

Main points arising: Operations and Events Manager's Report/ Brecon Recreational Area/ Provisional FIED budget for 2014/15

MINUTES OF THE FACILITIES, INFRASTRUCTURE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MEETING HELD AT 8PM ON MONDAY 4TH NOVEMBER 2013 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC HALL, POYNTON.

PRESENT

Chairman: Cllr A Smith

Cllrs G Bartos, Ms R Horsman, G King, G Smith, Mrs I Thornton-Maddocks

Attending under SO 56: Cllrs C A Gorst, P Hoyland, B Lewis, H Murray, Mrs J Saunders and R E West

34. Apologies for absence

Received from Cllrs. I Hollingworth, Mrs S Horsman and Mrs J Sewart

35. Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary or Other interests

Cllr Lewis declared an interest in agenda item 6 regarding the Brecon Recreational Area because he lives in the area. Cllrs King, West and Murray also declared an interest.

The Clerk explained that it is for those members who live close to the area in question to decide if they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest on that item. If that it is the case then they should absent themselves from the Council Chamber during that debate and vote.

Cllr Murray said this item did not affect him anymore than anyone else in the area. However it is up to each individual member to decide this for themselves. Cllr Bartos said he understood that members can declare an interest but can still remain for discussion on an item. The Clerk explained that if this involves a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest then members can request a dispensation, either to join the discussion but not to vote, or to both debate and vote. Such dispensations are for the Committee to decide. A number of Councillors pointed out that they also live in the vicinity.

After some debate it was agreed that all members present declare a non-pecuniary interest.

36. Minutes of the Previous meeting held on 30th September 2013

RESOLVED: That the minutes from the previous meeting of 30th September are approved as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman (NC)

37. Briefing from Kevin Melling, Head of Environmental Protection and Enhancement, Cheshire East

In the event, and at short notice, Mr Melling was unable to attend the meeting due to family issues.

38. Operations and Events Manager's Report

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

Highways

London Rd North bus shelter re-instatement

Cllr Murray said that he had today received an e-mail on this long running issue with Cheshire East (CE). Pryce Evans of CE has now intervened. Cllr Murray reminded members that when this shelter was removed the original instruction, which is still valid, was to place this bus shelter into storage to enable it to be put back somewhere close to the final bus stop location. Cllr Murray said he is hoping this will come to fruition in the very near future rather than sometime next summer, as stated in Cheshire East guidelines.

Fallen leaves

Cllr Lewis asked the Operations Manager to contact Cheshire East to remove the deep and slippery leaves on the bend of Towers Road. This is a hazard for the elderly people from the nearby nursing home. The Operations Manager said that a leaf sweeper was out all last week in Poynton, and that a skip had been deposited in the Civic Centre Car Park to save crews having to return to CE depots to unload.

Gulley emptying

Cllr Murray asked for an update on this situation. The Operations Manager explained that as far as he is aware major gulley issues are being dealt with first and that all scheduled gulley emptying is on hold meanwhile. Cllr Murray added that even though there is a schedule, this sub-contracted work is not being carried out to the standard that is required, and is unsatisfactory. Cllr

Lewis said that for instance if a grid cannot be lifted then the workmen carry on to the next job regardless.

RESOLVED: That the Operations and Events Manager's written report is received with thanks (NC)

39. Brecon Recreational Area

Cllr King had submitted his report in advance, and spoke to it. He had asked for PCSO Luke to arrange for the CCTV at the entrance of School Lane to be interrogated to help identify the vehicle that was involved in the recent attempted access to the Brecon Recreational Area. PCSO Luke has confirmed that there were travellers in the area looking for sites. It was the PCSOs opinion that the only people who would try to gain access to the field at 4.30am in the morning would be travellers.

The Clerk confirmed that the quote for fencing is in the region of about £1,250 plus VAT, which could be reclaimed. This is for traditional palisade fencing, including installation.

Cllr Lewis asked why members are considering installing and paying for a fence on land that the Town Council does not own. Cheshire East he said own that land and they should be approached first.

Cllr Murray said that the Town Council own half the field and one of the access points was in this part of the field. The Clerk has received a visit from one resident and an e-mail from another concerned resident asking the Town Council to take urgent action on this matter and renew the section of fence concerned.

Cllr Murray said that Cheshire East could be approached, however there are two restricting issues, namely time and budget. The issue is whether this matter is considered urgent.

Cllr Lewis suggested that a similar argument could be put forward for other playing fields at risk such as Barnaby. Cllr Murray said that this is part of a risk assessment on the issue, however the other fields have not been attacked in the same way as Brecon, which has experienced a clear and present risk. Cllr Bartos also pointed out the potential costs that could be incurred following such an incident.

Following further consideration and discussion it was proposed that the Operations Manager progress the procurement and installation of the fencing whilst investigating a contribution from Cheshire East towards the cost.

RESOLVED: That the Operations Manager progress the installation of the fencing whilst investigating a contribution from Cheshire East, and that a review of other sites in Poynton is conducted (NC)

40. Provisional Budget 2014/15 for FIED

The Clerk presented the written report concerning the provisional 2014/15 budget for FIED.

On the issue of the eventual expiry of protected street status, Cllr Hoyland felt that the Town Council should ensure they have planned ahead.

Cllr Lewis asked if the possibility of fixing the utility costs has been explored. He suggested that a close eye is kept on the quality of reinstatement work that is carried out outside the former betting shop on Park Lane and also asked if the budget included the cost of the fencing at Barnaby Field.

The Clerk said he will investigate the utility costs. On the issue of fencing for Barnaby Field the Clerk confirmed that a commitment has been made. In the business case for the Civic Hall/Library merger however there was reference to Barnaby Field and other major capital projects which may need to be deferred until we have a better understanding of our level of reserves at the end of this Financial Year. This will determine whether a government loan is required next year. The Operations Manager added that on the issue of the reinstatement work outside the former betting shop the contractor was aware of its obligations.

RESOLVED: That the report is received and that the Chairman of F&GP and the Clerk are commissioned to monitor the level of reserves (NC)

41. Civic Hall/ Library Project Steering Group

RESOLVED: That the written report and the recommendations therein are received (NC)

The meeting concluded at 8.40 pm