

MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT 8.05PM ON MONDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER 2012 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC HALL, POYNTON.

PRESENT

Chairman: Cllr Mrs S Horsman, Town Mayor

Cllrs G Bartos, M Beanland, L A Clarke, C Gorst, Ms R Horsman, B Lewis (left after item 38), P Hoyland, H Murray, A Smith, G Smith

Also present: John Knight, Planning Advisor to Poynton LAP (Woodford Site)

33. Questions to the Mayor

None

34. Apologies for absence

Cllrs. N Cowan, A Hall, G King, Mrs J Saunders, Mrs J Sewart, M C G Sewart and R West

35. Declarations of Interest

None

36. Briefing on Neighbourhood Planning

Mr John Knight, Planning Advisor to Poynton LAP (Woodford Site) provided Councillors with a background briefing document on Neighbourhood Planning, dated September 2012, and a verbal briefing concerning a Neighbourhood Plan for the Woodford site. Mr Knight explained that he had previously worked for the former Macclesfield Borough Council and Cheshire County Council for some 35 years, and is very familiar with the Woodford site. He was attending this meeting in a voluntary capacity because of his concerns for this strategic site.

Mr Knight quoted an important clause determined by the Coalition Government in 2010 namely that, “we would radically reform the planning system to give neighbourhoods far more ability to determine the shape of the places in which their inhabitants live”.

Mr Knight added that it is only from this summer that the financial regulations and the funding attached to localism had become clearer.

He explained that this is new territory for town and parish councils, the local authorities, and for the public. The relevance to the ex-BAE Systems site is that it is split between the three communities of Woodford, Poynton and Adlington, all of which will be impacted by any redevelopment of the site.

The Local Area Partnership (LAP) meetings have been considering the possibility of preparing a Neighbourhood Plan across the three communities which would also lead across to the local authorities. The Neighbourhood Plan provides an ideal vehicle for local authorities to pass on decision-making to their communities.

Mr Knight explained the key points of the Neighbourhood Plan as noted in the briefing paper. The Neighbourhood Plan can add more detail to the Local Plan than the current Strategic Plan by Stockport. This is a way of bringing in all the communities.

Cllr Murray asked if it was possible for Neighbourhood Plans to have overlapping boundaries. Mr Knight explained that any decision-making on planning would remain with Cheshire East. However because the Woodford site is so inter-related across the administrative boundaries there is provision in the Localism Act called the “duty to co-operate” which explains that local authorities at all levels have to co-operate with each other. He pointed out that because this is new legislation, case law is only just being made and it will be decided by test cases over the coming years.

Mr Knight clarified that the Neighbourhood Plan can influence and suggest further detail but has to be in compliance with the Strategic Plan. In discussion with Cllr Lewis, Mr Knight explained that the strategy document establishes both the level of development and the general location of the development.

Following points raised by Cllr Clarke, Mr Knight explained that the Steering Group membership for a Neighbourhood Plan must comprise representatives of the area, and the Plan itself is subject to a vote through the ballot box which is unchartered territory in terms of planning.

Cllr Murray thanked Mr Knight for the excellent presentation on a complex subject which will serve the Town Council well in the near future.

RESOLVED: That the briefing from Mr Knight is received with thanks (NC)

37. Minutes of the Town Council meetings of 2nd July and 16th July 2012

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on the 2nd July 2012 are approved as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman (9 - 2 abs)

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on the 16th July 2012 are approved as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman (NC)

38. Mayor's announcements

See record attached.

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

39. Code of Conduct and Registration of Interests

The Clerk explained that at a previous Town Council meeting a resolution was passed that once Cheshire East had decided on the form of their Code of Conduct the Town Council would accept this as a template. Accordingly, the Clerk had attempted to convert the Cheshire East Code of Conduct to one that is fitting and appropriate for this Council. The Council considered the resolution suggestion by CHALC and Cheshire East Council under section 27 (3) as included in the paperwork provided to members. Councillors agreed this as a reasonable Code of Conduct and fit for purpose.

Cllr Hoyland proposed a slight amendment to the resolution, to add that the Standing Orders Working Group reconvene to conduct a periodic review of Standing Orders, also taking the above changes into account.

RESOLVED: That the Town Council adopts the Code of Conduct for Members adopted by Cheshire East Borough Council on 19th July 2012 as this Council's Code of Conduct, under Section 27(2) and 27(3) of the Localism Act 2011; and that the Standing Orders Working Group reconvene to conduct a periodic review of the Standing Orders, taking this and any other changes since the last review into account (NC)

Following on from this resolution the Clerk reminded members that Councillors are obliged to complete and return all Notification of Members' Interests forms within 28 days of accepting the new Code of Conduct, i.e. as of today. Helpful guidance notes are included in the paperwork provided to members.

40. Minutes of Standing Committees

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Community, Order and Public Safety meeting held on 21st May 2012 be received and adopted (NC)

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Planning and Environment meeting held on 28th May be received and adopted (NC)

Parks, Buildings and Highways meeting of 11th June 2012

Page 21 - Cllr Hoyland asked whether the Working Party on Public Transport suggested by Cllr Mrs Sewart at the Parks, Buildings and Highways meeting of 11th June 2012 had been formed. The Clerk confirmed that it had, and that a Town Council response to the Cheshire East consultation was sent. This had subsequently been tabled at the Facilities, Infrastructure and Economic Development Committee meeting on 23rd July 2012 for Councillors to note.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Parks, Buildings and Highways meeting held on 11th June 2012 be received and adopted (NC)

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes meeting held on 18th June 2012 be received and adopted (NC)

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Planning and Environment meeting held on 25th June 2012 be received and adopted (NC)

Community, Order and Public Safety meeting of 9th July 2012

Cllr Hoyland proposed that the receipt and adoption of the minutes of the Community, Order and Public Safety held on meeting 9th July 2012 be deferred due to a missing page.

RESOLVED: That the receipt and adoption of the minutes of the Community, Order and Public Safety meeting held on 9th July 2012 be deferred and presented to the next scheduled Town Council meeting (NC)

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

41. Town Council Website

The Clerk had provided Councillors with a written update concerning the Town Council website. Under the management of a locally-based webmaster a website that was fit for purpose should shortly be in place. This will go live in mid-October 2012 and will be in a fully functional steady state, including further content, by the New Year.

RESOLVED: That the update on the Town Council website be received (NC)

The meeting concluded at 9pm