

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY, ORDER AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE HELD AT 8PM ON MONDAY 8TH OCTOBER 2012 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC HALL, POYNTON

PRESENT

Chairman: Cllr Mrs J Sewart

Cllrs. M Beanland, L A Clarke, and Alex Smith

Attending under SO53: Mrs S Horsman and R West

Also attending: Insp J Taylor, Macclesfield Neighbourhood Policing and Erica Adkins, Town Council Youth Co-ordinator

31. Apologies for Absence

Cllrs P Hoyland, Ms R Horsman and Mrs J Saunders

32. Absent

Cllr B Lewis

33. Declarations of Interest

None

34. Minutes of the meeting of 3rd September 2012

Page 78 - The Chairman asked for an update on the Clerk's meeting with the Waitrose manager to discuss the skate boarding problem in the Civic Centre Car Park. The Clerk said that Waitrose are beginning to take action to prevent skate boarding, and have for example installed studs on the low wall that fronts Park Lane. They are also considering work on a raised curb line in the Car Park.

Page 79 – The Chairman asked if the PVRS Steering Group had any comments on the vehicles that were being used as mobile advertising sites. The Clerk explained that letters have been hand delivered to all the businesses and residents on London Road North and South and also Chester Road in the vicinity of the newly created parking bays informing them that the intention of the parking bays is for short stay shopper use, and not for residents, employees or advertising vans. They have also been informed that if this does not work on a voluntary basis then the Council is mindful to introduce a two hour limit on the parking spaces, with no return within two hours.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on the 3rd September 2012 be approved as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman (NC)

35. Cheshire Fire and Rescue

Two representatives of Cheshire Fire and Rescue gave a presentation on their draft plan for 2013/14. They also updated the meeting on the plans to co-locate Poynton police to the fire station.

They explained that the draft plan needed to take budgetary constraints into account, and provided a breakdown of the budget and how efficiencies and savings will be introduced. The presentation identified the current locations and type of fire stations, and the proposed changes, based on needs. This draft plan is subject to public consultation from 24th September to 17th December 2012. The presentation also provided information on the supply and demand of the Cheshire Fire and Rescue service, plus information about risk and how a rebalancing of capability is required. The presentation displayed the various packages and proposals to help build resilience, and deliver efficiencies. Feedback and views are encouraged. Should this draft plan be approved it will be implemented over a four year period.

The representatives confirmed that there are no plans to change Poynton. This station is considered a great asset in the community. At present there are final discussions about the co-location of Poynton police at the fire station.

Cllr Clarke asked about cross boundary considerations and whether these will be taken into account with additional house building planned for the area. The Cheshire Fire and Rescue representative confirmed that neighbouring areas are taken into account. Also that the North West are moving to a single control facility which means that there is movement across boundaries. In terms of potential building developments activity and risk is always monitored. Should the activity risk increase, this will be taken into account for the provision.

Cllr A Smith was interested to know if Cheshire Fire and Rescue plans can take into account the next 20 years. Richard clarified that the activity risk is assessed quarterly, and should there be any new build then this is taken into account. The current plans are fit for the next four to five years.

RESOLVED: That the presentation by the Cheshire Fire and Rescue representatives is received with thanks (NC)

36. Policing Update

Insp. Jez Taylor, Macclesfield Neighbourhood Policing Team, provided a policing update. He informed the meeting of the upcoming staffing moves. Insp. J Taylor noted his thanks to PCSO's Rob and Chris, who will be moving to the regular police force, and the huge service they have provided to Poynton. On behalf of the Town Council the Chairman thanked them also, for their service and hard work.

A recruitment process for PCSO's is currently underway at Head Office and Insp. J Taylor said he is awaiting news. Meanwhile to supplement the policing in Poynton it is likely that an experienced PCSO will be moved to Poynton along with another PCSO.

Insp. J Taylor said there has been an increase in the numbers of youth causing a general nuisance on Friday and Saturday nights and recently on Monday nights too. There is concern about the amount of alcohol seized, and the police will run an operation to help investigate and deal with the source of this problem. He spoke of the recent problems at the Poynton Sports Club and the installation of a fence. Gaps have now appeared, and are preventing its effectiveness. The PCSO's will continue to work with the Sports Club and monitor the situation. The Clerk said that Cllr Mrs J Saunders and Cllr Mrs J Sewart will be attending a meeting at the Sports Club, at the Club's request, together with the Youth Co-ordinator, Erica Adkins and the Clerk, on 16th October 2012. Insp. J Taylor offered to join them.

Insp. J Taylor pointed out the success of the recent bike marking day and the street surgery. On skate boarding the Inspector noted that Waitrose have installed studs but only on one side on the wall. The Clerk said he would speak with the manager at Waitrose to find out more information. Insp. J Taylor reported that recently seven cars were targeted in Higher Poynton in one night. A lot of these cars were insecure which was disappointing.

Cllr Mrs S Horsman noted that during the daytime although drivers are careful and conscientious when driving in the Shared Space area this is not the case at night. Drivers tend instead to race up Park Lane making it very difficult for pedestrians to cross. Insp. J Taylor explained that this is perhaps because it is more difficult to catch a driver's attention in the hours of darkness. In addition decreased traffic in the evening means that drivers might tend to be more careless.

Cllr Clarke brought to Insp. J Taylor's attention the concerns that some residents had voiced at a recent FIED meeting concerning Clifford Road. The residents were unhappy because of the heavy goods vehicles (7 tonnes) travelling along this road. The residents said that they were told that this was difficult to police. Cllr Mrs J Sewart also informed Insp. J Taylor of the increase in traffic in the surrounding estate roads as a result of the width restriction on Clifford Road. She added that perhaps larger signage would help to deter vehicles from using the estate roads and Queensway as a cut through. Insp. J Taylor confirmed that the width restriction is policed. In regard to the signage, he added that it could be that appropriate signage might be introduced should the width restriction become a permanent feature.

Cllr A Smith raised the issue of parking on the double yellow lines on Queensway and on School Lane, as well as parking on Park Lane. In the two month period of July and August only three cars were booked. Cllr A Smith said that the system for double yellow lines should be enforced and policed appropriately by the traffic wardens to deter abuse.

On the subject of Barnaby Park, Insp. J Taylor asked if there was a long term plan regarding the fencing. A picket fence was installed around the play area but due to

extensive damage it has been removed. The Clerk confirmed that this issue will be addressed at the next FIED Committee meeting.

RESOLVED: That the verbal report from Insp. J Taylor is received with thanks (NC)

37. Update by the Youth Co-ordinator

The Youth Co-ordinator Erica Adkins provided a summary of her written update. On the subject of 'cool' bike lights she showed the meeting an example of the type of lights that could be used.

For the Aiming High project with young women the Youth Co-ordinator requested financial support of up to £200 from the Town Council.

RESOLVED: That the Poynton Town Council agree funding of up to £200 for the 'Aiming High' project (NC)

Regarding Mischief Week, the Youth Co-ordinator confirmed that she will discuss plans with the PCSO's.

RESOLVED: That the written update from the Youth Co-ordinator is received with thanks (NC)

38. COPS budget for 2013/14

The meeting considered a written brief from the Clerk concerning the COPS budget for 2013/14.

Cllr A Smith raised the issue of Town Centre Management. Following discussion it was agreed that the provision for Town Centre Management would be better placed in the FIED Committee. The Clerk will arrange to transfer this budget to FIED.

Cllr Clarke raised concern about £10,000 being allocated for the Community Events budget next year, and whether this could be reduced. The Clerk explained that three out of four events held this year will also be held next. Costs are continually rising, but should there be any surplus from this budget at year end it could be transferred to the COPS earmarked reserve.

RESOLVED: That the written report from the Clerk regarding the COPS budget for 2013/14 is received (NC)

39. Cheshire East Health and Wellbeing Strategy

Cllr A Smith commented on the excellent reply to this consultation, as prepared by Cllrs Mrs Jos Saunders and Mrs Jo Sewart.

RESOLVED: That the Town Council's response to the Cheshire East Health and Wellbeing Strategy for 2013/2014 is received (NC)

40. Letter from John Dwyer

The meeting discussed a letter received from John Dwyer, a Conservative candidate for the role of Police and Crime Commissioner for Cheshire, and whether a response was required.

RESOLVED: That the letter from John Dwyer dated 10th September 2012 is received; that if any Town Council Member attends his meeting or responds to his survey they would not be representing the views of the Town Council; and that other candidates making such approaches will be treated in the same manner (NC)

The meeting concluded at 9.15pm