

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

**Minutes of a meeting held on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2020**

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

**L46 19/20 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs J Carney and W Haggata.

**L47 19/20 Speakers: Sarah Wilkinson and Sheryl French on the County Council  
Climate Change & Environment Strategy**

Mrs Wilkinson, Cambridgeshire County Council Energy Manager, and (later in the presentation) Mrs French, Climate Change Programme Director, were welcomed to the meeting.

Mrs Wilkinson gave members copies of the County Council's Climate Change and Environment Strategy and explained that in May 2019 the County Council declared a Climate and Environment Strategy following a motion which was unanimously agreed by councillors.

Evidence in the report showed the carbon footprints for the whole of Cambridgeshire and the County Council itself, showing how current carbon emissions were made up and how the County Council proposed to reduce those emissions with the aim of reaching net-zero emissions by 2050. Waste represented 61% of the County Council's carbon footprint and Mrs French said the Council was looking at different ways to deal with waste to reduce the footprint.

Mrs Wilkinson said the County Council had three themes for tackling climate change and improving the natural environment: i) Mitigation – efforts to reduce or prevent emissions; ii) Adaptation – actions that help cope with the effects of climate change and iii) Natural Capital – making the most of elements of the natural environment that provide benefits.

She outlined the importance of collaboration on the priority areas, gave details of the Council's 7 targets and the delivery timeline.

Councillors pointed out the County Council's aim for more people to use public transport, walk or cycle was ok for those living in a city but in a rural area such as Chatteris where public transport was limited the need to drive was paramount. Cllr Charrier gave details of her experiences in trying to use public transport.

Mrs French said the Council was considering a via-vans dial-a-ride scheme which would see smaller vehicles collect passengers on route to destinations. Cllr Smith suggested commuters sharing rides would help but it would need a specific person to organise such a scheme.

Cllr Smith also asked if the County Council could share tips for reducing their carbon footprint with other councils. She was convinced more people would come on board if easy to follow advice was disseminated.

The Clerk said the Town Council was anxious to see a public Electric Vehicle Charging point installed in Chatteris and had identified a site but she had hit a brick wall when trying to get advice from the County Council and Fenland District Council about applying for grants. Mrs Wilkinson agreed to follow up the matter.

Mrs French asked the Council to encourage as many individuals as possible to complete the Climate Change consultation survey and said she would also welcome a collective view from the Town Council. It was agreed to complete the consultation document at the planning working group meeting and to put the link to the strategy consultation on the Town Council's website and Facebook page.

Mrs French and Mrs Wilkinson were thanked for attending the meeting.

#### **L48 19/20 FDC Update**

The Clerk had received two updates from Mr Phil Hughes, FDC's head of leisure services.

In the first update, received on 12<sup>th</sup> December, Mr Hughes said in the next financial year FDC would be focussing on refurbishing the Larham Way play area. Mr Hughes asked for guidance on what age group the area should target and any particular type of equipment councillors would like to see. This would then be added to community feedback and contractors would be asked to tender for the equipment and the goalposts at Willey Terrace.

Mr Hughes said FDC would be making a match funding bid early in the financial year and the success, or otherwise, of that bid would determine build time. If the bid was successful it was hoped the equipment would be installed and ready for use in the autumn.

Cllr Charrier said the existing play equipment at Larham Way was not in a good state, the roundabout was broken, the equipment was covered in moss and the safety surfacing was damaged. The bench needed to be refurbished or replaced.

After looking at some old play equipment brochures members decided that one large piece of equipment, such as a pirate ship, castle or fort, would be ideal especially if it catered for under 5s and primary school age children. It was agreed to ask if FDC had any examples they could show members.

In the second update, received on the 13<sup>th</sup> January, Mr Hughes said the National Trust Challenge Team had visited Chatteris to look at Meeks Cemetery and Wenny Recreation Ground and would be giving feedback on future opportunities for open spaces across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

Planning for the new season was well underway and FDC was looking at a potential 5-year extension to its grounds maintenance contract. FDC had a 4 year plan for play area

refurbishment and one area in Chatteris (Larham Way) would be refurbished in 2020/21. Mr Hughes said if Councillors wished to raise an issue about open spaces they should either use the contact form on the FDC website or pass questions on to the Clerk. The new contracts manager was Mr Simon Bell.

The Clerk said she had met with the team from the National Trust and had discussed open spaces in Chatteris and ideas for Wenny Recreation Ground and Meeks Cemetery. The Clerk had suggested concentrating on plans for Meeks Cemetery and had been asked about a Friends group. The Clerk had spoken about the Little Acre Fen Pocket Park and had explained that a Friends group for the park had been launched after a successful planting day. She suggested a launch event at Meeks Cemetery if that was the agreed area for a project.

Cllr Ashley reminded members that the youths who had attended the full council meeting had asked about lighting at Wenny Recreation Ground and the skatepark. Cllr Ashley pointed out the footpath around the recreation ground was a major route for schoolchildren which they were unable to use when it was dark.

It was agreed to ask about the idea of installing solar lighting around the footpath.

It was also agreed to keep plans for Meeks Cemetery on the agenda and to query if the installation of bollards in the parish church grounds was complete as there appeared to be a number missing and as a result cars were still parking and driving on grassed areas.

#### **L49 19/20 Matters Arising from the Last Meeting of the Group**

All matters arising from the last meeting had been resolved or were on the agenda.

#### **L50 19/20 Little Acre Fen Pocket Park**

The Clerk showed members a picture of a climbing frame/seating area made from wooden tree trunks which she suggested might be a future idea for the Pocket Park if funding could be obtained. It was agreed to put the idea to the FLAPP group.

The Clerk reported the bench had been repaired and installed and the pond was full. Cllr Smith asked about the approach roadway and the Clerk said the contractors were undoubtedly waiting for better weather and for a crop in a neighbouring field to be harvested.

The Clerk paid tribute to Cllr Smith and a volunteer who had put in so much hard work keeping the area tidy and planting shrubs and trees. Cllr Smith said the volunteer had done an incredible amount of work and she had Cllr Carney had helped when they could. At present the volunteer was busy creating a wildflower area.

Cllr Smith said the volunteer wished to put forward an idea for the area around the pond. He was convinced when the Fen Tiger was installed that it would become a popular tourist spot and people would make their way through the reeds to have their photograph taken with the statue. He therefore suggested a footpath should be installed to the statue. Cllr Smith was not keen on the idea of making it so accessible and the Clerk said Metalcraft did not wish people

to get close to the statue. Cllr Smith was worried it would be accessible as there was a large gap between the reeds and the dipping platform. The Clerk suggested filling the gap with a prickly bush.

Members agreed not to make a decision on the footpath until the statue was in situ and the situation had been monitored.

Cllr Smith asked if the pea gravel in the dry pond could be topped up as the lining was showing. The Clerk agreed to chase up a meeting with Mr Phil Clark, who was involved in planning the pocket park, to show him what had been achieved.

#### **L51 19/20 VE Day 75 Celebrations**

No further plans had been made but it was agreed the Clerk should enquire if the RBL had any plans for the 8<sup>th</sup> May and if the church bells would be rung.

#### **L52 19/20 Fens Biosphere**

Cllr Smith suggested asking Rachael Brown, of ACRE, to attend a Leisure meeting to speak about the Fens Biosphere project. This was agreed.

#### **L53 19/20 Annual Town Meeting Date & Ideas**

It was agreed the Annual Town Meeting should be held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> May at the King Edward Centre.

Cllr Smith suggested asking the person who had created a short video promoting Chatteris if it could be shown at the meeting. It was agreed this was a good idea and photographs of the Pocket Park should also be shown along with a map on how to access the park.

Members were asked to think of other ideas for the meeting.

#### **L54 19/20 Date of Next Meeting**

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2020.