

**Main points arising: Questions from members of the public/ Community grant for the Mary Sunley Canal Boat Trust/ Policing update/ Reports from the Town Council's Coordinators/ Temporary closure of Poynton Post Office/ Cheshire East Hospice Support Group/ Government consultation of proposed closure of some courts and tribunals.**

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY ORDER & PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE  
MEETING HELD AT 8.00PM ON MONDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2015 IN THE  
COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC HALL, POYNTON.

PRESENT

Chairman: Cllr Mrs J Saunders

Cllrs. Mrs S-J Gilmore, T Holbrook, G King, Mrs R Horsman-Johnson, Mrs S Horsman, Mrs J Sewart and Mrs N Wylie

Attending under SO 56: Cllrs. M Beanland, L A Clarke, C Gorst

Also in attendance: Chief Insp. (CI) Rob Dickinson and Sgt. Pete Brazendale

16. Questions from members of the public.

A resident from Woolley Avenue was present. He felt that there had been an increase in the number of burglaries in and around Woolley Avenue and asked if there was any particular reason for this, and if any action had taken place as a result.

Chief Inspector Dickinson explained that each burglary is serious and has an impact on residents. The police do address this by raising awareness of burglaries in the immediate and local area, and by using social media, including Twitter. Nevertheless, burglary statistics show that they are at the lowest for 25 years.

Mr Walter Thomas, of Poynton and District Rotary Club was present, and thanked Poynton Town Council for their support in terms of their 'Let's Loop' grant for the Rotary Club. This is to help residents of Poynton who suffer from hearing loss. An awareness day is being organised.

17. Apologies for absence

None.

18. Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary or Other Interests

Cllr Mrs J Saunders declared an interest in the item regarding the consultation on the proposed closure of the Macclesfield Courts, inasmuch as she is a magistrate. She left the Chamber when this issue was debated and voted on.

19. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2015

**RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Community Order and Public Safety Committee meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2015 are approved as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman (7 - 1 abs)**

**RESOLVED: That Item 7 on the agenda is brought forward as the next item (NC)**

20. Town Council Community Grant for the Mary Sunley Canal Boat Trust

Mr Victor Crawford, Treasurer of the Trust, talked through the application for the Mary Sunley Canal Boat Trust. He explained that the Mary Sunley canal boat is moored at Higher Poynton and runs day trips for disadvantaged and disabled people. This provides a day out for those who could not otherwise leave their homes, and provides respite for their carers. Last year, the Trust ran over a hundred trips. The grant application is for funding to enable water-based first aid training for all the volunteer staff, provided by the Yachting Association. There are currently about 40 active volunteers, with numbers increasing. Each course costs £100, and includes a handbook at a cost of £10. The Trust would like to put through 20 volunteers on three first aid training courses this year.

**RESOLVED: That the application for a Town Council Community Grant from the Mary Sunley Canal Boat Trust for £300 is approved (NC)**

21. Cheshire's Police and Crime Commissioner's next meeting for Town and Parish Councillors, and to receive notes from the previous meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> June

With regard to the notes from the previous meeting, a Member noted that the use of Wards designed for electoral purposes for policing purposes is inappropriate, given the variation in population and geographical size.

Another Member felt that unsatisfactory answers were received at the meeting. He asked if Poynton has exclusive use of the five PCSOs they are part funding, and, if so, will they remain in Poynton? CI Dickinson said that they would, unless there is an emergency situation such as the recent incident in Bosley.

The Chairman confirmed that if the PCSOs were abstracted from Poynton due to an emergency the Chairman or the Clerk would be notified, and the hours made good thereafter.

There are currently reservations with the system introduced whereby PCSOs report into Macclesfield at the start and end of their shift. There is a concern/perception from residents that the visibility of PCSOs has dropped as a result.

Members agreed that these concerns will be addressed by verbal update to be provided next by the policing team.

**RESOLVED: That the invitation from Cheshire's Police and Crime Commissioner to attend a meeting for Town and Parish Councillors at 6.30pm on Thursday 17th September at Congleton Town Hall be received, and to receive notes from the previous meeting held on 30th June (NC)**

## 22. Verbal update from the Macclesfield Neighbourhood Policing Team

Further to concerns raised about the presence of PCSOs and the new logging in and out system at Macclesfield at the start and the end of their shifts, Sgt. Brazendale explained that he now has extra responsibilities outside Poynton, but there should be no difference in policing levels in Poynton. He should not need to provide close supervision, and the PCSOs should not be any less visible. Staffing levels remain the same. The only difference is the start and at the end of the PCSO shift. CI Dickinson suggested that maybe the PCSOs are not patrolling the right places, and the policing team could consider the footfall and engagement of the PCSOs.

The Chairman explained that the PCSOs have not been to the Civic Hall as often as they used to. The PCSOs provide reassurance to elderly and vulnerable residents, and Poynton has always enjoyed a good close working relationship with the policing team. The Town Council has valued their help and support, particularly with the elderly at events such as the Friday Shoppers.

CI Dickinson noted that shift patterns have been realigned slightly with the new model, and following any leave period the policing should have returned to a normal pattern.

The Adult Health and Wellbeing Co-ordinator, Trish Hill, noted that she has received phone calls on a regular basis from elderly residents over the last six weeks noting the absence of the PCSOs. The elderly have always had a very good relationship with the policing team who have been approachable and visible in the past.

Sgt. Brazendale confirmed that he will speak to the policing team and report back to the Chairman, the Clerk and Trish Hill.

Sgt. Brazendale then provided the following verbal police update:

- Tackling anti-social behaviour has been a priority, particularly at Barnaby Park and the Poynton Sports Club. The policing team has been working closely with the schools, especially with regard to reports of nitric oxide canisters used by youths. Parents have been visited and yellow cards issued. Dispersal Powers have been employed at Barnaby Park and alcohol seized.
- Between, 11<sup>th</sup> June to 12<sup>th</sup> August, 55 calls regarding anti-social behaviour were received. This is actually a reduction in the usual number.
- There were 3 burglaries from dwellings.
- There were 14 thefts from motor vehicles. There was a spike of theft from vehicles. An operation to target this issue was successfully launched. CI Dickinson urged residents to ensure their vehicles are secured. The Town Council will reiterate this information through the media.
- There is no longer a Poynton only police Twitter account – this now covers the whole of the +Macclesfield policing area.

On this latter issue it was noted that when Twitter was localised to Poynton the PCSOs were able to put out some very informative and helpful Tweets of benefit to the community. Residents need to know things in their specific area. As it is may now lose its value, people will not bother with it.

Cllr Mrs Horsman handed to the Chairman a letter from a concerned London Road South resident regarding anti-social behaviour at Barnaby Park. The Clerk shared the opening content of the letter with Members. The Clerk also provided a copy of it to Sgt. Brazendale, who confirmed he will follow up on the issues and contact the resident. Sgt. Brazendale confirmed that the policing team are well aware of the situation and are addressing the issue, with PCSOs spending a lot of their time at Barnaby Park. PCSOs do patrol the area and respond to calls.

A Member noted that when similar problems occurred at Brecon Park many years ago installing fencing helped address the issue. It was noted that generally, in the past, whenever Poynton has been policed as an adjunct of Macclesfield, policing has gone downhill. Sgt. Brazendale explained that the response for a policing emergency will always come from Macclesfield. CI Dickinson explained how the backfill system works across the area, and if for example a Poynton police officer is taken out of the area then there is a system to provide backfill from elsewhere.

Following further discussion on anti-social behaviour at Barnaby Park, Sgt. Brazendale confirmed that the police do not advocate residents challenging youths. He has not seen a string of un-resourced incidents for Barnaby Park, and expressed his concern about the perception among residents that the PCSOs are not policing that area. He encouraged residents to continue to call the police and report incidents. Sgt. Brazendale confirmed that he maintains a

spreadsheet of incidents/calls at Barnaby Park and a PCSO visits and speaks to residents in the area.

The SID has been deployed as follows:

- 10<sup>th</sup> June to 26<sup>th</sup> June, London Road South towards Macclesfield, average speed of 31mph.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> July to 22<sup>nd</sup> July, London Road South towards Poynton, average speed of 27.5mph.
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The SID is currently being deployed on Park Lane. The Clerk confirmed that a second SID is on order.

23. Written update from the Town Council's Adult Health and Wellbeing Co-ordinator

Trish talked Members through highlights from her report.

**RESOLVED: That the written update by the Town Council's Adult Health and Wellbeing Co-ordinator is received. (NC)**

24. Written report from the Town Council's Youth Coordinator, Louisa Thorman

Louisa was on leave, and the Clerk said that she had spent the first few weeks of her appointment in June talking to partners and local stakeholders, and had since come up with a number of new initiatives. Members agreed that Louise had made a good start, and they were attracted by a number of her ideas.

**RESOLVED: That the written report by the Youth Co-ordinator is received. (NC)**

25. Closure of Poynton Post Office for refurbishment and modernisation

The possibility of providing a minibus service for Poynton's elderly residents to access Bramhall Post Office during this period will be considered. The Clerk will work with Trish Hill, the Adult and Health and Wellbeing Co-ordinator to take this forward.

**RESOLVED: That the closure of Poynton Post Office for refurbishment and modernisation, from Friday 4th September to Saturday 19th September, is noted. (NC)**

26. Support Group in Poynton for the East Cheshire Hospice

**RESOLVED: That the formation of a new Support Group in Poynton for the East Cheshire Hospice be noted, with an initial public meeting to be held at Poynton Civic Hall at 7.30pm on Thursday 17th September. (NC)**

27. Government consultation on proposals to close courts and tribunals across England and Wales

Having previously declared an interest, Cllr Mrs Saunders left the meeting, and Vice-Chairman Cllr G King chaired the meeting for this item.

Cllr L Clarke noted that as a result of the likely closure of Macclesfield Magistrate's Macclesfield County Courts, it may be that Crewe is one of the alternative venues. This will be difficult to access for residents of Poynton by public transport. There are no direct links by train or bus and the journey by car is not easy. This may discourage people from seeking justice, witnesses may fail to attend, with a similar problem for defendants too. This will cause major problems in the administration of justice and lead to cases not being brought. In principle, minor cases should be heard in courts that are reasonably close to where offences occur.

It was noted that Manchester may be another alternative venue, as well as Crewe.

**RESOLVED: That the Town Council responds to the consultation in the terms discussed, including asking to what extent the capacity of both Macclesfield courts is under-utilised, with a copy to David Rutley MP. (NC)**

The meeting concluded at 9.30pm