

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

Minutes of a meeting held at the King Edward Centre, Chatteris, on Tuesday 14th May 2024

Present: Cllrs L Ashley, A Charrier, A Hay, V Joyce, S Selman, M Siggee and S Unwin.

L1 24/25 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies as all councillors were present.

L2 24/25 Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman of Group

Cllr Ashley proposed Cllr Joyce be elected Chairman, seconded by Cllr Charrier and agreed by all.

Cllr Selman proposed Cllr Ashley be elected Vice Chairman, seconded by Cllr Siggee and agreed by all.

L3 24/25 Any Matters Arising from the Last Meeting of the Group

L72) Annual Town Meeting: It was agreed the meeting had been a success thanks to excellent chairing by the Mayor, Cllr Anne Hay, who kept the meeting in order.

L70) Open Spaces: Cllr Joyce had asked if action could be taken against a homeowner with overgrown trees as the trees were affecting their neighbour. The Clerk had asked the Street Scene officer about the problem and she had advised looking at the High Hedge Policy on FDC's website. The hedge had to comprise overgrown evergreens, two or more trees which formed a barrier to light and they had to be on the boundary between the two dwellings. The complainant also had to prove that they had tried to speak to the neighbour to request the trees be cut down and pay a fee of £450, to complete a High Hedges complaint form, so officers would look into the problem.

Cllr Joyce said the trees, which overhung the property in Eden Crescent, met all the criteria and were damaging a garden wall and threatening to damage a garage. He understood an attempt to engage with the neighbour had not gone well. He agreed to pass on the information about the policy to the homeowner.

L74) Helping Hands: Cllr Ashley and the Clerk had attended the Helping Hands meeting (as reported at the full council meeting). One subject which arose at the meeting was the transfer of the foodbank from the Parish Church to the Salvation Army Fortress. Cllr Ashley said at a subsequent meeting she had learned that the church and Feoffee's charity were looking into the possibility of setting up a food pantry.

L4 24/25 Little Acre Fen Pocket Park & Old Railway Line Updates

The Clerk reported that one of the wildflower areas was starting to sprout but the other did not appear to have taken. The contractors were to spray the weeds on other areas of the park for the third time and would then be carrying out some more grass re-seeding.

Cllr Selman reported that she and her husband had cleaned the information boards at the top of the Old Railway Line and it was now possible to read them and note that they clearly stated no motorcycles.

The Clerk had received a complaint from a member of the public about scramble bikes at the pocket park who asked if something could be done. The Clerk assured her the Council was aware of the problems.

Cllr Joyce said he had spoken to an acquaintance, a motorbike rider, who was fully licensed and used the droves but not the pocket park or the Old Railway Line. He had asked him to have a word with those motorcyclists who were using the park and Old Railway Line. As far as Cllr Joyce was aware this had happened as the problems seemed to have eased.

Cllr Joyce said many of the problems in the town were being caused by e-scooters, as some had been moderated and could reach speeds of 30-40mph.

He also asked if there was the possibility of putting in more benches at the park, especially if one was donated. The Clerk said the problem would be anchoring down benches as the youths did like to move them around if they weren't concreted in. She agreed to raise the issue with FLAPP.

L5 24/25 Town Guide Update

Cllr Selman confirmed she and Cllr Unwin were three quarters of the way there with the town guide. She was just waiting for a few people to reply to her emails asking if the details shown in the previous guide were still correct. Miss Tina Prior had supplied a number of photographs she had taken around the town.

L6 24/25 D-Day Commemorations

Cllr Joyce, assisted by Cllr Gowler, had agreed to light the beacon for the D-Day 80 commemorations on the 6th June. He confirmed he had a working at heights certificate. The Clerk advised he would need wood to go in the brazier and some means to light it (a long handled torch). The Clerk would request a post go up so no cars could park near the brazier and would draw up a risk assessment. Cllr Unwin would help arrange a bowser of water to be used for damping down any burning embers, with the Clerk and Cllrs Joyce and Gowler to be on fire fighting duties. Other councillors would help to keep the public away from the beacon (which was located in flower beds).

Cllr Unwin said there were likely to be 30 members of the Community Choir singing ahead of the beacon lighting. The Vicar had agreed the choir could use the church if it was raining.

She also offered to say a prayer and the Royal British Legion would be dipping their standards.

The Clerk offered to draw up a poster advertising the event and asked for help in sharing it on social media.

L8 24/25 Any Other Business

Defibrillators: Cllr Selman asked if a date had been agreed when two defibrillators would go up. Cllrs Joyce and Siggee had agreed to put them up if Cllr Gowler could wire them in. With holidays and other commitments, it was agreed to look for a date at the end of June. In the meantime, the exact location of the defibrillators and where they were to be sited would be discussed with Mrs Rosemarie Croucher. Cllr Selman said she had suggested possible locations for the defibrillators.

Caterpillar Garden: Cllr Ashley reported that the caterpillar garden in the church grounds, which was created using the pebbles painted by children during covid, was very overgrown. After the meeting it was agreed that the brownies and guides would help In Bloom to tidy the area.

Eastwood Building Plot: Cllr Joyce asked if there was any news about the untidy building plot in Eastwood. Cllr Siggee said the owner had apparently tried to dig out the footings only to discover a large number of cables running through the site and he was not willing to pay the fee to move the cables and had gone back to FDC who had sold the land.

L9 24/25 Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 11th June 2024.