

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

**Minutes of a meeting held at the Council Chambers and via Zoom on
Monday 21st March 2022**

Present: Cllrs J Smith (Chairman) and L Ashley. A Charrier joined via Zoom.

L72 21/22 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Carney sent apologies for absence.

L73 21/22 FDC Update

There was no FDC update but Cllrs Smith and Charrier said that the Larham Way play area had still been incomplete when they last viewed it. The fencing between the play area and the house which was being rebuilt was missing but it was felt this was the home owner's responsibility.

The Huntingdon Road play area was more or less finished. Cllr Smith asked if the teen shelter at Huntingdon Road could be re-painted as the rest of the play area was smart and it now stood out.

L74 21/22 Any Matters Arising from the Last Meeting of the Group

L64) Armed Forces Covenant: The Clerk was waiting to hear back from the RBL before arranging a ceremony when the covenant would be signed and a photograph taken.

L67) Caterpillar Trail: Cllr Ashley confirmed her husband, with the assistance of Cllrs Smith and Carney, would be constructing the trail which would be dug into the ground and the stones would be set in concrete. The Vicar had mentioned that children from Kingsfield would be planting bulbs in the area and Cllr Smith suggested the children might like to help design the sign giving information about the trail.

L70) Map: The printer had confirmed he would ask the company to draw up a design for the map for approval.

L70) Arts Project: Mr Richard Savage had given more information on the project. Unfortunately it was not possible to undertake the project in the library so the work would be carried out at Savage Arts studio. Mr Savage agreed to put any brochures received into the bags (including the Town Guide) and also agreed that a trade fair was best left to businesses to organise. Cllr Smith said the deadline for the project had been extended (she believed to the end of April) as Mr Savage had Covid.

Renaissance Project: The Clerk said the town sign (created by Mr Savage) was now ready to go up and it was hoped the remaining street furniture refurbishment works would be carried out the week beginning 28th March. A ceremony would then be organised, hopefully for the end of April, when the Mayor of Chatteris and the Mayor of the Combined Authority would unveil the new town sign and officially acknowledge the completion of that part of the Renaissance project. Cllr Smith said the works had smartened up the town and there were noticeable differences between the street furniture which had been refurbished and furniture in other parts of the town.

L75) 21/22 Little Acre Fen Pocket Park & Old Railway Line Updates

Railway Line: The Mayor and the Clerk confirmed the tree planting at the entrance to the Pocket Park had gone ahead thanks to FLAPP members and the cubs, on a cold, muddy morning. The ground had been well prepared by the Council's contractors. The Clerk was now waiting for a date when the contractors could carry out the footpath extension works, hopefully before the organised walk on the 8th May.

The Clerk had yet to hear from Think Communities about any funding for signs along the Old Railway Line. Cllr Smith was anxious to set up a meeting as soon as possible to discuss plans for the walk on the 8th May. The Clerk agreed to chase up the matter and when arrangements were agreed to ask FACT if they could provide transport for people to get from one end of the Railway Line to the other. The walk would help to promote use of the footpath, explain plans for the footpath and promote the pocket park.

The Clerk had also heard from the resident who had already planted some trees along the Old Railway Line that he was about to plant some more trees at his own expense, which was much appreciated.

The Clerk was asked to write again to the Football Club pointing out trees on their land, which bordered the Old Railway Line, were in need of urgent attention. She confirmed she had written twice in the past.

Ponds: The Clerk had received a letter from the Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group about a funded pond conservation project being delivered on behalf of Natural England. Chairman of FLAPP Mr Ian Mason had shown one of the officers the Pocket Park' pond but this was not suitable as it was not large enough and was a lined pond.

Funding was available to restore old ponds or dig new ponds in certain parts of the County which fell into strategic areas for great crested newts and Chatteris qualified.

Cllr Smith said there was an old, derelict pond on the left hand side of Whitemill Road which might qualify and the Clerk agreed to investigate. It was believed the area might belong to FDC and to Cllr Smith's knowledge the pond had not been looked after for 20 years.

FutureParks: Notification had been received of a new Greenground map produced by FutureParks at Cambridgeshire County Council. The map showed parks in the county and

potential connectivity between them. The map had included Wenny Meadow and the Clerk had pointed out this was not public open space; it was private land included in the Local Plan as development land and was currently the subject of a planning application.

L76 21/22 Annual Town Meeting

The Clerk had written the words for the Powerpoint presentation being prepared by Cllr Carney. Cllr Ashley read out the summary of the Growing Fenland project and this was approved. Cllr Carney had confirmed he would be taking photographs at the weekend and would then work on the presentation.

It was agreed the annual town meeting would be advertised on notice boards and via social media. It was agreed to offer refreshments – tea, coffee, biscuits and possibly cakes.

L77 21/22 Entrance Signs

Working on the suggested minor amendments to the sign put forward by the Town Council, Cllr Carney had drawn up a final draft of the sign which had been sent to the County Council Highways officer for approval and a price for the signs was being sought.

L78 21/22 Platinum Jubilee Arrangements

Based on information received, the Clerk had drawn up a programme for the Platinum Jubilee Events in Chatteris as follows:

Thursday 2nd June 2022

Chatteris Parish Church Grounds

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| 6pm | Crowning of Midsummer Festival Prince & Princess |
| 6.15pm | Midsummer Festival Town Crier Competition |
| 7pm | Concert by Real Magic Queen Tribute Band in Church. Free Entry for All.
Organised and Funded by Chatteris Town Council. |
| 9.30pm | Chatteris Community Choir sings the jubilee song – A Life Lived with Grace -
and the National Anthem |
| 9.40pm | New Town Crier gives the Proclamation |
| 9.45pm | Lighting of Beacon (part of nationwide chain) |

Friday 3rd and Saturday 4th June

Chatteris Parish Church

Flower Festival 3rd to 8th June - in partnership with Chatteris in Bloom. The theme will be The Queen. Church will be open from 9 - 4 pm every day. Free.
Refreshments, crafts, and plants for sale inside the church 10am - 4 pm.

Sunday 5th June

Chatteris Parish Church

11am **Jubilee Civic Service** A service for uniformed organisations, Chatteris Community Choir.

Streets Around Chatteris

Residents of various streets will be organising their own **Big Jubilee Lunch** celebrations.

Cllr Smith offered to advertise the events on Facebook and the Clerk said she would include instructions on how to apply for a road closure for a street party.

L79 21/22 Any Other Business

An email had been received from FACT and it was agreed to take this to the full council.

L80 21/22 Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 19th April 2022