

MINUTES OF THE FACILITIES, INFRASTRUCTURE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT 8PM ON MONDAY 22ND OCTOBER 2012 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC HALL, POYNTON.

PRESENT

Chairman: Cllr A Smith

Cllrs G Bartos, Mrs S Horsman, G King, B Lewis, Mrs J Sewart

Attending under SO53: Cllrs M Beanland, P Hoyland and H Murray

30. Apologies for absence

Cllrs Ms R Horsman and G Smith

31. Declarations of interest

None

32. Minutes of the meeting of 17th September 2012

Page 99 – Cllr Mrs Sewart asked if there had been any progress concerning the experimental road narrowing on Clifford Road. The Clerk explained that following discussion of this issue, a Town Council response has been sent to Cheshire East. This sets out a number of options, and reflects the views and concerns of the various residents present at the last FIED meeting. Furthermore the Town Council informed Cheshire East of the resolution which proposed that Cheshire East Highways Engineers consider an holistic solution in conjunction with Cllr West.

Page 101 – Cllr Mrs Horsman asked if there had been any recent air pollution monitoring reports for Poynton from Cheshire East. The Clerk said this was an outstanding action from the last meeting, and that he would follow up.

Page 102 - Cllr Mrs Sewart asked if there had been any reply from the Co-op about their car park charges. The Clerk replied that there had been no response to date. An e-mail was sent to the Co-op Customer Relations, which the Clerk will follow up as necessary.

RESOLVED: That the minutes from the Facilities, Infrastructure and Economic Development Committee meeting held on 17th September 2012 be approved as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman (5 - 1 abs)

33. Operations and Events Manager, Richard Holland

Richard Holland, the newly-appointed Operations and Events Manager, presented his Work Plan for 2012/13. This included developing a database and building relations with local businesses, as well as using the Town Council website to promote Poynton business and Poynton in general. Richard Holland also explained his involvement in current and future community-based events, such as the Christmas and Summer Fests. He is in the process too of getting estimates to refurbish the floor in the Main Hall, and a condition survey for the Civic Hall roof.

Cllr Mrs Sewart suggested that the refurbishment of the floor would be better delayed until work on joining the library and the Civic Hall is complete, otherwise the floor could run the risk of being damaged during construction. The Clerk clarified that there are three options concerning the floor. First, a "patch and repair job", second a complete renewal of the floor, and finally a new top covering laid over the existing floor.

Councillors discussed the usefulness of the business database and the possibility of including information about vacant businesses and premises in Poynton and on the industrial estate.

RESOLVED: That the 2012/13 Work Plan from Richard Holland, Operations and Events Manager, is received with thanks (NC)

34. Draft FIED budget for 2013/14

The Clerk confirmed that members had received the detailed summary of the preliminary budget estimate for 2013/14. The Clerk provided an overview of his report concerning FIED.

On the issue of tree management, Cllr Murray confirmed that the Town Council is responsible for the trees on both Inclines except on Lady's Incline where the trees below footpath 71 to Jones Homes belong to those living on the northern side of Lady's Incline. The Clerk confirmed that a site visit had been conducted with our consultant and contractor. The Clerk explained that there has been very little woodland management on the Inclines in recent years. Now that the Town Council had commissioned a survey and risk assessment it can have a proper management strategy going forward, with an appropriate budget to fund it.

Cllr Lewis asked if the Town Council was covered by insurance should there be an incident involving a tree. The Clerk explained that the consultant who prepared this detailed report did conduct a risk-based assessment, and as a result found that only three trees needed to be removed in the short term.

RESOLVED: That the report on the draft FIED budget for 2013/14 from the Clerk is received and approved (NC)

35. Barnaby Park

The Clerk provided a written report concerning fencing at Barnaby Park. Cllr Mrs Sewart said that the arrangement at Brecon Park, which is fenced and gated, works well and this same arrangement should be put in place at Barnaby Park. This would mean a similar type of fencing and arrangement for locking and unlocking the park. The Clerk expressed his concern with regard to pressures on the Town Council's reserves for next year. Cllr Mrs Sewart explained that she had understood £26,000 was set aside two years ago for the fencing work, should it be justified in terms of an increase in ASB. The Clerk explained that these funds would be a charge to the Town Council's reserves, since this was a capital project.

Councillors discussed the need for security fencing at Barnaby Park, and agreed that money was committed at the time should the need arise. Cllr Mrs Sewart again proposed that fencing comparable to Brecon Park is installed around the play and outdoor gym equipment at Barnaby Park, with the same arrangement to lock and unlock the gates. The timescale for the work would need to be coordinated with budgets.

RESOLVED: That the report on Barnaby Park is received; that, subject to three estimates being obtained, security fencing comparable to Brecon Park is installed at Barnaby Park around the play and outdoor gym equipment, with a similar arrangement to lock and unlock the gates (NC)

36. Main Hall

The Clerk provided a written report on the safety of seating layouts in the Main Hall. This looked at the issue of whether seats needed to be fixed together, as requested by Cllr Lewis. The Clerk explained that this was an interim report and he will provide further information on this issue. Cllr Lewis suggested that the Clerk contact the Health and Safety Executive and not Cheshire East Council to find out what is expected. The Clerk explained that he had not made any enquiries of Cheshire East.

RESOLVED: That the report on the safety of seating layouts in the Main Hall is received, and that the Clerk pursues this issue further (NC)

37. Poynton's Byelaws on Parks and Open Spaces

The Clerk provided the background to his written report on the lapsed protocol with Cheshire East concerning Poynton's Byelaws that governed the use of parks and open spaces. Cllr Lewis asked if the Clerk sought any legal advice at the time regarding this issue and expressed his concern about the lengthy delay in this matter. Cllr Murray explained that Richard Doran is a Cheshire East Ranger and does not hold any legal office. Cllr Murray clarified that the Town Council's byelaws are governed by the Home Office. The correct

process had been followed and consultation with Macclesfield Borough Council conducted at the time. Cllr Murray said he would be happy to work with the Clerk to compose a suitable response to Mr Doran. Cllr Mrs Sewart suggested that it would be advisable to locate the original legal document. Cllr Lewis said that a signed copy would be held at the Lord Chancellor's Office and a certified copy could be obtained. Cllr Murray explained that the legal status of the Town Council's byelaws meant that any revocation of them must be through the Home Office.

RESOLVED: That the Town Council reminds Cheshire East about the Town Council's legally constituted byelaws as approved by the Home Office; that it points out to Cheshire East the advantages to them of renewing the protocol; that a meeting is arranged with the Head of Legal at Cheshire East to discuss this issue; and that the Clerk locates the original document (NC)

38. Queensway Revitalisation Working Group

The meeting received a written update provided by Cllr G Smith regarding the Queensway Revitalisation Working Group. Cllr G Smith was unable to attend this meeting due to being on leave.

Cllr Hoyland confirmed that he would be meeting with Wetherspoons mid to late November. Cllr Mrs Sewart asked about the timescale and area for distribution of the questionnaire to residents. The Clerk clarified that because the business questionnaires have been received, the residents' questionnaires could now be issued. This would cover quite a wide catchment area, including households to the east and west of London Road South.

The Chairman concluded that on his return, Cllr G Smith would probably be meeting with the Working Group, and would then be in a position to update further on these issues at the next meeting.

RESOLVED: That the report regarding the Queensway Revitalisation Working Group is received (NC)

The meeting concluded at 9.05 pm