

MINUTES OF THE FACILITIES, INFRASTRUCTURE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT 8PM ON MONDAY 11TH MARCH 2013 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC HALL, POYNTON.

PRESENT

Chairman: Cllr A Smith

Cllrs. G Bartos, M Beanland, Ms R Horsman, Mrs S Horsman, G King, Mrs J Sewart, G Smith

Attending under SO53: Cllrs. P Hoyland, H Murray, Mrs I Thornton-Maddocks and R E West

Questions from Members of the Public

Mr Elliot of 58 Charlecote Road, Poynton

Mr Elliot introduced himself as a concerned grandparent with children that attend Vernon Primary School. He is worried about the speed and level of traffic on Clumber Road. There is he said no sign or warning to drivers that there is a school there and in his view since the introduction of Shared Space the traffic situation has worsened. Cllr Mrs S Horsman agreed with Mr Elliot and said she had notified the police about it. Cllr Murray explained that during work on the Village Revitalisation Scheme double yellow lines were introduced on both sides of Clumber Road to allow traffic to flow. There is work planned now for Phase 4, which will include traffic calming measures between Bulkeley Road and the junction around St Paul's Church. It is hoped this will be carried out in the next 12 months. It will affect the sight line of the road, which at present is straight and narrow, encouraging cars to speed. Phase 4 will also put car parking back on the road. Cllr Murray also put forward the suggestion of having a 'lollipop' person. The Clerk explained that following the retirement of the previous 'lollipop' lady from the Dickens Lane zebra crossing, attempts to recruit a replacement have been unsuccessful. This may have been due to the duty hours and poor pay. Cllr Murray suggested trying to recruit such a person for Clumber Road - perhaps a public spirited resident may wish to take on the role.

Mr Elliot suggested that SID is utilised in both directions. Cllr Murray said this could be used as a temporary measure. Cllr King asked if the school could introduce a Speedwatch campaign outside the school for a limited period.

In terms of the current parking restrictions the Clerk clarified that the plan is to introduce double yellow lines on Styperson Way at the end of Clumber Road and remove the double yellow lines opposite Styperson Way, all the way up to

opposite the Children's Centre, so parking along that stretch of Clumber Road should act as traffic calming. SID could be deployed to gather traffic data too.

Cllr Hoyland noted that all Members agreed with the concerns of Mr Elliot and the situation at Vernon Primary School. He pointed out that historically there have been no incidents and suggested that SID is deployed perhaps more frequently than usual on this road to help gather data. In addition, Speedwatch could be used. This would help heighten awareness and await the solutions that are due in the next 12 months. The Chairman concluded that the Clerk progress this matter with the Chairman of COPS.

Cllr Mrs Sewart mentioned the issue of the worn zebra crossing on Dickens Lane, as this was raised by a resident at a recent Council surgery. The Clerk said the Operations Manager is trying to get the zebra crossing re-instated because it is very worn and also LED lit poles installed, as these are very effective.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk will progress the issue of speeding on Clumber Road with the Chairman of COPS (NC)

76. Apologies for absence

Cllr I Hollingworth

77. Absent

Cllr B Lewis

78. Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interest

As a homeowner on South Park Drive, Cllr A Smith declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in Agenda Item 4 – Levels of through traffic on Anglesey and South Park Drives, and withdrew from the Chamber when this issue was considered.

79. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 4th February 2013

RESOLVED: That the minutes from the Facilities, Infrastructure and Economic Development Committee meeting held on 4th February 2013 be approved as an accurate record, and signed by the Chairman (NC)

80. Through Traffic on Anglesey and South Park Drives

David Bennett of 30 Anglesey Drive read from a prepared statement (attached) and also handed over a large number of questionnaires that had been completed by residents on these two roads. These expressed concern about the volume of vehicles coming from the direction of Hazel Grove using the roads as a 'rat run' during the morning peak, presumably to avoid queuing on London Road North. The Clerk had also prepared a written report, containing four recommendations.

Cllr Mrs Sewart expressed her support and proposed acceptance of the four recommendations. Cllr Murray agreed that this is a burden that should not be borne in a residential street.

RESOLVED: That the recommendations in the Clerk's report are accepted (7 - 1 abs)

81. Operations and Business Update

The Operations and Events Manager, Richard Holland presented his written update.

Chester Road Parking by Post Office

Cllr Mrs Sewart felt that the Operations Manager's recommendation to place two half-sized planters and bike stands was the ideal solution and the cost was not exorbitant.

RESOLVED: That the purchase and installation of the planters and bike stands at a cost of around £1,000 are approved (NC)

Parking Review

To prevent 'bay blocking' in the newly created parking bays on London Road and Chester Road the Operations Manager explained that the Parking Review WG had discussed the possibility of introducing a Parking Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) for two hour maximum stay with no return within two hours, as mentioned in his report. Cllr Murray said it was important to note the effort that the Clerk and others have made to try to get the message across to owners and tenants of properties where staff are occupying these bays to the detriment of their own businesses. Advertising vans were also an issue. The Operations Manager added that a number of businesses have been very supportive and even raised this with other businesses, but not all have been willing to cooperate. The Chairman explained that the reason for the decision is to encourage short term stay to encourage passing trade.

RESOLVED: That an application is made to Cheshire East Council for a Parking Traffic Regulation Order to cover the parking bays on London Road, Chester Road and in front of the School Lane shops (NC)

Utilities Roadworks

Cllr Hoyland said that the inconvenience caused by utility companies should be actively publicised. Traffic delays are caused by the very poor behaviour of the utilities companies and residents should be made fully aware of this. Cllr West agreed and clarified that the Town Council have no power to influence utility work. Cllr Murray was equally frustrated and said this is the reason he is involved with David Rutley MP at Westminster to have Poynton used as an example of abuse by utility companies. Cllr King suggested that through the regular Town Council communications residents are made aware of the poor performance and the lack of responsibility exhibited by the utility companies. Residents can be provided with contact telephone numbers through which to make a complaint. From his professional experience Cllr G Smith noted that it is important to ensure a complaint is escalated otherwise it is totally ineffective.

RESOLVED: That via the Town Council communications channels residents are made aware of the poor performance and lack of responsibility exhibited by the utility companies, and that Cllr Murray continues to pursue this issue with David Rutley MP (NC)

Streetscape – Benches

Cllr Mrs Sewart proposed that the new benches installed within the shared space area are cleaned at the cost reported. Cllr Bartos suggested that some kind of lacquering/varnish would be of benefit. Members discussed the possibilities. Cllr Hoyland also noted that some types of timber do not require a finish but may just need to weather naturally.

RESOLVED: That the benches are jet washed at a cost of £200 and that the Operations Manager takes professional advice concerning the merits or otherwise of applying a protective seal (NC)

Kirkstall Close Lighting

The Operations Manager clarified that Allan Davies, our street lighting contractor is responsible for installing this additional lighting column, and that the Town Council will be responsible for its maintenance.

Cheshire East Street Lighting

The Operations Manager requested assistance from the Cheshire East Councillors to resolve this longstanding issue of street light repair and maintenance. Cllr Murray suggested that all four Cheshire East councillors from across the parish work together on this matter. It was agreed that the

Operations Manager draft a letter including a detailed sequence of the efforts made to date, which the Cheshire East Councillors will support and sign. The details should highlight and prioritise those areas that need addressing first.

RESOLVED: That the Operations Manager and the Clerk produce a letter and the issue is then progressed by the four Cheshire East Councillors (NC)

Business Database

The Operations Manager explained that he has a vacant commercial property database. Some of the vacant commercial properties appear on the Town Council website but not all, because permission must be sought from the agents first. The Operations Manager has the full list of properties.

PVRS

RESOLVED: That future responsibility for, and monitoring of, outstanding PVRS issues is moved from the PVRS Steering Group to the FIED Committee with immediate effect (NC)

Cllr Murray requested that the Operations Manager compile a listing of forthcoming Town Council events. He also observed that the Town Council should be complimented for appointing an Operations and Events Manager which allows the Clerk to be effective in his role and deal with other matters. This also reflects the amount of work going through his Town Council. The Chairman commented on the new and efficient format of the Operations Manager's report.

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

82. Superfast Broadband

The Chairman summarised from his report that the interest from the public in this issue is very disappointing, probably because Poynton's access to Broadband is not as poor as in other areas of the country. The change since the last discussion is that funding has been approved and Superfast Broadband is being promoted over the next two years.

RESOLVED: That the six recommendations in the report by Cllr A Smith are approved (NC)

83. School Lane Revitalisation

Cllr King said that following negotiation by the Operations Manager, the price for the planters in front of the School Lane shops has been reduced, and this

will allow for seven planters to be sponsored instead of four. The Working Group felt duty bound to inform the sponsor of the change, the Poynton Horticultural and Agricultural Society (PHAS), and they said they will now go back to their Committee to seek confirmation of their sponsorship. The Clerk has e-mailed the PHAS contact to explain that the Town Council will fully respect their decision and support, but pointed out that the only reason the price was reduced was because the supplier was asked how many planters could be provided for £2,712, in order to secure a better deal. So if the sponsor comes back with a pro-rata cost for the planters it might not be possible for the price to hold for just four planters. The Working Group remains optimistic.

RESOLVED: That the report is received with thanks to Cllr King, the Operations Manager, and to the Working Group for their efforts to date (NC)

84. Poynton Railway Bridge

Members received the notice of a Temporary Road Closure from Cheshire East Council to enable essential work to be carried out on Poynton Railway Bridge on Chester Road during the night hours of 25th / 26th March 2013. The Clerk noted that this information has been included in the PUN. Cllr Hoyland reminded Members that if there was any slippage, this work could be the first to be publicised on the lines agreed earlier in the meeting.

RESOLVED: That the notice is received (NC)

85. Poynton and District Rotary Club

The Clerk clarified that this is one of three regular events that take place at Poynton Park. Rotary always restore the ground to its previous condition and pay Cheshire East a sum to use the Park.

RESOLVED: That the easement of Poynton's Byelaws to enable the Rotary Club's event to take place at Poynton Park on Saturday 15th June 2013 is approved (NC)

The meeting concluded at 9.05 pm