

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

**Minutes of a meeting held at 2 Park Street, Chatteris, on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

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

**L39 23/24 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs A Charrier, A Hay and V Joyce.

**L40 23/24 Any Matters Arising from Last Meeting of the Group**

L33 Graffiti projects: Joanna had been asked by youth leader Debbie King about the progress of the graffiti project but had heard nothing from MarketPlace. She did have contact details for the original graffiti artist, Si Mitchell, and it was agreed she should contact him and see if he would be interested in being involved, and copy in MarketPlace.

Sue had an update on the artist who had been approached about the Jordan Gill mural. The artist was currently being trolled by someone who was destroying his work. Sue was concerned this might happen in Chatteris and suggested getting a quote from another artist. She agreed to find another name. Joanna had sought FDC's approval for the mural and this had been agreed subject to FDC approving the artwork. FDC's engineering manager, Mr Garry Edwards, had suggested putting the work in a large, billboard type poster case so it was protected from graffiti. Members were not in favour of the suggestion and Sue was confident that youths would not graffiti the work, if they were brought on board, as Jordan worked with the youth.

L39) Town Guide: Cllrs Selman and Unwin said they would be meeting with former councillor Julie Smith to discuss updating the town guide.

L39) Overgrown: Cllr Siggee confirmed the overgrown areas had been cleared.

**L41 23/24 Little Acre Fen Pocket Park and Old Railway Line Updates**

The Clerk had attended a meeting of FLAPP the previous evening when it had been agreed to order a new interpretation board showing all the birds which could be spotted at the park, a new directional arrow pointing out the pocket park from the Old Railway Line and repairs to the two existing interpretation boards. The full cost was just over £1,100 and was above the grant received from Tesco's for a new signage. As a result, the Clerk had discussed the issue with the Financial Officer who had identified an underspend in the budgets for the pocket part and Old Railway Line and had agreed the Town Council should pay for the directional arrow and the repairs. This would allow FLAPP to also purchase some plants for the pond.

The Clerk had also discussed with FLAPP the Town Council's wishes to plant a tree in memory of former councillor Florence Newell. It had been suggested a semi-mature Fastigate Beech tree would be a good compliment to former councillor Rosemary Stimson's Oak tree.

New commemorative plaques would be erected next to both trees and Cllr Newell's family would be invited to the unveiling of the plaques. The Clerk was confident that FLAPP would help to water and look after the tree.

Unfortunately, it had been reported that the approach road to the park from West Street had been ploughed up by a farmer clearing out dykes but the Clerk pointed out if the farmer failed to re-instate the road (which belonged to the County Council) Anglian Water would carry out works as their tankers needed access to the pumping station.

Cllr Ashley said there was a continuing problem with drugs at the park which had resulted in members of the public trying to clear up the debris, which included large nitrous oxide canisters. They had been warned against this and told the contractors would clear the site. It was agreed the Clerk should alert the police and Cllr Unwin asked if mobile cameras or drones could be used to identify the culprits. Cllr Selman was keen to see a mobile CCTV camera attached to the Anglian Water pumping station.

#### **L42 23/24 Old Telephone Kiosk**

Defibrillator suppliers Community Heartbeat had replied to the Clerk's enquiries about putting a defibrillator in the old telephone kiosk by confirming it was possible even without power. They were able to supply a device that did not need power at a cost of £2,350 plus delivery plus vat. They also confirmed that solar power did not work, or at least not in a reasonably priced way.

They confirmed that the defibrillator unit could be installed by a competent handyman and no electrician as required. They had installed units at around 350 similar sites and it was cheaper than re-installing the electricity.

Members welcomed the news and were in favour of the option. The organiser of Community Defibrillators for Chatteris also thought it was a great idea. She also suggested installing a defibrillator in a vandal-proof cabinet somewhere like the pocket park or Wenny Recreation Ground. Members agreed a defibrillator could be requested as a community gain if houses were built near the pocket park.

Cllr Unwin suggested including a map showing the location of all defibrillators in the new town guide and Cllr Selman said it would be helpful to have the locations flagged so they could be easily found.

The Clerk said she would enquire if there was an allowance for a defibrillator in the budget and members suggested if not using the £5,000 that had been sitting in the Section 106 fund for many years. They suggested the fund could be used to buy two defibrillators and the other could be positioned at the cemetery as it was a central location for many housing estates. This **recommendation** would go to the full council

#### **L43 23/24 Plans for Annual Town Meeting**

The Clerk read out the usual agenda for an annual town meeting – reports from the Financial Officer, the Clerk, the Mayor, representatives of Fenland District and Cambridgeshire County Councils and local groups and organisations; questions from the public and a Powerpoint presentation.

She asked if the Council wished to consider a Powerpoint presentation for the 2024 annual town meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup> April. Members agreed this would be a good idea and suggested it should include references to: the party for over 70s, support for In Bloom and the Christmas Lights; the Midsummer Festival, plans to purchase defibrillators and update the town guide, the production of the walk and cycle maps, the updating of the town map, the new museum, marking the King's Coronation, re-painting the bus shelter, FACT bus services (in particular the Chatteris Runner), the creation of community rooms and flats thanks to the Combined Authority grant, the new pedestrian crossings, the improvements to the Old Railway Line and the pond, the memorial for Florence Newell and the survey into the Manea shuttle bus.

There were concerns that Cllr Carney, who usually prepared the presentation, would not have the time, so Cllr Ashley kindly offered to work on it.

#### **L44 23/24 Any Other Business**

Next Meeting: The Clerk said the next meeting of the working group would be open to all councillors and would be held at the King Edward Centre as the Cambridgeshire Fire Service's Area Commander Stuart Smith and Assistant Chief Fire Officer Jon Anderson had agreed to meet councillors to discuss the proposed closure of Manea Fire Station. It was agreed Cllr Charlie Marks should also be invited to the meeting and Manea Parish Council Clerk should be advised it was happening.

Mayor's Cadet: Chatteris Army Cadets had asked if the Town Council had ever heard about a Mayor's cadet scheme. Members believed March Town Council might have such a scheme and the Clerk agreed to contact the Clerk at March.

.Gov Emails: The Clerk had downloaded advice stating the importance of councillors using .gov.uk emails for council business in order to comply with Freedom of Information requests. Using their own emails meant they might have to hand over all emails and possibly even their computers, etc, to the ICO. Members spoke of problems in getting in to their .gov accounts. Cllr Selman could view them on her phone but her computer's security system rejected them, Cllr Siggee's password was not recognised and Cllr Unwin had no idea how to set it up. Thanks to her son's help Cllr Ashley was able to access her account on her computer and her phone. The Clerk agreed to look into the problems.

Surveys: Councillors had been invited by the County Council to complete Highways and Streetlighting Stakeholders surveys. Cllr Selman requested the link.

#### **L45 23/24 Date of Next Meeting – Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2024.**

