

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY, ORDER AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE HELD AT 8PM ON MONDAY 25TH FEBRUARY 2013 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC HALL, POYNTON

PRESENT

Chairman: Cllr Mrs J Saunders

Cllrs. M Beanland, L A Clarke, R Horsman, P Hoyland, Mrs J Sewart, A Smith and Mrs I Thornton-Maddocks

Attending under SO53: Cllr H Murray, M Sewart and R West

Also Attending: Inspector Steve Griffiths

PART A

67. Apologies for Absence

None

68. Absent

Cllr B Lewis

69. Declarations of Interest/Requests for Dispensation

None

70. Minutes of the previous meeting of 28th January 2013

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 28th January 2013 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman (NC)

71. Action under SO 16(c) – Any Other Business

The Clerk informed members of the meeting that an issue had arisen last week after the agenda packs had been issued. The issue concerns the lack of parking enforcement in Poynton, and was felt to be urgent enough to include in tonight's agenda. The Mayor was therefore approached under SO 16(c), and ruled that this item could be included - the Clerk had received written confirmation of this.

RESOLVED: That the issue of parking enforcement is approved as item 8 under 'Any Other Business' on this agenda (NC)

72. Youth Co-ordinator's Update

The Youth Co-ordinator, Erica Adkins spoke to her written update. She began by reporting on the Bike Marking Day held on Saturday 23rd February. She and PCSO Chris Luke were both present and marked about 20 bikes. Erica noted that many residents complimented the PCSO's on their work around the village generally. Cllr Murray mentioned that he had arrived at 2.20pm with his bike but there was no one present. The Youth Co-ordinator explained that the event was from noon to 3 pm but given the extremely cold and snowy weather they finished earlier at 1.30pm. Cllr Murray simply commented that in future it might be best to continue until the time advertised.

On International Women's Day, Friday 8th March, Cllr A Smith enquired after the expected outcome/s of the event. The Youth Co-ordinator explained that the outcomes included raising money for Oxfam, promoting members of the community, recognition of the work of women in Poynton and an opportunity to promote the Youth Co-ordinator's role and work in the community.

RESOLVED: That the written and verbal report from the Youth Co-ordinator is received with thanks (NC)

73. Policing update

Insp. Griffiths began by updating the meeting on a spate of recent burglaries in Poynton. Some were within the same area and the police have been talking to residents and gathering more information. Insp. Griffiths said that frustratingly only two of the nine properties had house alarms. The police have made leaflet drops in the relevant areas to help raise awareness and have arranged extra patrols. Insp. Griffiths added that burglar alarms can act as a deterrent and are relatively inexpensive.

Insp. Griffiths reported that in February there have been three offences of shoplifting. Two were at Asda and one at Waitrose, about two weeks apart. This month there have also been five road traffic collisions on Middlewood Road, London Road South, Yew Tree Lane, Woodford Road and Chester Road. No, or only minor injuries were sustained.

There were four reported incidents of ASB. Two were neighbour disputes and two as a result of noise from house parties.

Officers have attended several sessions of the Gateway project and PCSO Chris Luke attended the bike marking event held on the 23rd February.

The Chairman explained that following an informal meeting with the PCSO's they were asked which three things would make their job easier. One item they mentioned was to stop giving warnings for obstruction on Park Lane and instead do something about it. The Chairman said that previously it had been agreed that a policy of zero tolerance had already been introduced on Park Lane. Insp. Griffiths agreed and said that was his understanding too. He confirmed he would look into

why only warnings and not Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) were being issued. The Chairman asked for assurance from Insp. Griffiths that a zero tolerance policy would be applied and Insp. Griffiths gave it. Cllr A Smith asked for monthly statistics of warnings given and FPNs issued. Insp. Griffiths explained that no FPNs were issued this month, only warnings. However, for warnings there are no forms and therefore no information can be collated. The Chairman explained that from experience many different approaches have been tried concerning parking enforcement in Poynton, and the Town Council are very keen and expect continuation of the zero tolerance policy. The Chairman requested that at the next meeting Insp. Griffiths provides details of the FPNs issued. This is for anywhere in Poynton where there is parking obstruction. Cllr Murray confirmed that this issue has been launched many times before and enforcement is essential. The Chairman clarified the parking situation in Poynton for Insp. Griffiths, explaining that there is free parking in and around Poynton, and more car parking now than ever before.

Cllr A Smith raised the issue of PCSO Tweets. The Chairman noted that PCSO's are currently using their personal phones to Tweet and asked about progress on obtaining official mobile phones for them. Insp. Griffiths replied that the upgrading/changing of mobile phones is in hand. Cllr Hoyland also noted that in his experience there may be problems with the Vodafone signal generally.

Cllr A Smith asked how best to ensure and heighten the visibility of the PCSO's. Insp. Griffiths explained that for example PCSO's begin by visiting an estate investigating for instance cold calling issues and in this way they are also visible to residents and others. Their priorities are dictated by the location of the issues and they then spend their default time dealing with parking and other issues. Cllr A Smith suggested that encouraging PCSO's to Tweet while they are on an estate would be very useful. The Chairman also suggested that PCSO's should make their presence known along Park Lane when they first start a shift, as a matter of routine. Insp. Griffiths agreed with this initial visibility.

RESOLVED: That details of all parking FPNs are provided at the next meeting; that PCSO's provide regular morning, afternoon and evening Tweets with an emphasis on policing issues; that PCSO's patrol Park Lane as part of their routine, first thing in the morning; and that the policing update from Insp. Griffiths be received with thanks (NC)

74. Parking Enforcement

The Chairman stated that the current level of parking enforcement in Poynton, based on recent sight of a ten week rota, is completely unsatisfactory. The Chairman invited views on how to take this further. The Clerk suggested that one possibility is to task the Operations Manager to go out at random times in a chosen week and log the number of contraventions. Also when that week is decided the Clerk could inform members who could also log and report similar information as they go out and about in the village. The only detail required would be the type of vehicle, location, and time. This activity would provide a snapshot of offences in a typical week and the information forwarded to Cheshire East to challenge their assertion about low levels of contravention.

Cllr A Smith commented that the traffic warden would gain different results depending on whether they visited at a peak or a quiet time of the day. He suggested it would be best for the warden to first visit at a peak time in the areas that are known to be problematic.

Cllr Murray quoted the "Traffic Regulation Orders..." that are mentioned in the e-mail correspondence from Cheshire East. This is problematic since Poynton does not actually have many Traffic Regulation Orders. Traffic wardens are sent to places where there are car parks that charge and areas that have many double yellow lines. Cllr Murray said that Poynton does not fall into the measures outlined.

Cllr Clarke said that it would be worth the Operations Manager gathering evidence to monitor the hot spots such as Queensway, outside the Post Office and School Lane.

Cllr A Smith noted that similar to the issue with CCTV, Council Tax payers should have some kind of Service Level Agreement.

RESOLVED: That the correspondence is received; that the Operations Manager gathers evidence as suggested; that the Clerk after consultation with the Chairman reply to Mr Burns at Cheshire East pointing out that the service is supported by the Council Tax and that the level of service in Poynton falls well short of that warranted (7 – 1 abs)

PART B

(The public and the media are excluded from this part of the agenda – Poynton Town Council's Standing Order 69 (vii) refers – any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime)

PART B EXCLUDED FROM THE PUBLIC RECORD

The meeting concluded at 9.30pm