

Main points arising: Policing update/ Youth Coordinator update/ Youth Council/ Adult Health and Wellbeing Coordinator update/ COPS budget for 2014/15/ Poynton's CCTV Network

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY, ORDER AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE HELD AT 8PM ON MONDAY 19TH NOVEMBER 2013 AT THE, CIVIC HALL, POYNTON

PRESENT

Chairman: Cllr Mrs J Saunders

Cllrs M Beanland, L A Clarke, I Hollingworth, Ms R Horsman, Cllr P Hoyland, A Smith

44. Apologies for Absence

Cllrs Mrs J Sewart and Mrs I Thornton-Maddocks

45. Declarations of Interest

None

46. Minutes of the previous meetings held on 14th and 21st October 2013

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meetings held on 14th and 21st October 2013 be approved as correct records and signed by the Chairman (6 – 1 abs, and 6-1 abs respectively)

47. Policing Update

Sgt Adam Alexander provided a verbal policing update in the absence of Insp. Griffiths.

There were five burglaries from October to mid-November, of which two have ongoing enquiries. There was no particular trend to these. There were two reported incidents of shoplifting in the same period, both on Park Lane – one of those involved was detained. There has been an increase in distraction thefts, with two mobile phones stolen from licensed premises in the last week. The police have delivered flyers to cafes, bars and other businesses, explaining how these thefts take place, and encouraging people to keep their property safe.

Some doorbells were stolen around Halloween, there had been some thefts from vehicles, a handful of anti-social behaviour type incidents involving egg and pumpkin (!) throwing. The victims of these incidents had been visited by the police, for

reassurance, and will be visited at the time of next year's Halloween. Prior to Halloween the police had also called on those shops selling eggs and flour.

Two traffic operations had been undertaken, on 28th October and today, with various tickets issued as a result. The smart SID was currently located on London Road North.

Crime Prevention Days had taken place outside Waitrose on 22nd and 26th October – this was a better location than Park Lane.

Cllr Alex Smith asked for an update on the police acquiring a new smart phone that would enable them to Tweet about their local activity and operations. Sgt Alexander said there had been a delay in getting the new mobile, but he was hoping to get some information on this tomorrow. Cllr Mrs Saunders said this was not acceptable while Cllr Clarke asked if it were possible to send Tweets from a desktop PC. Sgt Alexander said it was, but that the PCSOs would need to be at the police station to do this. He committed to increasing Tweeting activity, and to sending out more live Tweets.

Asked about the new police station on School Lane, Sgt Alexander said the IT team were there, and it should open w/c 25th November. Cllr Hollingworth spoke of travellers being in evidence around the Rising Sun at Hazel Grove, but Sgt Alexander said he was not aware of this. He went on to say that there was no intelligence about any traveller activity in Poynton, adding that it would be unusual for them to be looking to set up new camps in the winter. Cllr Hollingworth also spoke about some suspicious activity around the Coppice involving 4x4 vehicles that departed the scene at great speed when spotted. Sgt Alexander advised householders to ring 999 if the activity was ongoing, or 101 if reporting after the event. On a last point, Cllr Hollingworth said there had been three instances of fly tipping – two on the Coppice and one on Moggie Lane (Adlington).

Cllr Clarke asked about any drug offences being committed in Poynton. Sgt Alexander said he had not picked up any from previous reports, that there was no real issue in terms of the monthly reports, and no particular problem at the moment. Cllr Clarke asked if there was any indication that dealers from Manchester were targeting pubs, clubs or the High School, and was there any strategy in place for monitoring this? Sgt Alexander said visits were paid to licensed premises, and they can check for cocaine. The police had engaged with the High School today. Sgt Alexander monitored intelligence reports in terms of locations and individuals, but the intelligence did not support any claim that there is a serious drug problem in Poynton. The Sergeant encouraged anyone with information on drugs to report it. There followed some conversation about the amount of small 'snap bags' that used to be found around Poynton, with general agreement that the number of these had diminished considerably in recent times.

Cllr Mrs Saunders informed members of a Cheshire PCC meeting for council representatives in Middlewich on 9th December 2013. She was not able to attend, and asked the Clerk to circulate details to all members.

Sgt Alexander concluded his report by informing members about a police Agile Working project, on a two month trial, whereby PCSOs would log on at various locations around Poynton to file their reports, rather than have to return to the station every time. These locations were confined to public buildings, and included the High School, primary schools, the Civic Hall and the Library.

RESOLVED: That the verbal policing report be received with thanks (NC)

48. Update from the Youth Coordinator

Erica Adkins spoke to her report. Cllr Hollingworth asked if there had been any feedback concerning the Friday Divert activity. Erica said that football was popular, and Sports Officer Keith Rogers had given it some structure. Basketball was also scheduled, but the young people only wanted a space to play football. Cllr Hollingworth said this initiative had got off to a great start, but PCSO Chris Luke and Erica could not be there every Friday night – nor was this their remit. Cllr Hoyland asked how this scheme could be encouraged to continue. Erica said they had tried, but volunteers already gave so much of their time. Cllr Mrs Saunders asked about the faith groups – could volunteers not be sought from the churches?

RESOLVED: That the Youth Coordinator's update be received (NC)

49. Youth Council

The Chairman gave members a few minutes to read to written report submitted by the Town Council's Youth Coordinator, Erica Adkins (see attached). Cllr Alex Smith thanked Erica for a clear and concise report, with which he also agreed. Cllr Clarke commented that a Youth Council based on the Congleton model would require a lot of resource, when the Town Council staff were already busy. There would also be an administration overhead. Cllr Saunders said that we were already actively involving young people, and that their involvement in tangible activities would read well on their cv. Such involvement would make them accountable, and projects also have an end point.

RESOLVED: That the written report be received, and that the Town Council proceeds on the basis suggested in it (NC)

50. Adult Health and Wellbeing Coordinator

Members were provided with hard copies of a presentation given to the Poynton LAP, which summarised the main initiatives that Trish Hill was involved with. It was agreed that the successful Older Peoples Day that she had organised should be publicised in the Poynton Post.

RESOLVED: That the presentation be received and that the Town Council's thanks be passed to Trish for her hard work in organising the recent Older Peoples Day (NC)

51. Provisional 2014/15 Budget for COPS

The Clerk had circulated a report and this explained that there was very little change proposed for the COPS budget in the next Financial Year.

RESOLVED: That the report be received (NC)

52. Poynton's CCTV Network

Cllr Mrs Saunders spoke to the letter she had written to Peter Hartwell at CE, challenging their request for the Town Council to pay for the repair and maintenance of its CCTV network, at an annual cost of £11,000. Cllr Alex Smith asked if CE were forcing us down this route, and it was explained that funding CCTV was not a statutory requirement of the local authority. Cllr Clarke felt that they nevertheless had an obligation to control crime and disorder, and to work with the police. Cllr Mrs Saunders remarked that we were living in straitened times, adding that there does however need to be a level playing field – who would be paying for Macclesfield's network, for example, given that they are unparished? She continued that our residents would need to feel assured that the police have been consulted.

Cllr Alex Smith insisted that we needed a written response to Cllr Mrs Saunders' letter to CE. This stance was supported by Cllr Hoyland, who went on to say that we should be proactive on this, and not just wait for a response, which could then represent a fait accompli. Cllr Hoyland suggested that Cllr Mrs Saunders arrange an early meeting with the CE Portfolio Holder, Cllr Les Gilbert, which she agreed to do.

RESOLVED: To note action taken under SO 51 regarding action taken with CE, and that Cllr Mrs Saunders seeks an early meeting with the CE Portfolio Holder, Cllr Les Gilbert (NC)

The meeting concluded at 9.05pm

Discussion regarding a Poynton Youth Council – Proposed Resolution.

At the last COPS meeting Congleton Youth Council presented to us and we had a Q&A about how their Youth Council works. It was suggested that this be a separate agenda item at this, the next COPS meeting. I have provided the slides the Youth Council used and the questions and answers from the last meeting are included too. Some copies of their 2012 report will also be made available at COPS.

Since the meeting I have met with Cllr Jos Saunders and the Clerk to discuss the idea. We have considered the importance of having a youth voice and the different ways in which this could be achieved in Poynton while at the same time ensuring it is not merely tokenistic.

I have concerns surrounding the amount of time it would take to establish and coordinate a full Youth Council as presented by Congleton. Therefore my suggestion, with support from Malcolm and Jos, would be that we ensure young people's views and time are incorporated into existing projects or new ones. We could have a group of young people as a focus group for consultation and regular events – such as the Christmas Fest, the Family Sports Festival and funding bids. The composition of such a group would be flexible, depending on who comes forward, and their particular interests. By doing this we are engaging with young people and providing tangible opportunities for them to be actively involved. If those young people then identify an issue or project they themselves would like to work on this could be taken further. I would welcome your thoughts on this idea.

**Erica Adkins
Youth Coordinator**

12th November 2013