

MINUTES OF THE FACILITIES & INFRASTRUCTURE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (FIED) COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT 8.00PM ON MONDAY 13TH NOVEMBER 2017 AT THE CIVIC HALL, POYNTON.

PRESENT

Chairman: Cllr L Berry

Cllrs: L A Clarke, Mrs S Horsman, H Murray (from item 56), Mrs J Sewart, M Sewart (from item 57), G Smith and N Wylie

Attending under SO54: Cllr J Saunders (for Cllr H Murray)

51. Anyone attending or present at the Committee meeting declares that they are making, or intend to make, an audio recording and/or film the meeting

The clerk confirmed that the meeting is recorded for the purposes of minute taking and the recording is deleted when the minutes are produced.

52. Questions from members of the public

There were no members of the public in attendance.

53. Apologies for absence

Cllrs Mrs S-J Gilmore, H Murray and M Sewart.

54. Approve as an accurate record the minutes of the Facilities, Infrastructure and Economic Development Committee meeting held 9th October 2017

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Facilities, Infrastructure and Economic Development Committee meeting held on 9th October 2017, are approved as an accurate record (6 for, 1 abstention)

55. Receive and consider an update for October 2017 from the operations manager

The operations manager, Phil Cunningham, spoke on his written report. From discussion the following points were noted:

The trees on Park Lane are leaving the pavement areas very slippery due to a build-up of grime. The operations manager has asked ANSA to pressure wash these areas. A member raised concern that this could become a bigger issue as the trees on Park Lane mature. The operations manager stated that the trees do need to be managed which is not being done at present. Some of the trees are the responsibility of Cheshire East Council and

some are the responsibility of the land owners. A discussion is needed with ANSA in order to agree responsibilities on Park Lane including trees, uplighters and street furniture. The Shared Space Working Group are also looking at these issues.

A large branch had fallen on Princes Incline on 22nd October 2017. The operations manager had arranged for Swift Tree Services to remove the branch which was blocking the footpath. A councillor asked if the council had a call out arrangement with the tree surgeons in these circumstances. The Management Plan for the Inclines doesn't cover the operation of the contract. The clerk explained that under Financial Regulations she has the power to spend up to £2,500, spending however is not delegated to the operations manager at present. During the next review of the Financial Regulations this delegation could be considered together with delegation to the deputy clerk.

The operations manager reported that the track leading up to the Scout hut from Coppice Road has now been resurfaced by Cheshire East but not the track up to the allotments.

Following a complaint from a resident the operations manager has asked Cheshire East Highways to renew the signage at Woodford Road which is faded and also partly obscured by the hedge. The boundary between Stockport and Cheshire East runs along this road and it may well be that the issue needs to be resolved by Stockport Council and not Cheshire East Council. It is likely that traffic flow along this road will reduce significantly once the A6MARR is in place.

A full list of street lights that are currently not working has been sent to Ian Darlington at Cheshire East Council. There are two columns which need to be replaced on London Road South and London Road North. The damaged gateway structure needs to be repaired and all this work is in hand.

The operations manager reported verbally that new play equipment had been installed at Phillips Bridge. This has been done by Cheshire East Council in conjunction with residents of Glastonbury Road. New gates have been installed and the local community group are locking and unlocking the play area at Phillips Bridge.

The operations manager had spoken to the homeless man on Park Lane and advised him about possible support in the area from the Cheshire East Homeless Team.

Cheshire East had confirmed that they would commence work to secure the former Vernon Infants School buildings week commencing 3rd December. The police have been made aware that there have been reports of intruders. The school buildings have been delisted from educational status and could now be developed for housing. The playing fields are currently protected and are still being used by the school for football matches.

A group of volunteers will be working on the flower beds on London Road North on Saturday 18th November.

The operations manager is seeking clarification from ANSA and Cheshire East that they will resolve the issue of dog fouling and disrepair at Deva Playing Fields.

RESOLVED: That the written and verbal report for October 2017 from the Operations Manager is received (NC)

56. Receive updates from the Task and Finish Groups a) Poynton Heritage Garden – Link Cllr Mrs Sandra Horsman b) Shared Space – Leader Cllr Graham Smith

a) Poynton Heritage Garden – Link Cllr Mrs Sandra Horsman
Cllr Mrs Horsman provided the minutes of the latest Poynton Heritage Garden as attached.

A request for additional funding for the Heritage Garden would be discussed in the budget item later on the agenda.

RESOLVED: That the report is received with thanks (NC)

Cllr H Murray arrived at 8.50pm

b) Shared Space– Leader Cllr Graham Smith
Cllr Smith provided the following verbal update:

- ANSA have now provided responses to some of the questions posed by the Town Council and these were circulated to Members
- Cllr Smith spoke to Kevin Melling, ANSA, who has offered to meet with the operations manager to agree how to best manage the resources available to target the areas that need attention. Cllr Berry to attend this meeting as well
- The operations manager confirmed that he is currently liaising with Highways
- Questions from the Town Council were sent to Ringway Jacobs on the 1st November 2017. However, the correspondence should be redirected to the new Portfolio Holder, Cllr Don Stockton
- The shared space working group will next meet on 27th November 2017.

RESOLVED: That the verbal report is received (NC)

57. Receive and note the income and expenditure report for April to September 2017 for the Facilities, Infrastructure and Economic Development Committee.

It was noted that this item had been discussed at the meeting on 9th October 2017.

RESOLVED: That the income and expenditure report is received (NC)

58. To consider the allocation of funding for tree management in 2018/2019

The new Inclines risk assessment and management plan of woodland has been received from Mike Ellison, Cheshire Woodlands Consultant. The budget did not include sums for ad hoc work that might be required. The recent work was required as a result of large branches coming down in strong winds.

A report on the trees has recently been received and this will be reviewed comprehensively by the operations manager. The consultant had suggested that the resident who is disposing of his garden waste on the Inclines should be reported to Cheshire East Planning as it is in breach of the Tree Preservation Order. It was also suggested that the resident might have moved his fence further into the Incline. This will need to be investigated.

The area affected by Japanese Knotweed requires continued monitoring.

RESOLVED: That the report is received, and that the operations manager will prepare a report on the tree management for the next FIED meeting (NC).

59. To review the Facilities, Infrastructure and Economic Development Committee provisional budget for 2018/2019

An increase in the Inclines budget as a result of the updated tree management programme was noted by members.

RESOLVED: It was agreed that the meeting move to Part B for the discussion about staffing salaries (NC)

PART B

PART B has been removed from the public record Town Council Standing Order 71(b)(i)(1) refers

Line 2550 - A member requested that the Heritage Garden budget line should be increased to £300. It was suggested that this should be more appropriately discussed in the F&GP committee.

Line 2302 - Members discussed the proposed reduction of the play areas general upkeep budget. Spending for the first six months was £331.52. The clerk reported that although recent spending had taken place, it was still anticipated that there would be an underspend in this budget line. A member queried whether there was any maintenance budget as one piece of play equipment would require replacement and the town council was responsible for two play areas. The clerk confirmed that reserves for playground equipment were available.

The operations manager informed members that it was his view that the piece of play equipment would not require replacement for 18 months to two years based on advice from a play equipment specialist.

Cllr M Sewart arrived at 9.15pm

A member advised that any replacement of the equipment should be dealt with as a capital project and should include the cost of removing the current equipment and secondly the cost of replacement. Money should then be earmarked for the project.

The clerk explained that an additional cost from next year would be the playground inspections which would include a quarterly and annual inspection. Members asked whether all inspections are necessary as two members of staff are trained to carry out weekly inspections.

Members suggested that any underspend on the general upkeep budget line should be rolled over into next year.

The clerk explained that currently the handyman costs were spread over two budget lines 3209 and 3202. It was proposed that going forward only one budget line would be used for handyman costs and the overall budget would be reduced to £500 as based on historic spending and current year to date figures this would be sufficient.

RESOLVED: That the proposals to reduce the playground general upkeep budget line to £3,000, to increase the Inclines budget to £7,000 and to merge the handyman costs and set a budget of £500 are approved. Any underspend in the playground budget will be rolled over into next year. A report on playground inspections is prepared for the next committee meeting. (NC)

60. To consider the adoption of a Breastfeeding Welcome Policy and note that the civic hall has been given a 'Breastfeeding Welcome Award'.

RESOLVED: that the Breastfeeding Welcome Policy is adopted and it is noted that the civic hall has received a Breastfeeding Welcome Award (NC)

61. Consider and agree any communication messages arising from this meeting

The following communication messages arising from this meeting were agreed:

- Breastfeeding Welcome Award
- Allotment track improvements

RESOLVED: That the messages as described and noted by the clerk are passed onto Cllr Mrs Gilmore (NC)

Meeting end time: 9.21pm

Part B

**The public and media are not admitted to Part B of this meeting –
Town Council Standing Order 71(b)(i)(1) refers**