

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

Minutes of a meeting held at the Council Chambers on Tuesday 10th January 2023

Present: A Charrier (Chairman), L Ashley, J Carney, W Haggata, A Hay and J Smith. Cllr F Newell joined via Zoom.

L44 22/23 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

L45 22/23 Any Matters Arising from Last Meeting of Group

L41) FACT Bus Services: It had been agreed that the Chatteris Runner bus, which was suspended before Christmas due to a lack of customers, should be re-launched on 3rd March. Details of the service had appeared in Centrepont and an advert was being placed in the Chatteris Scene magazine in February. Cllr Charrier, who had promoted the bus on social media, asked for any ideas to further push the service. Cllr Smith suggested spring might be a better time of year for the service, particularly as it went to the garden centre. Cllr Ashley said there were posters and leaflets about and it had been promoted to every group using the King Edward Centre. Cllr Haggata suggested there was a reluctance to use FACT buses but Cllr Charrier pointed out the Cambridge service was popular. Cllr Ashley had used the Cambridge bus before Christmas and reported it had dropped passengers too far from the town centre on a cold icy day – a point she had passed on to FACT – and the suggested time of 11am to 5pm was too long to spend in Cambridge, especially in the winter. Cllr Ashley said those on her bus had been asked what time they wished to return and had agreed on a time with the driver. It was agreed this was the best way forward.

L46 22/23 Little Acre Pocket Park & Old Railway Line Updates

The Clerk reported that work on the extension to the Old Railway Line Footpath had been halted until the weather improved. However the footpath had re-opened before Christmas and walkers were able to use it. The contractors still had some holes to fill, the surface topping to add and tidying up of the areas beside the footpath and of the track through the Pocket Park which had been used by the heavy machinery. Unfortunately Mr Salmons, who had planted the trees along the Old Railway Line, had noticed that two Silver Birch trees and a flowering cherry had been lost. He had blamed the contractors but the Clerk had explained this was down to the 4 x 4 vehicle which had ploughed along the footpath causing damage. Bollards had now been put in to prevent this happening again. The Clerk said if she received the offer of suitable trees she would contact Mr Salmons about replacing them. The scout leader had also noticed that many of the trees planted by the cubs had disappeared. The Clerk explained these had in the main died during the long hot summer but the plan was for probation to

replace them with donated trees once the works to the Old Railway Line were complete. Hopefully the cubs would not notice that they were different trees!!

Cllr Smith said she was busy creating a map of the circular walk along the Old Railway Line through the Pocket Park and back via West Street. She was hoping to include annotations about the area including information about the Railway Line. The Clerk asked if it would be possible to include some information about the trees which had been planted by Mr Salmons.

L47 22/23 King's Coronation Event

The Clerk reminded members that the Council had set aside a budget to celebrate the King's Coronation on the 6th May. The date fell when there wouldn't actually be a council in place as the elections were on the 4th May and new councillors did not come into post until the 9th May.

As a result the Clerk had raised the possibility of the Festival Committee organising a concert in the Church on the 6th (although she did warn that she might not be about). It had been agreed the Clerk should enquire if the Church was available before proceeding further. Members suggested if a tribute act was booked it should be an Elvis tribute act – the King.

Members also suggested leaving it to individual groups to organise events if they wished to. Cllr Ashley said Miss Anne Wells of the RBL had enquired if anything was planned. There was also the opportunity for residents to close roads and organise street parties if the County Council's lengthy process was followed.

The Clerk said she had received official notice that Buckingham Palace did not wish to see beacons lit for the Coronation as the Coronation would take place less than a year after beacons were lit for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and they were anxious to ensure that events planned were markedly different. The next planned lighting of the beacons was 6th June 2024 to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings.

L48 22/23 Plans for Annual Town Meeting

The date for the annual town meeting had been set at the full council meeting – Friday 21st April at 7pm at the King Edward Centre. The Clerk said individual councillors would not be able to give reports, if they were standing for council again, as purdah would be underway. However it would be possible to report on the work of the Council as a corporate body and the Clerk would be able to answer questions or take them away.

Cllr Smith said the meeting should still concentrate on the positive work undertaken by the Council over the previous year and it was agreed to take up Cllr Carney's offer to create a Powerpoint presentation. The positive news to be promoted should include the new museum, the extension to the Old Railway Line made-up footpath, improvements to the exterior of the Empress building in Park Street, the new training centre, etc.

The Mayor said she was planning to hold a cheese and wine event at 2 Park Street when the building work was complete before the museum moved in. She would ask the museum to put on a display and invite along other dignitaries. Cllr Haggata was also asked if he could provide some photographs of the works to 2 Park Street – before, during and after, He kindly offered to put the photographs on a memory stick for the council.

L49 22/23 Any Other Business

Trustee: Cllr Hay said the board of trustees for the town bowls club was short of a trustee and she suggested that position should be filled by a town councillor. Cllr Hay explained that if the club was to fold the constitution stated that any proceeds must go to the town, preferably to be used for sports facilities. It was agreed that a trustee should be elected at the annual town council meeting in May.

Town Map: The Clerk had finally followed up on the plans for a new map of the town with the printers. The map had been updated and agreed (by Cllrs Ashley and Smith) and would replace the walks map in the information board at Furrowfields Road which was now out of date. The printer had suggested that photographs or drawings around the new map would be advantageous and Cllrs Smith and Haggata agreed to look for something suitable from the Community Archive photo collection. The Clerk asked where other copies of the map should go; the noticeboard outside the police station, the tourist information board near the library, the public noticeboard on Jubilee Gardens and the noticeboard outside the King Edward Centre were all mentioned. Cllr Haggata enquired about putting names and logos for industries around the map but the Clerk was concerned that there would not be the space for all industries and there would be complaints if some were missed.

Walking & Cycling Map: The Clerk had been contacted by Ms Joanne Rose from the Transport Team at FDC who explained the team had been awarded Capability Funding from the County Council to produce walking and cycling maps for the Fenland market towns.

The Wisbech map had been refreshed and she was now starting to look at the Chatteris map (along with March). The funding deadline was at the end of March, so there was an element of urgency.

The team had a designer who created the map and was currently working on providing a basic base map which we could then be shared with stakeholders for their input. Changes were easy and quick to make, but it was imperative that there was significant local input into the map content to ensure that it was fit for purpose.

Ms Rose asked if town councillors would like to meet to discuss the map and what they believe should be included in it. She specifically mentioned Cllr Haggata who had previously expressed an interest in such matters. The intention was to include local attractions and points of interest plus local walking and cycling routes. Ms Rose had attached a copy of the Wisbech map as an example and put forward a list of suggested dates for a meeting.

Cllr Haggata said the maps had been discussed by the TAG group. He had been attending TAG meetings to keep Chatteris' name in the frame. He emphasised the importance of someone replacing him at the meetings when the next Council was elected as Chatteris would miss out if it was not represented at the meetings. Cllr Haggata admitted he had expressed an interest in Chatteris being included on cycling and walking maps which would be available to promote tourism in Cambridgeshire. Cllr Smith thanked Cllr Haggata for attending the meetings and pushing for Chatteris to be included on maps.

Cllrs Ashley, Haggata and Smith along with the Clerk expressed a wish to attend a meeting about the map and Cllr Hay was interested if she was available. It was suggested Cllr Gowler should also be invited as he was keen on walking. It was agreed to request a meeting either am on the 24th January or pm on the 31st.

Cllr Haggata said he hoped a member of the future Chatteris Town Council would also bat for Chatteris when it came to buses as there was some resistance to supporting the call for bus services and some suggestion they were not important. He said that person would be representing a large percentage of people in Chatteris.

L50 22/23 Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 21st February 2023.