

MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT 8.00PM ON MONDAY 25TH NOVEMBER 2013 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC HALL, POYNTON.

PRESENT

Chairman: Cllr G Bartos

Cllrs: M Beanland, L A Clarke, C Gorst, Ms R Horsman, Mrs S Horsman, P Hoyland, B Lewis, H Murray, Mrs J Saunders, A Smith, G Smith, I Thornton-Maddocks and Cllr West

55. Questions to the Mayor

Tony Hall, 23 Lindisfarne Drive

Would you agreed with me Mr Mayor that Cllr Jones, Cllr Brown and the Cheshire East Council Cabinet members should be commended for the excellent news that planning for the A523 Poynton Relief Road is well advanced with a view to completion in October 2018, not long after the planned completion of the A555. As a former Town Council member, Mr Hall, recalled the original draft CE local transport plans for consultation and noted that there was no mention in it of the A523 Relief Road and requested the possible inclusion of this. Mr Hall hopes that as Cllr Jones reported in the press this is “a key step towards being able to deliver the Poynton Relief Road which will relieve congestion in Poynton and provide a strategic highway to the North Macclesfield Business area”. This will help significantly reduce through traffic on the Poynton Shared Space Scheme and Poynton will improve upon being the 7th best place to bring up a family in England and Wales.

Adrian Roberts, 28 Swan Close

I understand Poynton Town Council agreed to contribute £100,000 to Cheshire East for the Revitalisation Scheme (PVRS). However the money was not handed over and was in fact retained for purposes of improving car parking. Now together with a sinking fund of £10,000 towards possible repairs to shop frontages now placed in the RCPF programme. Is it true some of this money has been spent without the required open and transparent debate and the appropriate permissions? Is the Council sure all the decisions have been made with proper (sic) residential decisions, voted upon and minuted?

Is it true that some of this money was spent to pay for a video, that one of our Councillors is now engaged in a tour of UK Councils using that video? Is this good use of Poynton Town Council money? To make a video for the use of Councillors self-promotion? Is it legal, have all the expenses and fees for arranging this been fully disclosed? Is it further true that when the Clerk was asked by the Mayor to carry out his duties for which he does get paid,

supporting him in his role as Mayor by writing appropriate press releases and so on, he was informed that the Clerk was too busy to do that as he was too busy arranging the UK tour? Does the Council think the Clerk should resign?

Is it also true that another Councillor who sits on the Committee overseeing staffing and remuneration and that despite his wife being one of the Council's employees? Has he declared an interest? Isn't that person also a treasurer for Poynton and Macclesfield Conservative Party? Even if only part of this is true does this not bring shame on Poynton, undermining the whole of this democratic process?. And as this is a wholly Conservative Council damaging the reputation of the Conservative Party as a whole. Furthermore if this is how a Parish and Town Council operates does this not throw into question the whole of the governments localism agenda? I have no confidence in this Council. In its confidence or trustworthiness. So Cllr Jones I appeal to you to launch a full investigation into the running of the Town Council, its finances, financial management, the performance of the Council, the staff and the members. Will you please investigate these and any other matters that are raised fully so that confidence can be restored in our leaders and that shame from Poynton can be removed. Will you consider suspending the operation of this Town Council and taking control of it outside of Poynton until such time as the investigation is complete? Can we be assured that the investigation will be thorough and, if following proceedings that they will be prosecuted to the fullest? I ask if this Council is fit for purpose.

Cllr Gorst explained that £100,000 was the Town Council's contribution to the PVRS. £10,000 was kept aside in case any shop frontages required remedial work for any reason and the businesses were unable to fund the cost themselves. As Chairman of the F&GP committee Cllr Gorst explained that an account of the £100,000 was provided at these meetings and minuted accordingly.

Cllr Murray provided a verbal breakdown of the £100,000. He began by explaining that the £100,000 was handed over by the PTC to the Steering Committee to spend as a contribution to the Shared Space Scheme. A breakdown of the costs was last considered on the 23rd September 2013 at the F&GP Committee. Thus far a total of £60,000 has been allocated. Funds have been held to pay for the resin bonding top cover which has not yet been completed. £10,000 that has actually been spent so far has been to pay for items such as hire of a church hall for trader briefings, press coverage, surveying of potential car park areas, replacement bins for Park Lane and tree services. £10,000 has come back to pay for the Clerk and the previous Operations Officer. The money has all been accounted for.

Cllr Murray clarified that the video had been commissioned by Cheshire East and the copyright owned by Martin Cassini who is a campaigner for traffic issues. Generally speaking about 30 other Councils have come to visit Poynton to look at what Poynton Town Council do. Recently, the PTC have been runners up in two national awards and won one national award too.

Cllr Murray explained that he was not aware of any tour that Mr Roberts was referring to. Cllr Murray clarified that he is occasionally invited to speak with Councils out of area and receives no reward or remuneration whatsoever. Cllr Murray does this work simply to promote Poynton and in fact this is at his personal expense. Cllr Murray added that he would be happy to provide further details to address Mr Roberts concerns.

Cllr Lewis said that to resolve this issue the Town Council needs to find the original resolution by this Town Council allocating the £100,000 and see whether it was allocated to Cheshire East or whether it was retained to be spent by the Town Council. If it was the former then why wasn't it given to CE and if it was the latter why has there been no financial control over it? Cllr Lewis said that he believed, although he didn't know, it is illegal for the Town Council to allocate money in that way. He believed this was against the financial accounting instructions for Councils to block allocate £100,000. Each individual spend should come to the Council for approval before it is spent.

Mrs Acton, Nickelby Road

Mrs Acton began by explaining that two weeks ago her son died in tragic circumstances at home. She explained that this was because her son had provided names and details of local drug dealers to the police and as a consequence was bullied and persecuted on the streets of Poynton. Earlier this summer he was threatened with a knife and his assailant arrested. He refused to drop the charges and was continually bullied. This case will go to court next week. She said that as you know other parents contact the school to have the issue of drugs taken seriously. Mrs Acton noted that a maths teacher at Poynton High School was under investigation and charged with possession of intent to supply cocaine, cannabis and amphetamines.

Mrs Acton asked why Sue Adamson, the Headteacher at the time, and the Town Council Clerk in his role of Chair of Governors at the High School chose not to inform the Board of Governors. There is, she said, no record of this incident being reported to the LA. There will now be a serious case review around the circumstances of her son's death. Mrs Acton claimed that there had been collusion and a cover up between the school and the Town Council. Given everything that has happened she asked if the Town Council could give their assurance that they would do all they can to co-operate fully in the investigation with the police. Furthermore, Mrs Acton asked if it was true that while her son was fighting for his life on a life support machine in hospital Cllr Mrs Saunders was ringing the Town Council Clerk to intimidate him, warning and threatening him not to get involved as the police would be involved, instead of showing compassion.

The Mayor offered his condolences to Mrs Acton on behalf of the Town Council. Cllr Mrs Saunders categorically denied that she ever phoned the Clerk about her son and was not aware from where such a comment originated. Mrs Acton said that this was a rumour. Cllr Mrs Saunders said that she is a person of integrity and honour and it is very unfortunate that Mrs

Acton had had to endure rumours during a very sad and tragic time. Cllr Mrs Saunders explained that the circumstances described by Mrs Acton concern the police and the High School. Mrs Acton said that she had previously attended a Town Council meeting to raise the issue of drugs at the High School and asked the Town Council to help. Cllr Mrs Saunders explained that she was not present at that meeting and also explained that the Town Council do not run the police or the High School. If there are issues about the school then they will be dealt with by the school and by the leader Cllr Jones and the police. Cllr Mrs Saunders explained that she did not know and assumed other Council Members were not aware of the situation with the maths teacher at the school. Mrs Acton assumed that the Headteacher and Mr Adams were aware of this information. Cllr Mrs Saunders added that the Clerk was in attendance this evening in his role as Clerk to the Town Council.

David Lambert, 34 Glastonbury Drive

Mr Lambert raised his concern about the increasing amount of new road building and the impact of this upon the character of Poynton.

Cllr Jones offered a brief explanation as this issue is covered further under agenda item 5. The Poynton Relief Road developments have been brought forward and CE Council are committed to building more roads since Cllr Jones and Cllr Brown came to the leadership than many had envisaged. Cllr Jones provided a brief outline of the progress of the A523 proposal and the funding details.

Cllr Jones, in response to earlier questions and comments during Mayor's questions added that there had been some very serious allegations of which he has seen no evidence. If people have complaints he urged people to write to him and if there is evidence he asked that it be brought forward so that an investigation can be carried out if there is any merit or proof.

Cllr Jones assured that in the case of Mrs Acton the circumstances will be looked at in its totality, and this will be investigated for all schools across Cheshire to see what should be done. Unfortunately drugs are available across all areas of society and this is not a reflection of the Town Council.

56. Apologies for absence

Cllrs I Hollingworth, G King, Mrs J Sewart and M Sewart

57. Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary or Other Interests

Cllr Hoyland and other members of the British Legion present declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 63.

58. Presentation to Charity

The Mayor's Ball was held on the 18th October 2013 and the sell-out event raised £2,700 for Cllr Bartos' chosen mayoral charity, Macmillan Cancer Support. The Mayor presented a cheque to Mr Phil Shuttleworth, representative of Macmillan Cancer Support. Mr Shuttleworth thanked the Mayor and the Town Council for their support.

59. Questions from the Town Council to the Leader and Deputy Leader of Cheshire East Council

The Mayor welcomed the Leaders of Cheshire East Council, Cllr Michael Jones and Deputy Leader, Cllr David Brown to Poynton Town Council. The following questions from the Town Council were addressed to them.

Q1. SEMMMS Road and Poynton Bypass (Cllr Clarke)

Please detail progress to date, in particular funding for the Poynton Bypass (A5149 to A523) and the relationship with Stockport and Manchester Councils. One particular local issue regarding the SEMMMS route is attempts by Stockport to move the junction with the A523 southwards into Poynton - will Cheshire East refuse to support this?

A. Cllr Brown explained that the Transport Board has received an additional funding of £5.2m which has been allocated specifically to Poynton. The infrastructure is being investigated and some options considered. To date there has been no decision on the exact route of the A523. At the end of January 2014 there will be a consultation to take the views of residents into account. These will then be adopted and incorporated into the Local Plan which will be submitted for approval to government. It is anticipated that the formal planning application will be submitted in late 2015/early 2016 for work to start in 2016. Indicative costs for the scheme are in the region of £20m depending on the exact route decided. £15m of this funding is already sourced and the leadership are confident this scheme will go ahead.

Q2. The Green Belt (Cllr Clarke)

Is the proposal to limit new housing in Poynton to 200 houses still in place? It is proposed to have Neighbourhood Plans covering Poynton, Adlington and Woodford - does this pose an increased risk of more housing?

A. The plan states 200 houses and this is subject to a consultation. This could or couldn't change depending on the consultation. The biggest danger to houses going up would be if the strategy in the Local Plan identified to build a new village in Handforth East takes a chunk of Green Belt out of the north Macclesfield Borough. The reason for this decision was so that the Council did not pepper Green Belt release around the north side of Macclesfield. For

this reason areas such as Poynton, Wilmslow and various other areas have taken a fairly low percentage of housing in the Local Plan. In terms of the Neighbourhood Plan it should be governed by the Local Plan.

Q3. Shared Space Remedial Work (Cllr Alex Smith)

In spite of persistent requests of Cheshire East over several months to remedy the very visible and worsening failings of Poynton's shared space area, heralded as 'the jewel in the crown' for Cheshire East in terms of the public realm, nothing has been done. When will this work be undertaken? This issue is the source of daily complaints to this Council. We have a one way e-mail trail going back months on this, plus numerous telephone calls initiated by us. Two meetings were scheduled with Kevin Melling, both of which were cancelled at short notice by him/his secretary. Will you please investigate this urgently? This appalling lack of communication is tantamount to rudeness, and is a good example of how hard and frustrating it has become in dealing with CE.

A. Cllr Jones was surprised to hear that the Town Council's CE Councillors could not get access to CE to achieve the necessary communication on this issue, and suggested that requests are sent by e-mail directly to him if required.

On the Shared Space scheme, Cllr Jones explained that there is a structural design fault which is creating ongoing issues which are not easily removed. Lorries are travelling directly over grids because the road has been narrowed and this is unlike any other road in Cheshire East. This is causing subsidence which is being looked into. As a consequence there will be ongoing issues with the grids. CE will undertake the renewal work which will be very expensive but CE are looking into who is responsible for narrowing the road and why. Cllr Jones explained that in Europe it is the pavements which are reduced and not the roads. Cllr Jones asked if Cllr A Smith was aware of this fault?

Cllr A Smith replied that he was unaware and very surprised to hear of this design fault which was a Cheshire East approved design. Cllr Jones assured him that CE are investigating and will take full responsibility, as will the Town Council who were also actively involved in the scheme too.

Cllr Murray said that despite being heavily involved this is the first time he has heard any mention of a design fault. The design was signed off by CE Highways. Although the Town Council were involved they had absolutely no control over the work of those Highways Officers, which has been proven. The design met the design requirements. Cllr Murray said the Town Council were informed that it was the way the work was done, and not the design that was the problem.

Cllr Jones added that the grids now have to be moved but this is a very expensive operation.

Q4. Planning (Cllr Clarke)

Apart from the destruction of the environment, one of the main arguments against new housing development is the resulting traffic congestion. A few years ago, Poynton Town Council was visited by two Cheshire East Planning Officers, who stated that any new housing would not cause traffic congestion as everyone would travel by train or bus - does the Council still believe this nonsense? More specifically, does the Council have either sufficient qualified staff or the budget to hire consultants to query the traffic figures quoted by developers? These often seem low - for example, Redrow, the developers of the former BAe Systems site at Woodford (just over the Stockport border), claim it will generate only 0.63 car journeys per house, with around 800 houses only leading to 34 extra cars on Chester Road in Poynton. These figures require expert analysis and challenge - does CEC have the resources to do this for every large development?

A. Yes. The Leaders of Cheshire East confirmed that they do have the resources, funding and expertise to analyse the figures for large developments and also have a duty to carry this out. To give further confidence on this issue Cllr Brown said that over the last 14 months they have brought in over £1.2 billion in Highways funding into Cheshire and over £800m of this has been for Cheshire East. This has brought with it a lot of expertise and development work. There is also collaboration with Ringway Jacobs, who have a wealth of experience around this area. There is no doubt that the resources are available.

Q5a. CE Local Plan: "Safeguarded Land" (LC)

a) The draft Cheshire East Core Strategy and Local Plan includes 276 hectares of "safeguarded land", for development after the Local Plan ends in 2030. However, on 24th October 2014, the Planning Minister Nick Boles, in response to a question from David Rutley MP, stated:

"... there is nothing in the Localism Act 2011, in the NPPF or in any aspect of Government planning policy that requires someone to plan beyond 15 years. So, anybody who is suggesting that there is any requirement to safeguard land or wrap it up in wrapping paper and ribbons for the future development between 2030 and 2050 is getting it wrong. There is no reason for it ..."

In view of the Planning Minister's clear and concise comments, will Cheshire East now delete all reference to "safeguarded land" from the Core Strategy?"

A. No. The NPPF is very specific and states that if you are going to roll back the Green Belt you should only do it very infrequently and that this cannot be done in consecutive plans. The dilemma faced by CE is that if they roll back the Green Belt at Handforth East now and don't do anything else the next time the Local Plan comes round they will have to roll back the Green Belt again.

This question has been posed to the Planning Inspectors and it is hoped that there will be a response following the consultation. Cllr Brown said he could not guarantee a 'no' on this issue. Cllr Jones said that in law the NPPF states that you should only look at safeguarding on rare occasions, and if we are removing it it should be done once and not again.

Q5b. When will the CE Local Plan be published? (Cllr Beanland)

A. This is a difficult question. Cllr Brown explained that the Strategic Sites and Core Strategy is out for consultation. This will finish on 16th December 2013. The next phase will be to re-issue that document for a 6 week period during which comments and responses will be received. This will then be sent to the Inspector to make a ruling on whether it is fit for purpose or not.

In February 2014 CE will be putting out a Site Allocations document which will be to allocate houses to the local service centres and the villages around CE.

Cllr Beanland asked if from this we would then know where the houses are proposed to be built? Cllr Brown answered 'yes' in reply and explained that it is his intention to write to small Parish Councils to suggest how many houses will be put in the Local Plan and solicit their comments on the best place to build them. It is far better that the local people are consulted and their opinion gained on where these houses are placed. This will then be consolidated into the Core Strategy. This will then be examined by another Inspector who will decide if the Plan is fit for purpose or not. It is hoped this Plan is completed by late 2014 to Spring 2015, and there is a fully accepted documented Plan.

The whole essence of the Plan is based around economic growth within CE and therefore the requisite number of houses need to be built to assist that economic growth and that is why there is such a comprehensive infrastructure plan in terms of roads to ensure that those in the east of Cheshire East can travel to the west of Cheshire East in less than the 45 minutes it takes at present. So in early summer there will be some ratification on the Core Strategy.

Q6. Planning Enforcement (Cllr Hoyland)

Given the lamentable track record on planning enforcement by Cheshire County Council and subsequently Cheshire East Council, what resources is the Council intending to put behind enforcement?

A. Cllr Jones said that they are committed to a transit site to the north. The commitment to enforcement is very strong given the restrictions in the Human Rights Act. In terms of planning enforcement, Cllr Jones explained that the leadership is strong on this issue too. However he pointed out the very high legal costs of emptying buildings and the restrictions concerning the Human Rights Act.

Q7. Rail Fares (Cllr Clarke)

Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) subsidises train fares for commuter services, but Cheshire East do not. This results in the fares from Poynton being significantly higher than those from Bramhall, the next station northwards, and the first in Greater Manchester. This affects a large part of Cheshire East - fares from Macclesfield, Prestbury, Adlington, Poynton, Alderley Edge, Wilmslow, Handforth, Knutsford, Mobberley and all nearby stations to Manchester are all much higher than those from, say, Wigan to Manchester, although that is a longer distance. Would Cheshire East consider subsidising commuter rail fares as a way of moving traffic from road to rail?

A. Cllr Jones explained that CE want to balance their budget. In subsidising from road to rail there is a significant cost and where do you stop given that Cheshire East is the 12th largest authority? What we may do he said is become encompassed within the Greater Manchester Network by becoming involved in a Northern rail franchise for instance. Cllr Jones assured that the leadership is aware and is looking into the issue. Cllr Brown explained that the funding received by local councils is different from region to region. For example in business rates CE receive 46p for every pound whereas Manchester receives £1.24. For every pupil in a Cheshire East school CE receive £300 and Manchester £624. The funding model is totally different. To put the £5m to £10m required for a project of this kind it would mean that this money would need to be taken from a different budget such as a Streetscape, Children's or an Older Persons budget, and this is a very difficult decision to make. It is hoped that in the next five years there will be local jobs for local people and this will then not be an issue.

Cllr Hoyland noted the excellent P1 bus service that CE have supported. This is a good example of the Town Council working effectively with CE.

Cllr Lewis commented that when Stockport build all their houses on Woodford it is their intention to upgrade Poynton train station and take it into TfGM as long as they get permission to do this. Cllr Jones said that CE will not make any decision without Town Council permission.

Q8. Parking Charges (Cllr Beanland)

Can a guarantee be given that parking charges will not be imposed on Poynton without proper consultation with the Town Council?

A. Cllr Jones guaranteed that parking charges will not be imposed without proper consultation with the Town Council. There are no plans to introduce parking charges.

Q9. Cycle Paths (Cllr Beanland)

a) Which CE towns will be connected to the cycle paths around the much heralded provision for the new 'Next' retail unit at Handforth Dean, which will be built within the next 12 months?

b) Would CE assist with the planning of an improved cycle path between Poynton and Disley?

A. Cllr Jones said that cycles paths are very important, adding that if they can get funding from Sustrans the cycle path can be placed wherever needed. Cllr Beanland asked how best to push this forward? Cllr Jones asked Cllr Beanland to write to him and he will arrange for it to be looked into.

On the issue of cycle paths, Cllr Brown urged members to submit responses on cycle paths into the Local Plan consultation, stating where they would like the paths and demand better connectivity for cyclists in the infrastructure. This is the only way to change some of these areas.

Q10. Neighbourhood Plans (Cllr Beanland)

Neighbourhood Plans are being proposed by Poynton, Woodford and Adlington. In a recent report on the Neighbourhood Plan for Tattenhall, with regard to the clerical services undertaken by Cheshire West and Chester Council it was noted that there was “..... significant and sustained collaborative working between the Council and the Neighbourhood Plan-makers”. Will Cheshire East offer similar resources?

Cllr Brown asked what the Town Council wished to achieve with a Neighbourhood Plan (NP). If the Town Council can outline what they wish to achieve, the benefits, and also justify that it is relevant and meaningful to the town, then he can provide support for the Neighbourhood Plan. He questioned the benefit given the money that is invested into a NP. For a NP to be adopted you have to have a full consultation and a vote whereby 50% have to approve the Plan.

With regard to Tattenhall the NP was to work out where the planned 5,000 houses would be built. The NP has to conform to the original dictate of the Local Plan. The NP cannot override the Local Plan. Cllr Hoyland said that the NP can be paid for by a grant. Cllr Brown said his first priority is to consider the whole of CE and have a Local Plan approved and passed. The Local Plan will then afford some protection, and houses can be built where we want them. He said he was happy to meet with the Town Council CE Councillors who could then report back on this matter.

Q11. Management of Contractors (Cllr Clarke)

Cheshire East and its predecessor councils have traditionally been very poor at managing contractors. There has been little or no inspection of work in progress and invoices for poor quality work have apparently been paid without question. Does the Council accept that contractors working in Poynton cannot be supervised by staff in an office in Crewe, and will it consider using Town Councils to help monitor and control contractors?

A. Cllr Jones replied ‘no’ because what ability does the Town Council have to do these things? Cllr Jones reminded the Town Council that although they

are a strong council they need CE to support them and the Leaders are happy to provide that support. Cllr Jones explained measures on how the utilities will be controlled from next year, adding that if people e-mailed him personally he will have any issues taken care of. Cllr Mrs Horsman raised the issue of blocked gullies and Cllr Jones said he was surprised that the Town Council CE councillors could not get a response, but again asked that people e-mail him directly and he will take care of it.

Given the issues raised on communications between the CE and Town Council, Cllr Brown asked the Town Council members that if there are any issues with the Civic Hall/Library project to raise them with him as soon as possible. It was noted that both parties are working very well on this issue.

On behalf of the Town Council the Mayor thanked Cllrs Jones and Brown for their attendance at the meeting.

60. Previous Town Council minutes of 21st October 2013

On Item 53 the Mayor said that the list of his engagements had been omitted from the record, and he had asked the Clerk to make this available to members, who confirmed receipt.

p.122 – Cllr Lewis asked if any Councillor made a Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary or Other Interest. The Clerk said that none had been declared - as confirmed in the minutes.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 21st October 2013 be approved as an accurate record and signed by the Mayor (13 - 1 abs)

61. Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor has attended some six engagements in the last month – see detail attached.

The Mayor announced his resignation from the Twinning Association of Poynton (TAP) as the Town Council's representative on that Association. He explained that TAP had gone against the Mayor's advice not to organise events with individuals between the two twin towns without the knowledge of the Erd Local Authority. This had resulted in a letter of complaint from the Deputy Mayor of Erd, who reminded our Mayor that TAP had broken the protocol with that action. Our Mayor was forced to send a letter of apology on behalf of TAP to the Erd Deputy Mayor Cllr J Segesdi, which he accepted. The TAP leadership had embarrassed the Town Council with their action and he felt that as Mayor of Poynton his membership of the Association was untenable, as TAP had brought the Town Council into disrepute. The Mayor invited the Town Council to elect a new representative for TAP.

62. Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Hoyland provided an update on the Neighbourhood Plan (NP). He reminded members that it was agreed some months ago to proceed with the NP. In the intervening period work has been done with both Adlington Parish Council and Woodford Community Council to determine whether to proceed with one collective plan or for each area to have an individual plan. As of last Wednesday it has been decided that each area will proceed with their own plans, since Woodford and Adlington had elected to do this. However, it has been agreed that the three communities will still work closely together as the guidelines and legislation states on this issue. In terms of the Poynton NP, Cllr Hoyland said that this now needs to be moving swiftly ahead.

The next stage would be to call a meeting of interested parties. Cllr Hoyland has already contacted Mr John Knight, a knowledgeable and experienced planner. He is happy to provide support and advice. A small panel of Councillors who expressed an interest in getting involved now needs to take this forward and publicise this idea to the residents of Poynton. Cllr Hoyland envisages about 20 people being involved, the majority being from those community who are very committed and are willing to put in the time, effort and energy on this issue. The Town Council already have a grant to get through the first phase to carry out a public consultation. Cllr Hoyland will provide updates at subsequent meetings.

Cllr Murray asked how Cllr Hoyland feels now that the other two communities, Woodford and Adlington, are progressing separately. Cllr Hoyland said that there are advantages and disadvantages in this. Woodford have had to go through an earlier phase by applying to Stockport to become a Neighbourhood Forum. Stockport has approved this, but has excluded the former airfield from the Neighbourhood Forum area. Stockport has based this decision on a court case currently ongoing in High Wycombe. One of the arguments that Stockport has provided is that no-one lives there, although there is a planning application being submitted for the first phase. Once that first phase is built there will be residents who will be disenfranchised, and unable to get involved in the NP because their area is excluded. Woodford are certainly looking at this and keeping an eye on the situation. Local people can get involved in a NP on issues such as cycle ways, the density of houses etc. The NP does need to fit under the Local Plan and has to comply with high level planning. At a local and lower level the community should and could get involved in issues such as transport, leisure facilities and other detail that will not be dealt with by CE in the Local Plan.

Cllr Murray raised his concern about the workload involved, and said that he did not think the PTC had the capacity and capability to carry this through. He asked if it would be better instead to delay the work on the NP until the outcome of the Local Plan which is the plan that is actually going to dictate the way forward? Cllr Hoyland explained the options, given that the NP takes about two years to complete. The option is either to wait for the Local Plan or develop a NP in parallel. Cllr Hoyland suggested that to work in tandem and partnership with CE would be the most beneficial way forward.

In terms of the workload Cllr Hoyland agreed that if this was just reliant on the Town Council there is no way this could be delivered, and this is the case for most Town and Parish Councils. The success of NPs is generally as a consequence of local people wanting to get involved. A core group of people would be needed to do the work involved in a NP and the Town Council is fortunate to have the services of Mr Knight, who can provide guidance.

Cllr Saunders asked for clarification if the 'Brownfield First' policy would be adhered to. Cllr Hoyland said that this can be included in the NP.

Cllr Lewis asked if it would be realistic to ask Cllr Jones and Cllr Brown for early disclosure of how they see the Local Plan developing as far as Poynton is concerned. It may well be that the NP is not required. Cllr Hoyland said information can be requested. However, the Local Plan is at a much higher level to the NP.

Cllr West raised his concern of the workload involved and suggested that resources are placed to carry this out properly. Cllr Hoyland said that the Town Council decided to proceed with a NP and that decision has been made. Cllr Hoyland explained again the different phases of the Plan and this is not contradictory to Cllr Brown's comments. A grant has already been received and further grant applications can be made. There is a lot of work involved but other Town and Parish Councils, with fewer resources than Poynton, are doing this because they have to, and with the involvement of their community, which is what the NP is all about.

RESOLVED: That the verbal update on the NP is received; that there is a request for early disclosure from CE via Cllr Brown, with early disclosure to be defined (13 - 1 abs)

63. First World War Commemoration

Cllr Murray asked if this Council will support in terms of time, effort and finance some commemorative events either alone or in party with others such as the British Legion. In the first instance Cllr Murray proposed that this Council will support the commemorations at the appropriate time, with the exact nature of that support to be determined,

Cllr Lewis asked if the Royal British Legion has been asked how they are intending to commemorate the event because traditionally the Remembrance Day Parade has been led by the Royal British Legion. The Town Council should not take over their event.

Cllr Murray said that the Legion in fact do not take the lead in organising Remembrance Day, as this for many years has been the responsibility of the Town Council, which is documented. The Royal Legion Branch has come to the Members and asked the Town Council to organise this event. Cllr Murray

confirmed that there would be no intention to overtake and dominate such an important event.

RESOLVED: That this Council commits in principle to supporting activities for the commemoration (13 - 1 abs)

Members discussed the type of commemoration the Town Council would consider supporting. These included involving the whole community, creating a legacy, recreating the era, amongst others.

Cllr Murray proposed that the Town Council makes staffing time available (e.g. the Youth Co-ordinator and Adult Health and Wellbeing Co-ordinator five days of work, and the Clerk a couple of days of work), and that for the weekend of commemoration the Civic Hall is made available at no charge for organisations deemed appropriate to use it. Cllr Murray further proposed that this Town Council commits funding of £5,000 towards underpinning the events. Grants for this will be investigated. Cllr Gorst confirmed that funds of £5,000 are affordable. Cllr Murray will e-mail Councillors inviting those interested to come forward and participate in a Steering Group. The Clerk warned that the Main Hall could be subject to construction work at the time of the commemoration.

RESOLVED: That the Town Council makes staffing time available to take this forward; that the Civic Hall is made available at no charge for organisations deemed appropriate to use it; that the Town Council commits funding of £5,000 towards underpinning the event(s); that grants for this Commemoration are pursued; and that Cllr Murray e-mail members inviting those interested to come forward and participate in a Steering Group (NC)

64, Adjournment of the Town Council meeting

Given that it was 10.25pm, Cllr Clarke proposed that the meeting be adjourned, with a suitable date to be fixed for it to resume. This was in accordance with SO1.

RESOLVED: That the meeting be adjourned, with a date of Monday 2nd December 2013 suggested for its resumption (12 - 2 against)

The meeting concluded at 10.25 pm