

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

**Minutes of a meeting held at 2 Park Street, Chatteris, on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

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

**L57 23/24 Apologies for Absence**

An apology for absence had been received from Cllr A Charrier.

**L58 23/24 Any Matters Arising from Last Meeting of the Group**

L47) Fire Station Closures: It was reported that both Manea and Sutton fire stations were advertising for more retained fire fighters. Cllr Gowler said he had spoken to Manea fire fighters who told him they had attended 59 call outs in 2023; the 24 mentioned by the fire officers who attended the meeting were, he believed, just those within the parish.

L52) Community Hub: The Clerk had received an update on the meeting between the community navigator and the Fenland Village Agent. The navigator said the basis of a plan had been formed at the meeting. The Clerk advised the Village Agent that members believed it would be better to concentrate on expanding existing clubs, rather than form a new one, and gave examples of clubs already operating in Chatteris.

L49 & 55) Nuisance Vehicles: Members reported continued problems with off road motorcycles and a back firing car.

**L59 23/24 Little Acre Fen Pocket Park & Old Railway Line Updates**

The Clerk advised members that the Pocket Park was looking really good. The commemoration tree for Cllr Newell had been planted and was a very tall Beech tree. The Council's contractors had also carried out some hedge planting to fill in the gaps, prepared the soil for wildflower seed planting, cut the grass and re-seeded areas.

The Clerk had attended a meeting of FLAPP the previous evening when plans were made for a visit by the cubs to the park on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March. The cubs would be helping to spread the wildflower seeds and refill the bug hut along with other tasks. FLAPP had also paid for a new interpretation sign at the park giving details of birds which visited the park and the Town Council had paid for a new directional sign to the park from the Old Railway Line and new back boards for two existing interpretation boards. All signs had been installed.

### **L60 23/24 To Recommend Grant for Boxing Club**

Following their visit to the full council on the 5<sup>th</sup> March, the Fenland Sparta ABC boxing club had submitted an application for a grant and had sent in details of expenditure and income received from September 2023 to February 2024.

Councillors agreed to defer any decision on a grant to the full council meeting and in the meantime obtain further information on the rent paid by the club and ownership of the premises.

### **L60 23/24 Town Guide Update**

Cllr Selman reported the update was going well and she and Cllr Unwin were currently updating the information in the 2020 guide and obtaining new information.

Following an appeal for contact details of businesses put out on Facebook, information had been received from a large number of companies and this would be included on a page which gave details of the company name and a contact point. Cllr Unwin admitted there were services which she was unaware of and she said many people did not realise there were retail businesses on the town's industrial estates. She had visited the estates to obtain information while Cllr Selman worked on updating the existing entries. There would be a rider in the guide to say the list of companies and services was not exhaustive.

Cllr Selman asked how the guide could be distributed. She was keen to see a copy going to every home. It was agreed councillors could help with the distribution, an appeal could go out on Facebook and Cllr Ashley and the Clerk would approach some of those who had previously helped to put out Centrepoint. It was agreed the print run should be sufficient to cover all households (believed to number about 7,000) plus an extra 1,000 which would be offered to estate agents, hotels, the library, etc.

Cllr Unwin said the new guide would have information on the councils' tier system and Cllr Selman said the map would show the location of all defibrillators and a brief guide on how to use a defibrillator.

### **L61 23/24 Annual Town Meeting Plans**

Cllr Ashley confirmed she would give a Powerpoint presentation on the work of the Council. The Clerk said there would be the usual reports from the Mayor, the Financial Officer, herself, an FDC councillor, the County Councillor and any organisations who wished to participate and there would then be questions from the public. It was agreed to serve tea, coffee and biscuits after the meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> May.

### **L62 23/24 Youth Report**

The Clerk had forwarded copies of a youth survey carried out by Cambridgeshire County Council's Targeted Support & Communities Survey Team. The main purpose of the survey was to gain a better understanding of the needs of young people in the locality. There had

been a good response to the survey from Cromwell Community College pupils and the survey had led to number of recommendations which were included in the summary of findings.

Cllr Joyce had read the documents and said there had been a greater response from girls and the findings had been broadly similar between all three towns (Chatteris, March and Whittlesey).

The authors had stated the working group for the youth survey would continue to meet and collaborate to take action and enable the outcomes identified. This would include supporting funding applications to increase provision and services for Fenland.

### **L63 23/24 D-Day Commemorations – Flag Offer**

Members were asked if they wished to purchase a D-Day 80 Flag of Peace. It was agreed it would be up to the Royal British Legion to fly a flag to mark the occasion. The RBL would be holding a service in the morning and the plan was for the Council to organise the events in the evening which would include a performance by the community choir and then the beacon lighting.

The Town Crier had been registered to make a cry but he had resigned due to personal reasons and Cllr Gowler said he would make the cry if there was no Town Crier in place. Cllrs Joyce and Siggee had already agreed to help with the beacon lighting.

### **L64 23/24 Empress Swimming Pool**

Cllr Unwin had asked for the item to go on the agenda and had planned to speak to the chairman of the pool's Trustees ahead of the meeting. Unfortunately, the discussion had yet to take place. Cllr Gowler offered to try and contact the chairman. Cllr Unwin said many users of the pool were upset the pool was closed and wished to know what was happening. She pointed out if it closed permanently the schools and children would miss out.

The age of the building and problems with maintenance were discussed as likely causes of the closure. Cllrs Hay and Gowler confirmed FDC would not take over the running of the pool, which was a privately-owned building, and would not replace it with a public pool because of the running costs. All swimming pools ran at a loss.

### **L65 23/24 Any Other Business**

There was no other business.

### **L66 23/24 Date of Next Meeting**

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2024.