

**Main points arising: Presentation on invasive plant species/ Operations and Events Manager's update/ Middlewood Station/ Insurance claim for former London Road South bus shelter**

MINUTES OF THE FACILITIES INFRASTRUCTURE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT 8.00PM ON MONDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2014 AT THE CIVIC HALL, POYNTON.

PRESENT

Chairman: Cllr G King

Cllrs. I Hollingworth, Ms R Horsman, B Lewis and G Smith

Also attending: Cllr L A Clarke, substituting for Cllr G Bartos, and Cllr Mrs J Saunders substituting for Cllr A Smith, in accordance with Standing Order 54, and Cllr C Gorst in accordance with SO 56.

**PART A**

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr G Bartos, Cllr Mrs S Horsman, Cllr Mrs J Sewart, Cllr A Smith and Mrs I Thornton-Maddocks

2. Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary or Other Interests

None declared

3. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2014

p. 275 - Cllr Lewis pointed out that a review of the double yellow lines as part of the general issue on parking in Poynton did not occur, and a gap remains along the section of double yellow lines on Towers Road. The Operations Manager will investigate this further.

**RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Facilities, Infrastructure and Economic Development Committee meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2014 are approved as an accurate record, and signed by the Chairman (5 - 2 abs)**

#### 4. Presentation from Sally Potts, Invasives Project Officer, BEACON

Sally Potts gave a presentation concerning invasive plant species. Her catchment area stretches from the Macclesfield Forest to the Manchester Ship Canal and Poynton sits just outside this area. The three invasive plant species she dealt with were Himalayan Balsam, Giant Hogweed and Japanese Knotweed. Sally described the three types of species and explained how they can be removed and controlled.

The Clerk asked if there was an obligation to report sightings of such species to DEFRA. Sally explained that there is no obligation as such to report sightings, but farmers are likely to have an agreement that they have to keep such plants under control. It is an offence under the Wildlife and Countryside Act to allow these plant species to spread.

Cllr Hollingworth asked if there were any plans to carry out any 'Balsam bashing' in this area. Sally explained that this is not in her catchment area. A group of volunteers is required and if the community can pull such a group together she would be happy to provide advice and support.

Sally said that control/eradication takes time, raising awareness is important, organisation with landowners and farmers is required, and general cooperation is necessary to have a positive effect.

Following the presentation it was agreed that this information to increase awareness would be included in the PUN and the Town Council website. Members offered a vote of thanks to Sally Potts for her presentation.

**RESOLVED: That the presentation is received, and a vote of thanks offered to Sally Potts (NC)**

#### 5. Operations and Events Manager's Update

The Operations and Events Manager presented his written update.

##### Blocked gulleys

The Operations Manager explained how individual gully problems will be logged and tagged by Cheshire East for further work. Cllr Clarke mentioned a long standing problem with a gully in the vicinity of 24/25 London Road South. Part of the problem is that cars are parked over the area during the day. The Operations Manager said that they will deal with this problem through CE Highways and ensure that cones are placed around this particular area to prevent cars parking on it in advance of the work being carried out.

Cllr Lewis highlighted the long standing problem at the junction of Dickens Lane and Clumber Road, on both corners. The Operations Manager said that CE are aware of the problem and have provided assurances that this is a question of funding. Surveys have been carried and resolutions identified.

## Roads

Cllr Gorst explained that Middlewood Road is now in reasonable condition but Pool House Road requires some attention. The Operations Manager said he has provided a list of roads for the CE Highways Investment Programme.

## Lighting

Cllr Clarke noted that the replacement of street lighting is very poor. There remains a problem with the lighting in the Civic Centre Car Park. Cllr Lewis asked if a Cheshire East Councillor could help to progress this issue with CE Assets Department. Cllr Mrs Saunders confirmed that she will follow up on this.

## Brecon Field Footpath

**RESOLVED: That the request for funding up to £2,000 to improve the footpath is approved (NC)**

## Play Areas

The Clerk added that there is in excess of £14,000 in the Play Area Earmarked Reserve and Members could in future consider the release of £10,000 to improve the Hockley play area, if required. This would need to be considered at a future FIED meeting.

## Friends of Poynton Play Areas

Cllr Lewis hopes that this would be successful but noted some caution in that attempts to establish a 'Friends of Barnaby Field' group had failed. Cllr Mrs Saunders said that this time the High School is involved, which is proving helpful. Cllr Gorst suggested that notices are placed in relevant locations such as playgroups to raise awareness in the community.

**RESOLVED: That the formation of 'Friends of Poynton Play Areas' is approved (NC)**

## Business Update

Cllr King noted that the Operations Manager carried out a remarkable job in hosting and pulling the Poynton In Business meetings together.

Cllr Clarke pointed out that a wall on Towers Road opposite Woburn Court is crumbling. The Operations Manager will follow up.

**RESOLVED: That the report from the Operations Manager is received with thanks (NC)**

**See PART B below**

## **PART B**

**This section has been removed from the public record on the basis of Poynton Town Council's Standing Order 71 (b) (iv):**

**“Any terms proposed or to be proposed by or to the Council in the course of negotiations for a contract for the acquisition or disposal of property or the supply of goods or services, if and so long as disclosure to the public of the terms would prejudice the Council in those or any other negotiations.”**

The meeting concluded at 9.05 pm