

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

Minutes of a meeting held at 2 Park Street, Chatteris, on Tuesday 17th October 2023

Present: Cllrs L Ashley (Vice Chairman), V Joyce, S Selman and M Siggee.

L25 23/24 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs A Charrier, A Gowler, A Hay and S Unwin.

L26 23/24 Any Matters Arising from Last Meeting of the Group

L18) Footpath: Cllr Murphy had forwarded an email confirming that Ringways would be carrying out the repairs to the footpath around Wenny Recreation Ground but no date had been fixed.

The Clerk had also received notification that the alleyway at the rear of Birch Avenue/ Birch Close and The Elms had been cleared but Cllr Ashley said the cut through to Hunters Close still needed attention and the Clerk agreed to chase that up. The Clerk had also received a planning application for a 5 day order to fell an Elm tree at the Vicarage.

FDC Open Spaces Manager, Mr Kevin Wilkins, had sent an update to say there were very significant issues with the overgrown Plane trees on the boundary of the cemetery. Three removals had already been booked and further works would be decided upon when an inspection had taken place. In addition, two small Rowan trees had been removed from the Church Lane car park but they would be replaced as would the Plane trees.

L20) FACT Bus: Cllr Ashley said she had spoken to her cousin, who was a driver of the Chatteris runner bus, and he reported issues which had arisen when residents of Barbers Gardens and elderly residents used the same bus. The residents of Barber Gardens used bad language which upset the elderly people who found it embarrassing and threatening. As a result, he suggested making a special journey (within the Chatteris Runner timetable) to take the residents of Barbers Gardens to Tesco's and then collect them an hour later. This suggestion had been agreed by FACT and Lifeways (the organisation responsible for Barbers Gardens) and was already operating. He had also suggested changes to the route as there were some pick up points which were never used. Alternative routes were discussed including taking in the sheltered housing complexes and Blackmill and Westbourne. It was agreed it would be beneficial to have a meeting with the two drivers of the Chatteris Runner to discuss the route.

The Clerk reported that Tesco's had agreed to look at the idea of providing a bench outside the store. She had also written to the headquarters of B & M about the provision of a toilet at the new Chatteris store but had received no reply. It was agreed to approach the company again when the store opened.

The Gables had agreed to take up the offer of a free bus for another outing and the Clerk said she would try and get the message to Swan House.

L27 23/24 Little Acre Fen Pocket Park & Old Railway Line Updates

The Clerk had attended a meeting of FLAPP when it was agreed to purchase a new noticeboard giving information about birds which could be seen at the Pocket Park. The purchase was possible thanks to a £1,000 grant from Tesco's. It was also agreed to look at a sign to direct walkers along the Old Railway Line to the Pocket Park. It was hoped the remaining funds could be spent on new pond plants. It was also agreed to submit an application to the Red Tile Wind Farm Trust for grant funding for chipped bark and to look into the provision of an owl box. Some new planting had taken place at the Pocket Park and there had been a good crop of fruit from the orchard.

The police had confirmed they were visiting the park, when possible, to try and catch those responsible for anti-social driving.

L28 23/24 Graffiti Projects

The Clerk had contacted MarketPlace for contact details of a graffiti artist to help with a graffiti project at the Wenny Recreation Ground skatepark, using money raised by youngsters currently held by FDC.

MarketPlace had expressed an interest in taking on the project if they could work with a youth group so the youngsters could take part in a workshop and take a pride in what was created, rather than just have an artist come along, paint something and then leave.

Councillors agreed this would be the best idea and asked the Clerk to contact Youths of Fenland, who worked with young people at their drop in, hot chocolate cafe.

Councillors also spoke about restoring the mural on the underpass which was now dirty with flaking paint and some graffiti. Cllr Ashley reminded members that Kurt from the police had led the original project and she suggested approaching Callum, the new schools' liaison officer, to ask if he would work with youngsters from Cromwell Community College on the restoration project.

L29 23/24 Old Telephone Kiosk

The Clerk and Cllr Selman had looked further into the idea of using the old telephone kiosk at Wood Street for a defibrillator. After looking into the idea of using a defibrillator which did not require electricity, the Clerk had been advised against this as the defibrillator battery would be damaged if it got too cold. The Clerk and Cllr Ashley had met with former councillor Julie Smith who confirmed the electricity supply had been turned off before she took over looking after the telephone kiosk but the electrical cables still appeared to be in

place. She also had spare Perspex to replace any panes in the box, which would require redecorating.

Cllr Selman had approached Swafham Prior Parish Council as they were using their telephone kiosk for a defibrillator. The person responsible for setting up the box told her the defib did not need electricity but it was in a cabinet with the light connected. When their box was disconnected the live junction box had been left in the bottom and it was possible for an electrician to reconnect it. The person said the council had used Community Heartbeat, based in Saffron Walden, who were excellent and even gave them a defibrillator sign to put up. Cllr Siggee offered to check if the junction box and cables were still live.

L30 23/24 Any Other Business

Reservoir: A date had finally been fixed for the first meeting of the new Reservoir Liaison group - 7th November 2023. Cllr Selman said she would be attending the meeting representing the Town Council (Cllr Gowler had also been invited) and, therefore, gave her apologies for the next Town Council meeting. The reservoir project team had also drawn up a new document setting out how they would be achieving the shared ambitions of delivering a lasting, positive legacy for the region by creating a place where water, people and nature came together. The ambitions had been highlighted by the initial consultation. Cllr Selman requested a copy of the document.

Complaints: Cllr Joyce said he had received a complaint about vegetation at the rear of the cemetery, overgrowing into the gardens of the newer properties in Queensway. He had also received further complaints about the grassed area at Queensway which had not been cut throughout the summer. The Clerk said Clarion had claimed local people were happy with the lack of maintenance as it was encouraging biodiversity. Cllr Joyce said this was not the case, there was no biodiversity just vermin and dogs' faeces. The whole area needed to be cut down and the grass collected.

Cllr Siggee said the alleyway at Southampton Place was so overgrown that it was being used as a dumping ground for dog poo bags as the bin was not visible in the weeds.

Cllr Ashley said a bin was needed in Lode Way as the only bins on the estate were at Furrowfields recreation ground. From that point through Furrowfields, Drake Avenue and Lode Way (until it reached Bridge Street) there were no bins.

The Clerk agreed to pass the concerns on to all the relevant officers.

L31 23/24 Date of Next Meeting

No date was confirmed for the next meeting which would be on either the 14th or 21st November 2023.