

MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT 7.30PM ON MONDAY 7TH JANUARY 2013 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC HALL, POYNTON.

PRESENT

Town Mayor: Cllr Mrs S Horsman

Cllrs G Bartos, M Beanland, L A Clarke, C Gorst, Ms R Horsman, P Hoyland, G King, H Murray, Mrs J Saunders, A Smith, G Smith, I Thornton-Maddocks and R E West

72. Apologies for absence

Cllrs Mrs J Sewart and M C G Sewart

73. Absent

Cllr B Lewis

74. New Member of the Town Council

The Mayor welcomed Cllr. Mrs Isabel Thornton-Maddocks to the Town Council. Cllr Murray proposed that the Declaration of Acceptance of Office signed by Cllr Mrs Thornton-Maddocks be received.

RESOLVED: That the Declaration of Acceptance of Office for Cllr Mrs Thornton-Maddocks be received (NC)

75. Declarations of Interest/ Requests for Dispensation

None

76. A6 to Manchester Airport Relief Road Public Consultation

Mr Jim McMahon, a senior officer from Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council presented a verbal brief on the A6 to Manchester Airport Relief Road public consultation. He explained that his purpose was to continue to raise awareness of the first phase consultation process which is open until 25th January 2013. He also wanted to explain how members, individuals and constituents can be involved in the consultation process, and to seek the view of Poynton Town Council to help better inform the process as a whole.

South East Manchester Multi-Modal System was a study carried out in 2001 and led by the Government's Department of Transport to address the traffic issues in this entire area. Mr McMahon said this scheme was then handed over to three local authorities. At the time these were Cheshire County, Stockport Borough and Manchester City Councils.

All three authorities (Cheshire East having replaced Cheshire County Council) have now inherited that scheme and Mr Mahon believes they aspire eventually to construct all the elements to the SEMMMS road scheme. Since the Government could no longer afford to construct the whole scheme the Councils were tasked to provide information on how to deliver it in phases.

Funding has taken some time to secure and is now available and identified as the next priority scheme in this area.

There are two phases to the consultation. The first phase started on the 20th October 2012 and ends on 25th January 2013. An awareness raising leaflet has been distributed to 85,000 addresses, followed by a 16 page leaflet which includes the range of junction options and a questionnaire. To date about 7,000 responses have been received. There have also been about 20 exhibitions in ten locations around the area. These were very well attended and about 2,000 contact names were gathered. During December 2012 Mr McMahon held meetings with various stakeholder and business groups, including Chambers of Commerce, in order to engage them in the consultation process. Starting tomorrow there will be a series of meetings with local residents directly affected by the Scheme to try to work with them to see what kind of mitigation would be possible in terms of reducing noise and visual intrusion. This will be ongoing through the development of the Scheme. This is a significant Scheme and probably one of the largest highway schemes undertaken by local authorities in the North West.

The second phase of the consultation will take place once comments on the first phase have analysed and assessed. The three authorities can then discuss the preferred scheme.

It is hoped that a main report can be taken to the local authorities involved by Easter. This will depend on the volume of comments received from the first phase consultation. By the summer it is hoped that the three authorities will be in a position to seek planning permission. The construction timetable is approximately two and a half years.

The Mayor invited questions and comments.

David Lambert
Glastonbury Drive, Poynton

Mr Lambert began by stating that he opposes the Scheme and does not think it is beneficial to Poynton at this time. He explained that in spite of a hotline and the website he has not had any response from the team to his e-mails. He raised his concern about noise. From attending exhibitions he noted that

the noise difference levels were specified at more than 5db but has yet to receive a response on actual levels. Mr Lambert wished to know when more accurate information would be provided to the public.

Mr McMahon replied that the information displayed at the exhibition is the best available information at this time. The Scheme details may change or haven't been confirmed this far into the consultation process. If for instance any arrangements or alignments change they would have an impact on both the air quality and noise level calculations. The information is therefore interim and has to be finalised.

Cllr Murray asked if there will be compensation for properties affected by this project. Mr Mahon explained that there is a statutory right for residents directly affected by road schemes such as this. There is a process established by the Department of Transport and this is the approach that would generally be adhered to. Households suffering from noise levels above a certain threshold could be in receipt of compensation.

Cllr Hoyland questioned the proposed lines of the route which he was aware have changed over time. More specifically Cllr Hoyland asked if these lines had changed significantly. He also requested the previous site plans to compare against the current plans, so that Ward Councillors were able to assist residents and answer their questions. In reply Mr McMahon said that by and large the line of the road as proposed is within the previous corridor secured for the Highways Agency Scheme. There is one location where it has moved significantly, and instead of going through a residential property the line has been moved 15 or 20 metres into an open field. When the alignment is fixed, this information will be available to all through the SEMMMS website. Other than that Mr Mahon could not think of any other areas where there has been much movement of the lines. Mr McMahon also agreed to provide the previous plans as requested by Cllr Hoyland.

Cllr Clarke raised his concern that under this Scheme it is like having half a Poynton by-pass. This would encourage traffic from Macclesfield to travel through the middle of Poynton to join the new road at Junction 4. Cllr Clarke mentioned the bridge at the current A555 where it ends at Handforth on the A34 and that there should be a bridge at Junction 4. Cllr Clarke asked for an update on whether Junction 4 would be built in such a way to help facilitate a Poynton by-pass in future, in particular by building a bridge under Chester Road. Mr Mahon said that both of those layouts at that location will facilitate a simple tie in to a Poynton by-pass. However he said that taking the A6 to Manchester Airport under the current proposal does not give the justification to build a Poynton by-pass.

RESOLVED: That the briefing provided by Jim McMahon of Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council is received with thanks (NC)

77. Questions to the Mayor

None

78. Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 19th November 2012

Page 156/157 - Under matters arising Cllr Murray asked if there had been any response from the CE portfolio holder regarding street lighting. The Clerk informed the meeting that a response had only been received from the CE Officer Kevin Melling. This indicated that Cheshire East was willing to look at the scheme again. Since then, and following intervention from the Town Council, the junction at Anglesey Drive has been relit. Cllr Murray added that lighting to the small row of houses on the west side should also be restored soon.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 19th November 2012 be approved as an accurate record and signed by the Mayor (11 - 3 abs)

79. Mayor's announcements

Available from the Clerk.

RESOLVED: That the Mayor's announcements be received (NC)

80. Town Council Budget for 2013/14

Cllr Gorst explained that at the F&GP meeting held earlier in the evening the Committee had discussed and agreed the budget for 2013/14. This included among other items additional funding for the full time post of Operations and Events Manager, the cost of a fifth PCSO, additional funding for the Neighbourhood Plan for Woodford, a budget to cover the administration costs of any forthcoming elections to fill casual vacancies, and the cost of setting up the new Town Council website. F&GP Committee members agreed that each of these items would be supported by the majority of local residents. The outcome is that the F&GP Committee recommends to the Town Council the precept level for 2013/14 of £303,893. This equates to £53.06 for a Band D household, and represents an increase of just 12p per week over 2012/13.

RESOLVED: That the precept for 2013/14 is agreed at £303,893 (NC)

81. Standing Committees

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Facilities, Infrastructure and Econ. Development meeting held on 22nd October 2012 be received and adopted (13 - 1 abs)

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes meeting held on 29th October 2012 be received and adopted (NC)

Concerning the minutes of the Management and Establishment meeting held on 30th October 2012, Cllr Murray asked for an update on our relationship with ChALC. The Clerk said that he had drafted some questions which can be put to ChALC representatives at a future M&E Committee meeting. Cllr Hoyland has views on these, and will be getting together with the Clerk to agree on a final list of questions for consideration at the next M&E meeting.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Management and Establishment meeting held on 30th October 2012 be received and adopted (NC)

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Planning and Environment meeting held on 5th November 2012 be received and adopted (NC)

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Community, Order and Public Safety meeting held on 12th November be received and adopted by full council (NC)

With regard to the minutes of the Facilities, Infrastructure and Economic Development meeting held on 26th November 2012, Cllr Clarke noted a spelling error on page 158 referring to a Mrs Pedler. This should read Mrs Pegler.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Facilities, Infrastructure and Econ. Development meeting held on 26th November 2012, as amended, be received and adopted (NC)

82. Code of Conduct

The meeting considered the adoption by Poynton Town Council of the Cheshire East Procedure for Complaints against Members under the new Code of Conduct. The Clerk explained that this is a set procedure that has been recommended by Cheshire East.

Cllr Clarke proposed that the Equality Monitoring questionnaire is removed and also that reference to providing the procedure in a second language be deleted, since the Town Council cannot provide this. Cllr Clarke said that other amendments were also needed to make it suitable for the Town Council. Cllr Murray pointed out that a resolution has been agreed that in principle the Cheshire East procedure would be followed. Cllr Murray suggested that this document could be received in principle and changes can be made to customise it and make it more applicable to Poynton Town Council. Following discussion the Clerk confirmed he would carry out further work to customise the document and bring it back to the next Town Council meeting.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk revise the procedure as agreed, and bring it back to the next Town Council meeting for adoption (NC)

83. Boundary Commission

Cllr Clarke commented that the latest arguments put forward by the Boundary Commission for changes are weak and extreme.

RESOLVED: That David Rutley MP's response to the Boundary Commission for England's consultation on Revised Proposals for Parliamentary Boundaries in the North West, dated 7th December 2012, is received (NC)

84. Composition of the Town Council's Standing Committees

Cllr Hoyland proposed that Cllr Mrs Thornton-Maddocks join the COPS Committee, Cllr Ian Hollingworth the FIED Committee and Cllr Murray the F&GP Committee.

RESOLVED: That Cllr Mrs Thornton-Maddocks join the COPS Committee, Cllr Hollingsworth the FIED Committee and Cllr Murray the F&GP Committee (NC)

The meeting concluded at 8.45 pm