

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY, ORDER AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE HELD AT 8PM ON MONDAY 14TH OCTOBER 2013 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC HALL, POYNTON

PRESENT

Chairman: Cllr Mrs J Saunders

Cllrs M Beanland, L A Clarke, I Hollingworth, Ms R Horsman, Mrs J Sewart, A Smith and Mrs I Thornton-Maddocks

Attending under SO54: Cllr H Murray substituting for Cllr P Hoyland

Attending under SO56: Cllrs G Bartos and Mrs S Horsman

PART A

31. Apologies for Absence

Cllr P Hoyland

32. Declarations of Interest

None

33. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 9th September 2013

Page 81 – The Chairman asked if there had been any feedback on the issue of laptops with which Cllr West had offered to assist. The Deputy Clerk said he was not aware of anything to date. The Chairman asked for the request for laptops to be included in the next PUN.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 9th September 2013 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman (4 – 4 abs)

34. Presentation by representatives of Congleton Youth Council

The Youth Co-ordinator Erica Adkins introduced the members of the Congleton Youth Council attending, including Cllr Sally Holland, to the Committee. The members included Linda, Tom, Catherine and Joe Hearson. Joe Hearson gave the presentation, explaining in some detail the role of their Council. He said they are currently working with Fiona Bruce to help raise the issue of drugs in schools and the community. The presentation was followed by questions and answers from Councillors.

Cllr H Murray

Q. A Youth Council has previously been tried in Poynton without success. What are the key factors that make your Youth Council successful?

A. The Congleton Youth Council has been established for 5 years now. Initially it started with a junior council on an informal basis in primary schools for Years 5 and 6. This was then formalised into a Youth Council. Presentations were given in schools from which a core of people joined. A critical factor is that there is no budget available.

Q. You claim to represent the youth of Congleton, how can you claim this legitimately?

A. Some 500 young people were interviewed in the town to find out their views, and the Council does therefore claim to represent Congleton youth.

Cllr Mrs J Sewart

Q. What is the age range of members of the Youth Council?

A. 11 – 18 years old, although it has been up to 20 years old and originally started with an age range of 13 years.

Q. Every school has a School Council – does the Youth Council liaise with the School Councils?

A. Yes, and the Youth Council give presentations to gain membership.

Q. What do you do about the youth of Congleton who do not attend the two main high schools in Congleton?

A. We also include a local college and South Cheshire college. The constitution is drawn up so that representatives from both high schools and representatives that attend outside the town are included.

Q. Do you liaise with the primary schools and Years 5 and 6?

A. Yes, although this is done on a more informal basis.

Cllr G Bartos

Q. How open/trusting are the youth?

Q. What percentage of goals are achieved?

A. One of the main aims of the Youth Council was to encourage youth involvement in local politics. The meetings are open and reported in the press. Cllr Sally Holland said that as a Councillor for 10 years she has been delighted with the progress and involvement of the Youth Council in only 5 years. At the start of the process there were Councillors who felt that the Youth Council should not be part of the Council.

A Youth Council can engage with youth in your town. At present the Congleton Youth Council is coming on in leaps and bounds.

Cllr A Smith

Q. Has the Youth Council experience made you more or less likely to want to become councillors?

Q. What are the pros/cons and lessons learnt from your experience in the Youth Council?

A. On the down side the time commitment - given the number of meetings that you are required to attend. Also this has to be juggled with exams although this is taken into account for the timing of meetings and events.

On the plus side, getting involved in local politics. Having one of the youngest Mayors who has then gone on to become a Town Councillor. The Youth Council brings a younger element into Civic events and encourages this in other youth. The Youth Council is thriving now and we are even having to turn away members, although they can still attend the meetings.

Cllr Mrs J Saunders

Q. In relation to drug awareness - How do you ensure that you are not repeating what other agencies are already doing such as school liaison etc?

A. It is apparent that the work of other agencies is not always effective. The goal of the Youth Council was to bring new ideas to the issue of drugs. The fact that the issue of drugs has come from the youth of Congleton themselves and they also recognise this is a problem makes them want to do something about it. The Youth Council then involve Cheshire Police and Fire. This was also to have someone present who has witnessed incidents first hand. The Youth Council do also liaise with those same agencies.

Cllr Mrs J Sewart

Q. Do you have a youth contact person that a young person experiencing difficulties can contact or do they have to go through an adult?

A. We have the youth website, they can contact the Youth Council and they could discuss and consider whether to contact an adult.

The committee members agreed that this was an excellent and very informative presentation and the Chairman thanked the Youth Council on behalf of the Poynton Town Council.

The Chairman asked if this issue was worth pursuing ? Following discussion it was proposed that this is included as an agenda item to be considered at the next meeting in November; that the slide presentation and questions and answers are

provided to the committee members; that a copy of the Youth Council file is also included in the packs. Information about why the Youth Council did not work in Poynton previously should be included too.

RESOLVED: That discussion of a Youth Council is included as an agenda item at the November COPS meeting; that the pack for committee members includes the slide presentation, questions and answers from this meeting, a copy of the Congleton Youth Council file and information, if available, about why a Youth Council did not previously work in Poynton (NC)

35. Policing Update

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

There were three burglaries during September/October.

On the break in at the Co-Op on School Lane, one male has been arrested and charged. Morrison's had a forced overnight entry and a number of people from the Greater Manchester area have been arrested and are currently on bail.

With bonfire night and Halloween approaching Cllr A Smith asked how these events will be covered? PCSO Alexander confirmed that PCSO shift patterns will be tailored accordingly, and they will work later into the evening to ensure the best coverage.

Crime Prevention day is to be held on 22nd October 2013 on Park Lane. Also a bike marking event will be held in October.

Crime Prevention Day will now be held on Park Lane, near the corner of Costa Coffee. The exact location is to be confirmed. It is planned that the Higher Poynton surgery is moved to the small café on Shrigley Road North near Nelson Pit on a Sunday morning.

Cllr Murray raised the issue of policing for Remembrance Sunday and how this will be managed to avoid problems experienced in the past. Last year it was managed extremely well. PCSO Alexander said that the matter is currently with the events planner and this will be reported back to the Clerk. Cllr Murray asked for this to be reported back to the Town Council to assure everyone that the right steps have been taken to manage the event.

Regarding the new police station, Cllr Clarke asked when this would be occupied. PCSO Alexander said it is hoped by the middle to the end of November. Cllr Clarke requested that the blue lamp is moved to the new police station.

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

36. Youth Co-ordinator's Report

The Youth Co-ordinator Erica Adkins provided a summary of her written report.

PCSO Luke provided information on the Divert Friday. This is to be held on Fridays from 6pm to 8pm. This is for the youth to have somewhere to go before the Connect Group on a Friday night. This will be starting on 25th October for a six week period. A funding bid for £1,000 has been submitted to Cheshire East and Erica Adkins asked if the COPS Committee would be willing to front £150 to cover the cost until the funds are received from CE.

Cllr Murray asked if the funding bid is successful could the £150 be returned to the Town Council.

RESOLVED: That the written report from the Youth Co-ordinator is received with thanks; that the £150 Town Council funding for Divert Friday is approved and the possibility of returning the funds to the Town Council considered if the bid for a Cheshire East grant is successful (NC)

37. Adult Health and Wellbeing Co-ordinator's Report

Trish Hill the Adult Health and Wellbeing Co-ordinator presented her written report.

Older Persons Day

Trish Hill reported on this successful event. The Chairman noted the e-mail she received from Cllr King expressing this was fantastic. Cllr Mrs Horsman suggested that in future the event could be better advertised, and earlier. Cllr A Smith commented on this successful event and suggested that the Town Council build on its success and raise more awareness. The event should also be reported in the next edition of the Poynton Post.

Message in a Bottle

Cllr Murray asked about the volunteers that help those stranded in severe weather. He asked if these volunteers have been included on a Town Council list so they are covered under the insurance. The Deputy Clerk explained that he and the Clerk will shortly be attending a CE course on developing the Town Council resilience plan for any winter/natural disaster emergency, and are developing a system to put into place.

Men in Sheds

Trish Hill explained that concentrating on developing the Men in Sheds in future is important and finding a suitable venue is a key issue. The suggested venue at the Anson is probably unsuitable and a bit too far removed. Cllr Murray suggested investigating a venue at the former Vernon Infants School.

RESOLVED: That the report is received with thanks (NC)

38. Cycling event in Poynton

The Mayor presented his written brief concerning his proposal for a cycling event in Poynton. This is a community and family event with refreshments and trophies. He thanked Cllr Murray for his help in preparing the report.

Cllr Mrs Sewart thanked the Mayor for his informative report and proposed that the recommendations are approved. This includes forming a Working Group with a remit as specified and to prepare a feasibility study.

RESOLVED: That the written report from the Mayor is received and the recommendations therein approved (NC)

39. Smart phone for use by the PCSO's

RESOLVED: That action taken under SO 51 regarding Town Council funding for the rental of a smart phone for use by the PCSOs is noted (NC)

40. Consultation on future plans for the Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service

Committee members noted and considered a Town Council response to a 12 week consultation on future plans for the Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service. Cllr Mrs Sewart suggested that the survey details are included in the PUN. Cllr Murray noted that he understands there might not be full time night cover provided to the area and this concern should be logged. Cllr Clarke said that this issue should be raised with Macclesfield and under the proposal for Macclesfield - "introduce a new crewing system for the main fire engine during 2014/15" asked what this actually means and will it impact on 24 hour cover. He said this point can certainly be raised in relation to the Macclesfield fire station. Cllr Clarke proposed that the Town Council respond and raise this particular point and include this information in the PUN.

RESOLVED: That the Town Council respond to the consultation on future plans for the Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service, raising the point about night cover as discussed (NC)

41. Dog Fouling

Cllr Mrs Sewart noted that in general the amount of dog faeces on pavements and grass verges appears to be increasing. Committee members agreed that this is the fault of a minority of dog owners. The Committee discussed the role of dog wardens. Cllr Mrs Sewart suggested that this information is included in the PUN and people are encouraged to ring the PCSO number if they observe a person not picking up their dog litter.

The Deputy Clerk pointed out in regard to the particular e-mail complaint that there are no signs in the vicinity and only one dog litter bin. One dog litter bin has been removed in the past. The Deputy Clerk will pursue the issue of signage with

Cheshire East. He added that perhaps direct calls from members of the public to PCSOs on this issue might not be the best use of their time. This would need to be discussed with the PCSOs first.

Cllr Clarke proposed that the Deputy Clerk pursues the matter regarding the specific complaint with Cheshire East, the PCSOs and the resident concerned. That this matter is included in the PUN and in general residents be urged to report incidents to the Town Council, which can then be pursued with the police and the Cheshire East Community Enforcement Officers.

RESOLVED: That the complaint regarding dog fouling is noted; that this matter is included in the PUN, and that in general residents are urged to report incidents to the Town Council which can then be pursued with the police and the Cheshire East Community Enforcement Officers.

42. Higher Poynton Summerfest 2013

Cllr Mrs Sewart proposed that the final accounts from the Higher Poynton Summerfest 2013 are received and the profits noted, and to consider if they would require funding for the 2014 event.

RESOLVED: That the final accounts for the Higher Poynton Summerfest 2013 are received (NC)

PART B – Removed from the public record

The public and media are excluded from this part of the agenda on the basis of the Town Council's Standing Order 71 b (vii), namely any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime

The meeting concluded at 9.40pm