

**Main issues arising: Parking; Clumber Road one-way section; Operations Manager's update; Hockley Play Area; Clifford Road narrowing; Poynton 10k run; Town Council bus shelter claim.**

MINUTES OF THE FACILITIES & INFRASTRUCTURE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (FIED) COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT 8.00PM ON MONDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> NOVEMBER 2014 AT THE CIVIC HALL, POYNTON.

PRESENT

Chairman: Cllr A Smith

Cllrs. G King, I Hollingworth, Ms R Horsman, Mrs S Horsman, B Lewis, Mrs J Sewart, Mrs I Thornton-Maddocks

Attending under SO 54: Cllr L A Clarke substituting for Cllr G Smith

Attending under SO 56: Cllr P Hoyland

34. Apologies for absence

Cllrs: G Bartos and G Smith

35. Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary or Other Interests

None.

36. Questions from members of the public

Mr. Wood of Lower Red Acre Farm, Pott Shrigley, addressed the meeting to say that although the recent work in Poynton has been successful and positive, it has resulted in a problem with lack of parking, with Poynton being so busy. Mr Wood asked Members what could be done about this.

Cllr Lewis said that an enforced two hour parking restriction would help alleviate the problem because of the turnaround of cars. He said that positive steps needed to be taken to prevent people from block parking in the areas of the Civic Centre Car Park. Cllr A Smith informed Mr Wood that the parking bays on London Road North will have parking restrictions implemented very soon. The Operations Manager said that the Town Council can currently access the temporary car park by the former Vernon Infant School on Clumber Road, and this can be used for busy events such as flu injections and the Christmas Fest. This is a short term solution that has worked quite well.

Cllr Lewis said that Poynton does not get its share of parking enforcement officers and this means that nobody enforces the double yellow lines. The Chairman noted that the issue of car parking is reviewed and discussed frequently, and noted that it is good that Poynton is thriving, but when the Civic Centre Car Park is busy it does cause issues.

37. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2014

**RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Facilities, Infrastructure and Economic Development Committee meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2014 are approved as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman (4 - 5 abs)**

38. Traffic infringements on Clumber Road one way section

Mr. Hazeldine from 4 Clumber Road had emailed the Clerk to raise his concern about traffic infringements on the Clumber Road one way system. In his opinion, this involves about 50 per cent of the traffic and eventually there will be an accident. The one way sign is faded and barely visible and the lighting is broken. Mr. Hazeldine suggested painting a 'No Exit' sign on the road surface. He noted that the Total Garage vehicles turn right against the one way system and requested that there is a sign indicating the car park to the Working Men's Club. Mr. Hazeldine has spoken to the Cheshire East Highways Department.

The Operations Manager and a Cheshire East Highways Officer had visited the site in response to Mr. Hazeldine's concerns. It was stated that it is a road traffic offence and therefore a police matter when vehicles travel the wrong way down the one-way section. However, the Highways Officer noted a number of issues from his visit. The direction arrow sign needs to be replaced and the positioning of the sign outside the Working Men's Club is a problem - it is likely that these will be corrected. The Highways Officer also noted that there are no white lines visible to show the exit or entrance at the Clumber Road junction with Park Lane, and he will make a recommendation for this work to be undertaken. He had also taken a number of photographs of the area and will compile and submit a report.

Cllr Mrs Horsman asked if an approach had been made to the Total Garage. The Operations Manager replied that although an approach could be made, this is a police matter. Cllr Mrs Sewart suggested that a large sign is placed opposite the garage. On the legality of written instructions on the road surface, Cllr Mrs Sewart noted that although signs cannot be legally enforced they do appear on a number of roads in the area and serve as a reminder to the public.

Cllr Mrs Horsman noted that the Clerk had previously approached the Total Garage on this issue and had noticed that it was the employees of the Total

Garage that do not obey the exit rules of the road. Cllr Clarke who has previously resided in this area noted that this has been a problem in the past and there used to be a sign directly opposite the garage which should be replaced by Cheshire East. He also suggested asking the PCSOs to patrol the area and deal with incidents accordingly. Cllr Hoyland supported bringing the matter to the attention of the police. However, with the limited resources available he explained that it is possible for residents to pass on details to the police if two members of the public are witnesses and prepared to make a statement to the police, who can then take action. This can be done by ringing 101 and Cllr Lewis added that an incident number should be requested to ensure action is taken.

**RESOLVED: That the report is received; that the resident is thanked for drawing attention to this issue; that the Deputy Clerk continues to liaise with Cheshire East to improve the signage (including the provision of a mandatory left sign opposite the Total Garage) and that the matter is brought to the attention of the police and included on the agenda of the next meeting of this Committee (NC)**

#### 39. Update for October 2014 from the Operations and Events Manager

The Operations Manager presented his written update to Members.

He said that the shared space remedial work undertaken recently only related to Phases I and II. Cllr Lewis said that the area between the Bulkeley Road and Poynton Green was part of Phase I. Cllr A Smith said that this was how he had understood it to be, but that if Cllr Lewis wished to pursue this issue, it should be raised at a Town Council meeting.

#### Winter gritting for Anson Road and Waterloo Road

Cllr A Smith asked if this was within the FIED budget, and the Operations Manager confirmed this was the case. Cllr Lewis proposed that on the basis that there is no-one else to provide the service, the appointment of ANSA to grit Anson and Waterloo Roads is approved.

**RESOLVED: That the request for the continued gritting of Anson and Waterloo Roads is approved (NC)**

#### Fingerpost

Cllr Mrs Sewart asked that if the Town Council paid £650 to replace the fingerpost would Cheshire East be willing to transfer the asset. Cllr Lewis questioned if the Town Council would want the fingerpost. Even if it is replaced it may be damaged again. He said that this is not such a historic item, and should the Town Council concentrate their efforts instead on other items of heritage to preserve. Cllr Clarke said that he would like to retain the post but that perhaps cheaper options be sought since cast iron breaks easily

under tension. Cllr Mrs Thornton-Maddocks agreed that the fingerpost is retained.

**RESOLVED: That that costs for cheaper alternatives are sought; that Cheshire East is asked to consider the transfer of the asset; and that this item is discussed at the next FIED Committee meeting (NC)**

#### Tree on Maple Drive

Cllr Ms R Horsman said that the resident has reported that the leaves have started to fall off the tree and will again cause a problem. The Operations Manager will put a request into Cheshire East to clear the leaves. In terms of reducing the size of the tree, there seems little prospect of this. Cllr Hoyland asked for the resident to be informed that if the resident wishes to pay for the work CE will provide this service through a tree surgeon.

Cllr Lewis asked the Operations Manager to investigate if there is a TPO on the trees that were removed recently from the corner of Park Lane/School Lane.

#### Sutton Road/Adlington Close – Missing street lighting

Cllr Clarke said that the situation is ludicrous and those lights have been in this state for many months. These lights should be replaced without delay - these are residential streets and council tax payers expect the lights to be replaced. There was some discussion on the delay caused by the road opening permits. Cllr Hoyland believed there had been changes to the regulations due to the utility companies. Cllr Clarke said that even if there has been a change to the regulations it is difficult to believe it would take three months unless someone is being grossly inefficient. Cllr Clarke suggested bringing this matter to the attention of Cheshire East Council Leader Cllr Michael Jones. Cllr Hollingworth noted that such cases can be fast tracked when emphasised as a safety issue, particularly with children coming in and out of local schools.

Cllr Hoyland suggested that the matter is raised first through the CE Councillors for that Ward.

Cllr Clarke said that this has been a longstanding problem and it has typically taken about two years to replace damaged lights stumps. He pointed out that this is not a new problem and needs flagging as soon as possible. Cllr Lewis said that Members cannot mandate the Cheshire East Councillors to do anything but only ask them to pursue the matter. Whilst the CE Councillors are pursuing the issue, Cllr Lewis suggested instructing the Clerk to write to the Portfolio Holder to inform them that the Town Council are very dissatisfied with the service on lighting because of the on-going problems and the length of time taken to resolve matters, and evidence this with information.

**RESOLVED: That the Deputy Clerk liaises with Cllrs Murray and Mrs Saunders regarding issues 3.1 and 3.2 in the Operations Manager's**

**report; that the Portfolio Holder is contacted to express concern about the amount of time being taken to replace lights; that there is clarification of the timeline and whether the road opening permits are a genuine requirement and not due to inefficiency; and that this includes the Waterloo Road lights which are out. (NC)**

#### Civic Centre Car Park lighting

Cllr Lewis stated that this is the Civic Hall Car Park and not the Civic Centre Car Park. The Operations Manager asked if the displayed signs are incorrect. Cllr Lewis replied that the signs are incorrect and it should be the Civic Hall Car Park.

#### Brecon Play Area

Cllr Clarke asked if the concrete post he had previously brought to the Operations Manager's attention had been resolved. The Operations Manager said that he is trying to get a local contractor to look at it this week.

Cllr Hoyland congratulated the Operations Manager on the development of Poynton in Business in such a short space of time.

Cllr Lewis said that residents whose trees and hedges have grown over paths should be informed to cut these back. The leaves on Towers Road needs sweeping again. Cllr Lewis said that it was concerning that the Operations Manager's list keeps increasing with unresolved issues. He added that this was in no way a criticism. Cllr Lewis provided some examples from the list and the Operations Manager provided an update on those issues. The Operations Manager explained that the issues on the list are live and reviewed and being moved forward.

Cllr Mrs Horsman raised the issue of the overgrown hedges on Park Avenue. The Operations Manager has approached a resident and is dealing with this.

Cllr Mrs Thornton-Maddocks noted that the Operations Manager is reliant on so many third party responses, and he has closed and resolved 34 issues in the period – she wished to commend his work.

**RESOLVED: That the Operations Manager's update is received (NC)**

#### 40. Hockley Play Area

Members considered the written report regarding Hockley Play Area from the Operations and Events Manager. The Operations Manager said that his recommendation is Option 10.3.

Cllr Clarke said that this should be retained as a play area and a facility for children. Cllr Clarke said he would not support Option 10.4. He said that the £10,400 in the earmarked reserve should enable the removal of the

dangerous equipment with some new equipment, and the swings repainted. In summary Cllr Clarke said that the play area should be retained and some equipment refurbished within the constraints of the budget, and the Town Council work towards raising additional grants for more equipment in the area. Cllr Lewis asked if there was any Section 106 money from the Waitrose development towards the play area. It is important to ensure that money generated in Poynton is used in Poynton. The Operations Manager asked who should be approached on this issue. Cllr Clarke agreed that this requires further investigation and that Cheshire East Planning Officers would be the best place to start.

Cllr Hoyland said that this is an East Ward issue and there are two CE East Ward Councillors on the Town Council who have access to the individual who deals with this matter.

Cllr Mrs Sewart agreed with the discussion, and supported retaining this as a play area and refurbishing the equipment, but she was concerned about the drainage issues and whether this would affect or damage any new equipment. The Operations Manager suggested that this is made part of the WREN funding bid. Cllr Clarke said that in the past the Town Council has invested in dealing with drainage issues. Cllr A Smith requested that residents are informed in advance of the removal of the unsafe equipment and the plans for the area.

**RESOLVED: Cllr Clarke proposed that the report is received; that the Committee support the retention of the play area; that further action is taken for safety improvements; that equipment deemed as unsafe is removed with suitable publicity given to neighbouring properties and to stress that this is being done for safety reasons; that this is included in the PUN; that the Parks Earmarked Reserve is used to repair, refurbish and replace existing equipment where possible; that the possibility of Section 106 funding from the Waitrose development or other sources is investigated further; that the drainage issues are investigated further, and that the CE Councillors be invited to assist with the above action (NC)**

#### 41. Clifford Road – road narrowing

Members considered a written proposal regarding road narrowing on Clifford Road from Cllr Mrs J Sewart. She explained that the proposal is a possible way to move the issue forward, introduce new ideas and provide a basis for discussion since an acceptable long term solution is required.

Cllr Hoyland said his only concern was that the road narrowing on Clifford Road was introduced in response to residents at the time, although this was not necessarily the view held by all residents in the area. Subsequently there has been a ballot and the result was that residents would like the bumps removed. Cllr Hoyland said that action should be taken according to the democratic process undertaken. Cllr Mrs Sewart said that she was suggesting

that all residents affected in the area are balloted i.e. all the side roads off Clifford Road.

Cllr A Smith said that CE have stated that the process did not take place across the board and only included Clifford Road and no other areas. CE agreed that they did not consult enough people. Cllr Mrs Sewart's idea is to ensure that all stakeholders are consulted and provide a framework for further discussion.

Cllr Hoyland agreed with the views put forward and suggested that there should be a stage where residents are informed that the previous agreed action is now not being taken, pending further discussions.

There was further discussion on how the process was originally undertaken and the reasons behind it, such as the large vehicles using the road and the width restriction that was introduced. Cllr Clarke proposed the following resolution:

- a) That the FIED Committee supports this option being put forward to CE Highways Dept. for a feasibility study, further amendments as necessary and consultation with residents on this and any other feasible options of all the roads concerned – Clifford Road, Gloucester Road, Buckingham Road, Queensway and Brookfield Avenue, with a view to the preferred solution being added to works in the next round.
- b) That a letter is sent to Cllr Michael Jones, Leader of CE, reminding him of his promise to Poynton Town Council on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2014 at the informal briefing concerning Clifford Road that if the Town Council came up with a way forward he would ensure it was carried out.

With the addition that residents of Clifford Road be advised as to why the previous consultation has to be rerun without the immediate actions suggested previously. The Chairman noted that this needs to be done through CE.

**RESOLVED: That the report is received; that the resolutions (a) and (b) above, with the addition that CE advise residents of Clifford Road, is approved (NC)**

#### 42. Poynton 10k Run

Members received and consider a written progress report from the Town Clerk regarding the proposed Poynton 10k run.

**RESOLVED: That the report is received (NC)**

#### 43. Town Council Insurance Claim

Cllr Mrs Thornton-Maddocks explained that she will be meeting with the Clerk on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2014 regarding the Town Council's insurance claim for a former bus shelter on London Road South. There will be an update at the next FIED Committee meeting.

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

The meeting concluded at 9.25 pm