

Main points arising: Poynton Relief Road; A523 Improvement Study

MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT 8.00PM ON MONDAY 21ST JULY 2014 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC HALL, POYNTON.

PRESENT

Chairman: Cllr Ms R Horsman

Cllrs. G Bartos, M Beanland, L A Clarke, C Gorst, Mrs S Horsman, P Hoyland, G King, B Lewis, Mrs J Saunders, Mrs J Sewart, M C G Sewart, G Smith and R E West

25. Apologies for absence

Cllrs. I Hollingworth, H Murray, A Smith and Mrs I Thornton-Maddocks

26. Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary or Other Interests

Cllr Hoyland declared a non-pecuniary interest in the choice of route for the Poynton Relief Road, on the basis that he is a member of the CE Strategic Planning Board.

27. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 23rd June 2014

Cllr Lewis pointed out that this scheduled meeting of the Town Council had been described as the Annual Town Council Meeting on the agenda, which was incorrect. The Clerk was grateful for this error having been pointed out, and thanked Cllr Lewis.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 23rd June 2014 are approved as an accurate record (9 - 4 abs)

(Cllr Clarke arrived after voting had taken place)

28. Poynton Relief Road

Members considered a Town Council response to the public consultation concerning route options for the Poynton Relief Road and improvements to the A523 (this issue had been referred to the Town Council by the Planning and Environment Committee at their meeting of 14th July 2014).

Mrs Alice Ford

Mrs Ford, an Adlington resident, addressed Members to express her concern about the likely impact of the Poynton Relief Road on the rural lanes of both Poynton and Adlington. Skellorn Green and Street Lane she said are not only used to access Macclesfield but also Manchester, Bramhall and Manchester Airport. She felt that these country lanes will effectively become a second bypass. They are actively used for various recreational purposes by residents of Poynton and the surrounding areas. Mrs Ford felt that the Relief Road will prevent the lanes from being used in this way. She highlighted two loops on the map to Members and explained how these too would be detrimentally affected. Mrs Ford kindly requested that the Town Council in their submission to CE ask that the link to Street Lane is addressed.

Cllr M Sewart said that he has read the submission made by Mrs Ford at the previous Planning meeting, but did not understand her objections. Cllr Sewart said that mitigation could be put in place, but he did not see this as part of this particular scheme. He put forward a resolution as follows: "That the Town Council is fully supportive of the Cheshire East plans for the Poynton Relief Road and thanks the Councillors of that authority for their diligence in advancing the scheme to its current status".

Cllr Hoyland had distributed a draft resolution to Members in advance, and as a consequence of their feedback had amended that draft. Cllr Hoyland said he was supportive of making remarks for mitigation not only for the eastern side of Poynton and the rural lanes, but also for the western end of Lostock Hall Road which may potentially see an increase in noise. It is realistic and sensible for the Town Council to recognise that any construction will have an impact on the surrounding areas. Significant work has been undertaken concerning mitigation for the A6 to Manchester Airport Relief Road. For the Town Council to suggest that mitigation is required does not in any way suggest that the project should not go ahead. Many Members of the Town Council have worked very hard to ensure that it does come to fruition. There is undoubted commitment to moving this long-awaited project forward.

Cllr Hoyland said that it is for these reasons that he is tabling the following draft resolution: "That the Town Council fully supports the Poynton Relief Road and believes its construction will form the essential northern end of a strategic link to the Silk Road and Macclesfield as well as providing relief to the centre of Poynton. The Town Council recognises the importance of mitigation for the areas potentially adversely affected by the proposed route. In addition the Council would like to offer its support to any consideration being given to mitigation relating to the western end of Lostock Hall Road and any potential increase in traffic on country lanes within both Poynton and Adlington parish boundaries. Many of the lanes are used for recreational purposes as well as vehicles, by residents of both Poynton and Adlington. As a consequence the Town Council specifically requests that mitigation is allowed to ensure the lanes are still safe and useable for the many vulnerable users, including horse riders, walkers and cyclists. We request that full risk assessments are completed to establish the risk for vulnerable road users and

traffic counts are completed on all of the lanes affected within the two parishes”.

Cllr Lewis did not feel that the back lanes would be swamped with traffic in the future. He said that motorists are not using the back lanes to any greater extent despite the heavy traffic at rush hour through Fountain Place. Cllr Lewis seconded Cllr Sewart’s motion and asked for this to be put to the vote. Cllr Mrs Sewart noted that this Relief Road is essential to Poynton and needs the wholehearted support from the Town Council without any specific qualifying conditions. There should be no actions to cause delay. There could be possible delays caused by the general election next year. The traffic figures from the time of the Shared Space scheme were 26,000 per day and she understood that this had recently increased to 30,000 per day. Vibrations which are of significant annoyance to residents on those heavy routes require addressing.

Cllr West said it was important that the Town Council indicate its full support for the scheme. However this is an opportunity to address the mitigation required for the residents of Poynton and Adlington. The neighbouring town and parish councils will be working closely together, and this would be formalising processes already on-going. Cllr West added that the processes should be set in place to prevent any new government from changing the goal posts.

Cllr Gorst said that the Town Council have been campaigning for this road for a very long time. He agreed and shared concerns that Members should be wary of any delay and the possible affect of a change in government causing any missed opportunity. The Town Council should he said give their unequivocal support for the Poynton Relief Road. As regards the Adlington roads, Cllr Gorst said that there were only two roads that would be affected, namely Street Lane and Spring Bank. Street Lane is a wide lane which can take additional traffic. Spring Bank although it is narrow could bear the traffic in a similar way to Middlewood Road. There are also many other ways to access the canal and make use of the bridle paths. Cllr Gorst felt confident that Adlington Parish Council is fully able to represent the views of their residents.

Cllr Mrs Saunders noted that all Members agreed that the Relief Road should go ahead. This does not only affect Adlington but those in the west of Poynton too, and there can be unintended consequences. Asking for mitigation does not mean that anyone is against the Relief Road but that it is sensible to ensure that for future generations the area remains a nice place to live. Cllr Mrs Saunders seconded Cllr Hoyland’s proposal.

Cllr Hoyland said that he had spent a lot of time at the exhibitions listening and talking to residents. These were the single biggest issues. The whole purpose of the consultation is to put together the views of local people; this is what it is for. Looking at mitigation will make absolutely no difference to the timescale; it is in an essential and necessary part of the process. This is built into the budget and will not slow it down. The general election and any

changes as a result is a real potential danger but today's decision cannot influence this in anyway. The planning and environment process has to be over 12 months. The consultation goes to the CE Cabinet in October 2014. Cllr Hoyland outlined the process to Members and noted that talk of delays in relation to the election are simply a red herring.

Cllr Hoyland clarified for Mrs Ford that there is no direct link from the end of the by-pass to Street Lane and explained the information as noted in the detailed plans. By referencing mitigation the Town Council is being realistic and not causing delay.

Cllr Mrs Sewart suggested that following a vote of Cllr M C G Sewart's succinct resolution, the composite resolution put forward by Cllr Hoyland is considered on its individual points. Cllr Lewis felt that defining mitigation does take time and supported Cllr Mrs Sewart's suggestion.

Cllr M C G Sewart said that Cllr Hoyland has confirmed that mitigation measures will take place but it is not known which mitigation measures those will be. There are not enough details in the plans. It will be the four CE Ward Councillors who put forward these mitigation measures, two of whom represent Adlington. This Town Council does not need to do this at present.

The Clerk noted that separating the resolutions as suggested by Cllr Mrs Sewart may be a way forward, but that it was for Members to decide.

Cllr Clarke proposed an amendment to Cllr M C G Sewart's motion to add the words: "The Town Council recognises the importance of mitigation for the areas potentially affected by the proposed route, including the impact on country lanes within both Poynton and Adlington Parish boundaries".

Cllr M C G Sewart accepted the amendment and this was seconded.

An Adlington Councillor who was present outlined his concerns and requested some protection in terms of slowing traffic through the area.

RESOLVED: That the Town Council is fully supportive of the CE proposals for the Poynton Relief Road and thanks that authority's Councillors for their diligence in advancing the scheme to its current status; and that the Town Council recognises the importance of mitigation for the areas potentially affected by the proposed route, including the impact on country lanes within both Poynton and Adlington Parish boundaries (NC).

Blue or Green Option

Members discussed the route options. Cllr Mrs Sewart noted that the consultation states that there can be additions to the route options. She felt that it made sense for the choice of route to be the one closest to the Adlington Industrial Estate with decent access to that estate. This will also

help Macclesfield by attracting much needed improvements, activity and vibrancy to that town too.

Cllr Lewis favoured the green route as the shorter route which would cost less and provide increased value for money. The green route option would potentially result in a loss of access to mineral resources in and around the Aerodrome so that it cannot be made into an open cast.

Cllr Clarke proposed that the Poynton Town Council supports the green route option.

Cllr Hoyland abstained from the vote as a member of the CE Strategic Planning Board.

RESOLVED: That the green route is the preferred option for Town Council (12 - 2 abs (including Cllr Hoyland))

A523 Improvement Study

Cllr Clarke said that he was surprised to see that the dangerous concealed junctions such as the one by the previous Sunnybank Café has been missed from the detail. Cllr Hoyland said that his understanding was that the improvements to the A523 are purely designed to aid traffic flow and identify potential pinch points.

Cllr Mrs Sewart noted that the wording refers to any changes, “that you would like to be considered”. Based on this Cllr Mrs Sewart stated that should the Local Plan or any other information come to hand before this is finalised that would make it beneficial to slightly modify the route then she would support that idea.

Cllr Clarke felt that the submission should remain as it is. Cllr West said that at this stage the Town Council needs to give its unreserved support in principle to the Relief Road. The design will proceed and there will be yet more opportunities to feed into and influence the detailed design in all its elements and aspects - this is what Cllr West and Hoyland have agreed.

The meeting concluded at 8.45 pm