

MAIN SUBJECTS COVERED: Communication with Cheshire East / Operation Manager's Update incl. beech tree damage, business breakfast, notice boards, Post Office planters / Civic Hall WiFi coverage / Funding bid for Hockley and Brecon Play Areas

MINUTES OF THE FACILITIES, INFRASTRUCTURE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MEETING HELD AT 8PM ON MONDAY 3RD JUNE 2013 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC HALL, POYNTON.

PRESENT

Chairman: Cllr A Smith

Cllrs. G Bartos, Ms R Horsman, Mrs S Horsman, G King, Mrs J Sewart, G Smith, Mrs I Thornton-Maddocks

Attending under SO56: Cllrs. M Beanland, L A Clarke, P Hoyland, H Murray and R E West

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr I Hollingworth

2. Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary of Other Interests

None

3. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 8th April 2013

Page 270 - Cllr Mrs Sewart asked for the reference to Leonardo Windows to be clarified. The Clerk will amend the record to read, "that were installed at the Civic Hall".

Page 272 – Cllr Murray asked for the police presence to be checked at the Family Fun Day event at Deva on 1st June 2013.

RESOLVED: That the minutes from the Facilities, Infrastructure and Economic Development Committee meeting held on 8th April 2013, as amended, be approved as an accurate record, and signed by the Chairman (5 - 3 abs)

4. Communication with Cheshire East Council

The Clerk explained that a whole raft of road works was undertaken by Cheshire East Highways during w/c 20th May 2013 about which the Town Council was given no prior notice. In the light of this the Chairman and the Clerk sought a meeting with Pryce Evans of CE Highways and Peter Hallsworth, who heads up the CE Highways Investment Programme. They emphasised that, while they were grateful for the work that was undertaken, for any future road works that require road closure and traffic management the Town Council do need notice. It was agreed that Cheshire East would target a two week notice period in future. It was also brought to their attention that the work did not feature on the Cheshire East Highways website. The issue of road narrowing on Clifford Road was also raised and Pryce Evans has given a commitment to hold an internal meeting in June involving himself, Cllr West, the Clerk, the Chairman and the Operations Manager to find a resolution to this issue.

Cllr Hoyland questioned if in asking for a notice period and a similar situation arose whereby workers could be relocated to carry out work in Poynton – would this mean that in future work would not be carried out? The Clerk explained that at the meeting it was emphasised that the Town Council were delighted with the work that had been carried out, but that advance communication from Cheshire East regarding Poynton road closures would be good. During the week this work was carried out residents were informing the Town Council of the work whereas it should be other way round. The Chairman added that Cheshire East had not even informed public transport and in trying to do the right thing they maybe got it a bit wrong. The main issue was that the details did not appear on the Cheshire East website and this was an internal matter for Cheshire East. Following the notice period suggested should in fact have a positive impact and of no detriment to Poynton in future.

Cllr Clarke commented on the good quality of the work carried out by Cheshire East.

Cllr Hoyland asked about the purpose of the meeting regarding Clifford Road. The Clerk clarified that this was to resolve the situation for residents. Cllr Mrs Sewart reminded that during previous discussions regarding Clifford Road it was agreed that the surrounding streets are also considered as part of any review. She requested that this is noted during any further meetings concerning Clifford Road.

Cllr Hoyland agreed with the impact on the wider area, including Chester Road, and also voiced his concern on the separation of this issue from SEMMMS.

The Chairman agreed that all the points raised are valid and need to be taken into account. It was nevertheless important to take some action on this issue

in line with previous FIED resolutions and in line with previously published Cheshire East timescales and assurances to residents.

RESOLVED: That the written report and verbal update from the Clerk is received (NC)

5. Operations and Events Manager's Update

The Operations and Events Manager, Richard Holland presented his written report for April/May 2013.

Mini-Roundabout at Dickens Lane

The Clerk noted the good work carried out by Cheshire East's contractors on this project, which was completed ahead of time (although installation of improved signage and completion of some kerb lines remain outstanding).

Beech Tree Damage

The Clerk explained that because the Town Council had taken a responsible position and carried out a risk assessment, it was very difficult to claim negligence and therefore claim off the Town Council's public liability insurance for the damage caused by this large tree falling down. The Clerk explained the recommendation following the legal advice sought on this matter, namely that the third party property owners claim from their own insurers. This could mean an increase in their insurance premiums. The Clerk raised his concern on this matter, and he will continue to progress.

Business Breakfast

Cllr Mrs Sewart asked if at the business breakfast anyone had mentioned the lack of toilet facilities in the village. This was brought to her attention at a recent Council Surgery where it was felt the lack of toilet facilities did not encourage people to stay and spend time and money in the village.

The Clerk pointed out that public toilet facilities are incorporated in the plans for the Civic Hall and Library refurbishment. Nevertheless, there will be around a two month gap with no public toilet facilities between the removal of the toilet facility outside the Post Office and the availability of the Civic Hall/Library facilities. Following discussion it was suggested that the possibility of toilet facilities offered by shop keepers is added for consideration as a future agenda item.

Public Right of Way - Section 31

RESOLVED: That the Operations Manager's request on the Public Rights of Way is agreed, i.e. that he investigates further the viability of applying for a Section 31 Notice (NC)

Notice Boards

Cllr Hoyland raised an issue with the Town Council notice boards. They currently displayed little or no Town Council business. He felt this was incorrect and significant Town Council information should be displayed there. Local organisations can advertise information about their shows and events through other media such as local newspapers.

Cllr Mrs Horsman noted that the Wilmslow Town Council notice board displays meeting minutes and agendas. She also felt that it was very costly for local voluntary and other organisations to promote their events through the local media.

Cllr King suggested posting the PUN on the notice boards. The Clerk suggested that a sign notifying the public of how to sign up and access the PUN could be a way forward. The size of the PUN (four A4 pages) would make it difficult to display on the notice boards. Perhaps an approximate 50/50 rule dividing the space between the Town Council and local organisations would be sensible. Cllr Murray suggested other Town Council information such as Ward details, Councillors, and important dates could be a permanent fixture in the notice board, with the remaining space for use by local organisations. Cllr Hoyland said this would be an improvement but not good enough. Perhaps a cut down version of the PUN would be possible.

RESOLVED: That an approximate '50/50 rule' is applied to the information displayed in the Town Council notice boards (7 - 1 against)

Planters outside Post Office on Chester Road

Cllr King noted that the planter nearest the Post Office is regularly pushed back by vehicles, and suggested that bolting that planter to the footpath may help prevent this. Discussion included the possibility that it was the Post Office van that causes this, also perhaps the PCSO's could penalise any vehicles involved for obstruction. It was agreed that as an experiment that planter is emptied and bolted down. This might best be done when the present planting season is over.

RESOLVED: That consideration be given to the planter being emptied and bolted down (NC)

The Chairman proposed that the Operations and Events Manager's written report is received subject to removal of Item 10 on the PVRS snagging list concerning the installation of a feature for Fountain Place.

RESOLVED: That the Operations and Events Manager's written report is received with thanks, subject to the PVRS snagging list amendment (NC)

6. WiFi coverage at the Civic Hall

Following the summary provided by the Clerk, Cllr Murray raised his concern about the effectiveness of the wireless option and asked if a hard wire solution would provide a more reliable long term approach. The Clerk said that a wireless solution would only be progressed if it came with a guarantee on the strength and quality of the signal; that this could be received in all the rooms at the Civic Hall, and be extended to the library in future.

Cllr G Smith explained that there is a difference between a domestic and an industrial WiFi router. The Chairman added that the testing criteria includes the quantity and quality in terms of the number of people who can use the WiFi signal without it diminishing, and the ability to have reasonable speed from those using it.

RESOLVED: That the written report from the Clerk concerning WiFi coverage at the Civic Hall is received and the recommendation and expenditure approved (NC)

7. Mount Vernon Playing Field

The Clerk clarified for Cllr Murray that he has been assured by Cheshire East that the replacement equipment is new.

RESOLVED: That the written report from the Clerk concerning the play equipment at Mount Vernon Playing Field is received (NC)

8. Hockley and Brecon Parks

The Clerk presented his written report concerning a funding bid to WREN to re-equip Hockley and Brecon Parks. To prepare the WREN bid before the 16th October 2013 deadline the Clerk asked the Operations Manager in co-operation with the Youth Co-ordinator and possibly a member of this Committee to work together on this. Subject to progress it might also be possible to include equipment for a Bird Estate play area in the bid.

Cllr Mrs Sewart said this was an excellent opportunity, and Cllr Murray was proposed as the Committee representative.

RESOLVED: That the written report from the Clerk is received, and that Cllr Murray is the Committee representative (NC)

9. Deed of Dedication

RESOLVED: That a Deed of Dedication regarding Public Footpath Nos. 95, 96 and 97 (parallel to London Road North, from Anglesey Drive to Towers Road) is noted (NC)

The meeting concluded at 9.10 pm