

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

Minutes of a meeting held at the King Edward Centre, Chatteris, on Tuesday 16th April 2024

Present: Cllrs A Charrier (Chairman), L Ashley, A Hay, V Joyce, K Perrin, S Selman and M Siggee.

L67 23/24 Apologies for Absence

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

L68 23/24 Any Matters Arising from Last Meeting of the Group

L58) Community Hub: Cllr Selman reported that Know Your Neighbourhood were organising a community café at the library on the 26th and 27th April. The aim was to show residents which groups and activities were running in Chatteris. Local groups had been asked to go along or submit information which would be included in free goody bags. Cllr Selman said she had asked the Clerk to produce flyers for the Midsummer Festival and the annual town meeting. Cllr Charrier asked for a copy of the poster so she could promote the event on social media.

L69 23/24 Little Acre Fen Pocket Park & Old Railway Line Updates

The Clerk reported that FLAPP had met at the park the previous evening to add plants to the pond, which was now holding water. Two cubs had turned up at the park on the 23rd March and had helped to spread the wildflower seeds and refill the bug hut. Unfortunately, someone on a motorcycle had ridden right through one of the newly seeded areas even though it was staked out. Cllr Joyce said he knew someone who rode along the droves on a motorcycle and he would ask him to look out for offenders.

On a positive note, the hedgehog rescue team in Chatteris had hidden three hedgehog houses around the park to help with rehoming hedgehogs.

L70 23/24 Open Spaces Update

There was no update as the only query had been with regards to a green area which FDC said belonged to Highways.

L71 23/24 Town Guide Update

Cllr Selman said work on the town guide update was progressing well and there had been a good response to Cllr Unwin's call out on social media for businesses to get in contact. Cllr Unwin had also visited the industrial estates asking for information. Cllr Selman said she was collating all the information she had received but was waiting to hear from one or two

organisations who had been listed in the 2020 guide. She also hoped to include some information about the planned reservoir.

L72 23/24 Annual Town Meeting Plans

Cllr Hay signed the notice of the Annual Town Meeting, to be held on 3rd May at the King Edward Centre, and was asked for a Mayor's report and a County Council update for the meeting. She said she would mention all the local businesses and charities who gave out grants – Stainless Metalcraft, Red Tile Wind Farm, Court Leet and Feoffees. She suggested Cllrs Benney or Murphy should be asked to give the FDC report.

Cllr Ashley was busy working on the PowerPoint presentation. It would be based on a talk she gave to the WI.

L72 23/24 Urgent Planning Applications

The Clerk had three plans which required decisions before the next scheduled Planning working group meeting. The plans were discussed and it was agreed to return them to Fenland District Council marked as follows:

a) F/YR24/0279/F - Erect 2 dwellings (2-storey, 3-bed) and formation of new access involving demolition of existing building at land west of 76 High Street, accessed via Ash Grove - *Support*

b) F/YR24/0287/TRCA - Works to 1 Yew tree within a conservation area at The Zion Building, Park Street - *Support*

c) F/YR23/0613/O - Revised application for the erection of nursing/dementia care facility (C2 use) (up to 895 sqm of floorspace) (outline application with all matters reserved) at land west of Dean Cottage, Iretons Way - *Object, home would be close to a commercial property, access not good, accessibility to local amenities very poor, no proper footpath, public transport very limited (the Planning, Design and Access Statement is inaccurate as the site is not well connected to the town or safe for pedestrians (particularly vulnerable elderly people), is not close to bus stops and bus service is infrequent). Councillors worry that elderly people may wander on to a very fast road (60mph) which is a red, high casualty route.*

L73 23/24 D Day Commemorations

The Clerk said the community choir was lined up to sing at the D-Day 80 commemorations on the 6th June. She suggested they sang from 8.30pm before the beacon was lit by Cllrs Joyce and Siggee at 9.15pm. Cllr Unwin had arranged for a water supply to be on site to dampen down any flames or small fires.

The RBL were planning a service at the war memorial at 11am but the Clerk was unsure if they had any events planned for the evening. She was also asked to enquire if they would be flying a flag. Cllr Perrin asked if there were any plans to commemorate the 22,422 men who

did not return from the battle for Normandy. The Clerk said it might be worth asking In Bloom if they could incorporate the number in a display. Cllr Perrin also asked about the Chatteris men who were killed and the Clerk said all were listed on the war memorial.

L74 23/24 Any Other Business

Defibrillators: Cllr Selman said the Community Defibrillators for Chatteris organiser had been in contact to say she was waiting for two defibrillators to go up and had been since July. One was due to go up in Eastwood and another in Green Park. Cllrs Joyce and Siggee said they could put the defibrillators up but would need help from Cllr Gowler with the electrical works.

Cllr Ashley reported that the organiser had booked the King Edward Centre for two hours on the evening of 5th June as she was organising a training session in CPR and how to use a defibrillator.

Chatteris Community Helping Hands: The Clerk had been approached by a member of a new group in Chatteris – Community Helping Hands – asking if the Town Council would be interested in sending a representative to the next meeting of the group on the 23rd April at 11am at the Salvation Army Fortress. The group's aim was to put together starter packs for those who had nothing - this could be due to fleeing domestic violence, the loss of their home, etc. Half way houses were found for them but these were unfurnished and those fleeing domestic violence often left with nothing. Starter packs were a one off gift and a gateway to help. Those receiving them would have to be referred and there would be different sized packs depending upon the size of the family group.

The member acknowledged that people often offered items for free which could be used in the starter packs but the problem was where to store the items. The Clerk said storage was always a problem in Chatteris but it was worth having a word with local farmers and the owners of units on the industrial estates.

She and Cllr Ashley later agreed to attend the meeting representing the council.

L75 23/24 Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 14th May at the King Edward Centre at 7pm