

Main issues arising: Operations and Events Manager's Report/ Civic Hall and Library project/ Transfer of Coppice Road Allotments/ Remedial work on Poynton Village Revitalisation Scheme (PVRs)/ Superfast Broadband for Poynton/ Easement to Poynton's Byelaws for Round Table's Civic Bonfire and Fireworks Display

MINUTES OF THE FACILITIES, INFRASTRUCTURE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MEETING HELD AT 8PM ON MONDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER 2013 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC HALL, POYNTON.

PRESENT

Chairman: Cllr A Smith

Cllrs. G Bartos, I Hollingworth, Mrs S Horsman, G King, Mrs J Sewart and G Smith

Attending under SO 56: Cllrs C Gorst and R E West

25. Apologies for absence

Cllrs. Ms R Horsman and Mrs I Thornton-Maddocks

26. Declarations of interest

None

27. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 19th August 2013

RESOLVED: That the minutes from the previous meeting of 19th August 2013 are approved as an accurate record (6 - 1 abs) and signed by the Chairman.

28. Operations and Events Manager's Report

The Operations and Events Manager, Richard Holland, presented his written report for August 2013.

Anglesey Drive

Cllr Mrs Sewart commented that although she agrees with the residents of Anglesey Drive, she sees no reason why it can't be made such that people can travel over the rough part of Towers Road to come out at Park Lane in order to travel up into Higher Poynton. An 'Access Only' sign seems to be removing the choice and making this a more complex issue.

The Clerk suggested that there may be a compromise, for example a sign which reads 'Not Suitable For Through Traffic' enabling drivers to make their own choice. The Operations Officer explained that this was the original idea, but Cheshire East disagree, and do not consider this signage to be suitable.

Clifford Road Narrowing

Further to the Operations Manager's update, the Chairman noted that there has been no further development by Cheshire East on this issue since the last FIED Committee meeting. Cllr West asked if Cheshire East had received approval by the Town Council for the letter that is due to be distributed. The Clerk confirmed that even though they have had this approval for some weeks, the letter, to be signed by Kevin Melling, has still not been distributed.

Parking Restrictions on Shared Space parking bays

Cllr Mrs Sewart said that it was regretful and unfortunate to install the signage at each of these bays for a 2 hour parking restriction because it spoils the clean Shared Space 'look', but there are employees from the village who are parking there all day. The Clerk added that advertising vans are also to blame for this 'bay blocking'. In order to achieve the short term 2 hour parking restriction, with no return within 2 hours, the Operations Officer will approach Cheshire East to commission the signage.

RESOLVED: That the request by the Operations Manager to commission parking signage is agreed (NC)

Business Update

On placing 'Poynton in Business' signs below the 'Welcome to Poynton' signs on entry into the village, Cllr Mrs Sewart said that although she approved of all the excellent work to encourage the new 'Poynton in Business' grouping and the ethos of people working together, she cannot support the signs. She does not consider this aesthetically pleasing, and it would not be appropriate to be advertising under the village name. Other members agreed.

RESOLVED: That a request to install 'Poynton in Business' signs below the village entry signs is not approved (NC)

Cllr Hollingworth pointed out and acknowledged the hard work of the Operations Manager in the development of 'Poynton in Business'. The Chairman agreed.

Community Comfort Scheme

The Clerk informed the Committee that the pressure on toilet facilities in the village will increase because the automated toilet by the Post Office in the centre of Poynton was due to be removed today. This means that there is now no public toilet in Poynton, and not everyone is comfortable going to use a toilet in a pub. The Clerk said they are trying to persuade other businesses to open up their facilities to the public. If approval is given to the Civic Hall/Library merger then there will be a full suite of facilities as part of that development, although that is still a year off.

Barnaby Park Fencing

Cllr Mrs Horsman raised this issue. She said she was asked again today when the fencing would be installed. There were problems experienced at the weekend regarding noise. The Operations Manager said that he has not made any further progress on this issue since receiving the quotes. The Clerk added that there is pressure on the reserves at the moment, and this would remain the case until a decision was reached on the Civic Hall/Library project.

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

29. Civic Hall and Library Project

The Clerk said that this is very much a holding brief. A business case is being compiled and will be ready for submission to the Town Council on the 21st October 2013.

RESOLVED: That the written update from the Clerk concerning the Civic Hall and Library Project is received (NC)

30. Coppice Road Allotments

The Clerk explained that Cllr Mrs Thornton-Maddocks is now involved in looking over the draft lease and tenancy agreements. A lot of work has gone into the tenancy agreement which is looking comprehensive and robust and awaits Cllr Mrs Thornton-Maddocks comments. The Chairman of the Allotments Association, Phil Swift, is very supportive of the transfer of the allotments to the Town Council.

The Chairman noted that at the next Town Council meeting there will be two important agenda items, namely the allotments and the Library/Civic Hall

project for discussion, and how best these will be managed. The Clerk said that in the light of that substantive business it would be helpful to keep other agenda items to a minimum.

Cllr Mrs Horsman asked about the current number of people on the allotments waiting list. The Clerk said that at present there are about 65. From attending the Coppice Road Allotments Association AGM the Clerk said there is a dual problem. One is the neglected plots and the other the wait list. More robust action is required if and when the Town Council take over the allotments to help deal with the existing problems and in turn reduce the wait list.

Cllr Hollingworth asked if there would be a system in place and who would decide on an eviction. The Clerk explained that the Town Council and the Allotments Association would work together. This would involve for example a series of site visits, perhaps quarterly, and photographs taken as evidence. Those plots that are neglected will be served a warning notice and if there is no improvement within a specified period then an eviction notice will follow.

Cllr Mrs Sewart commented that the principles paper attached to the brief is excellent and very thorough in encompassing all the points raised at previous discussions and meetings on this subject.

RESOLVED: That a written update from the Clerk concerning the proposed transfer of the Coppice Road Allotments to the Town Council is received (NC)

31. Phase 2 of the Poynton Village Revitalisation Scheme (PVRS)

The Clerk explained that a lot of complaints from residents were received regarding the poor finish of Phase 2 of the PVRS. These have all been logged. It is likely he said that Cheshire East is engaged in legal issues with the contractor. However, as the Town Council letter to Kevin Melling at Cheshire East explains, there is no reason why the Town Council should await the outcome of such issues to remedy the situation. The Chairman asked if a reply had been received by the date specified on the letter. The Clerk confirmed that there has been no reply.

Cllr West suggested that the Cheshire East officer responsible should be invited to attend a Town Council meeting to help progress this matter. The Chairman proposed that with the kind assistance of Cllr West, Kevin Melling is invited to attend the next FIED Committee meeting with a view to addressing key points, including the delay in distributing the letter regarding Clifford Road narrowing. The Chairman also advised that our other Cheshire East Councillors would be advised of this invitation.

RESOLVED: That the action taken with Cheshire East under SO 51 regarding the remedial work on Phase 2 of the Poynton Village Revitalisation Scheme (PVRS) is noted, and that, with assistance from Cllr West, Kevin Melling is invited to attend the next FIED meeting (NC)

32. Superfast Broadband in Poynton

Cllr Gorst made reference to the penultimate paragraph in the response from Cllr David Brown, Deputy Leader, Cheshire East, of 5th September 2013, regarding the provision of Superfast Broadband in Poynton. He asked if it will be stated which areas will not be covered under the current scheme. Cllr Mrs Sewart said it would be better to find this out sooner rather than later, and to establish when such areas would be included.

RESOLVED: That the written response from Cllr David Brown, Deputy Leader, Cheshire East, dated 5th September 2013, regarding the provision of Superfast Broadband in Poynton, is received, and that the issue is raised with Cllr David Brown when he attends a meeting of the Town Council in November 2013 (NC)

33. Easement to Poynton's Byelaws

Cllr Mrs Sewart proposed that as every year the request for an easement to Poynton's Byelaws from Poynton and District Round Table, is approved.

RESOLVED: That the request for an easement to Poynton's Byelaws from Poynton and District Round Table, allowing them to use Poynton Pool for their annual Civic Bonfire and Fireworks Display on Saturday 2nd November 2013, is approved (NC)

The meeting concluded at 8.30 pm