

MINUTES OF THE FACILITIES, INFRASTRUCTURE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MEETING HELD AT 8PM ON MONDAY 4TH FEBRUARY 2013 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC HALL, POYNTON.

PRESENT

Chairman: Cllr A Smith

Cllrs G Bartos, I Hollingworth, Ms R Horsman, Mrs S Horsman, G King and Mrs J Sewart

Attending under SO53: Cllrs M Beanland, C Gorst, P Hoyland, H Murray, Mrs J Saunders, Mrs I Thornton-Maddocks and R E West

65. Apologies for absence

Cllr G Smith

66. Absent

Cllr B Lewis

67. Declarations of interest/Requests for Dispensation

None

68. Minutes of the meeting held on 14th January 2013

Cllr Mrs Sewart asked if there was any update regarding the experimental road narrowing on Clifford Road. The Clerk said that both he and the Operations Manager have been pressing Cheshire East, but there have been no developments, other than a general offer to meet with residents, and as of today the situation is unresolved. The Clerk has requested that Cheshire East notify the Town Council when a decision is reached, and before any changes go ahead on the ground.

Regarding IT requirements for the Civic Hall/Library complex, Cllr Mrs Sewart shared the reply she received from Paul Everett of Cheshire East. It states "That with the exception of Crewe, which was part of a trial, we do not currently have WiFi in any of our libraries. However as part of our libraries review we will be consulting the public about what services they value, and if WiFi proves to be popular then we will look at it. The library currently has full public access to computers which will also be increased if there is sufficient demand". The Chairman confirmed with Cllr Mrs Sewart that she will continue to raise this issue and look after this interest through the Committee. The

Clerk added that this item is also included in the list of requirements submitted to Cheshire East.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Additional meeting of the Facilities, Infrastructure and Economic Development Committee held on 14th January 2013 be approved as an accurate record, and signed by the Chairman (6 – 1abs)

69. Operations and Business Update

The Operations and Events Manager, Richard Holland presented highlights from his report.

Chester Road

Parking outside the Post Office – Cllr Mrs Saunders felt that it was important to ensure that developments in this area were in keeping with the Shared Space area, and that unsightly bollards would be inappropriate.

The Operations Manager outlined the possibilities that could be considered to help resolve the parking difficulties this area is experiencing such as street furniture.

Cllr Hoyland appreciated the particular difficulty that the area is experiencing but said that this problem should be considered in the context of the comprehensive Poynton parking review, and the Shared Space area considered as a whole. There was no reason, he said, to have a particular response to one zone. It would be better to get a consolidated response to the whole problem.

Cllr Mrs Sewart explained that that particular stretch of the road had been used for parking for a very long time, but it reverted to pavement when they reconfigured the junction of Chester Road with Burton Drive. So the mindset of people is that they can park there because they have been used to doing so. Cllr Mrs Sewart said that in her opinion now that pedestrians can't get past makes this a serious road safety issue far more so than the problems experienced on Park Lane. Even though the current arrangement of traffic cones is unsightly it is effective, but they get discarded and people start to park there again. Road safety should have priority over aesthetics.

Cllr Mrs Sewart proposed that the Operations Manager continues to investigate the possibility of preventing parking in the area of the Post Office and to do this tastefully but effectively. Cllr Hoyland wished to draw Member's attention to the fact that there is a full parking review underway considering the whole area.

RESOLVED: That the Operations Manager continues to investigate the possibility of preventing parking in the area outside the Post Office and to do this tastefully but effectively (5 – 2 against)

Business Awards

Cllr Hoyland noted that this paragraph of the Operations Manager's report, 2.1, should be amended. He said the Business Awards were delayed until 2013/14 because of the limited time the Operations Manager had to get around Poynton businesses, and this should be reflected in the report. Paragraph 2.1 will be amended as requested.

Guard Rails

On discussion of the guard rails at the junctions of Micawber and Curzon Road and the sandy path, Cllr West raised the issue of liabilities. He felt that those that are liable should be held responsible. The Town Council feed into the process as best they can but they are not liable if any incident should occur. In her personal opinion, Cllr Mrs Sewart felt that guard rails might be beneficial across the sandy path at Micawber Road, which is a semi through road, but could not see any requirement for guard rails at Curzon Road. Cllr Hoyland offered to visit the two sites and report back to the Committee.

RESOLVED: Cllr Hoyland leads a site visit to Micawber and Curzon Road and reports back to the next FIED Committee meeting (NC)

RESOLVED: That the Town Council offer the redundant Park Lane street lights to the Anson Museum as a goodwill gesture, and as a means of retaining the lights in Poynton and putting them to good use (NC)

RESOLVED: That the report from the Operations and Events Manager is received with thanks (NC)

70. Poynton Car Parking Review

RESOLVED: That the written report concerning car parking in Poynton is received, with an amendment to detail concerning the various stakeholders/owners (NC)

71. Street Lighting

RESOLVED: That the written briefing material from Kevin Melling, Cheshire East Council, is received (NC)

72. Poynton's Byelaws

The Clerk provided a written update on Poynton's Byelaws. Cllr Murray also provided some detail on the meeting with Cheshire East officers Richard Doran and Kevin Melling.

RESOLVED: That the written brief from the Clerk on Poynton's Byelaws is received (NC)

73. School Lane Revitalisation

Cllr King provided an update concerning the revitalisation of the School Lane retail area. He said confirmation had been received from the Poynton Show organisers that they will make a contribution of around £2,700 for five or perhaps six planters to be located on the pavement outside the shops on School Lane. The shop keepers are fully supportive of this. The owner of the first four units has verbally agreed to arrange for the car park to be resurfaced at some stage, hopefully before the summer, but there is no confirmation of this in writing. The Operations Manager is obtaining quotes to remove the concrete bollards on the shop side of the pavement and reinstate the surface. Cllr King said they are still waiting for the car park entrance to be repaired by Cheshire East.

It is hoped that once the project is completed an event to formally open this refurbished area can be planned, perhaps for early May. The Chairman acknowledged the excellent work of the Working Group led by Cllr King.

RESOLVED: That the verbal update from Cllr King on School Lane Revitalisation is received (NC)

74. Disley to Poynton Cycle route

Cllr Beanland provided the background and a brief update concerning the possibility of a Disley to Poynton cycle route. Cllr Beanland was contacted by Joan Bennett who is keen to create this route, which runs through Lyme Park. She has made contact with Disley PC and has met with Sustrans. She is also arranging to meet with other contacts including David Morgan, National Trust Manager at Lyme Park, David Kidd, the Chairman of Disley Parish Council and Cllr Murray. Sustrans are in favour of the idea and National Trust does have a policy of promoting cycling in the area.

Cllr Beanland explained that the problem faced by the Disley cyclists and those in the area is that when the A6 to Manchester Relief Road is built they will be short of access. Cycle improvements are certainly necessary and there are a number of options yet to be explored. Cllr Beanland explained that the group is seeking support from the various agencies concerned such as Sustrans, Disley Parish Council and hopefully, Poynton Town Council, to work

with the National Trust to see if this can then be promoted through the National Trust parks. Cllr Beanland asked whether Poynton Town Council would be willing to give their support to this cycling route. He stressed that there was not a request for funding - only to help gain local area support and be willing in principle to address and support this issue.

Cllr Mrs Sewart proposed that this cycle route is supported by the Town Council. This would help with health issues and it also encourages and provides an option for children to cycle rather than use the school bus. The Chairman also agreed and added that it would also help with the visitor economy.

RESOLVED: That Poynton Town Council supports in principle the cycle route between Disley and Poynton (NC)

PART B

The media and members of the public are excluded from this part of the agenda on the grounds of the Town Council's Standing Orders, namely S0 69(iv) – "Any terms proposed or to be proposed by or to the Council in the course of negotiations for a contract for the acquisition or disposal of property or the supply of goods or services, if so long as disclosure to the public of the terms would prejudice the Council in those or any other negotiations".

(Removed from the record)

The meeting concluded at 9.00 pm