

MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT 8.05PM ON MONDAY 2ND JULY 2012 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC HALL, POYNTON.

PRESENT

Chairman: Cllr Mrs S Horsman

Cllrs. M Beanland, L A Clarke, C Gorst, A Hall, Ms R Horsman, P Hoyland, H Murray (until 8.35pm), Mrs J Saunders (until 8.35pm), Mrs J Sewart, A Smith, R E West

15. Questions to the Mayor

None

16. Apologies for absence

Cllrs. G Bartos, G King, M C G Sewart and G Smith

17. Absent

Cllrs. N Cowan, B Lewis

18. Declarations of Interest

None

19. Minutes of the Annual Town Council meeting

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Annual Town Council meeting held on 14th May 2012 are approved as a correct record (11 - 1 abs)

20. Mayor's Announcements

Wednesday 16th May - the Mayor attended the CE Mayor making ceremony held at Tenant's Hall Tatton Park.

Thursday 17th May - the Mayor was invited to attend a performance at Poynton Players.

Thursday 24th May - the Mayor attended the Macclesfield Mayor making ceremony held in the Council Chambers at Macclesfield Town Hall.

Friday 25th May - the Mayor attended the Private Preview of the first Poynton High School Sixth Form Art

Friday 1st June - The start of the Jubilee celebrations. The Mayor attended the Cantata Choirs and the Royal British Legion Band opening concert.

Saturday 2nd June 2012 - the Mayor met with guests from our twinned town of Erd and Reghin, with whom Poynton has a Friendship Agreement, at the Civic Hall. Whilst waiting for them the Mayor had the chance to have a chat with everyone and also viewed the stalls and exhibitions at the Craft Fair. Walking through the village with the official visitors afterwards was very enjoyable, admiring the scarecrows and chatting to shop owners and shoppers. St Georges was full for the Organ Recital. Then a visit to the Poynton Players to see the displays, and also watched the Marionette Theatre Company brimming with children.

Monday 4th June 2012 - the Mayor attended the Deva Close street party accompanied by her husband. The lighting of the Jubilee Beacon took place at the Sports Club that evening.

Tuesday 5th June 2012 - the Mayor attended the St George's Singers and Vernon Brass Band closing concert at the Civic Hall accompanied by her husband. This was a tremendous end to five days of exciting celebrations.

Saturday 16th June 2012 - the Mayor attended the 'Embrace the Games' event at the Poynton Leisure Centre.

Saturday 30th June 2012 - Armed Forces Day ceremony held outside the Civic Hall.

RESOLVED: That the Mayor's announcements are received (NC)

Cllr Murray requested that items 7 and 8 be moved up the agenda to enable Cllrs Murray and Mrs Saunders to leave and attend the Annual Town Council meeting at Pott Shrigley.

RESOLVED: That Items 7 and 8 are moved up the agenda, and taken now (NC)

21. Name and Remit of the Parks, Buildings and Highways Committee

Cllr Murray summarised the briefing note that Councillors had received. Essentially there is a need for the Parks, Buildings and Highways Committee to widen its remit to incorporate such things as the development and continuation of the Village Revitalisation Scheme. The recommendations are contained in paragraph 7 and Cllr Murray proposed that these be endorsed. The Clerk suggested that the new Committee is called Facilities,

Infrastructure, and Economic Development (FIED) to remove any ambiguity. Council agreed with the recommendations and amendment to the title.

RESOLVED: That the remit and name of the Parks, Buildings and Highways Committee be amended as recommended in the report (NC)

22. Legal Briefing and Legal Topic Note from the National Assn of Local Councils (NALC)

The Clerk explained that the NALC's template Code of Conduct was included in the agenda packs and the Cheshire East draft Code of Conduct has now also just become available, with copies circulated at this meeting. Therefore there are now two model codes of conduct available.

Cllr Murray, a member of the Cheshire East Standards Board, highlighted areas of the Cheshire East Code of Conduct to Council. He explained that the Standards for England has now been abolished. The new legislation states that each Town and Parish Council can have their own Code of Conduct, but Cheshire East remains the organisation to which all issues will be referred. The Cheshire East Monitoring Officer and Committee will process any issues raised. The Audit and Governance Committee will set up a small Sub-Committee to investigate. The Cheshire East proposal is that only substantive material will go before the independent person. Greater emphasis has been placed on pecuniary interests that can result in a criminal offence. Cllr Murray provided further examples and details reflected in both the Cheshire East and NALC model Codes.

Cllr Murray suggested that where possible it would be easier to stick close to the Cheshire East document, even if it is with some amendments.

Cllr Gorst raised the issue of the Register of Interests and the present system of declaring a personal and prejudicial interest at a Committee meeting which he feels works well. Cllr Murray explained that once the interest has been declared in the Register of Interests there is no need for repetition and raising this at each meeting. Cllr Gorst felt that in the interest of openness and clarity the current system works well. Cllr Beanland asked where the Register of Interests is located. The Clerk replied that he holds it, and that it is available for inspection by any member of the public.

The Clerk said that the Cheshire East Code of Conduct will not be adopted until their next Council meeting on 19th July 2012. Cllr Clarke proposed that a holding resolution is passed until that time, as provided on page 2 of the Cheshire East Bulletin of April 2012. It may also be necessary to revisit the Town Council Standing Orders, because they refer to the current system of personal and prejudicial interest, and will perhaps also need to be reconsidered in the light of pecuniary interests.

RESOLUTION: That, with effect from the date of the coming into force of section 27 of the Localism Act 2011, the Council resolves that the Code

of Conduct adopted by Cheshire East Borough Council be adopted as this Council's Code of Conduct, on the basis that references in the Code to Cheshire East Borough Council's register are to this Council's register (NC)

23. Minutes of Standing Committees

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes meeting held on 30th April 2012 be received and adopted (NC)

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Community, Order and Public Safety meeting held on 2nd April 2012 be received and adopted (NC)

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Planning and Environment meeting held on 16th April 2012 be received and adopted (NC)

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Management and Establishment meeting held on 17th April 2012 be received and adopted (NC)

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Parks, Buildings and Highways meeting held on 23rd April 2012 be received and adopted (NC)

24. Poynton War Memorial

The Clerk explained that the War Memorial will be refurbished, with the contractor, Stone Central, starting work on Wednesday 4th July 2012. The duration of the work is likely to be a fortnight. As was explained at the Annual Town Council meeting, the sum of £2,383 has been offered by the War Memorials Trust. A public subscription last year raised a further £564 which brings the total funds to almost £3,000. This leaves a balance of £1,800 for the refurbishment, and at the time of discussion a commitment was made that this balance should be met from Town Council funds.

RESOLVED: That the verbal report from the Clerk on the refurbishment of the Poynton War Memorial fund is received (NC)

25. Cheshire Lieutenancy

Council received correspondence from the Clerk to the Cheshire Lieutenancy concerning the involvement of the Lieutenancy in our Remembrance Sunday Service in November 2012. Cllr Mrs Sewart proposed that the correspondence be received with a reply in the affirmative. Cllr Clarke agreed and suggested Sir Nicholas Winterton, a Deputy Lord Lieutenant, is invited to attend.

RESOLVED: That the correspondence is received, and that the Clerk replies, welcoming the suggestion of involvement of the Lieutenancy (NC)

26. Poynton Town Council Trader Awards

Cllr Hoyland explained that as part of the ongoing support for the revitalisation of the village, agreement is sought from Council to a local Trader Awards Scheme. It is anticipated that this will help both to raise the profile of the village and continually raise standards. It is intended that this will be an annual event, judged over twelve months, with awards announced at the Mayor's Ball. The recommendations are included in the briefing note provided to Council by e-mail and also by hard copy at this meeting.

Cllr Mrs Sewart asked if the Traders Award Committee will decide and bring the criteria for the award before the Town Council before being taken any further. Cllr Hoyland said that the intention is to set up the Traders Award Committee ready to work out the criteria, with the authority to move this forward as soon as possible. To be able to achieve this for this year it needs to be progressed swiftly. The criteria will of course be shared with other Councillors, but Cllr Hoyland said that he hoped this would be fully delegated to allow the matter to progress without undue delay.

Cllr Mrs Sewart proposed that the report is received and that the Traders Award scheme is approved, but that the final list should go to the Management and Establishment committee and Town Council.

Cllr Hall explained that the criteria or eligibility for the award as for the Civic Awards is agreed at Town Council then delegated to be carried forward by the Management and Establishment Committee. Cllr Mrs Sewart amended the proposal for the criteria to be approved by the Town Council.

RESOLVED: That the Poynton Town Council Traders Award report by Cllr Hoyland is received and recommendations within it approved, subject to the criteria for the Traders Awards being first agreed at Town Council (NC)

The meeting concluded at 8.50pm