

MINUTES OF THE FACILITIES, INFRASTRUCTURE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT 8PM ON MONDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2012 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC HALL, POYNTON.

PRESENT

Chairman: Cllr A Smith

Cllrs. G Bartos, Ms R Horsman, Mrs S Horsman, G King, Mrs J Sewart, G Smith

Attending under SO53: Cllrs. M Beanland, L A Clarke, C Gorst, P Hoyland, H Murray, R West

Questions from Members of the Public

Mr Dave Fitzpatrick  
7 Shrigley Road North

Mr Fitzpatrick attended the meeting to discuss proposed additional double yellow lining on Shrigley Road North. Following a previous Town Council meeting that Mr Fitzpatrick had attended, he spoke with neighbours to gather their views on where additional double yellow lines should be introduced on this road. However the proposal from Cheshire East Highways for double yellow lines to be introduced along both sides of a long section of the road bears no resemblance to residents' suggestions, which was for double yellow lines along one side of that stretch of road to allow large vehicles to pass without damaging cars. Mr Fitzpatrick asked for the Council's support to revise the proposals as they stand.

Cllr Murray explained that, together with Cllr Mrs J Saunders as Ward Councillors, they have intervened to help prioritise the introduction of additional double yellow lines on Shrigley Road North. Without this assistance it is quite unlikely that anything would have happened. Cllr Murray explained that the Highways engineer said it was unacceptable to have double yellow lines on just one section of this road because it would cause displaced parking. The officer's decision is based on safety. Following further discussion Cllr Murray suggested that the Clerk gather information from Mr Fitzpatrick to find out which option and possible alterations at this late stage might be possible.

Elaine Pegler  
54 London Road North

Mrs Pedler voiced deep concern about street lights being switched off on London Road North and South. The junction of London Road North with

Anglesey Drive is a busy one and is now in total darkness. As a pedestrian Mrs Pegler has noticed that cars are using full beam when they enter this area. For drivers trying to pull out of this junction it is very difficult to judge the speed and distance of cars - which is often 40mph or higher. There is concern for cyclists too. Also for school children who are dropped off from school bus in the evening at a bus stop on a section of the road where there is no street lighting, or pavement. They have to wait in a lay-by with a gate to a field where it is dark, and also have to negotiate two lanes of speeding traffic in the dark. There are issues of personal safety and as a pedestrian it is pitch black to walk into Poynton. Mrs Pedler said that residents feel that action should be taken immediately by Cheshire East Council to switch the lights back on and discussion take place thereafter.

The Clerk explained that the Town Council had not been consulted on this issue, and were as surprised as residents to learn that the lights had been switched off. Cllr Clarke has put a detailed report together and asked for an urgent motion to be taken at last week's Town Council meeting. That report included a number of recommendations, and a resolution was passed for the Clerk to forward the report to. The Clerk has forwarded this to the interim Chief Executive, Portfolio Holder and to the Head of Highways at Cheshire East. The Clerk outlined the points that the Town Council put to Cheshire East. The Clerk said that an interim response had been received from Cheshire East, which Councillors were considering.

Cllr A Smith explained that the Town Council will keep residents informed through the PUN and Town Council website.

39. Apologies for absence

None

40. Absent

Cllr B Lewis

41. Requests for dispensations

None

42. Record of the Facilities, Infrastructure and Economic Development Committee meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2012

**RESOLVED: That the minutes from the Facilities, Infrastructure and Economic Development Committee meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2012 be approved as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman (6 - 1 abs)**

#### 43. Broadband speeds in Cheshire East

Andrew Arditti, Community Engagement Officer, and Julian Cobley, Project Director from the Connecting Cheshire Partnership at Cheshire East Council, gave a presentation concerning the improvement of broadband speeds in Cheshire East.

Virgin Media is a similar high speed broadband to the optical fibre for Super fast broadband connectivity. BT is also currently rolling out this programme. This coverage by Virgin Media is on a very small scale across Cheshire. Not all of Poynton is covered, and BT is the only option in most parts of the village.

Mr Cobley explained that a Digital Champion for the area is very helpful. This person can be given regular updates and provides a point of contact to liaise with on a day to day basis, and encourages people to get involved. Mr Cobley updated the meeting on the recent developments in Rainow, where the community were very involved and had persuaded BT to roll out broadband, where it was switched on one month ago. David Rutley MP helped and supported their campaign.

Cllr Clarke asked about the best way forward for those in Poynton who do not have access. Mr Cobley said this was to join the campaign and to register the demand on the website. There is also information on the website on how to improve current speeds, and these tips might help in the short term.

Cllr King suggested the PUN as a useful means of advertising the campaign.

Members of the meeting briefly discussed appointing a Digital Champion for Poynton, and agreed that further discussion outside of this meeting would help decide on this.

**RESOLVED: That the presentation concerning the improvement of broadband speeds in Cheshire East is received with thanks (NC)**

#### 44. Operations and Business update

The Operations and Events Manager, Richard Holland provided an operations and business update for November 2012. His report (attached) included options and quotations for fencing at Barnaby Park, plus the on-going security costs. Cllr Mrs Horsman felt that the pallisade fencing would be more appropriate and acceptable to residents who overlook this area. In contrast the other types were unattractive, and some could easily be kicked down.

Cllr Hoyland explained that brown is the predominant background colour and more suitable in terms of blending into the background. Following further discussion Cllr Mrs Sewart proposed that brown Pallisade fencing is agreed for installation at Barnaby Park. Richard Holland was tasked to progress this issue and downselect a contractor.

On the issue of tree felling, Cllr Mrs Horsman explained that it is environmentally friendly if trunks remain, and benefit wildlife too. Cllr Murray suggested a tree raffle, an idea adopted by Disley.

On other issues Cllr Murray suggested memorial planters were an option for the village, given the plethora of memorial benches already installed.

Cllr Mrs Sewart asked about the Civic Hall roof survey that was carried out some two or three years ago under the supervision of John Brooks, the previous Operations Officer. The Clerk said that he was not aware of this. Richard Holland agreed to check with John Brooks.

Titterton's, a newcomer to School Lane, were keen to have festive features at School Lane. Richard Holland explained that if the Town Council provided Christmas lights they would be willing to string and power them.

**RESOLVED: That brown Pallisade fencing is approved for installation at Barnaby Park, and that Richard Holland will now progress this issue (NC)**

#### 45. Play project on the Bird Estate

Cllr Beanland provided a verbal update concerning a proposed play project on the Bird Estate. He said that in spite of there being some 400 homes on this estate there is very little infrastructure, and there is certainly a need for some public amenities. After consideration it was as decided that one site with facilities for older and younger residents would be more cost effective, and the most advantageous site would be Lostock Hall Primary School, where a small part of the field is identified as suitable. Cllr Beanland is currently looking for a play equipment manufacturer who could help prepare an attractive proposition to present to the school governors.

Cllr Mrs Horsman asked about the type of apparatus that might be included at this site. She said that the outdoor gym equipment at Barnaby Park is rarely used, whereas the equipment for younger children is very popular and used on a regular basis.

Cllr King suggested that Cllr Beanland would benefit from having some support on this project and proposed that Isabel Thornton-Maddocks is co-opted to work with Cllr Beanland.

**RESOLVED: That the verbal update from Cllr Beanland is received, and that Isabel Thornton-Maddocks is co-opted to assist Cllr Beanland on this project (NC)**

#### 46. Footpath linking Anglesey Drive and Towers Road

Cllr Mrs Sewart suggested that the proposal from Cheshire East for a Deed of Dedication to dedicate an existing footpath linking Anglesey Drive and Towers Road (running parallel to London Road North) as a Public Right of Way is agreed.

**RESOLVED: That the Deed of Dedication is agreed (NC)**

#### 47. Seating layouts in the Main Hall

The Clerk provided a written update on the safety of seating layouts in the Main Hall. He explained that while there are various recommendations about fixing seats there is no statutory requirement. The Clerk has spoken to the Town Council insurance providers Zurich, who operate a Local Council Advisory Service. One of their experts had advised that provided this is dealt with adequately in a fire risk assessment, and shown that due consideration had been taken and reasonable steps to mitigate any risk, then this would suffice. Cllr Mrs Sewart thanked the Clerk for his report.

**RESOLVED: That the written report from the Clerk on the safety of seating layouts in the Main Hall is received (NC)**

#### 48. Poynton bus services

Cllr Murray provided a verbal update concerning Poynton bus services. He explained that there are three bus services in Poynton currently receiving some £250,000 in subsidies from Cheshire East. The local authority does not run these services but has been subsidising them for some time. It is felt that not enough people use them. Substantial cuts are required to non-statutory services to enable Cheshire East to continue supporting vulnerable children and adult services. As a result £175,000 of bus subsidy is being withdrawn from Poynton.

Cllr Mrs Saunders and Cllr Murray have met with Cheshire East and persuaded them to delay any decisions until early March 2013. They were invited to put forward their own suggestions and have proposed an alternative route to link up the three train stations (Poynton, Hazel Grove and Middlewood), which has been an ambition of some Councillors. Cheshire East have also proposed their ideas. Ultimately it will be the bus companies who will decide which routes are commercially viable. The re-tendering process has begun and the deadline for bids is 20<sup>th</sup> December 2012. Selection then becomes a Portfolio Holder decision. Cllr Murray said that they have tried their very best on this issue.

**RESOLVED: That the verbal update from Cllr Murray concerning Poynton bus services is received with thanks (NC)**

49. School Lane retail area

Cllr G King provided a written update on the School Lane retail area project.

The next meeting of the School Lane Working Group will be held at 10 am on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2012.

**RESOLVED: That the written update Cllr King on the School Lane retail area is received (NC)**

The meeting concluded at 9.30 pm