MINUTES OF THE FACILITIES & INFRASTRUCTURE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (FIED) COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT 8.00 PM ON MONDAY 22ND June 2026

PRESENT

Chairman: Cllr Booth

Also in attendance: Cllrs S. Lees, P Oakes, J. Saunders, M. Sewart.
Cllr L Clarke attending under SO52 substituting for Cllr John Waterhouse.

Officers in attendance: Haf Barlow (Town Clerk) Sally Shaw (Admin Officer)

01. Anyone attending or present at the Committee meeting declares that they are making, or intend to make, an audio recording and/or film the meeting

The Chair confirmed that the meeting is recorded for the purposes of minute taking and the recording is deleted when the draft minutes are agreed.

There were no other declarations.

02. Questions from members of the public

A member of the public was in attendance to discuss two concerns; perceived speeding on Hazelbadge Road, Poynton and her recent experience of a lack of assistance when catching trains for mobility impaired people.

Cllrs advised that planned road improvement works for Hazelbadge were scheduled for the School Holidays which would include new signage and road markings. A request for the mobile speed camera monitoring had also been made, although the speed at which actions are taken can be slower that the Town Council would like.

Cllrs advised that assisted passage on the railway is available but does require prebooking and that Northern Rail would be best placed to advise further.

Another member of the public wished to discuss agenda item 7 regarding concerns about trees on the new Hazelbadge Development."

RESOLVED: That Agenda item 7, to receive and consider an email from a resident and a response from Elan Homes regarding concerns about trees on the new Hazelbadge Development." is moved up the agenda and discussed as the next item of business after items 3, 4 and 5. (NC)

03. Apologies for absence

There were no apologies for absence.

04. Declarations of disclosable pecuniary or other interests

Cllr L. Clarke declared a pecuniary interest in Agenda item 012 – trees in the Shared Space; and will leave the meeting when this item was discussed.

05. To approve the draft minutes of Facilities, Infrastructure and Economic Development Committee meeting on 09th February 2026.

RESOLVED: The draft minutes, of the Facilities, Infrastructure and Economic Development Committee meeting on 09th February 2026 are approved. (NC)

06. to receive and consider an email from a resident and a response from Elan Homes regarding concerns about trees on the new Hazelbadge Development."

A resident had shared correspondence he has had with Elan Homes regarding the planting and health of new trees on the Hazelbadge development. Whilst satisfied by Elan Homes that any obviously dead trees would be replaced his concern was for ones that had been damaged from poor landscaping techniques (strimming damage) and that these would develop long term health issues, after the developer had been discharged of responsibility. Liability would then transfer to the residents' management company.

RESOLVED: To avoid long term issues with young trees that have been damaged which will likely develop a weakened or sick tree, the Town Clerk will write to Elan Homes and copy in Cheshire East Council Building Control asking that the damage trees be replaced with healthy trees prior to the discharge of planning conditions being made. (NC)

07. To receive and consider the action log for the FIED Committee for 2025-2026.

Members considered the action log for the FIED Committee, The Clerk commented that many of the items would be covered in detail by the Operations managers' report later on the agenda.

RESOLVED: That the action log for the FIED Committee for 2026-2027 was received. (NC)

08.To receive a report from the Operations Manager on operational issues and to agree any recommendations.

The Operations Manager gave an overview of current projects and priorities. This included Park maintenance, Street furniture, Street Lighting and Transport.

RESOLVED: The following recommendation made by the Operations Manager were approved in line with the Town Council's Strategic Priority to improve Town Infrastructure.

That any future replacement of street light heads be fitted with solar lamps at a current cost of £781.25 with ongoing monitoring of the new systems performance to ensure it works satisfactorily.

To approve the purchase of two x one ton bags of Type 1 MOT to finish off the path levelling from Deva Close in Deva Park.

Subject to the approval of Cheshire East Council, the Town Council purchase at a cost of £790 replacement swing seats for Mount Vernon Park and that the Operations Manager should investigate the cost of surface repairs/replacement under the swings.

In Lower Park Crescent, subject to the approval of Cheshire East Council, the Town Council to purchase replacement swing seats at a cost of £1,160.

That the FIED Committee request that the purchases of the swing and potentially the replacement/repair of the surface should be funded from CIL.

That the Operations Manager is given greater flexibility to select a replacement van up to the value of £32,000 to enable the purchase of the correct size vehicle with good availability.

To approve the replacement of the bench in Fleetbank Farm at a cost of £396.70, but the Operations Manager is requested to see if an alternative bench not made from plastic can be sourced. Once this is sourced to write to Cheshire East and notify them that the bench will be replaced by the Town Council "Without Prejudice".

Approval to spend £570.72 on a damaged bench in Park Lane, to replace with an Oak board with a view to replacing all ten on Park Lane that are substandard if the Operations Manager is satisfied with the quality and durability of the new Oak Board.

Purchase commando splitter sockets at a cost of £59.99 (Total £239.96) to aid the distribution and display of the Christmas lights on Park Lane, Poynton. (NC)

09.To receive and consider the current list of working groups assigned to this committee and agree any amendments.

The Clerk gave an overview of the Town Council Working Groups and their current priorities and commitments. She explained at this time the Deva Transfer and the Business Group were not currently required, although this might change in the future.

RESOLVED: That the Allotments, Accessibility and Leisure Centre Working Groups should continue with their current remits. (NC)

10. To receive and consider an email from a resident regarding survey and marking out works on London Road North from the Shared Space to the junction of Glastonbury Drive

A member of the public has been in contact with the Town Clerk to ask why Cheshire East Council are surveying London Road North. The Clerk contacted Cheshire East Council to establish the purpose of the survey as Poynton Town Council had not been informed in advance of the survey. Cheshire East Council advised that it was for the preliminary design stages of a new Active Travel scheme and they were surveying current street furniture and cables.

RESOLOUTION: The Clerk respond to the resident stating that Cheshire East Council have informed us that the purpose of the survey works on London Road North by is for the preliminary design stages of a new Active Travel Scheme for Poynton. The Clerk to write back to Cheshire East Council to ask for further information and to be included in decisions and consultations in a timely manner. (NC)

11.To receive and consider the updated dates for the works timeline to the Shared Space and the response from Cheshire East regarding anti-social parking.

Cheshire East Council have shared an updated timeline for the outstanding work left on the Shared Space highways improvement project. The current proposed end date is now September 2026.

RESOLVED: That the updated dates and works timeline for the Shared Space are noted and will be communicated via social media. (NC)

Cllr L.A. Clarke left the meeting.

12.To receive a report from Mike Ellison about the condition of the trees in the Shared Space.

As Poynton Town Council arboriculturist, Mike Ellison has previously raised concerns in relation to some of the trees in the Shared Space area. The future growth of some of the trees will be restricted by the steel infrastructure that surrounds the base of the tree.

RESOLVED: The report on the trees in the Shared Space from Mike Ellison is received. The Town Clerk to write to the Cheshire East Council to note that whilst some of the steel infrastructure around the trees has been replaced, to request that the infrastructure around the remainder of the trees should now be addressed to avoid future problems of the restrictions on growth by the steel infrastructure that surrounds the base of the trees. (NC)

Cllr L.A. Clarke returned to the meeting.

13.To note that the Cheshire East Ranger has cleared areas of shrubs along the pool to allow better viewing of Poynton Park and that the benches have now been refurbished by the Operations Team.

RESOLVED: That the area cleared by the Cheshire East Ranger of shrubs along the pool to allow better viewing of Poynton Park and the bench refurbishment is a welcome improvement and Councillors thanked the team for their efforts. (NC)

14.To consider ongoing maintenance of the Inclines and how to engage with residents regarding the ongoing management of the Inclines.

Recent landscaping improvements and land management strategies of prioritising biodiversity and creating natural habitats have been carried out on the Inclines. There have been some negative reactions to the position of the new tree trunk benches from a neighbouring property and concerns that it will result in Anti-Social Behaviour. Likewise, the tree cuttings that have been left to create wild habitats are not universally popular. At the outset of the management plan, residents were consulted and invited to a meeting to discuss the strategy behind the management of this land, and it was felt that it was time to repeat this with the current residents.

RESOLVED: That an engagement opportunity is planned with local residents in relation to the Inclines to discuss with them the management plan and the ongoing management of the Inclines and to ascertain their views. (NC)

15.To consider whether the CCTV at the Civic Hall should be upgraded to include coverage of the main corridor and staff corridor.

Following two recent incidents within the Civic Hall that raised security concerns for both staff and hirers a review of the buildings access and security is recommended by the Clerk. Some immediate protocol changes for Building Supervisors have been implemented but further improvements could be made.

RESOLVED: The Senior Leadership Team at Poynton Town Council will carry out a full review of security for the Civic Hall including CCTV for the building/exits to understand if there are adequate cameras, coverage and systems in place for staff, hirers and personal belongings security. A further review of how access is allowed to the building outside of normal opening hours and if there are areas of restricted access during hirer hours that need better signage or restrictions will also be undertaken. (NC)

16.To consider the report from Cllr Clarke regarding the former car park on Towers Road.

The Car Park on Towers Road, believed to have previously been owned by Cheshire East Council was cordoned off in 2021, preventing public from parking in the area. At the time, there was no explanation or consultation as to why this car park has been taken out of use.

RESOLVED: That the report by Cllr L.A Clarke on the unexplained loss of the Towers Road car park is received. That the Clerk write to Cheshire East Council to highlight that the loss of Towers Road Car Park has led to parking problems and ask:

- Why has Cheshire East closed this car park?

- Who has it been sold or transferred to?
- Why was there no local publicity of the transfer or consultation with the Town Council?
- Is there any way of getting back some degree of public use? The former car park is largely unused?
-To request a copy of the original planning application and decision. (NC)

17.To consider the request from Cllr Podmore to ask Cheshire East Council to install a larger no entry sign and no entry writing painted on the tarmac at the Civic Centre Car Park, Poynton.

The second row of car parking bays in the Waitrose section of the car park is marked by a "no entry" sign which is regularly ignored by the driving of cars the wrong way can cause near misses. Improved signage and fresh road markings to discourage this behaviour were discussed.

RESOLVED: Poynton Town Council to write to Cheshire East Council/Waitrose, to request they repaint the "No Entry" and zebra crossing lines and erect a larger more prominent sign stating "No Entry" at the end of the row to discourage drivers accessing it in the wrong direction and minimise future accidents or incidents. (NC)

18.To approve payment of invoice £6,420.00 to Swift Tree Services for tree work on the Inclines.

RESOLVED: Payment of invoice £6,420.00 to Swift Tree Services for tree work on the Inclines is approved. (NC)

19.To approve payments of two invoices for £11,889.00 and £3,821.40 to Acorn Lighting Services for street lighting work and the erection of bunting.

RESOLVED: Payment of invoice £3,821.40 to Acorn Lighting Services is approved. Approval of invoice £11,889.00 to Acorn Lighting Services is approved with final approval from Town Council via SO51 as at is over the £10,000.00 threshold. (NC)

20.To receive and consider the request to ease the byelaws at Poynton Park for the Poynton Show on the 29th of August 2026.

RESOLVED: The request to ease the byelaws of Poynton Park for the Poynton Show on the 29th of August 2026 is agreed. (NC)

21.To receive and consider the Cheshire East Highways Newsletter for April 2026.

RESOLVED: The copy of the Cheshire East Highways Newsletter for April 2026 is received.

22.To note the SO51 to approve a quotation for £1,839 to fit new lighting to the reception and replace some of the emergency lighting.

RESOLVED: That the quote for £1,839 to fit new lighting to the reception and replace some of the emergency lighting is noted. (NC)

23. To receive an update from the following working groups:

a. Accessibility
b. Allotments (not met)
c. Leisure Centre (not met)

RESOLVED: That the Working Group for Accessibility has met and are working on a school active travel development plan regarding footpaths around local schools. This may include applying for funding for specific projects to be confirmed. To invite the Active Travel Champion for Cheshire East to look at some of the problem footpaths and to also showcase some of the improvement work that has been carried out by the Town Council. (NC)

RESOLVED: There are no updates from the Allotments and Leisure Centre Working Groups. (NC)

24.To receive an update on the purchase of land for allotments.

The process is ongoing but very slow. We are still waiting for documents, and this is being actively chased by our solicitor. Frustratingly there has been no further progress from six weeks ago.

RESOLVED: An update on the purchase of land for allotments was received from the Town Clerk. (NC)

25.To consider and agree any communication messages arising from this meeting.

RESOLVED: That the following items will require communication messages:

- **The updated Shared Space Highway improvement work timetable is shared with the new end date.**
- **Public Consultation on the Inclines and its future maintenance and landscaping.**

Meeting End Time: 09.20pm

Signed……..

Dated……