

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

**Minutes of a meeting held at the Council Chambers on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

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

**L17 23/24 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs A Gowler, A Hay (who was representing the Council at a Red Tile Wind Farm Trust meeting) and S Selman.

**L18 23/24 Any Matters Arising from the Last Meeting of the Group**

L15 Footpath: Cllr Unwin was assured that the state of the footpath/cycleway around Wenny Recreation ground had been picked up by Fenland District Council.

**L19 23/24 Little Acre Fen Pocket Park & Old Railway Line Update**

The Clerk reported the pond was still holding water and FLAPP had undertaken some more planting at the Pocket Park. Two new benches had been installed along the newly upgraded part of the Old Railway Line.

Cllr Joyce reported problems with motorbikes and cars at the Pocket park and along the droves. The motorbikes were a particular problem on Sunday afternoons and the car, a noisy, white Corsa, was regularly causing a nuisance in the area in the early hours of the morning. It was agreed to mention the problems and the timings to the police.

**L20 23/24 FACT Bus Services**

Cllrs Ashley and Selman and the Clerk had attended a very positive meeting with FACT representatives Nicky and Hannah on the 13<sup>th</sup> September.

The Chatteris Runner was reported as going very well - to the delight of Cllr Charrier. Seventeen to 18 people were regularly using the Friday service. A request had been received for a drop off point at Aldi and it was agreed not to advertise the stop but drivers would let those on board know they were happy to stop off at Aldi.

Seasons garden centre was a popular destination and it was agreed Tesco's site would be even more popular when B & M opened. It was agreed to ask if Tesco's could install a bench outside for people waiting for the bus and if B & M would have a public toilet (a facility lacking in Tesco's). Both requests would mention the popularity of the Chatteris Runner bus.

Residents of Barber Gardens were good customers and rang in advance if they needed wheelchair access.

It was agreed to run the bus as a free service until after Christmas and to then see if there was a need to make a charge. Vicky had reported there was still about £38,000 in the fund and said

if the bus became even busier the operating times could be extended to 9.30am to 2.30pm.

It was agreed the Clerk should write an article for the Fenland Citizen on the popularity of the bus, particularly with the elderly.

Nicky reported the Cambridge bus was hit and miss. If only one or two people were booked on the service was cancelled to save funds but the customers usually re-booked for another date. It was agreed to run the service weekly on Saturdays in the run up to Christmas, from the end of November. The charge would remain at £1 a journey but might be revised in the New Year

It was agreed the Clerk should remind the two care homes in Chatteris that they were entitled to two free bus trips a year as they had only claimed one each.

At the leisure meeting it was suggested the farmers market in St Ives might be a popular destination to consider in the future.

#### **L21 23/24 Ideas for Skate Park Donation**

FDC had contacted the Clerk to ask how the Town Council would like to spend £750 that had been raised by a skate park group in Chatteris when the Wenny Road Recreation Ground skatepark was planned. The park had been funded by grants, section 106 funds and FDC and the £750 had not been needed.

The Clerk told members the youngsters had been excited when a local, well known graffiti artist had tagged the skatepark shortly after it opened. That tag was now faded and she suggested inviting along a graffiti artist to help the youngsters redecorate the skatepark might be popular.

Members agreed his would be the best idea. They rejected alternative ideas of purchasing skating equipment for local schools or running a skate event with pro type skaters.

#### **L22 23/24 Old Telephone Kiosk Defibrillator Quotation**

The Clerk had sought quotes to install a defibrillator in the old telephone kiosk in Wood Street which had been adopted by the Council. The problem was the electricity had been cut off from the kiosk and most defibrillators needed a power source. The Clerk had obtained a quote for a defibrillator package which did not require electricity but at £2,420 plus VAT it was over twice the cost of a normal defibrillator.

Members asked about the on-going costs of such a system and Cllr Joyce suggested EDF would be able to reconnect the electricity supply to the telephone kiosk. The Clerk agreed to make more enquiries.

## **L23 23/24 Any Other Business**

Pavement Licence: An email had been received from a business owner in Chatteris concerned that she was required to renew her pavement licence at a cost of £100 and asking why FDC found it necessary to impose more expense on hospitality. The business owner said she had placed tables and chairs outside her property, beneath a Grade II listed awning, without incident up until 2020 but was now being forced to pay for a pavement licence. Initially the licence was free. Councillors queried why the licence was required when the area where the tables and chairs were located appeared to be part of the curtilage of the shop. It was also agreed to query why the licence had to be renewed every year and why it couldn't last for 3 years.

Slow Ways: The Clerk had been contacted about the Slow Ways national walking network which aimed to connect all of Britain's towns, cities and national parks. The website showed 6 routes linking Chatteris to other towns and villages had been identified – these were walking links to March, Ely, Willingham, Ramsey, St Ives and Whittlesey. Help was needed to review the routes. Cllr Ashley suggested passing the email on to the U3A walking group and said she would also ask her son for help while he was out running.

Underpass: Cllr Ashley reported the underpass mural was very dirty. Most of the paintwork was in a reasonable state but needed to be cleaned by an agent which did not remove the paint. The Clerk suggested asking probation if they could help if the Council supplied the cleaning materials. Cllr Unwin said In Bloom could supply water barrels and the Clerk said she would research the correct cleaning material.

Trees: The Clerk had been notified that a tree survey carried out on behalf of FDC, had picked up some significant defects in a row of Plane trees on the boundary of the cemetery, overhanging the footpath in New Road. Urgent works would be carried out to remove dead wood in case part of the trees fell on a car or pedestrian. A full climbing inspection of the trees would also be carried out to establish the extent of further works and possible removal of the trees. Members accepted the work was necessary but said if removed the trees should be replaced or there would be flooding problems in the cemetery - which had been subject to flooding in the past.

## **L24 23/24 Date of Next Meeting**

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2023.