

**Main points arising: Minutes of previous meeting/ No Ball Games sign on grassed area adjacent to Worth School/ Policing update/ Adult Health and Wellbeing Coordinator update.**

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY ORDER & PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT 8.00PM ON MONDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2014 AT THE CIVIC HALL, POYNTON.

PRESENT

Chairman: Cllr Mrs J Saunders

Cllrs. G Bartos, M Beanland, L A Clarke, I Hollingworth, Ms R Horsman, P Hoyland and Mrs J Sewart

Attending under SO 54: Cllr H Murray substituting for Cllr Mrs I Thornton-Maddocks

Also attending under SO 56: Cllr Mrs S Horsman and R E West

11. Apologies for absence

Cllrs. A Smith and Mrs I Thornton-Maddocks

12. Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary or Other Interests

None declared.

13. Minutes of the previous meeting of 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2014

Cllr Clarke felt that the Part B discussion was not confidential and could have been addressed within the main agenda. Cllr Mrs Saunders noted Cllr Clarke's comments but explained that there were issues around the monitoring of Poynton's CCTV network, and it was for this the reason it was a Part B item.

**RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Community, Order and Public Safety Committee meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2014 are approved as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman (8 - 1 abs)**

14. Grassed area adjacent to Worth Primary School

The Chairman explained that the 'No ball games' sign was erected by the Town Council as a result of complaints from a number of residents who had

expressed concerns about anti-social behaviour on the part of some of the older users. This was done with the best of intentions, but it clearly caused a lot of debate and angst in the local community. It is only right that this issue is now debated fully as adults, and hopefully come to a resolution which is acceptable to those both for and against the sign.

The Chairman asked if there were representatives from both sides who would like to act as spokespersons, and also if any other resident would like to speak at the meeting. Those residents present were happy for representatives to speak on their behalf. Mr Fraser Cherry, 14 Sutton Road, asked to speak once both sides had put their arguments forward. The Chairman clarified that each representative would have a maximum of five minutes to speak.

Mr Eric Robinson (for sign)  
15 Sutton Road

Mr Robinson put forward the case on behalf of those residents who would like to retain the 'no ball games' signage. He provided a copy of his statement to the Clerk.

Mr Mark Whyllie (against sign)  
45 Hazel Drive

Mr Whyllie put forward the case on behalf of those residents who would like the sign removed. He also provided a copy of his statement to the Clerk.

Mr Fraser Cherry also addressed Committee members. Mr Cherry spoke in favour of retaining the sign, and he felt that the 150 signatures collected on a petition to remove the sign are not in fact directly affected by the problems with the grassed area. He felt that some children are dropped off by car to play in the area, and it is naïve to think that no anti-social behaviour takes place. Mr Cherry said he had been aware of people swearing, with some disgraceful behaviour and situations where the police had to be called. He said that some nearby residents are elderly and in poor health. Residents should be left alone to enjoy their gardens and houses in privacy. A six foot wooden fence does not keep out the shouting of children and banging of footballs.

To be fair to both sides the Chairman allowed a further three minutes of debate by those against the sign, and Mr Chris Oakes, 7 Bosley Drive, addressed members of the Committee. Mr Oakes said that he has lived in the area for 12 years and felt that a very unrealistic and untrue picture had been painted of the area. In his opinion the area is used by young children and parents. He felt that a wholly distorted view of youngsters and anti-social behaviour had been put forward. Mr Whyllie added that the sign had affected everyone, and fails to make a distinction between young children and parents playing harmless ball games, or those that may have caused a nuisance in the area. The 'no ball games' sign has stopped everyone from enjoying the space, which has been used for many years.

Cllr Hoyland explained that he still takes the view that he expressed at the previous COPS Committee meeting of 2<sup>nd</sup> June that there needs to be a balance and tolerance of young people playing in the vicinity of their own family home, but added that this is very different to large groups of children causing a disturbance. Cllr Hoyland said that he was familiar with this estate and this area has a very civilised, sensible group of families who live in excellent harmony. From listening to Mr Robinson, Cllr Hoyland understood that he and four other families live close by the grassed area. Cllr Hoyland explained the problems he had experienced as a result of living in a similar setting and shared this with residents. Cllr Hoyland said that it is important that people are allowed to live in peace in their own homes just as it is for children to be allowed to play. Everyone who lives in such an area needs to take responsibility and not just leave it to the few families who live around that green. Cllr Hoyland said he would like to see a community pulling together and he felt this was possible.

Cllr Murray explained that he was familiar with the problems faced by living next to open fields in the vicinity of the home and shared some of the problems he had experienced as a result. He feels that residents have the right to the quiet enjoyment of their property. Cllr Murray made some suggestions to help address the problems raised:

- Remove the sign promptly. It is not in any case legally enforceable but in time a legally enforceable sign through the required consultation process can be erected. Cllr Murray did not feel that this is what residents would like to see.
- The Clerk and the Youth Co-ordinator designate investigate the possibility of a kick about wall as an alternative distraction to be considered for the future.
- Those residents who are most affected keep a diary to record any incidents of anti-social behaviour between now and September, to be considered at a review of the issue at that time.
- PCSOs will also continue to monitor the situation.

Cllr Murray thought these suggestions would allow a reasonable rational discussion of the next steps and solutions.

Cllr Hollingworth said that it would be good to see this issue resolved locally and suggested that since 150 people have expressed their concern perhaps a local rota system could be organised, to assist for example Mr Robinson and his neighbours.

The Chairman noted the honest and frank discussion that had taken place. Cllr Hollingworth's suggestion was noted and Mr Cherry agreed to act as a point of contact for Mr Robinson.

Sgt Alexander assured residents that the PCSOs are aware of the recent complaints by residents, and they have increased the frequency for monitoring this area. They have also given advice to residents. Appropriate action will be taken if there is anti-social behaviour witnessed as well as giving advice to youths directly. Sgt Alexander felt confident that local youths will adhere to the advice given.

Cllr Hoyland seconded the proposal by Cllr Murray. The proposal included:

- Removing the sign immediately;
- Town Clerk and Youth Coordinator-designate investigate a kickabout wall or other distraction activity;
- Diary of any anti-social behaviour to be maintained by those residents living close in to the site;
- PCSOs to continue visits, as they do to all play areas;
- A self-policing rota system is introduced;
- There is a review in September 2014

The Chairman thanked the residents for attending the meeting and felt that progress could now be made on resolving the issues raised.

**RESOLVED: That the proposal by Cllr Murray, as detailed above, is agreed (NC)**

#### 15. Policing Update

Sgt Alexander provided a policing update.

He reported on the recent traffic operation in Poynton. The primary aim was to educate motorists and this was achieved by providing them with the opportunity to watch a video by the Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service of the dangers and consequences of their actions. Of the 47 motorists, 33 were speeding, 7 using mobile phones, 6 not wearing seatbelts and 1 miscellaneous. Sgt Alexander noted that there were some very emotional responses to watching the video, and generally this was a successful operation.

PCSOs attended the recent 'Party in the Park' and the Family Sports Festival at the Leisure Centre. PCSO Chris Luke is organising other summer activities. These will be promoted through Twitter.

There are two new PCSOs, Lisa and Alex. PCSO Sophie has taken over responsibility as the primary contact for Poynton High School and will continue the positive work with the school.

Deva Fields

The PCSOs have increased the frequency of visits in the evening period and are engaging and liaising with nearby residents and other users such as the

scouts to target anti-social behaviour. This continues to be a priority for this month.

#### Queensway and Park Lane

PCSOs have been looking at inconsiderate parking on Queensway and Park Lane. This continues to be addressed with advisory notices. Many of the main culprits for parking on the pavement on Park Lane are delivery vans. Sgt Alexander asked it if would be possible to consider a letter to the shop owners to assist with the PCSO approach. In terms of possible trends, those parking during the day on Park Lane tend to be from Hazel Grove and Stockport while in the evening it appears to be local residents visiting eateries. This is purely anecdotal information based on the information provided by motorists when questioned by the PCSOs. Cllr Hollingworth suggested that the issue of delivery vans on Park Lane is addressed as an agenda item for Poynton in Business.

SID has been deployed in different locations. Sgt Alexander welcomed information on any areas or locations where this would be useful.

#### Poynton Sports Club

Youth anti-social behaviour has been reported by members of the Sports Club caused by non-members. The primary problem is with large numbers of youths congregating around the car park. Sergeant Alexander has met with the Sports Club and discussed the issues at length. Similarly to last year, the PCSOs will increase the frequency of visits to the area in the summer. An entry barrier and/or other controls had been suggested to the Club, but had not been taken up.

#### Crime

Sergeant Alexander reported three burglaries in June. Two of these were forced entry - one on Chester Road and the other on Wigwam Close, while the third was a sneak entry on Dickens Lane. There were two thefts from motor vehicles, one of a laptop and the other of a blue badge from an insecure vehicle. A female has been charged for a shoplifting incident at Boots.

#### Tweets

The mobile phones funded by the Town Council have been utilised and proven very helpful to allow the PCSOs to Tweet while they are out and about.

#### Drugs stats

Two people have been dealt with for possessing cannabis by way of a summons and one person from Poynton has received a warning.

## Civic Centre Car Park

The car park has been visited late at night by PCSOs and they have had a word with the taxi drivers regarding the recent public health problems in the area. The PCSOs regularly visit the Civic Centre Car Park at night and there have been no other issues.

Cllr Mrs Sewart expressed her concern of the top half of Park Lane where cars tend to park down one side of the road but problems are caused if a car parks on the opposite side because there are no double yellow lines. Cars are blocking the pavement and forcing pedestrians to walk into the road and around vehicles to be able to continue walking up Park Lane. Cllr Mrs Sewart asked if there was any evidence of the problems caused by motorists in this area. PCSO Alexander said there was no evidence received but that parking on the pavement is an obstruction and would be dealt with by a PCSO if they came across this situation. Following further discussion it was agreed that this issue should to be considered at a FIED committee meeting and it was requested that the Clerk include this as an agenda item at a future FIED meeting.

**RESOLVED: That the verbal policing update is received with thanks (NC)**

## 16. Update from the Adult Health and Wellbeing Co-ordinator

The Town Council's Adult Health and Wellbeing Co-ordinator, Trish Hill highlighted the new initiatives in her Work Plan update for July 2014.

### Community Transport

The Chairman asked about the launch date. Trish Hill explained that it has been suggested that there is soft launch for the Poynton Easy Access Scheme (formerly known as Shopmobility) because of the level of enquiries currently being received. The Clerk added that a soft launch followed by a hard launch would seem to be the best way forward. This is being driven by the processes and procedures that need to be put in place. Trish Hill explained that the National Federation of Shopmobility schemes will no longer exist after November 2014 and this has been a stumbling block. The Chairman proposed that the soft launch takes place at the beginning of August 2014. The launch of the minibuses is dependent upon the recruitment of a local administrator.

**RESOLVED: That a there is a soft launch of the Poynton Easy Access Scheme at the beginning of August 2014 (NC)**

### Men in Sheds

Cllr Hoyland clarified that he would expect Trish Hill to concentrate on the role of coordinating the Men in Sheds project, but not to be hands on. Trish Hill said that role could be taken on by the local volunteer group.

Cllr Mrs Sewart asked if Open Hands would be involved with the proposed volunteer group. Trish Hill confirmed that she has spoken to Open Hands as well as the Baptist and Methodist Church, and continues discussions with other groups too.

An estimate had been obtained from Age UK for funding Men In Sheds for the first three years - £88k. Cllr West enquired about any grant funding from Peaks and Plains Housing Trust. The Chairman explained that Peaks and Plains are an excellent partner but it is important to explore other sources of funding too.

With regard to a location for Men in Sheds the Chairman suggested that the Anson Museum is an appropriate venue. They are keen to be involved and already have volunteers in place. The Chairman urged the Adult and Health Wellbeing Coordinator to explore this as an option. Cllr Clarke agreed that with the community buses in place this would be an accessible venue.

**RESOLVED: That the update from the Adult Health and Wellbeing Co-ordinator is received (NC)**

17. Invitation from the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cheshire

**RESOLVED: That this invitation for Town and Parish Council representatives to attend a briefing session at 6.30pm at Congleton Town Hall on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> July 2014 is received (NC)**

18. Armed Policing Alliance

**RESOLVED: That an open letter from the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cheshire and the Chief Constable of North Wales regarding the Armed Policing Alliance is received (NC)**

The meeting concluded at 9.25pm