

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY, ORDER AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE HELD AT 8PM ON MONDAY 28TH JANUARY 2013 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC HALL, POYNTON

PRESENT

Chairman: Cllr Mrs J Saunders

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

Attending under SO53: Cllrs I Hollingworth and Mrs S Horsman

Also Attending: Insp. Steve Griffiths

PART A

As this was the first Council meeting to be attended by Cllr Hollingworth since his election on 20th December 2012, the Chairman asked the meeting to note his Declaration of Acceptance of Office. Cllr Clarke felt that the correct procedure according to the Standing Orders would be for the Declaration to be authorised by the Town Council. The Clerk explained that the Declaration of Acceptance of Office had been signed by Cllr Hollingworth on 10th January 2013, in the presence of the Clerk, who had also signed it, so Cllr Hollingworth was a Councillor from that date. The Declaration was only to be noted at this meeting, and would be noted again (not authorised) at the next Town Council meeting, so that all Members were aware.

RESOLVED: That the Declaration of Acceptance of Office signed by Cllr Hollingworth on 10th January 2013 is noted (6 - 1 against)

57. Apologies for Absence

Cllr A Smith

58. Absent

Cllr B Lewis

59. Declarations of Interest/Requests for Dispensation

None

60. Minutes of the previous meeting of 10th December 2012

Page 176, item 53 – Cllr Mrs Sewart asked if a meeting had been held with the Round Table regarding the parking issues that were raised at their bonfire night

event last November. The Clerk confirmed that the Round Table had been approached on at least two occasions, and an offer of a meeting made. Sgt Warren is more than happy to address them but they have yet to get back to the Clerk to agree a date.

Page 177 – Cllr Mrs Sewart asked if the issue of illegal parking on Park Lane has been publicised in the police newsletter and the PUN as suggested at the last meeting. The Clerk confirmed that this features regularly in the PUN. Similarly, Insp. Griffiths has noted this, and it will feature regularly in the police newsletter too.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 10th December 2012 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman (6 – 1 abs)

Questions from Members of the Public

Mr David Acres
22 Lindisfarne Drive

Mr Acres, a resident of the Glastonbury Estate, raised his concern about the problems associated with exiting right from Glastonbury Drive towards Poynton, since a blind bend is involved. This road is the estate's only entrance and exit. There have so far been two accidents at this junction. Mr Acres felt that drivers fear crossing the two lane London Road North, particularly because traffic travels slowly through Poynton and then speeds up, leading to drivers travelling at excessive speeds through the bend past the Glastonbury junction.

Mr Acres' personal suggestion is that a roundabout or traffic lights should be introduced at this junction. An alternative would be to turn left out of Glastonbury Drive and then right through Anglesey Drive and right again onto South Park Drive and back into Poynton. He also added that the 30 mph sign could be moved further up past Glastonbury Drive, and that he would be pleased to meet with anyone for a site visit.

The Chairman explained that this is not the Committee that tends to deal with highway issues – this is generally the remit of the FIED Committee. Nevertheless, with Insp. Griffiths present this evening, who has considerable experience of traffic matters, the Chairman felt that some of Mr Acres' concerns could be directly addressed by the Inspector. Following that discussion it may be that this matter is then referred to the FIED Committee.

Insp. Griffiths explained that because he is not familiar with this junction he would need to begin by visiting the site. He would also need to consider the accident statistics and to better understand this junction from a policing perspective. Cllr Clarke felt that this has always been a dangerous road, especially when cars are turning right to travel into Poynton. He suggested the use of a police speed gun perhaps at the end of Vicarage Lane where cars tend to start speeding. Cllr Hoyland said he would be pleased to meet with Mr Acres. The Chairman suggested that Insp. Griffiths and Cllr Hoyland meet together for a site visit, and that Cllr Hoyland could help take this forward through the FIED Committee.

Cllr Mrs Sewart confirmed that sometime during May 2011 – May 2012 when she was chairing a meeting, another resident from the Glastonbury Estate attended the then Parks, Buildings and Highways Committee and as a consequence of that discussion the matter was referred to Cheshire East. At that meeting Cllr Murray explained that as part of the Shared Space scheme a roundabout had been considered, but that some residents of the Glastonbury Estate had complained that they did not want a roundabout, so this idea was therefore not pursued.

61. Policing Update

Insp. Steve Griffiths, Macclesfield Neighbourhood Policing Team, commenced his update with the work that the PCSO's have been conducting in the local primary schools. They have also given presentations on issues of home security, which will continue. A Driver Engagement Day was held last Friday, based at the entrance to the Poynton Sports Club. During this time 14 cars were stopped, and these included 3 for excessive speeds, 7 for no seatbelts and 4 for using mobile phones. All of the offenders opted to watch the road safety video instead of a being ticketed. Operation Seabrook is a police operation that targets mobile phone users and this continues too.

Insp. Griffiths informed the meeting of the recent doorstep crime and cold calling. On 18th January 2013 three vehicles were seized from rogue traders. The police are working with Trading Standards to ensure that they are supported. Insp. Griffiths confirmed that this issue is being taken seriously and the police are currently discussing ways forward.

On community links, the PCSO's worked with Poynton High School and the children have been assisting with gritting the pathways outside the primary schools. The community links work will continue until Easter. A bike marking day will be held on 23rd February 2013 on Park Lane.

Shed burglaries have taken place in the Tapley/Vernon Road area. There was also a burglary on London Road and Brookfield Avenue.

The Chairman commented on the cold calling that has been of detriment of residents. She has spoken to Insp. Griffiths and they agree that prevention is the best policy. This means that our PCSO's should maintain a high profile and are seen and known to the local community so that residents have the confidence to approach them. The Chairman mentioned the three knocks and then a call policy which Sgt Warren had introduced previously. This meant that residents felt safe and confident to call the non-emergency telephone numbers with any intelligence. Cllr Mrs Sewart asked if the No Cold Calling zone could be extended to include Oak Grove. The Chairman explained that from her understanding data is required to forward to Trading Standards for a decision to designate an area a No Cold Calling zone. Insp. Griffiths noted Cllr Mrs Sewart's comments on Oak Grove. In discussion Councillors pointed out the intimidating nature of some cold callers. Insp. Griffiths agreed that there is a need to assess the police presence, especially for vulnerable residents.

With regard to the Driver Engagement Day, Cllr Mrs Horsman said that watching the police video would not be a suitable deterrent for drivers re-offending. Insp. Griffiths explained that a driving licence check is undertaken instantly, and this provides information on any previous offence, in which case the driver is given a ticket rather than the option of the video.

RESOLVED: That the Inspector's verbal policing update, including that given under PART B, be received, with thanks (NC)

62. 'No Cold Calling' Zones

The Chairman provided the background to this item to consider a request for match funding for a PR/awareness campaign in Poynton's existing 'No Cold Calling' Zones. She explained that Sgt Warren had informed her that there is a need to increase the profile and awareness of this campaign. He had happened to mention this before the recent spate of cold calling incidents. The match funding of £125 by the Town Council would fund a supply of stickers which residents can place in their windows or porches. Sgt Warren had said that this was sufficient to cover all the homes in Poynton's No Cold Calling zones, with enough to hand out at crime prevention events too. The Chairman confirmed that this will be in addition to heightening the awareness and increasing the police profile as discussed earlier in this meeting. Cllr Beanland asked what phone numbers will be included on the stickers. The Chairman replied that she will ask Sgt Warren if the police non-emergency 101 number could be displayed.

RESOLVED: That the report on match funding for a new supply of 'No Cold Calling' stickers is received, and that funding for up to £125 is approved for this purpose (NC)

63. Youth Co-ordinator, Erica Adkins' Work Plan for 2013

Family Fun Day

There will be a Family Fun Day which will be held on Saturday 29th June 2013. Erica explained that she is very keen to establish a legacy from this event.

Youth Safety Project

Cllr Mrs Saunders noted the success of the Youth Safety Project.

Safeguarding

The Youth Co-ordinator informed the meeting that she will be attending a meeting tomorrow on safeguarding. She will then be better informed of the new VBS, the vetting and barring which takes over from the existing CRB check.

International Women's Day

Erica informed the meeting that Oxfam have identified Poynton as a hotspot and a coffee morning to mark International's Women Day will be held on Friday 8th March 2013 at Wetherspoon's.

The Chairman queried the benefits this brings to Poynton. The Youth Co-ordinator replied that it is a way of building communication between community groups. It is also an intergenerational event and a celebration of women in Poynton. The Clerk added that this recognises the work of people such as Chris Norbury and their efforts in the community. Cllr Mrs Sewart voiced her concern and asked whether this was within the Town Council remit to be seen to be effectively sponsoring one organisation. This was specifically with reference to mention of raising money for Oxfam. The Clerk clarified that there was no problem in the Town Council promoting an International Women's Day. The Clerk said that he needs to be clearer on the role that Oxfam is playing in this, and he will work with the Youth Co-ordinator to better understand their connection and involvement. Cllr Hoyland said that it would be helpful to identify the local benefit. The Clerk confirmed that the event identifies and recognises the work of women who have played a prominent role in their local community.

Cllr Mrs Sewart congratulated Erica Adkins on her report and work. She was particularly pleased with the fact that the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme is going from strength to strength.

RESOLVED: That the report from Erica Adkins, Youth Co-ordinator is received (NC)

64. Poynton's bus services

The Chairman provided a brief regarding Poynton's new bus services. She explained that following a meeting with the Portfolio Holder there will now be an east/west bus service called the P1, which also links the three railway stations. This will be an hourly service which is a huge improvement, particularly for the west. However, Cheshire East had developed a route which did not travel through the centre of Poynton, and this was contrary to what was originally agreed. The Chairman therefore met with the Portfolio Holder and two of the officers involved this afternoon. They have agreed that there had been an error. The route is now being revised. The bus service will remain hourly and will travel down Middlewood/Green Lane/Coppice Road taking a left at Clumber Road and then travel down Dickens Road, with the same journey in reverse (via Bulkeley Road).

This has now been agreed and the bus company will be informed of this change in writing by tomorrow at the latest. They then have to inform the Commissioner of Transport for the North West. The Commissioner of Transport can then either agree to this immediately, or stipulate a notice period of 56 days. The Chairman said that representation is being made to them that this comes into effect at the beginning of March 2013. The Chairman should receive the agreement of change by the middle or end of next week. The Chairman reiterated that this change will happen.

The other change has been an evening extension to the timetable, with the last bus from Hazel Grove Station for commuters now departing at 19.37hrs.

The Chairman added that the evening extension to this service has been agreed for one year as a pilot, on a "use it or lose it" basis. The Town Council have she said

done their level best on this matter, and this is good news for Poynton. The bus service has gone from twice-daily in the west and two hourly in the east, to a service which is hourly and serves the train stations too.

Following discussion of the route the Chairman confirmed that the bus travels through Fountain Place. Cllr Hoyland said that this is an ideal service to access doctor's surgeries, and passes all estates. The siting of bus stops will be discussed with the Portfolio Holder.

Cllr Mrs Sewart thanked the Cheshire East Councillors for their efforts and proposed that the report is accepted.

RESOLVED: That the report is received, with thanks to the Cheshire East Councillors involved for their efforts (NC)

(PART B of the record removed - the public and the media were 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)

Meeting End Time: 9.25 pm