

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MANAGEMENT AND ESTABLISHMENT COMMITTEE HELD AT 8PM ON TUESDAY 30TH OCTOBER 2012 IN THE VERNON ROOM, CIVIC HALL, POYNTON

PRESENT

Chairman: Cllr P Hoyland

Cllrs. L A Clarke, C Gorst, A Smith

Cllr H Murray attended as a substitute for Cllr Mrs J Saunders under SO 51

Also attending under SO 53: Cllr Mrs S Horsman

PART A

12. Apologies for absence

Cllr Mrs J Saunders

13. Declarations of interest

None

14. Previous meeting minutes

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Management and Establishment Committee meeting held on 10th September 2012 are approved as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman (NC)

15. Town Council Workload Matrix

The Chairman said it would be useful to track progress on each item.

Woodford Consultation

The Chairman informed the meeting that Stockport Council's (SMBC) timescale may have fallen behind on the Woodford consultation possibly as a consequence of the feedback they had received and because of significant amendments to the Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). The Town Council is very much in SMBC's hands on this issue. The Clerk added that on the proposed Neighbourhood Plan for Woodford there is a budget for £1,000 for this year and next for any incidental expenditure arising. Cllr Clarke voiced his concern about the enormous workload involved in the Neighbourhood

Plan, and the time required to provide a report to the next Town Council meeting. The volume of work involved is too excessive for just three people to undertake, and it would be very difficult for him to find the time required. Cllr Hoyland pointed out that the resolution included delegated authority for the three members (Cllrs Beanland, Clarke and Hoyland) to co-opt members who can provide expertise and assistance. The Chairman suggested that together with Cllr Beanland and Cllr Clarke they set an informal meeting date and invite those people who have been involved in the Woodford group to progress the issue. Cllr Clarke agreed, and suggested that Monday 5th November 2012 following the scheduled Planning meeting could be a possibility for an informal meeting.

SEMMMS

On the SEMMMS First Phase consultation documents, members clarified the two items of literature that residents should have received. The Clerk said that a few residents had pointed out that they had not received these. The Clerk commented on the helpful local road signs giving the website details for members of the public to provide their views on the A6 to Manchester Airport Relief Road, and suggested these would also be useful for Poynton residents at the main entry points to the village, and certainly in West Ward. Cllr Hoyland confirmed that he would follow up on this.

Play Project on the Bird Estate

Cllr A Smith suggested that to progress this it would be more suitable to add it as an agenda item to the next FIED Committee meeting. Cllr A Smith and the Clerk would discuss this matter with Cllr Beanland to find out where this initiative is leading and seek clarification on future actions.

Queensway Revitalisation

The Clerk explained that he has spoken to the Regional Manager of Wetherspoons who is keen to meet with Cllr Hoyland and Cllr Mrs J Saunders.

School Lane

Cllr A Smith reported that Cllr G King has agreed to take the lead on this project. There will be an update at the next FIED meeting.

5th Gateway and former Vernon Infants School

Cllr Murray said that it is hoped that work on a fifth Gateway will take place either in this financial year or next. This is linked with the former Vernon Infant School. The gateway will go further down Bulkeley Road where it joins Clumber Road.

Cllr Clarke asked if there had been any news on cutting back the shrubbery at the Vernon Infants School site. The Clerk explained that he had had a

response from the Director of Educational Strategy at Cheshire East, Lorraine Butcher. She said they would look into whether any further grounds maintenance was required. The Clerk responded to confirm that no grounds maintenance had taken place, and informed her of the health and safety issue regarding the exit and entrance of the temporary car park. The Clerk will continue to press the point.

Higher Poynton Summerfest

Following discussion members agreed that this should be listed under an umbrella heading of 'Poynton Community Events'.

Visitor Economy

The Clerk explained that the map with thumbnail images of Poynton eateries on the reverse has now gone to the printers awaiting a proof copy to be returned, with costing. There are 31 images, but only 13 had provided brief descriptions of them. The Operations and Events Manager, Richard Holland will take a copy round to the local businesses concerned to encourage them to provide descriptions also. The Clerk suggested including this information on the Town Council's website too. There will be a progressive hand over from Diane Smith, Cheshire East Town Centres Manager to Richard Holland.

The Chairman asked if there was any way of knowing how effective it has been drawing people into Poynton. Members discussed possible audit processes and a way in which to measure the success of community events, the impact of village revitalisation, and all facets of Poynton in terms of the good schools, societies and countryside, which all form part of the visitor economy.

Civic Hall / Library Complex

The Clerk explained that a meeting is imminent following the successful capital bid by Cheshire East. This refurbishment and improvement will enhance the community's facilities. The Chairman recognised that this project will be time consuming for both the Clerk and the Operations and Events Manager, and the workload should be monitored.

Middlewood Station

Cllr Gorst explained that a meeting has been provisionally arranged for next Tuesday. Cllr Murray added that the aspiration to have an improved timetable is recognised.

Men in Sheds

The Clerk updated that the funding has stalled for now but the project is still on-going. He and Cllr Mrs J Saunders will continue to progress this issue.

Standing Orders

Cllr Mrs Jo Sewart will continue to chair. There is a need for these to be reviewed and amended in the light of the new Code of Conduct, DPI Dispensations etc.

Business Awards

There is a four page flyer currently at the printers, which incorporates a nomination form. Following discussion on the Mayor's Ball, members agreed that the Cheshire East Mayor should also be invited. The Clerk will follow up on this invitation.

Communications

The Clerk said he was very pleased with the performance of the new webmaster following the recent launch of the new Town Council website. Cllr Murray pointed out the excellence of the PUN, as produced by the Clerk. The PUN is currently available in hard copy at the Civic Hall reception and is also distributed electronically via an e-mail database. The meeting discussed increasing the distribution of the PUN. Cllr A Smith suggested including it in the Poynton Post. Members discussed the media options and agreed that the Poynton Post is well read. The Chairman concluded that an abridged PUN as a full or half page in the Poynton Post could be trialled and feedback monitored. The Clerk will investigate the cost involved.

Parking Review

Cllrs Hoyland and Murray will formulate and prepare a long-term Town Council strategy, including on and off street parking. This will also encompass other issues such as enforcement.

PVRS

Cllr Murray reported that there is a meeting of the PVRS Steering Group on Friday 9th November 2012. A new fountain was previously suggested that the capital and running costs make it prohibitive. The meeting discussed other ideas, including ornamental village signs or a pillar clock.

SEMMMS consultation

The Chairman explained that the SEMMMS consultation on the A6 to Manchester Airport Relief Road closes on 24th January 2013. He confirmed that discussion on the Town Council's response to the consultation will take place at the next Town Council meeting.

Draft Poynton Town Strategy

The Clerk explained the process, but that he was not aware of the timetable with regard to the next stages.

RESOLVED: That the updated Workload Matrix is received, and further revised as agreed (NC)

16. ChALC

The Clerk provided the background to this issue and explained how in his view ChALC had exceeded its remit. At the time this was clearly explained to ChALC and it was suggested that a meeting be arranged to understand how we benefit from our £1,250 annual subscription. The Clerk said there was an action outstanding to invite ChALC to meet with the Town Council. Depending on the result of the meeting the Town Council would need to decide on whether to continue with its membership. Members agreed that a meeting be arranged. This will be an agenda item at the next M&E Committee meeting.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk's verbal report is received (NC)

17. Quality Council status

The Clerk explained that Quality Council status lasts for four years. This would normally mean that the Town Council's Quality Council status would expire in December 2012 and need to be revalidated. However because there will be a consultation on Quality Council status that will go well into next year, our status will remain valid until this consultation is concluded, and for at least three months thereafter. Therefore the Town Council has until later next year before they are required to re-submit. The Chairman commented on the administrative workload involved in re-submitting. Members discussed the need for Quality Council status in further detail. Cllr Gorst suggested this item should be part of the F&GP Committee meeting. Cllr Clarke proposed that the matter of Quality Council status be referred to the F&GP Committee for consideration in about six months time.

RESOLVED: That consideration of the revalidation of the Town Council's Quality Council status is referred to the F&GP Committee on 22nd April 2013 (NC)

18. Broadband coverage in Poynton

Cllr Clarke explained that this matter had arisen following correspondence he has received from a resident on Towers Road. Cllr Clarke said that parts of Poynton have slow broadband and that speeds can vary enormously throughout the village. He said that money is available to increase broadband speeds in Poynton which would be to everyone's benefit, and it would

therefore be worthwhile pursuing. The Chairman suggested that this matter is an infrastructure issue, and as such should be included in the Town Strategy. Following discussion, members agreed that this matter is referred to the FIED Committee.

RESOLVED: That the issue of broadband coverage and speeds in Poynton is referred to the FIED Committee; that the Connecting Cheshire Partnership is invited to send a representative to a future meeting to discuss the issue, with a view to the Town Strategy reflecting any decisions reached (NC)

PART B

19. Staffing Update

The Clerk took Councillors through his staffing update.

RESOLVED: That the written staffing update be received (NC)

The meeting concluded at 10pm