

MINUTES OF THE FACILITIES & INFRASTRUCTURE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (FIED) COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT 8.00PM ON MONDAY 23RD APRIL 2018 AT THE CIVIC HALL, POYNTON.

PRESENT

Chairman: Cllr H Murray

Cllrs: L Berry, L A Clarke, Mrs S Horsman, Mrs J Sewart and G Smith

Attending under SO 56: Cllr L Podmore

84. 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 shorthand assistant confirmed that the meeting is recorded for the purposes of minute taking and the recording is deleted within a week when the draft minutes are produced.

There were no other declarations.

85. Questions from members of the public

There were no members of the public in attendance.

86. Apologies for absence

Cllr Mrs S-J Gilmore, M Sewart and N Wylie.

87. Declarations of disclosable pecuniary or other interests

None.

RESOLVED: That there is an amendment to the order of the agenda and Item 7 is taken as the next item of business (NC)

88. Receive updates from the Task and Finish Groups

a) Poynton Heritage Garden

Cllr Mrs Sewart proposed a vote of thanks to all the volunteers and the voluntary groups for their hard work and efforts on the Poynton Heritage Garden with the successful opening on 14th April 2018. Cllr Mrs Sewart spoke on the finance report received by the committee members and explained that

because there are still a number of variables the available funds stated on the report are not accurate at this time. The commitments include an additional £100 payment for the truck, there will be a payment for a plaque to be placed on the truck to thank the Anson Museum for their hard work, there is £500 due from the Poynton Show however this is subject to the on-going maintenance of the garden, the funds promised by CE have been released but not yet banked and there will be a cost for a central feature. Although the funds are healthy they are still tight and the amount listed in the report is committed.

A member of the committee suggested that at this time, the information is received as an update only and that further details are provided in terms of debits and credits, planned expenditure and anticipated funds.

RESOLVED: That the update on the Poynton Heritage Garden by Cllr Mrs Sewart is received and that further details are requested. That the communication message should include thanks from the Town Council to the volunteer groups for the development of the garden to this stage. That there is an on-going need for maintenance (NC)

Cllr Mrs Sewart left the meeting at 8.15pm

Cllr Mrs Horsman provided the following verbal update on the Heritage Garden:

Saturday 14th April 2018 was the day that the Heritage Garden was officially opened. It has taken two and a half years of designing, planning and fundraising to put into place an area to sit and enjoy the colour and scent of flowers and plants growing away from the noise and bustle of everyday life. The day dawned bright and warm; the guest of honour was Poynton's distinguished war veteran, Mr Theo Eaves, and with the help of the Town Mayor the ribbon was cut to declare the Garden open. Activities were held in the library and outside for children and refreshments and cakes served. The event was very well attended. Fundraising efforts continue for the maintenance of the garden and for the summer planting. In May, 1st Poynton Rainbows will be invited to plant herbs in the raised bed. There has been a suggestion to place another item on the platform of the raised bed since the truck was too large for the platform. A monthly maintenance rota is now in place with all the members involved.

It was noted that the Heritage Garden has been added to the Poynton garden safari event.

RESOLVED: That the update on the Poynton Heritage Garden by Cllr Mrs Horsman is received (NC)

b) Town Centre and Shared Space Improvement

Cllr Smith informed the committee that a meeting is due to be held next week.

c) Council Chamber refurbishment

Cllr Podmore spoke on the Council Chamber refurbishment report and the committee considered the options and agreed the following generic points for guidance in on developments:

- The dignity of the Civic Hall must be maintained.
- There must be an effective loop system and compliance with the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) in the provision and cost.
- Provision for a projector / screen and speakers needs to be factored into the costings.
- A telephone system for teleconferencing should be included.
- The air quality requires improvement.
- A picture of the Queen remains in the Chamber.
- To ensure a dementia friendly provision.

RESOLVED: That the report from the Council Chamber Refurbishment Task and Finish Group is received with thanks. That guidance is provided to progress the provision (NC)

89. Receive and consider an update for March 2018 to 17th April 2018 from the Operations Manager.

The Operations Manager, Phil Cunningham, spoke on the written update. From discussion the following points were noted:

Allotments

The committee noted that a Chair of the allotment committee is required and if a volunteer is not forthcoming from the allotments association, a councillor might be asked to step in as Chair as an interim measure.

Materials on the Inclines and installation of a bird box on a tree on the Inclines

The committee proposed that a Policy is developed to ensure that neighbours consult the Town Council on these issues.

RESOLVED: That a Policy covering these issues is developed (NC)

Woodland Management Plan

The committee agreed that the newly updated Woodland Management Plan is publicised in the PUN.

Rapid Response Team

The committee recorded a vote of thanks to the Rapid Response Team for the tree planting on the Inclines.

It was confirmed that the Town Council have an agreement with A Wainwright to clear and grit Waterloo Road.

Potholes

The committee noted that despite road repairs, the road conditions in Poynton are deteriorating at a fast pace. There are many areas of scabbing where the road is in poor condition however, this is not classified for repair because the criteria for a pothole is that it must be at least 40mm deep. Essentially, there are large areas of road in Poynton that will need to be repaired. Although there have been funds allocated to road repairs, there is no tangible difference to the roads and the condition continues to deteriorate.

A member noted that in Essex, where Ringway Jacobs are contracted to the Highways, legislation is being used to refuse claims for damages to vehicles resulting from the poor condition of the roads. The member suggested that although Ringway Jacobs attended the Town Council last year that the Town Council should reject any future visit by Ringway Jacobs unless they suggest any improvements to the roads.

A member noted that the mini roundabout at the London Road / Dickens Lane junction requires repainting.

It was requested that the London Road North flowerbed and a report on the proposals for the area are reported at a future committee meeting before there are any agreed commitments.

The Operations Manager will provide a report on the Gateway feature at a future committee meeting.

RESOLVED: That the update for March 2018 to 17th April 2018 from the Operations Manager is received with thanks (NC)

90. Approve as an accurate record the minutes of the Facilities, Infrastructure and Economic Development Committee

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Facilities, Infrastructure and Economic Development Committee meeting held on 12th March 2018 were approved as an accurate record (NC)

91. Receive and note the income and expenditure report for 2017 – 2018 for the Facilities, Infrastructure and Economic Development Committee.

The committee members received and considered the income and expenditure report for 2017 – 2018.

Equipment Maintenance

A member requested that for next year new quotes are obtained for comparison.

Street Lighting

The Clerk explained that the budget was not set correctly because the information was based on the previous invoices and budget; in the previous year to that there had been a significant drop in the amount of the invoices from the electricity company however this had not been queried at the time so the Town Council have had to pay back funds to March 2017. The Clerk noted that the Town Council are now informing the electricity company of the installation of the individual LED lights which will reduce the costs of those street lights whilst the others will be at the correct higher rate.

Civic Hall Room Hire

The Clerk thanked the whole staffing team for the achievements in meeting the target for room hire. The Clerk noted that in terms of room hire all systems have been improved considerably. The committee acknowledge the hard work of all the staff and recorded a vote of thanks to be communicated to staff for their efforts.

RESOLVED: That the income and expenditure report for 2017 – 2018 for the Facilities, Infrastructure and Economic Development Committee is received and noted (NC)

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

The following communication messages were agreed:

- Heritage Garden
- Woodland Management Plan
- Fly Tipping
- Tree planting on the inclines
- Thanks to the Rapid Response Team

RESOLVED: That the communication messages as stated are approved (NC)

Meeting end time: 9.25pm