

Main points arising: Poynton Village Revitalisation Scheme/ Payment schedule/ Bank reconciliations

MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT 8.00PM ON MONDAY 20TH JANUARY 2014 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC HALL, POYNTON

PRESENT

Chairman: Cllr C Gorst

Cllrs. G Bartos, M Beanland, L A Clarke, Mrs J Saunders, A Smith and G Smith

Attending under SO 54: Cllr P Hoyland substituting for Cllr H Murray

Attending under SO 56: Cllr B Lewis and Mrs S Horsman

PART A

43. Apologies for absence

Cllrs H Murray and M C G Sewart

44. Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary or Other Interests

On the basis of his property interests on Park Lane Cllr Clarke declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in item 46, and said he would withdraw from the meeting during that discussion.

Cllr G Smith declared a non-pecuniary interest in the same item.

45. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 7th January 2014

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 7th January 2014 are approved as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman (NC)

(Cllr Clarke withdrew from the meeting)

46. Poynton Village Revitalisation Scheme (PVRS)

On the contributions made to date by the Town Council for the Poynton Village Revitalisation Scheme (PVRS) the Clerk provided a covering brief.

On page 3 - Cllr Bartos asked for clarification regarding the number of quotes gained for the resin bonding. The Clerk confirmed that this was a contract let by Cheshire East and he assumed this was compliant with their contractual procedures. It has been made very clear to CE Highways in writing that there will be no payment until the Town Council are satisfied with the standard of work regarding this contract.

Cllr Lewis said that at the Town Council meeting of the 25th November 2013, Cllr Murray said a schedule had been considered by the F&GP Committee on 23rd September 2013. Cllr Lewis said there was no mention of this in the minutes. The Clerk explained that Cllr Murray was probably referring to a written brief of the Town Council's reserves which was presented at that meeting. This included a figure of £43,643 as the balance of the Town Council's contribution towards PVRS.

RESOLVED: That the Chairman and members of the PVRS Steering Group are thanked for their work; that the report is received and the contributions made to date by the Town Council for PVRS noted (NC)

Cllr Lewis asked about two payments in July 2011 to the Clerk and the previous Operations Officer and asked if they were cash or a claw back of money. The Clerk explained that they were simply a book transaction and no money changed hands. In effect the PVRS £100,000 budget would be debited for those amounts shown and the salaries budget credited. Cllr Lewis asked if the Clerk was paid from salary to budget in that amount. The Clerk replied that this was not the case - he was only paid his normal salary, this was a book transaction only.

Cllr Mrs Saunders said it was inappropriate to be discussing staff wages at a public meeting.

The Chairman explained that the Clerk worked many additional hours during the work on PVRS. It is acceptable in any work place to be paid for additional hours. The Chairman explained that it was Cllr Lewis's initial suggestion that the Clerk should be paid retrospectively by the Town Council and reimbursed for the extra hours he worked on the PVRS from the £100,000. Cllr Lewis's suggestion at the time was then approved by members. It was agreed that there would be a transfer of funds from the PVRS reserve.

Cllr Lewis asked how this stands with the statement in paragraph 7 of the letter sent to Mr Roberts, and questioned the last paragraph in the letter.

Cllr Hoyland on a point of order proposed that this discussion is moved to a Part B item.

RESOLVED: That the discussion of staff payments is considered as a Part B item (6 - 1abs)

47. Payment Schedule for December 2013

RESOLVED: That the Payment Schedule for December 2013 is received (NC)

48. Bank Reconciliations

RESOLVED: That the Bank Reconciliations for end-November and end-December 2013, as checked and signed by the Chairman, are noted (NC)

PART B

The public and media were excluded from Part B of this meeting in accordance with Poynton Town Council's Standing Order 71 (b) (i)

Meeting End Time: 8.20 pm