

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

Minutes of a meeting held via Zoom on Tuesday 8th December 2020

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

L29 20/21 Apologies for Absence

Cllr A Gowler sent apologies for absence.

L30 20/21 FDC Update

The Clerk read out the following update from Mr Phil Hughes at FDC:

Leisure Centre: Chatteris Leisure Centre has reopened following lockdown. Gym and exercise classes are up and running, they must be booked in advance, socially distanced (i.e. reduced capacity) and opening hours limited to morning and evenings with closure during the middle of the day. As demand increases hours will extend (unfortunately though, and realistically, I can't see that happening till the second week in January with December always a quiet month and this one probably doubly so).

Open spaces: Grass cutting completed. Winter works underway – hedges/undergrowth/self-set removal from graves. Work to Wenny recreation ground (Juniper Drive side) undergrowth planned for January. Tivoli are doing good, prompt, quality work and are responding well (usually) to ad-hoc service requests. Wenny Rec' zip line replacement underway. Clock in the centre of town fixed & telling the correct time.

FDC's horticultural officer had confirmed overgrown bushes in Furrowfields car park would be looked at in December.

Bins: The Clerk had contacted the FDC officer responsible for organising the new litter bins and thanked him for installing bins in Eastwood and Wood Street and asked him about installing another bin at Swan Drive off New Road. The officer had pointed out there was already a bin located at the top of St Peter's Drive (between the bins on the High Street and outside the cemetery) so FDC would not install one at Swan Drive. However the Town Council could purchase one for that location but would require the permission of the landowner. Councillors then decided it was not the right location as a bin would further obscure the vision for vehicles leaving Swan Drive.

Street Scene: It was agreed the Clerk should ask the Street Scene officer to look into the problem of a hedge partially blocking the footpath from London Road to Southampton Place and the rubbish piling up in the garden of a bungalow on St Martin's Road. The Street Scene officer was writing to residents in The Elms after a local trader was spotted dumping

household items such as beds and mattresses on an area of land owned by FDC at The Elms. She was hoping someone would agree to give evidence about the dumping which was apparently a regular occurrence. She was also trying to get evidence of who was leaving human faeces in Wenny Recreation Ground and had requested another communal bin for the Old Auction Yard as there were continuing problems with items dumped near the overflowing bins.

L31 20/21 Matters Arising from Previous Meetings of Group

Compliant Website: FDC were unable to help ensure the Town Council's website was WCAG 2.1 compliant and suggested approaching the website author and ensuring a plan was in place to show the Council was working towards compliance. The Clerk had approached the web hosting company but had not received a reply. She queried if it might be best to start again with a new website and members suggested asking other local councils how they had achieved compliance.

L32 20/21 Little Acre Fen Pocket Park & Old Railway Line Update

Cllr Smith said there had been few changes to the park since the last meeting although the planting group had met for a planting and weeding session and Cllr Carney said he now had more shrubs to go in. Cllr Smith said she was obtaining a quote for the sign for the pond area as this was part of the grant award from the Red Tile Wind Farm Trust.

The Clerk said she had received a holding email from the Places to Ride scheme and was still awaiting a decision. In the meantime she and Cllr Smith had drawn up a questionnaire to gauge public support for a cycleway. Cllr Carney also suggested using the town plan as evidence of demand.

L33 20/21 EVCs Update

The Clerk had attended an on line meeting with UK Power Networks to discuss the best location for EVCs based on electricity supplies. The meeting was very helpful and after looking at three suggested locations – Church Lane car park, East Park Street and Furrowfields Road – it had been agreed the best location would be Furrowfields car park as there was an electricity sub-station very close to the proposed site which could supply enough power for multiple charge points. To provide the connection would cost about £7,500. To provide a connection to Church Lane car park which would allow several chargepoints would cost up to four times that sum.

Ms Emily Bolton at the County Council had provided the likely costs of installing chargepoints ranging from the cost of the units to bay marking and annual maintenance.

It was agreed Furrowfields should be the location for the chargepoints and the Clerk said the next step was now to get permission from Fenland District Council by contacting the relevant officer. Cllr Hay also suggested contacting Cllr Chris Boden about the plans. The Clerk said it would also be necessary to get evidence that chargepoints would be used in order to apply

for funding. Cllr Smith pointed out Chatteris was often overlooked when it came to facilities and this would prove the town could provide a new service.

L34 20/21 Outdoor Sculpture Trail

Cllr Smith said she was making a list of existing sculptures and features around the town, including the Fen Tiger, Ormond's train, the underpass mural, the town sign and the commissioned graffiti at the skatepark. She then hoped to produce a map showing the location of the features which people could follow as they toured the town. She suggested the Council might be able to commission someone to produce a new piece of art for the centre of the town.

Cllr Smith said she had struggled to get a response from Cromwell Community College and Cllr Ashley offered to try and chase it up but warned there was currently no art department while the building work was going on.

It was agreed to approach the vicar asking for permission to use the pebbles which created the caterpillar trail during lockdown. The idea was to inlay them into concrete in a flower bed somewhere in the town as a memorial to the Covid pandemic. Cllr Smith said she would approach In Bloom about the idea.

Cllr Smith also asked for permission to approach a graphic designer about creating a trail map and leaflet with a professional look. This was agreed.

L35 20/21 Men's Shed

The Clerk had looked into the idea of men's sheds and had received some advice and thoughts from Cllr Haggata and a link to a dedicated website. Cllr Haggata's advice was to initially gather interest from existing groups with the hope that ideas for suitable premises would result.

The County Council's Innovate and Cultivate Fund also had advice on how to start up a Men's Shed using a grant from the fund. The fund explained that Men's Sheds were spaces to meet with others to make and mend, learn new skills and share old ones, and to socialise. It was possible to apply for a £2,000 start-up grant from the Innovate & Cultivate Fund to help with the first two years of the Men's Shed development.

Cllr Smith pointed out some people who might be interested in the project were currently isolating so she suggested waiting until the pandemic was over and then putting the idea out on Facebook and through other forms of social media and garnering interest.

L36 20/21 Any Other Business

Day Centre: As instructed the Clerk had enquired why a club for the elderly run by Age UK had been relocated from Salem/Lyons Court to the cricket club in March. Age UK had confirmed it was a temporary measure and the club would return to Lyons Court as soon as

possible. Lyons Court was currently closed to the public and Age UK tried unsuccessfully to find an alternative venue in Chatteris.

London Road: The very poor state of the footpath along London Road from the Wood Farm turning to Stocking Drove has been reported to Highways. The Highways Officer said he planned to schedule repair works in the next financial year. The finances for the current financial year had been spent on the Wenny Road footpath.

L37 20/21 Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 12th January 2021.