

Main points arising: Questions to the Mayor; Amendments to the Town Council's Standing Orders; Civic Hall and Library integration project; Poynton Neighbourhood Plan; Cheshire East Local Resolution Panel outcome; Electronic agendas; Community First Responders; Adoption of Standing Committee records.

MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT 8.05PM ON MONDAY 2ND FEBRUARY 2015 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC HALL, POYNTON.

PRESENT

Chairman: Cllr Mrs R Horsman-Johnson

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

78. Questions to the Mayor

Dr John Shaw, a Poynton resident of 55 Oakfield Road, was present, and read from a statement regarding the outcome of a complaint he had made against Cllr Lewis, and which had been considered by a Cheshire East Local Resolution Panel in November 2014. Dr Shaw asked to put the following two questions to Members.

Will this Town Council revise its Code of Conduct to explicitly forbid such behaviour?

Will the Town Council consult with the Cheshire East Monitoring Officer to verify my account of Cllr Lewis's behaviour and, if confirmed, will the Town Council take action against Cllr Lewis for treating the complaints procedure with such contempt?

Cllr Lewis said that the important second paragraph in the letter from Cheshire East's Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer stated that the panel had found no breach of the Poynton Town Council's Code of Conduct.

There followed a series of robust exchanges involving Mr Shaw and Cllrs Murray and Lewis.

The Mayor then invited comments from other Members in response to what Dr Shaw had said. Cllr Hoyland suggested that at this stage all the Town Council can do is receive his comments. Cllr Hoyland said it was his understanding that Cllr Mrs Sewart reviews all the Standing Orders and the Complaints Procedure at least annually on behalf of the Town Council, and it is next due for review in June/July 2015. He said that no doubt Cllr Mrs

Sewart will note the discussion and recommend any amendments felt to be appropriate. Cllr Hoyland proposed that Dr Shaw's comments be noted.

Cllr Murray then made a lengthy statement, during which there were interventions from Cllrs Lewis and Bartos.

RESOLVED: That the comments by Dr Shaw are noted (14 - 1 against - 1 abs)

79. Apologies for absence

Cllrs. M C G Sewart and A Smith

80. Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary or Other Interests

None.

81. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 5th January 2015

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 5th January 2015 with the amendments are approved as an accurate record and signed by the Mayor (14 - 1 abs - 1 against)

82. The Town Council's Standing Orders

The Mayor invited Cllr Mrs Sewart to speak, who proposed that the next two items on the agenda, concerning amendments to Standing Orders, are deferred to a future meeting due to an ambiguity in the wording of the current Standing Orders on this particular issue.

Cllr Murray explained that it was now quite clear that only 11 Members (i.e. less than two thirds) had agreed to the bulk of the amendments at the Town Council meeting on 5th January, so the resolution failed. Therefore the current version of the Standing Orders do not change. However it also means that because this was discussed in January 2015, the six month rule means that the issue should be left for that period before being reconsidered. To move matters along Cllr Murray said that the question now be put.

RESOLVED: That the question now be put (15 - 1 abs).

RESOLVED: That any further consideration of amendments to the Town Council's Standing Orders be postponed until June 2015 or beyond (14 - 1 against - 1 abs)

83. Mayor's Engagements/Announcements

The Mayor provided Members with highlights from her report. The full version is available from the Clerk on request.

RESOLVED: That the Mayor's engagements/announcements are received (NC)

84. Civic Hall roof and Civic Hall/Library Integration Project

In Cllr A Smith's absence the Clerk spoke to the written brief on the Civic Hall roof and Civic Hall/Library Integration Project. Cllr Murray asked for a budget update. The Clerk explained that this was on track.

Cllr Clarke asked if staff are moving offices within the Civic Hall or to another building. The Clerk confirmed that this was within the Civic Hall.

RESOLVED: That the report is received (NC)

85. Poynton Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Hoyland provided a verbal update on the Poynton Neighbourhood Plan. A well-attended Open Morning launch event was held at the Civic Hall on the 7th January 2015.

The Neighbourhood Plan survey has been circulated with the February 2015 edition of the Poynton Post. During February there is a series of drop in events for those who may have questions, or need assistance to complete the survey. Cllr Hoyland urged Councillors to advise residents accordingly. Once all the surveys are returned by end-February analysis will begin.

RESOLVED: That the verbal report is received (NC)

86. CE Local Resolution Panel of 5th November 2014

The Mayor suggested that, unless there were any further comments on the outcome of this complaint, the correspondence from Cheshire East should be noted.

This prompted further exchanges between Cllrs Lewis and Murray.

RESOLVED: That the question now be put (NC)

RESOLVED: That the correspondence is received (NC)

87. Agendas issued electronically

Following consideration of an e-mail from the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) concerning legislation permitting agendas to be issued electronically Cllr Murray proposed that the Town Council allow the Clerk's discretion to use this facility.

RESOLVED: That the e-mail is received and that the method of issuing agendas should be left to the Clerk's discretion (NC)

88. Poynton Community First Responders (CFR)

Mr Ken Woolley, Team Leader of Poynton CFR, had written to the Clerk to say he was standing down from that role, due to ill health. The Mayor had subsequently written to Mr Woolley. Cllr Hoyland commented that he supported the Mayor's sentiments - Mr Woolley has performed a great service to the community for many years. Cllr Mrs Saunders suggested an article is included in the Poynton Post thanking him for his hard work and voluntary service for over 30 years in the community, adding that he will be sadly missed.

RESOLVED: That the letters are received, and that an article is included in the Poynton Post (NC)

89. Standing Committees

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Planning and Environment meeting held on 8th December 2014 be adopted by full Council (NC)

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Extra. Finance and General Purposes committee meeting held on 15th December 2014 be adopted by full Council (NC)

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Facilities, Infrastructure and Economic Development meeting held on 15th December 2014 be adopted by full Council (NC)

The meeting concluded at 8.30pm