council youth worker, along with at least a dozen youths were welcomed to the meeting.

Ms King began by explaining the youth workers had earlier met with 20 young people to discuss the bus project. Ms King and Ms Stewart had been working with the youths for over 10 weeks on the Connections Bus and during that time 70 young people had visited the bus with at least 20 attending each session. The bus targeted the older age group – 13 to 18 year olds- as the Town Council already supported a youth group for younger children.

The young people had written to the Council and one of their number read out some of the letters explaining the bus helped to keep them out of trouble as it gave them somewhere to hang out and play games. The older youths visiting the bus acted as mentors for younger visitors.

Ms Stewart explained that the bus could supply C-cards giving the youths access to free contraception and the youths were informed about safe sex, STDs and the dangers of taking drugs, etc. all in a relaxed, safe environment. Young people not in education or training had attended the bus and been given information about training they could access. There were plans to run workshops on drugs in Cromwell Community College. There were also aims to build connections with the police.

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Ms King said the youths had attended the Council meeting because they cared about the bus but feared they did not get listened to by older people. She said following the completion of the 10 week session the bus was currently being stored at Bartletts.

The Mayor said she was very pleased by the commitment of the young people and thanked them for attending. Cllr Haggata said he was impressed the young people had attended and encouraged them to attend other Council meetings in the future.

The Mayor asked if Jack's car park was the ideal location for the bus as there had been a few complaints about ASB and problems in Jacks supermarket and Poundstretcher. The youths agreed Jack's car park was not the ideal place and suggested Furrowfields car park would be better or the entrance to the Wenny Recreation Ground. Councillors agreed to ask FDC to reconsider the idea of the bus using Furrowfields Car Park.

The group was thanked for attending and as they left the meeting the youths complained about the lack of lighting at Wenny Recreation Ground when it was dark.

Councillors agreed to suspend Standing Orders and to consider again funding the Connections Bus at a cost of £200 per session (approximately £2,400 a term).

The Mayor thought it was fantastic that the youth workers had control of the youths and Cllr Smith said it would be a good add on to the Council-funded youth sessions for younger children and would be money well spent. The Financial Officer said the idea of a youth club for older children at the King Edward Centre had been explored but there was no space at a suitable time.

Other Councillors were equally impressed by the young people's enthusiasm and Cllr Petrou suggested if the Council did support the venture they should help to promote it so even more young people used the service. Cllr Benney agreed to ask FDC about the bus using Furrowfields.

It was agreed the service should begin again as soon as possible on a year's trial with a review in October/November time. On a recommendation from the Financial Officer, Councillors agreed the funding should come from the General Fund and there should be no increase in the precept.

It was unanimously **resolved** that the Town Council should fund the Connections Bus for a year at a cost of £200 per session, beginning asap with a review in October/November.

184) Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the full council meeting held on 3rd December 2019 were agreed and signed as a correct record by the Mayor.

185) Matters Arising from the Minutes

Min 166) Circus: FDC had agreed the circus could visit Chatteris during the spring and the only dates when Wenny Recreation Ground was not available was the 26th April to 3rd May when it would be the venue for the fair. However the circus owners had agreed to give Chatteris a miss in 2020 but aimed to bring the circus to Chatteris in late May 2021.

187) Police Matters

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

Local Police

The Clerk said no local police report had been received but the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and the Clerk were due to meet with Sgt Richard Lugg the following day (8th January).

Neighbourhood Alerts

3/12/19: Information about pubs and venues across Cambridgeshire which signed up to support the constabulary's campaign to crackdown on drink drivers in December. The 'I'm DES' scheme saw participating venues give free draught soft drinks to designated drivers.

10/12/19: Notification that businesses across Cambridgeshire were being encouraged to attend a one-day workshop raising awareness of how to spot the signs of modern slavery.

11/12/19: Warning to residents to be vigilant after about 20 incidents of people being called by bogus police officers and bank officials asking them to transfer funds or withdraw cash for collection.

11/12/19: Notification that the Constabulary had launched a crackdown on drink and drug drivers in December.

16/12/19: Information about a scheme which has been launched by Crime Reduction Officer Sue Loaker, 'Essentials by Sue', which asks the public to donate personal hygiene products which are then given out to people who don't have access to them. One of the outlets is Cromwell Community College's library. Contact details given for anyone wishing to donate to the scheme.

20/12/19: Merry Christmas from Neighbourhood Watch.

6/1/20: Reminder that the Modern Slavery Free Workshop is to be held on Friday 10th January.

188) FDC, Street Scene, Section 106 and CCTV Updates

There was no FDC and Street Scene update due to a mix up over dates but a CCTV update had been received and there was no change to the Section 106 report received in December. The Clerk said Mr Phil Hughes, Head of FDC Leisure Services, had confirmed £48,000 of Section 106 payments had been spent on the Wenny Rec play space improvements. As there was originally £79,826.20 in the Section 106 fund and £5,734.29 remained the Clerk had calculated that FDC had, therefore, spent some £26,000 on tree works which should be refunded in the new financial year.

Cllr Benney said some funds had become available through the County Council for play areas. FDC had been invited to put in a bid for funds and would need to find match funding.

FDC Senior Environmental Health Officer, Ms Dawn Sadler, had looked into a complaint about refuse problems at the new Pera Palace restaurant in Market Hill. The owners had confirmed there were problems with their commercial refuse pick up (not FDC) and had acknowledged there were insufficient skips for the amount of refuse generated. The owners had arranged for all the refuse to be collected that morning and had ordered an extra skip. The Mayor confirmed the rubbish had been collected.

189) Financial Officer's Report

Financial Statement

Members had before them a budgetary control statement for the Revenue (Precept) Account as at 18th December 2019 showing expenditure of £217,324.74 and income of £253,591.56 (includes a full 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.

190) To Approve Quotation for Installation of Fen Tiger Statue

Members were reminded that they had previously agreed to the Metalcraft Fen Tiger Statue being installed at the Little Acre Fen Pocket Park. Members had instructed the Financial Officer to obtain a quotation for the statue's transportation from Metalcraft site and its installation at the Pocket Park.

The Financial Officer advised Members that she had received a quotation of £830 + Vat. This quotation included transportation, supply and installation of concrete pad for the base of the statue and to install and fix the statue in situ. The quotation also included installation of a concrete bollard next to the existing two bollards at the railway line end of the park. This was to prevent motor bikes and quad bikes getting onto the Park and causing damage. The Financial Officer had previously received a quotation of £298.76 +vat and £50+vat to install the concrete bollard and to widen the footpath for pushchairs and buggies if necessary.

The Financial Officer asked the Company if they could provide the Town Council with a best value price for doing all the work as one quotation. The Company advised the Financial Officer that it would be cheaper to carry out all the works on one order and would price accordingly.

Members voiced their concerns regarding the widening of the footpath at the railway line end of the park where the additional bollard was to be installed. They felt the restricting effect of

the bollard would be undermined by widening the footpath. The Financial Officer advised Members that she would discuss this with the contractor to ensure maximum effect would result from the installation of the bollard.

It was **Resolved** that Members approve the works to be carried out as specified on the quotation at a cost of £830.00+ Vat.

191) Payment of Accounts

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

Financial Officer	Payroll January	1,058.92
Clerk	Payroll January	1,537.81
Pension Fund	Payroll January	1,365.37
HMRC	Payroll January	630.10
Zen Internet	Website Jan-Feb	10.79
Onecom	Phone Bill December	76.52
Viking	Stationary Order	125.76
SLCC	Renewal of Membership	202.00
UK Safety Management	Pat Testing	261.11
Barclays Bank	Charges	6.50
JP Sports	3rd stage payment for provision of Youth Club services	1,167.50
GM James Electric	Gas Lamps new bulbs	24.05
British Gas	Gas Bill	459.51
British Gas	Elec Bill	289.47
R J Warren	Supply & Install Concrete base for church bench at Little Acre	1,020.00
CF Corporate Finance	Initial payment of photocopier lease	437.95
Viking Stationery	Commercial office Shredder	562.80

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Total		9,236.16

192) Grants to Voluntary Organisations

1] Members were reminded that the Council's current policy was to consider grant applications at the April, July, October and January meetings each year. Budget limitations meant that grants given by the Council were an expression of support for an organisation and were not at a level where, on their own, they can sustain a group's financial viability.

2] The approved budget for grants in **2019/20** was **£3,250**. One application for funding had been received as follows:

Applicant	Approved Grant	Spending Power
1. Chatteris Museum Grant requested towards Blue plaque for Bricstan	Up to £100	\$137

Members approved up to £100 for a noticeboard displaying the history of Bricstan to be erected at the Bricstan Rooms.

193) Planning

Cllr Haggata (Chairman) presented the minutes of the planning working group meeting held on Tuesday 17th December 2019 (**copy attached**).

The group had made recommendations on planning applications a) to f) (as shown on the **appended list**). These were ratified by the full council who agreed to add comments to their recommendation on application f) (erect 2 x dwellings on car park at The Elms). Three further plans were considered.

It was agreed to return the planning applications to Fenland District Council marked as follows:

- a) Support
- b) Support with a planning condition that the existing footpath is extended to cover the new home. Speed safety measures should also be considered.
- c) Support
- d) Support
- e) Support

- f) Strongly Recommend Refusal. This area is well used by local residents and it is unfair to claw back this land after so many years as a car park. Many houses do not have their own parking spaces or driveways and the estate roads are not wide so this proposal would cause traffic congestion and access issues for emergency vehicles if it was to go ahead. The amenity value of the area would be adversely affected by parking on the roads. In view of the representations by local residents Chatteris Town Council wishes to re-iterate its opposition and to further raise concerns about drainage in the area, in particular problems with surface water drainage which regularly lead to the area flooding. There are concerns that further building will disperse the flooding problem to neighbouring homes. The estate was designed with designated parking areas to stop cars parking on the estate roads and to overturn this will lead to access issues, parking issues, congestion and safety issues.
- g) Support
- h) Recommend Refusal unless the infill is completed using appropriate bricks.
- i) Recommend Refusal unless the infill is completed using appropriate bricks.

Notification had been received that 46 and 48 London Road and their garden buildings had ceased to be Listed. Members pointed out the properties were demolished many years ago.

194) To Appoint a Representative for Feoffee's Charity Committee

(It was agreed this item should move up the agenda.)

Notification had been received from the Feoffee's Charity secretary that Cllr Murphy had resigned from the committee and the Council needed to appoint a second representative to sit on the committee. Cllr Newell would continue as a Council's representative.

Cllr Smith offered to serve as a Council representative and this was agreed.

195) Minerals Local Plan Response

A reply letter had been received in response to the Council's complaints that their comments did not appear to be mentioned in the Minerals and Waste Local Plan proposed submission.

Senior Strategic Officer Mr Chris Stanek sent assurances that the comments had been fully taken into account when the plan was prepared. The comments were included in the Traffic, Highways and Rights of Way document which formed part of the Proposed Submission version of the Plan.

Mr Stanek assured members that not all the mineral extraction sites included in the preliminary draft stage had been selected and the allocations made at Block Fen/Langwood Fen East and West would be worked and restored in a phased manner.

Mr Stanek said anticipated traffic movements, to include both mineral and waste daily HCV movements, had been estimated and traffic data had been collected on the A142 Block Fen roundabout. “Analysis of the data had led to the conclusion that the anticipated level of traffic that will be using the Block Fen Roundabout will not cause significant impact, and also that the level of traffic anticipated would not be inappropriate on the wider highway network”, said Mr Stanek.

Members remained unconvinced but agreed there were no further comments they could make.

196) Ely Shuttle Bus Service – To Decide on Way Forward

Following an enquiry from the Clerk, Head of Finance and Funding at FACT Mrs Michelle Irvine had confirmed that the Ely shuttle service was very quiet and hardly ever received any passengers. However the monthly service to St Ives did have customers and, she believed, had run for the last 3 months.

Mrs Irvine admitted the Ely service had not really taken off and she asked how the Council had advertised the bus routes. The Clerk pointed out they had been advertised through Centrepoint, posters, Cromwell Community College and Age Concern.

It was agreed the Ely service should cease and alternative routes should be considered. It was also agreed the St Ives monthly service should continue. Cllr Charrier had suggested a service to Peterborough or Wisbech. Councillors agreed with the Peterborough idea and Cllr Taylor suggested Hampton Hargate . It was also suggested funding could be used to take the youths who attended the Connections Bus on a trip.

It was agreed another meeting should be set up with FACT to discuss ideas and Cllr Haggata was keen to see any new service advertised in local newspapers.

197) Pride in Fenland Awards – Ideas for Nominations

The Council had been asked to put forward nominations for the Pride in Fenland Awards 2020. The aim of the awards was to shine a light on Fenland’s dedicated volunteering community.

Nominations were sought in four categories – Volunteer in the Community, Sports in the Community, Young Person in the Community and Group, Club, Organisation or Charity in the Community.

It was agreed to nominate Ernie’s Boxing Club for the Sports award, the Friday Group (for dementia sufferers and their carers) for the Group award and Mrs Sue Unwin for the Volunteer award.

It was also agreed to approach Cromwell Community College and ask them to suggest a nomination for the Young Person award.

198) Traffic Issues

Zebra crossing: Notification had been received of a possible implementation date of Easter 2020 for the new crossing in Wenny Road. As a result the Project Manager notified the Council she would be requesting a road closure to facilitate the works. The closure request would be for a period of three weeks (two of which would be the school holidays) but it was likely the road would only need to be closed for two or three days with the rest of the work being carried out with temporary traffic signals. Members were asked for their comments and agreed to support any request for road closures to allow the work to go ahead.

Doddington Road: A resident of Doddington Road had written to the County Council asking how he could get the road's speed limit, 40mph, reduced to 30mph and traffic calming measures installed following all the development along the road. This would reduce the risk to people's safety. The resident had been instructed to contact the Town Council to ask the Council to put in an LHI bid. The Clerk reminded members that a similar bid for the road in the past had resulted in the provision of the MVAS (which had still to be installed) and she was unsure if a 30mph limit would be approved.

Members pointed out most of the road had now been developed and agreed the Clerk should make enquiries about reducing the speed limit.

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

199) Correspondence

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

Local Councils Peer Learning & Networking Event: Cllr Smith expressed an interest in attending the event on the 31st March along with the Clerk.

200) Reports

Cllr Benney reported that Chatteris fireman Mr Roger Nunn had received a Lifetime Achievement Award for services to firefighting. It was agreed the Council should send a letter of congratulations.

Cllr Benney also reported that a future Chairman of Fenland District Council wished to organise a service in Chatteris.

201) Items for the Next Agenda

Cllr Benney requested the idea of organising a Christmas Market in Chatteris be discussed at the next meeting.

