

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

Minutes of a meeting held via Zoom on Tuesday 15th February 2022

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

L61 21/22 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

L62 21/22 FDC Update

FDC Open Spaces Manager Mr Simon Bell confirmed the works to the Huntingdon Road play area would be finished by the end of the week and the Larham Way project would then begin with both play areas expected to be open by the end of the next week. He promised to look into the question of why a bench which had been replaced by a bin at Wenny Recreation Ground.

L63 21/22 Any Matters Arising from the Last Meeting of the Group

L56) Mooring: The Chief Executive of the Middle Level Commissioners had confirmed that they intended to install a rural mooring at Carters Bridge (on the Forty Foot river). They had the posts in stock and it was hoped the work would be undertaken in March ready for the Easter boating window. Members were delighted by the news as it was the first stage of getting mooring platform at the location and it was agreed to thank the Chief Executive.

L57) Entrance Sign: The Clerk had received information from the Highways Policy and Regulation Manager about the TRSDG design for village boundary signs. She stated it was possible to put up to five words on a sign in addition to the name of the town/village.

Cllr Carney said he had been suggesting a separate sign in addition to the name sign as this would allow for more words. He said the sign at the entrance to Huntingdon contained a lot of information and asked how this had been obtained. The Clerk said she would go back to the Highways officer and would copy in Cllr Carney so they could liaise about possible signs.

L64 21/22 Armed Forces Covenant Pledges

The Clerk had been sent an example of an updated Armed Forces Covenant with a number of pledges outlined. Members went through each pledge carefully mindful of the fact that the Covenant could have legal obligations and once signed the Council would be expected to honour the pledges. It was agreed to **recommend** to the full Council that the following pledges should be adopted:

Demonstrating our Commitment

2.1 We recognise the value of serving personnel, reservists, veterans and military families; and will aim to uphold the principles of the Armed Forces Covenant, by seeking to:

- appoint an **Armed Forces Champion**, who is a member of the Royal British Legion, to promote support for the Armed Forces community;
- promote the fact that we are an **Armed Forces-friendly Council**, to our members and wider public; celebrating the work of the Armed Forces and encouraging positive interaction between them and members of the public; maintaining our War Memorial.
- work with the Royal British Legion to support the Commonwealth War Graves Commission with the upkeep of war graves.
- find out where the nearest Royal British Legion branch is, promote it and support events.
- support **Military Veterans**; recognising that they are a valued part of our community; facilitating and encouraging their participation in civic and community events; providing a link to the Veterans Gateway on our website; encouraging local businesses to support the employment of veterans;
- encourage support for the **Reserves Forces**; encouraging local businesses to support the employment of Reservists;
- find our nearest cadet detachments; promote and encourage support for, and membership of, local cadet units;
- support and promote support for **Armed Forces Events** such as local Breakfast Clubs, Coffee Mornings, Armed Forces Day/Week, Reserves Day, the Poppy Appeal Day and Remembrance activities;
- support and promote support for **Armed Forces Charities**;

2.2 We will publicise these commitments through our literature and on our website.

L65 21/22 Little Acre Fen Pocket Park & Old Railway Line Updates

The Clerk reported she had now obtained three quotations for the extension of the made up footpath along the Old Railway Line Footpath and Bridleway. She had asked all three contractors to replicate the existing footpath (which had been in place for about 20 years) and the footpath around the Pocket Path. One contractor had come in £10,000 cheaper than the other contractors but the Clerk was concerned they would use inferior materials and the footpath would not last as long as the existing footpaths. The most expensive quote was from the contractors who had installed the Pocket Path footpath but they would be using hoggin, a

superior material which allowed the footpath to drain properly and the surface to knit together. The contractors had been asked if they could better their price.

Cllr Hay said she was happy to go with the more expensive quote as the contractors had proved they would do a good job. Members agreed and pointed out it was also a bridleway and the surface therefore needed to be the best possible.

The Clerk had also met with County Green Spaces Manager Mr Phil Clarke and Mr Adam Garford and Ms Hayley Wynn, from Think Communities, to look at signposting along the Old Railway Line. She had suggested posts at intervals stating how far it was to either end of the Railway Line and to the Pocket Park, etc. plus a welcome sign at the entrance to the park which FLAPP hoped would contain drawings of birds to spot in the area. Mr Clarke had sent over details of a company who could supply such signs and the Clerk had asked Think Communities if they knew of funding opportunities for the signs.

Mr Clarke had also stated Somersham Nature Reserve was planning a walk along the Old Railway Line in May to mark national walking month. The Clerk explained Chatteris councillors had been hoping to organise a similar venture and it was agreed to raise the idea of a joint venture with transport available at either end, to ferry people home, and the Think Communities bus on hand to give out information on walks.

Councillors fully supported the idea of a joint venture and suggested the 14th May as a possible date.

The Clerk confirmed the cubs were set to help plant 30 trees supplied by the Woodland Trust, for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, at the entrance to the Pocket Park from the Old Railway Line on the 5th March. The Council's contractors would prepare the ground ready for planting. Cllr Carney had forwarded details of a plaque which could be purchased stating the planting was commemorating the platinum jubilee. Proceeds from the plaque would go to the RBL. Members expressed an interest in such a plaque.

L66 21/22 Queen's Platinum Jubilee

The Clerk ran through a proposed timetable for celebrations on the 2nd June as follows:

- 6pm Festival Prince and Princess Competitions
- 6.20pm Town Crier Competition
- 7pm Queen Tribute Concert
- 9.30pm Community Choir to sing specially composed song
- 9.40pm Town Crier to give out declaration
- 9.45pm Beacon to be lit by Cllr Carney

All the events would take place in the churchyard and Parish Church. The Town Crier would be chosen by a panel of people made up of Festival committee members (no representatives of the Town Council) and two independent judges. The Festival committee had kindly offered to help at the Queen concert.

Cllr Smith had already put out information about the Jubilee celebrations on social media, including advice on how to organise road closures for street parties. She offered to put out the information again in the hope of attracting entrants for the competitions.

The Clerk had also been contacted by the Vicar with the church's plans for the Jubilee weekend which included a civic service on the Sunday.

L67 21/22 Caterpillar Trail Construction

Cllr Smith reported she had transported the painted stones for the caterpillar trail to Cllr Carney for storage. Cllr Ashley's husband had kindly agreed to construct the frame for the trail, the Vicar was happy with the plans and Cllr Smith had emailed Mr Bell at Fenland for his input. Unfortunately it did not appear as if Travis Perkins would be honouring their offer of free materials so Cllr Smith asked if it would be possible to apply for a small grant from the Town Council towards the cost of materials. She pointed out it would be a fitting reminder of the pandemic. The existing signboard in the church grounds would be used to provide an explanation for the trail. Cllr Smith said all the stones had been re-varnished and Cllr Carney offered to set up a table outside his home if any child would like the opportunity to repaint their stone.

L68 21/22 Annual Town Meeting

The Clerk informed members that the Council was duty bound to organise an annual town meeting sometime between the 1st March and 1st June. It could not use the excuse of Covid as had been the case for the past two years.

In consultation with the Mayor it had been suggested that after the usual business of the meeting – Financial Report, Report of the Year's Activities, Mayor's Report, District and County Council Reports, Questions from the Public and Reports from groups and clubs – the Council should ask Mrs Sue Spooner if she would give a quick talk on the plans for the museum and the Council should then give a Powerpoint presentation on the Growing Fenland Project.

Cllr Carney kindly agreed to organise the Powerpoint presentation including taking photographs of work undertaken for the project. The Clerk offered to help with the words.

It was agreed to recommend to the full council that the meeting should take place on Friday 1st April at 7pm in the main hall at the King Edward Centre.

L69 21/22 Local Heritage List Project

The Clerk had received information about the launch of the Cambridgeshire Local Heritage List Project as the organisers were seeking help in promoting the project. The Heritage List project was an opportunity for local residents to have their say and help protect Cambridgeshire's local heritage. The list aimed to identify buildings which did not meet the national criteria for Listed buildings but were important at a local level.

Residents could either register as a user on the website and put forward their nominations, or they could apply for a volunteer role.

Members pointed out the project had already appeared on a local Facebook page. Cllr Haggata was sceptical about what would happen to any information. He asked what the end result would be and if there would be any money to do something with the information. Both Cllrs Haggata and Carney were concerned it could affect planning applications and could add a further layer to all the existing regulations.

Cllr Smith pointed out there were interesting and historic features of Chatteris which were not listed and Cllr Hay suggested putting the information on the council's website so the public had the choice on whether to get involved.

L70 21/22 Any Other Business

Map: Joanna had been corresponding with Mr Chris Richards at the printers regarding a new map of the town for public noticeboards. Originally the idea was to use a larger version of the map in the centre of the town guide but the quality was not good enough. Mr Richards had then been looking at digital maps from a map company as these would be good quality files owned by the Council which could be updated, edited and used in different ways.

The first map Mr Richards had sent through was not fit for purpose as there were many street, yard and court names missing and abbreviations which did not make sense. He had then approached a company which could supply a good quality, re-drawn version of the town guide map.

The cost of the map would be £269 plus VAT.

Members agreed to **recommend** to the full council that such a map should be purchased as it was a basic need. They requested that such features as the new training school, playgrounds, the new primary school, the new garden centre, the South Fens business centre, the Pocket Park, the museums and the retail parks should be shown as should the underpass. If any features were outside the area of the map these should be indicated by an arrow.

Event: The Clerk had been contacted by artist Mr Richard Savage who had been approached to undertake an arts project funded by MarketPlace. The idea was to use art to get people back into the High Street. The event had to go ahead before the end of March and Mr Savage asked if the Council would be interested in helping out in some way. It was agreed to get more information but Councillors were concerned about the tight timeline.

L71 21/22 Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 22nd March 2022.

