

MINUTES OF THE FACILITIES, INFRASTRUCTURE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MEETING HELD AT 8PM ON MONDAY 17TH DECEMBER 2012 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC HALL, POYNTON.

PRESENT

Chairman: Cllr G King

Cllrs Ms R Horsman, Mrs S Horsman, Mrs J Sewart, G Smith

Substitutions under SO51: Cllr Mrs J Saunders for Cllr A Smith, and Cllr L A Clarke for Cllr G Bartos

Attending under SO53: Cllrs M Beanland, C Gorst, P Hoyland, H Murray and R E West

50. Apologies for absence

Cllrs G Bartos and A Smith

51. Absent

Cllr B Lewis

52. Requests for Dispensation, Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary or other Interests

None

53. Other Business

The Clerk noted a request by Cllr Mrs Sewart to consider as an urgent issue an update on the Civic Hall and Library complex. This was ruled admissible by the Mayor within the terms of SO16c.

RESOLVED: That an update on the Civic Hall and Library complex is considered as an additional agenda item under Other Business (NC)

54. Minutes of the Facilities, Infrastructure and Economic Development Committee meeting held on 26th November 2012

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Facilities, Infrastructure and Economic Development Committee meeting held on 26th November 2012 be approved as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman (NC)

55. Operations and Business Update

The Operations and Events Manager, Richard Holland spoke to his written report.

On the business update Richard explained that the Annual Town Council Business Awards flyers and nomination forms have been distributed to businesses. Details have also been sent to the Poynton Post and posted on the Town Council website. The Christmas lights installed on School Lane by arrangement with the Town Council and a School Lane business were well received by the retailers.

Cllr Mrs Horsman raised her concern about the poor condition of the road leading up to the allotments. The Clerk reminded members that the Town Council had only recently, as a goodwill gesture, paid £300 for materials for 1st Poynton Scouts to spread along this road. The potholes have since reappeared.

Richard Holland provided details and costs for the installation of three more Town Council notice boards, already purchased. Cllr Mrs Sewart asked if it would be suitable to have one nearer to the centre of the village. The Clerk confirmed that there are plans for a double sided notice board to be placed in the vicinity of Fountain Place.

Regarding the fencing at Barnaby Park, Cllr Clarke pointed out that there would be a problem if there is access to the fields via residents' back gardens which have lower fencing. This had been a problem with regard to Brecon Park, and the reason for fencing to be installed around the perimeter of the play area at that location. Richard Holland explained that plans he had shown at the previous meeting showed just two lengths of fencing, and the cost estimates had been based on this. These would rise steeply if four lengths were now being proposed. Cllr Hoyland pointed out that houses with back gates onto the playing fields would also be an issue. Cllr Mrs Horsman noted that house nos.123 and 129 have such gates. Following discussion on this issue the Chairman concluded it would be best if Richard Holland carried out an inspection and report back at the next meeting. Richard explained that a letter drop to households in this area is intended, and this would be an opportunity to collate resident feedback, with any issues arising brought back to members.

Cllr Clarke raised the matter of the sandy path that runs through the Dickens estate, particularly where it crosses Curzon Road and Vernon Road and tends to form puddles. The Operations and Events Manager will inspect this area. Cllr Clarke noted that footpath 72 is very slippery at the bottom of Capenhurst Close, where it joins Charlecote Road.

Cllr Hoyland questioned the issues log provided in the Operations and Events Manager's report, and asked whether this was comprehensive, and included all outstanding issues. The Clerk suggested that a table showing both new and existing issues would be more helpful in presenting the full picture.

RESOLVED: That the recommended locations of three Town Council notice boards is agreed (NC)

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

56. Road Narrowing on Clifford Road

The Clerk explained that he had sent a note to Cheshire East concerning the road narrowing on Clifford Road, asking about the outcome of the local consultation, and requesting that no precipitate action is taken by them, but has yet to receive a response. The consultation finished on the 1st December 2012.

RESOLVED: That the correspondence from the Clerk concerning the road narrowing on Clifford Road is received (NC)

57. School Lane Working Group

Cllr King updated members on the recent meeting of the School Lane Working Group, held on Friday 14th December 2012. He said they are making progress. There have been requests to Cheshire East Highways to improve the access to the car park, which was potholed, and which Cheshire East has promised to attend to in the very near future. There was a proposal to have the hedge outside Poynton Pine lowered in height to facilitate visibility in and out of the car park. There is a strong possibility of a local sponsor to provide three or four planters to be placed along the pavement outside the shops on School Lane. There will hopefully be further news on this in late January 2013. A letter drop to the shops is intended, informing them of plans to remove the remaining concrete bollards. The planters will then serve as a barrier between the pavement and the shops. The target for completion of this work is end-March 2013.

RESOLVED: That the verbal update from Cllr King on the School Lane Working Group is received (NC)

58. Street Lighting

Cllr Murray updated members on London Road North street lighting. He confirmed that many complaints had been received from residents, in particular regarding the junction of London Road North and Anglesey Drive. Parts of the borough have seen key junctions re-illuminated, such as that at the Legh Arms. Following representations made to Cheshire East explaining that this is a dangerous and difficult junction, they have agreed that four lights will be relit there. Three lights have already been relit however the fourth has a fault. Cllr Murray acknowledged Cheshire East's response on this matter.

There is also another section along this road where vehicles are backing in and out of houses, and where traffic is travelling at speed out of Poynton – these lights should also be switched back on.

RESOLVED: That the correspondence from Cheshire East concerning street lighting on London Road North is received (NC)

59. Civic Hall and Library Complex

Cllr Mrs Sewart explained that the purpose of the recent meeting held with Cheshire East was purely to move this project on, not to debate or take decisions. The points listed in her summary report represent the various stages of the process involved.

Cllr Hoyland asked about the drawings for this project. Cllr Mrs Sewart confirmed that the original drawings were submitted at a PB&H meeting earlier this year, and were not detailed, but fairly rudimentary. Cllr Mrs Sewart hopes that when the architect comes to Poynton he will actually show detailed drawings to the Town Council so that there is the opportunity to input into the designs.

Cllr Mrs Saunders added that this was not in any way a decision-making meeting. It was only to get the process started to ensure that there was no threat to the Cheshire East funding identified. The main issue to progress now is planning permission.

Cllr Hoyland raised his concerns about some parts of the design, the limited plans, and the disrupting effect on the Civic Hall team and their offices. Members discussed the possible design implications for the Civic Hall area. Cllr Hoyland expressed his strong concern that designs should be quite clear and available on paper before any agreement is reached.

Following discussion Cllr Mrs Sewart clarified for Cllr Murray that the designs are yet to be finalised. Cllr Murray suggested that her summary report should be amended to indicate that this is the provisional work plan as proposed by

Cheshire East to Poynton Town Council, with the detailed design to be finalised. Cllr Mrs Sewart agreed.

Cllr Clarke felt strongly that the full set of design plans need to come before this Committee to be approved before there is any further progress. Cllr Mrs Sewart clarified that the proposal is that the Working Group refer back to Cheshire East and request to see the plans, which could then be considered at the next FIED meeting. Cllr Hoyland suggested that an Extraordinary Meeting be held if necessary.

Cllr Mrs Saunders stressed that nothing has yet been agreed. This was an initial meeting, and the architect will be present again in January 2013 when any issues can be discussed. Cheshire East fully understands this is a joint partnership. Plans can come back to an Extraordinary Meeting as suggested to discuss them in much further detail. The pressing issue at the time was to meet with Cheshire East to show that there is commitment to this project from the Town Council.

Cllr Clarke reminded members that the scope and authority of Working Groups is limited, so this issue must come back to the FIED Committee for any decisions. The Committee would require a full set of plans for this purpose.

RESOLVED: That the summary report with the proposed amendments is received; that a Working Group meeting is arranged in early January 2013; and that Cheshire East is made aware that the Town Council need to see detailed plans before any further progress can be made (NC)

The meeting concluded at 9pm