

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

Minutes of a meeting held at the Council Chambers on Tuesday 21st February 2023

Present: A Charrier (Chairman), L Ashley, J Carney, A Gowler and A Hay.

L51 22/23 Apologies for Absence

Cllrs F Newell and J Smith sent their apologies.

L52 22/23 Speaker: Mr Liam Rushmer, from Fitness Rush, on Community Fitness

Cllr Charrier welcomed Mr Rushmer to the meeting and he began by giving the background on how he got into the world of fitness. He explained how he had turned his gym at Old Hurst into a private gym for those who were worried about using public gyms and how he then thought of the idea of a gym in a van so he could travel to other communities.

Mr Rushmer said he was now receiving grants to work with people who could not afford to access fitness facilities to help with their physical and mental health. This included homeless people who were working towards fitness qualifications.

He now also had funding to work with the elderly helping to ensure they got fitter so they could stay in their own homes.

Mr Rushmer was, therefore, looking for ideas where he could park his van in Chatteris and reach out to the elderly community. He had already considered the idea of sheltered housing complexes and was advised to contact Cllr Sam Clark, the portfolio holder for health at FDC, and Clarion, who ran the sheltered housing complexes. It was suggested Quaker Way might be a good location.

Councillors also advised Mr Rushmer to contact Lifeways who ran the assisted living accommodation at Barbers Court. The Clerk pointed out this was also close to two sheltered housing complexes.

Members suggested contacting the doctors' surgery but Mr Rushmer said he worked with social prescribers rather than doctors' surgeries. Doddington Court near Doddington Hospital was also mentioned as a possible location.

The Clerk passed on details she had received of a Golden Age Partnership meeting as a way to make contacts with people involved with the elderly.

Mr Rushmer was thanked for attending and promised to return at a later date with an update.

L53 22/23 Any Matters Arising from Last Meeting of the Group

L45) FACT bus services. The Clerk said she had been approached by the Clerk of the Feoffee's charity asking about FACT bus services as the charity was looking to fund ventures in Chatteris. It was agreed the Clerk should ask FACT to get in touch with the charity's Clerk.

L49) Walking & Cycling Map: After input from Councillors and walking group members the Walking and Cycling Map of the town was taking shape and was expected to be finalised within a few days.

L54 22/23 Fenland District Council Update

In Bloom: Both Cllr Hay and the Clerk had been approached by a member of the In Bloom committee asking why the planters had been removed from the railings around Jubilee Gardens. The In Bloom member had explained that a County Council officer had given permission for the planters on the railings several years ago. It was agreed the Clerk should write to the Highways officer asking why they had been removed and should copy in Cllr Hay so she could follow up if necessary.

Cats: The Clerk and the Mayor were pleased to announce that, following a request from a New Road resident, feral cats were being re-homed in the overgrown, old part of the cemetery. The resident had been looking after the cats, which were living in her shed, but feared for their future when she moved home. An FDC officer had met with her and a suitable location for the cats' new home had been agreed upon.

L55 22/23 Little Acre Fen Pocket Park & Old Railway Line Updates

Cllr Carney was pleased to announce that a FLAPP application to the Metalcraft Community Fund for money for a noticeboard at the Pocket Park had been successful. Cllr Carney had also put in an application to Tesco's to partly fund the project but unfortunately it was now a long process compared to when applications went to Jacks. The Clerk showed members the design of the new board which would help visitors to the park to identify the birds which could be seen in the location and included information about each of the birds. Members agreed it was a great idea and praised the FLAPP member who had designed the board.

Cllr Carney reported a FLAPP working party had carried out some work at the park which was coming along nicely. The Clerk said a working party from probation had planted donated trees at the allotments which would eventually be re-planted in the pocket park (once they had grown to a reasonable size). She had chased up the contractors requesting they complete the extension to the Old Railway Line Footpath as a matter of urgency and had been assured they were just waiting for the topping materials to be delivered.

L56 22/23 King's Coronation Events

The Clerk said she had approached the Vicar about holding a concert in the Church to mark the Coronation but had been informed that the Church was not available as it was to be the

venue for a brass band and choir concert. However it had transpired that the concert was to be on a different date and was now in doubt as the choir had pulled out.

In the meantime it had been agreed that to mark the Coronation the former Barclays Bank should be opened to the public so they could view the works which had been undertaken, ahead of the museum moving in. This would take place on Sunday 7th May and the building would be open from 11am to 2pm. Refreshments would be served and there would be a display of photographs, taken by Cllr Bill Haggata, at various stages of the refurbishment works and hopefully a display by the museum.

The Clerk had some prices for Coronation memorabilia which could be given out at the event but members agreed this would be too pricey.

It was agreed a banner should go on the railings at the front of the museum stating “Coming Soon Open Day, 7th May, 11am to 2pm.”

L57 22/23 Lights at Furrowfields Recreation Ground

Cllr Ashley had asked for the item to go on the agenda and explained that her son ran through the park and was alarmed at how dark it was when people were walking dogs, running, etc. Cllr Ashley was keen to see solar lights installed as a safety measure.

Cllr Gowler was concerned that if lights were installed at Furrowfields there would be an outcry and the same would be requested at Wenny and Huntingdon Road Recreation grounds. He and Cllr Carney suggested installing fluorescent or luminous lighting strips along the footpath or even luminous paint which would be picked up by torches.

It was agreed to approach FDC about the idea.

L58 22/23 Annual Town Meeting

In order to meet purdah rules it was agreed the annual town meeting on the 21st April would have to be short and sweet. Cllr Carney was prepared to create a Powerpoint presentation but would not be able to present it as he was planning to stand again as a councillor. It was agreed to approach Cllr Haggata about presenting the Powerpoint submission as he was not planning to stand again and would not be covered by purdah. Topics to be covered by the presentation would be the former Barclays Bank conversion, the improvements to the Empress building, improvements to the Pocket Park and Old Railway Line footpath and the planned LHI scheme in Doddington Road.

On the latter the Clerk said she had received bad news from the County Council; work on installing the LHI scheme had been due to start at the end of the month but had had to be postponed because the County Council had failed to advertise the proposed works. It was agreed to write and complain about the bad management.

L59 22/23 Any Other Business

The Clerk mentioned the invitation to join the Golden Age Partnership meeting on the 7th March at the South Fens Business Centre. Unfortunately she was unable to attend as there was a Council meeting that evening. Councillors noted the invitation.

L60 22/23 Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 21st March 2023.