**Agenda Item**

**CHATTERIS TOWN COUNCIL**

**LEISURE AND GENERAL PURPOSES WORKING GROUP**

**Minutes of a meeting held at the King Edward Centre, Chatteris, on Tuesday 9th July 2024**

**Present**: Cllrs V Joyce (Chairman), L Ashley, A Gowler, S Selman and S Unwin.

**L10 24/25 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs A Charrier, A Hay & M Siggee.

**L11 24/25 To Complete Reservoir Questionnaire**

Before beginning to complete the questionnaire, Cllr Joyce said there had been a good response to the consultation event, about the proposed new reservoir, held at the King Edward Centre. A number of questions were asked, some of which the consultants could not answer. Cllr Joyce suggested with the position of the reservoir and the application for a new housing estate at the end of New Road, it was an ideal opportunity to push for a new roundabout at the New Road junction with the A142. Cllr Gowler agreed pointing out the reservoir was a done deal and it was now important to push for improved roads and other benefits

Members went through the Feedback Form for the Phase Two consultation on the new reservoir and its associated water infrastructure.

Joint answers were agreed upon and points made included the need for easy access to the site via underpasses for pedestrians and cyclists, the need for upgrading of local roads and the provision of roundabouts, not traffic lights, on the A141 and A142. The need for sympathetic landscaping due to the height of the reservoir banks was also agreed as was a call for as many recreational facilities as possible and for renewable energy provision through wind turbines and solar panels on the visitor centre roof. There was some criticism of the consultation process. The need to open later to allow working people to view the exhibitions and the need to consult with young people (especially those at secondary school) were emphasised.

The Clerk said she would complete the online form and submit the comments as those of the Town Council. (Cllr Gowler gave his apologies and left the meeting).

**L12 24/25 Little Acre Fen Pocket Park & Old Railway Line Updates**

The Clerk said she and the Chairman of FLAPP would be meeting two volunteers who had expressed a wish to help at the Pocket Park. Cllr Joyce had also been approached by someone, who regularly complained about the state of the park, who said he was willing to hep with strimming, etc. Cllr Joyce admitted that person was unlikely to work as part of a team.

The Clerk had requested a quotation from the contractors for the installation of another picnic bench at the park. The cost of a concrete base would be £300 and a bench would cost an additional £567.60 or £961.40.

However, the Clerk had attended a meeting when the Probation Service’s head of unpaid work for Cambridgeshire had been a speaker and she had stated that there was a workshop in Peterborough where those carrying out unpaid work made seats and benches for community groups. It was agreed the Clerk should approach them about a picnic bench and Cllr Unwin asked about the possibility of a bench to be positioned at the Old Auction Yard.

**L13 24/25 Town Guide Update**

Cllr Selman said it was her aim to try and get the new Town Guide completed, ready to go to the printers, within the next couple of weeks. She had asked about the number of copies needed.

The Clerk asked how many copies of Chatteris Scene were distributed and had been informed it was 4,650. The publishers of Chatteris Scene had asked for an opportunity to quote to print the guide but it was agreed this was difficult as the printers in Chatteris had the template, the photographs and would be laying out the guide and would, therefore, understandably expect to print it.

Cllr Unwin suggested 8,000 copies should be printed. Cllr Selman was keen to see a copy go through every door in Chatteris and the logistics of delivery were discussed. It was agreed to ask if Chatteris Scene could help. Other ideas put forward were paying a group of people (youths) to deliver or asking if Community Payback could help.

Councillors agreed that more copies of the Chatteris Free Bus timetable should be printed as the initial 500 had almost gone and Cllrs Unwin and Ashley were often asked for copies. The cost was £106.34 for 500. Cllrs Unwin and Ashley also asked for more copies of the walking and cycling guide for Chatteris as these were also popular. The Clerk confirmed plenty were available.

The Clerk said she had been approached by the new Fenland Senior Development Officer for CCVS (Council for Voluntary Service) Sarah Hall who was trying to promote volunteering in the Fenland area. She was organising an informal meeting on the 8th August and asking for representatives of volunteer organisations to attend with the aim of helping them to find volunteers. The Clerk had explained that Cllrs Selman and Unwin had a list of current contacts for all the organisations in town, for inclusion in the town guide. Cllr Selman said she was willing to meet Ms Hall to ensure she was aware of all the organisations in Chatteris.

**L14 24/25 Defibrillators**

The Clerk said she had requested an updated quote for a non-powered defibrillator from Community Heartbeat, who had stated the defibrillator would be suitable to be housed in the old telephone kiosk in Wood Street. She had also sought a quote from another company and had asked if a grant scheme covered non-powered defibrillators.

Cllr Joyce asked about the defibrillators at Eastwood and Green Park. Cllr Selman said the Eastwood defib had been installed but she was unsure what was happening with the defibrillator destined for Green Park. She promised to investigate.

**L15 24/25 FDC Open Spaces**

The Clerk said she had been contacted by a local resident complaining about the lack of play equipment at Furrowfields, especially as part of the play area was currently cordoned off.

She explained that an FDC officer had cordoned off the area ahead of festival as the children’s bouncers had once again damaged the safety surface. As the bouncers were forever either out of action or causing damage to the safety matting and had "limited play value" it had been suggested that they should be replaced with different play equipment. Councillors were keen to see them replaced with one or two new items of play equipment and the surfacing repaired.

They suggested putting the £5,000, which had been sitting in the Section 106 holding account for many years, towards the cost of new play equipment for the area.

The Clerk asked if there were any updates on the cemetery as she had received complaints about areas being overgrown. Cllr Joyce said the area in question had been cut back but he was unsure if the tap had been repaired and he promised to investigate.

The Clerk had figures from the Freedom Leisure report which were presented to the FDC Overview and Scrutiny committee. The figures for 23/24 in Fenland showed a small surplus of income over expenditure. They also stated that there was 486,081 active participation, 100,050 gym visits, 93,510 swim visits, 88,862 group exercise visits and 4,163 fitness members.

**L16 24/25 Food Pantry Idea**

The Clerk had attended a meeting with the Vicar, the Rev Canon Wendy Thomson, to discuss the idea of setting up a food pantry or fridge in the town.

The Parish Church was formerly the distribution centre for the Foodbank but the Trusell Trust had now moved this to the Salvation Army Fortress. The volunteers were upset and it had been agreed to look at other ideas for distributing food in the town along with a baby bank and the Helping Hands idea (to provide welcome packs to individuals and families in need).

The Vicar had the volunteers, was applying for a lottery grant to employ people to work with people in need in the town and already had some funding but the main need was for storage facilities. The idea of a shipping container/metal shed near the Bricstan Room was discussed. The Clerk had warned that planning permission might be required as the structure, although temporary, would be within the curtilage of a listed building (the Church).

Councillors welcomed the ideas and wished the Vicar good luck. Cllr Selman said she would be in support if a grant application was made to the council.

**L17 24/25 Any Other Business**

Mural: Cllr Unwin asked about the mural for the East Park Street bus shelter. It was agreed it would be more fitting for the mural to be of the three famous boxers from Chatteris, Eric Boon, Dave Boy Green and Jordan Gill. The Clerk was asked to contact the artist to see if this would be possible.

Place Partnership Fund: The Clerk was asked to find the latest update on the Place Partnership Fund project as there had been no updates since May. Cllr Selman had attended a workshop about the project in April.

**L18 24/25 Date of Next Meeting**

Tuesday 17th September 2024.