

Main issues arising: Civic Hall/Library project/ Operations and Events Manager's report for July/August/ Queensway retail area/ Superfast Broadband for Poynton

MINUTES OF THE FACILITIES, INFRASTRUCTURE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MEETING HELD AT 8PM ON MONDAY 19TH AUGUST 2013 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC HALL, POYNTON.

PRESENT

Chairman: Cllr A Smith

Cllrs. Ms R Horsman, Mrs S Horsman, G King, Mrs J Sewart, G Smith and Mrs I Thornton-Maddocks

Attending under SO 54 Cllr B Lewis (substituting for Cllr G Bartos) and Cllr Mrs J Saunders (substituting for Cllr I Hollingworth)

Also attending under SO 56: Cllrs. C Gorst, P Hoyland, M C G Sewart and R E West

Also present were Paul Bayley, Cheshire East Council, and representatives from Sadler Brown Architecture.

18. Apologies for absence

Cllrs: G Bartos and I Hollingworth

19. Declarations of interest

None

20. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 8th July 2013

Page 40 - Cllr Lewis pointed out that under 'Streetscape' the Civic Hall is incorrectly referred to as the Civic Centre and needs to be amended to read Civic Hall throughout.

Page 43 – Cllr Lewis queried if during the discussion on the Coppice Road Allotments the issue of the need for byelaws was raised and agreed. There was some confusion on whether the issue of byelaws had been discussed in detail by the Town Council at either the FIED meeting of 8th July 2013 or at the full Town Council meeting on 29th July 2013. Cllr Mrs J Sewart recalled

that the issue of allotments was discussed at the full Town Council meeting on 29th July 2013 including the byelaws. It was agreed that this needs to be verified.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Facilities, Infrastructure and Economic Development Committee meeting held on 8th July 2013 are approved as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman, subject to the amendment to page 40 and verification of discussion of allotment byelaws (7 - 2 abstentions)

21. Civic Hall/Library Project

Cllr Mrs Sewart introduced Paul Bayley from Cheshire East and the representatives from Bowker Sadler Architects, who gave a presentation on the Civic Hall/Library project following feedback from an initial presentation, and in accordance with a resolution passed at the Town Council meeting of 29th July concerning FIED involvement.

Cllr Mrs Sewart explained that this presentation was to consider an acceptable design and cost amendments in light of the comments made to the architects, Bowker Sadler, at the first presentation to the full Town Council meeting of 29th July. She added that to further this aim the architect and his colleagues had come to present some design modifications. Following the presentation the architect would be able to answer specific questions about the detail of the plan so far. Cllr Mrs Sewart circulated the following recommendations for consideration:

That this Committee:

- accepts the updated presentation from the architects;
- remains committed to the project with its revised costs;
- supports a written update of the progress to be presented at the next meeting of the full Town Council on 16th September 2013 rather than the normal procedure of the report first going to the parent committee. This is to expedite the process, given that the next FIED meeting is scheduled to take place after the next meeting of the full Town Council;
- supports a Working Group meeting to be arranged at a convenient date between now and Friday 6th September 2013.

The architect presented the options and explained the benefits and drawbacks of each. Discussion was however hindered by the lack of a cost breakdown for the two options presented.

Cllr Lewis raised a question about an amendment to the double corridor, movement of staff offices to the right hand side of the present doorway entrance, and in this way limiting public access to the offices. The architect replied that the problem is the proximity of the toilets.

Cllr West said it was important to have the information of the M&E costs involved and asked how this project will be managed. The Chairman explained that at the last meeting of the full Town Council it was confirmed that Cheshire East would accept the overall costs of the project management, with the Town Council allowed the representation they require on the team.

Cllr G Smith made a useful design suggestion to shape off the corridor to help remove a pinch point.

Cllr Lewis raised a query about the actual cost to the Town Council. Paul Bayley said he was already overstretched in trying to meet the costs of the original scheme.

Cllr Hoyland requested to join the Working Group for the Civic Hall/Library Project. Cllr Mrs Sewart said that, as for Standing Committees, the Working Group is open to all Councillors who wish to attend.

RESOLVED: The recommendations made by Cllr Mrs Sewart, as listed above, were approved (NC)

22. Operations and Events Manager's Report

The Operations and Events Manager, Richard Holland presented his written report for July/August 2013.

Water Trough

RESOLVED: That the decision request by the Operations Manager to seek further quotes to remove the tree stump and renovate only the trough, is agreed (NC)

Parking Restrictions

Cllr Mrs Sewart asked for clarification on item 1.3.7 regarding the double yellow lines on Clumber Road. Cllr Mrs Sewart said that as far as she was aware a section of the lines at the top end of Clumber Road (the one way part) are still awaiting removal so that residents near Poynton Green can park their cars. Cllr Mrs Sewart said it was important to ensure that outside the cottages at the Green there must be no lines. The Operations Manager said he would check.

Zebra Crossing

Cllr Mrs S Horsman enquired about the zebra crossing on Dickens Lane. Cllr Mrs Saunders confirmed that work will be carried out in September to enhance the stripes and it is hoped the lighting work will be carried out by the end of October.

Clifford Road Narrowing

On the issue of Clifford Road, Cllr Lewis pointed out that large vehicles will again start to use this road because the half cushioned sleepers do not deter large vehicles. Cllr Mrs Sewart said that she has informally suggested very large signs to deter such vehicles. Also a concerted effort by residents to report these may also help. The Operations Manager added that the proposals put forward by Cheshire East are based on resident feedback, and although it is difficult to please everyone, a majority view has been taken on the issue.

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

23. Queensway Retail Area

Cllr G Smith summarised the written progress report on the revitalisation of the Queensway retail area. He pointed out the specific concern of the elderly regarding access and general well being in the area.

To make progress on this issue it is necessary to find funding and enter into discussions with Cheshire East. Without suitable funding it will be very difficult to develop this matter further.

RESOLVED: That the written report is received and future progress reported (NC)

24. Superfast Broadband for Poynton

Cllr Gorst explained that the purpose of this agenda item was to obtain an update on the current provision of Superfast Broadband in Poynton.

At present a large number of properties on the east side of Poynton have very slow speeds of Broadband. Cllr Gorst provided examples of the kind of speed received in some areas. At The Coppice it is as little as 0.4 and 0.8 Mbps. Cllr Gorst asked what is currently known about which areas of Poynton will not have Superfast Broadband by the end of 2016.

The Chairman agreed and noted that this is a national issue but the minority fringes still suffer.

Cllr Gorst asked if Cllr David Brown, the lead CEC Councillor for the Connecting Cheshire Partnership, should be approached to find out what is currently proposed for Poynton. Also to provide him with the information Cllr Gorst has collated and point out that Poynton is a large settlement and should have some priority on that basis.

Cllr West clarified that although the infrastructure to facilitate fast broadband can be in place, the service to the householder comes at a cost.

Cllr Gorst agreed but felt the option of Superfast Broadband to householders can be provided.

The Chairman proposed that the Town Council write to Cllr David Brown on this matter and ask when all areas of Poynton will have access to Superfast Broadband. Cllr A Smith will assist Cllr Gorst in compiling the letter.

RESOLVED: That the update is received; and that Cllrs Gorst and G King draft a letter on behalf of the Town Council to Cllr David Brown on the issue of Superfast Broadband provision covering all areas of Poynton (NC)

The meeting concluded at 9.10 pm