

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

Minutes of a meeting held at the Council Chambers, 14 Church Lane, Chatteris, on Tuesday 22nd October 2024

Present: V Joyce (Chairman), L Ashley, A Hay, A Jones (formerly Charrier) and S Selman.

L29 24/25 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs A Gowler, M Siggee and S Unwin.

L30 24/25 Speaker: Justina Augustaviciute of CAMMs Meals on Wheels Service

Justina was welcomed to the meeting and explained that she was the manager of the CAMMs Meals on Wheels service which had been operating since 1999. Initially it had been council funded but was now an independent charity. Originally it only operated in the Cambridge area but a second base in Chatteris had opened in 2023 and the plan was now to extend the network. The service was based at Chatteris Working Men's Club and meals were delivered by volunteers, whose mileage was paid. The volunteers were all DBS checked. The charity could also pay the minimum wage. Volunteers worked from 11am to 2pm delivering hot meals.

Justina stressed it was not just a food delivery service as the drivers also carried out welfare checks. Often that was the only face to face contact a customer would have all day. If the drivers found an emergency, they would contact the office who would contact the next of kin, the next door neighbour or the emergency services. When applying for meals customers had to fill out form which included seeking details of a contact, dietary requirements, house access information, etc. Meals cost £8.50 for two courses and were delivered once a day. In Chatteris this was 5 days a week with the possibility of frozen meals for the weekend. Meals were often transferred to a plate, cut up, etc, for customers.

At present there were 14 customers in Chatteris but Justina wished to extend the service and was looking for ideas on how to promote it. Cllrs Ashley and Selman suggested various groups who could give out leaflets and offered to put leaflets in the goody bags of those attending the Over 75s Christmas party. Cllr Selman said information about the service would be in the new town guide. The Clerk promised to pass on contact details for the social prescriber for Chatteris, who was aware of lonely and vulnerable people who might benefit from the service.

Justina was thanked for attending the meeting and thanked those present for all their help.

L31 24/25 Any Matters Arising from the Last Meeting of the Group

L21) Town Guide: Cllr Selman said she had spoken to the printer, having gone through the town guide draft, and was hopeful the new town guide would be ready by the end of

November. Cllr Joyce asked about distribution and Cllr Selman said the plan was to put a copy through every door. It was agreed to approach the Army Cadets, former distributors of Centrepoint and the walking group about help to put out the guide.

L21) Mural: The Clerk said payment had been made for the mural design, which was now awaited. It would need approval from town councillors and FDC. Cllr Joyce said there had been complaints about a group of about 30 children climbing over the bus shelter and running through the gardens one evening but they did not appear to have done any damage. He had also heard cars down at the pocket park but again there had been no damage.

L21) MarketPlace: The Clerk reported that MarketPlace would be holding bi-weekly meetings in one of the new community rooms at the Council Chambers. They had several plans for 2025 and it was hoped that by accommodating them Chatteris would be included in those plans.

L23) Defibrillators: Cllr Joyce had re-painted the telephone kiosk and was thanked for his hard work. The Clerk said she was now able to order the defibrillator to go in the kiosk. Cllr Joyce asked how the kiosk would be accessed and it was agreed it would have to be left unlocked. The defibrillator would be in a locked cabinet and the access code would be given when someone rang the emergency services. Cllr Joyce said it would be necessary to repair the door hinge of the kiosk. Cllr Selman said the location of all defibrillators which were available 24/7 would be shown on the map in the new town guide. Cllr Joyce said lessons in how to use a defibrillator would be helpful.

L32 24/25 Little Acre Fen Pocket Park & Old Railway Line Updates

The Clerk said FLAPP volunteers, in particular Spike, had been working hard to ensure the park was well maintained. Unfortunately, the mallow had taken over again but at least it was green. The group were currently applying for a grant from Tesco's to pay for a base for the new bench which Community Payback had promised to supply.

L33 24/25 Splash Pad Costs

As promised Cllr Murphy had investigated the costs of the splash pad which had been installed in Wisbech park. FDC officer Mr Kevin Wilkins had stated the cost of purchasing and installing the splash pad had been £175,000 and this was without fencing/seating/landscaping and a utility connection. Daily maintenance costs (cleaning, opening and closing the site) from May through September were £1,800 per month, the Ustigate cost was £10k (this included water testing, etc) and the cost of utilities (water and electricity) was in the region of £15,000 a year. Members agreed it would be too expensive to install and run a splash pad at Wenny Recreation Ground.

L34 24/25 FACT Bus Services Update

Cllr Jones had requested an update on the FACT bus services. FACT had confirmed that from a starting pot of £49,993, as of the 10th August, £24,142.32 remained. The cost of each service was outlined and the service co-ordinator said the Friday Chatteris Runner bus was

extremely popular, the Chatteris to Cambridge bus was also popular but there had been no passengers on the Chatteris to Manea train station service.

From initially carrying just one or two passengers in August and September 2022, the Friday Chatteris free bus service was re-launched in January 2024 and started by carrying 6 to 8 passengers. It now carried at least 20 passengers each Friday and on the 27th September it was used by 25 residents. Members agreed that the service was very popular and should continue. The Clerk said the Financial Officer was looking at the idea of making provision in the budget to ensure the service continued when the pot of money ran out. Cllr Ashley said part of the success of the service was down to the kindness of the driver and it was suggested he should be put forward for a Pride in Fenland Award, along with gardening volunteer Spike.

Further detailed information revealed that the Cambridge bus often carried 9 or 10 passengers and on one occasion carried 16 passengers. There were usually children on the bus along with adults. If numbers were insufficient or no-one booked on, the bus would not run. FACT had asked if the Council wished to run the bus on every Saturday in December, instead of twice a month and members agreed to the additional service.

Members recommended that the cost of the Cambridge bus should rise to £2 for adults and £1 for children from the 1st January 2025. They also recommended that the Chatteris to Manea Station service should be pulled.

L35 24/25 Any Other Business

Football Facilities: Cllr Ashley said she had been approached by representatives of Chatteris Town Football Club as their lights had failed an inspection and they did not have the money for repairs. It was agreed to let them know that they could apply for grant funding from the Town Council, Red Tile Wind Farm Trust and Stainless Metalcraft community fund.

Cllr Ashley said the club was struggling as it only had two pitches at the West Street ground, which were used by the adult players, they could not use the pitches at The Sportsmen and the junior teams were paying a very high sum to play on the All Weather Pitch.

Cllr Ashley said the club was not using the Fairway/Sportsman ground as the changing rooms were not up to standard and the landlord now had planning permission to convert the changing rooms to additional room for the Sportsman. Cllr Joyce pointed out the pitches had also been neglected.

Originally junior teams had used Peacocks Paddock at Wenny Road but this was no longer the case. The owner was looking to sell the land but Cllr Ashley suggested it was allocated as a sports field. She also believed there was a covenant on the football pitches at the Sportsman. The Clerk asked if they could be used again and new changing rooms built but Cllr Hay said there was insufficient room for changing rooms. Cllr Joyce said the pitches had been well maintained in the past. Cllr Ashley said the football club had so many youth teams (both boys and girls) it needed additional space and another football ground was needed in the town. She had mentioned the need at a meeting with two Fenland Support officers and they had suggested getting in touch with Mr Andy Coles at Sport England. It was agreed a meeting was needed between councillors/officers and representatives of the football club,

possibly with the involvement of Mr Coles, to find out what the club needed and discuss how those needs could be met.

Planning Application: The Clerk reported that the planning application for 14 homes on land at 2 Doddington Road would be considered by FDC's planning committee on the 30th October with a recommendation to refuse the application. In the meantime Councillors had received an email from a member of the public concerned that the trees which had been felled on the site were not to be replaced on the site and calling for the Town Council to change its mind and recommend refusal of the plan. Although it was not possible to overturn the decision, members agreed the trees should be replaced and not outside Chatteris. It was therefore agreed to make the following comment: 'All the trees which were felled must be replaced and the new trees should be planted on the site and those that are not planted on the site should be planted elsewhere in Chatteris, not outside the town.'

CAPALC: The Clerk reported that a member of the Council had been invited to attend the CAPALC annual general meeting on the 31st October via Zoom.

Reservoir: Cllr Selman had been notified that the feedback received during the phase two consultation for the new reservoir was now being analysed and Anglian Water would shortly be submitting an Environmental Impact Assessment scoping report to the Planning Inspectorate. The Inspectorate would then send the scoping report to organisations (including the Town Council) asking those organisation to review the document and contribute to a 'scoping opinion'.

L36 24/25 Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 12th November 2024.