

**Main issues covered: Operations and Events Manager's Update/ Dickens Lane zebra crossing/ Coppice Road allotments/ Civic Hall and Library buildings/ Easement of Town Council Byelaws for Poynton Show**

MINUTES OF THE FACILITIES, INFRASTRUCTURE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MEETING HELD AT 8PM ON MONDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2013 AT THE CIVIC HALL, POYNTON.

PRESENT

Chairman: Cllr A Smith

Cllrs. G Bartos, Ms R Horsman, Mrs S Horsman, I Hollingworth, G Smith

Attending under SO 56: Cllr M Beanland, C Gorst, B Lewis, and R West (arrived at 8.15pm)

10. Apologies for absence

Cllrs. G King, Mrs I Thornton-Maddocks and Mrs J Sewart

11. Declarations of interest

Cllr A Smith made a declaration of interest in the section of the Operations Manager's report which refers to Anglesey/South Park Drive. For this item he will not participate in any discussion.

12. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2013

Page 16 - Cllr Hollingworth asked if the meeting between Cllr West, Pryce Evans of CE Highways and the Operations Manager with respect to Clifford Road had taken place. The Clerk said that Cllr West was in touch with Pryce Evans last Friday to organise a meeting. The Clerk is not aware of a date for that meeting, at which appropriate representation will be arranged.

**RESOLVED: That the minutes from the Facilities, Infrastructure and Economic Development Committee meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2013 are approved (5 - 1 abs)**

### 13. Operations and Events Manager's Update

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

#### Highways – Mini Roundabout, Dickens Lane/London Road South

The Operations Manager had compiled a separate report on this issue because of the substantial number of concerns raised by residents, particularly about the pedestrian crossings around the new mini roundabout. Issues included the removal of the central pedestrian refuge at the bottom of Dickens Lane. This is now effectively a three lane junction for pedestrians to negotiate. Concerns have also been raised about the old and new central pedestrian refuges on the Poynton side of the mini roundabout on London Road South. The Operations Manager has put a proposal together to Cheshire East seeking modifications, and asked for Town Council approval to pursue this.

Cllr Mrs S Horsman said she finds it difficult to cross this area and proposed that the CE Officer is invited to try and cross this road at a busy time to understand it from a pedestrian perspective. The Chairman recommended that Cllr Mrs Horsman's views are considered, and put to CE.

The Operation's Manager will add this proposal to his original decision request.

**RESOLVED: That the Operations Manager's recommendations concerning modifications to this mini-roundabout be conveyed to Cheshire East Highways (NC)**

#### London Rd North/Anglesey Drive/South Park Drive

There is an issue about the large number of vehicles diverting via Anglesey Drive and South Park Drive to avoid the queues on London Road North at morning peak. Cllr Mrs Saunders said that in her opinion the "Slow Down" sign on Middlewood Road has been quite effective. Cllr Lewis suggested chicanes as a way of cutting vehicle speed on this straight stretch of road. The Clerk said the volume of vehicles rather than speed is the issue.

**RESOLVED: That the Operations Manager ask Cheshire East Highways to have appropriate signage erected at the junction of Anglesey Drive and London Road North, such as "Not Suitable for Through Traffic"(5- 1 abs)**

#### Streetscape

Regarding a "No BMX skateboarding or ball games" sign in the Civic Centre Car Park, Cllr Lewis asked how signage would be of benefit and questioned the legal right to display the sign because this is not a Town Council asset.

The Clerk pointed out that the Civic Centre Car Park is subject to a management contract between Waitrose and Cheshire East, and this includes an obligation for Waitrose to make sure that appropriate signage is displayed in the car park. Cllr Lewis asked how this could be enforced. Cllr Mrs Saunders explained that skateboarding, ball games etc would be deemed as anti-social behaviour (ASB) and can be treated in a similar way to when this occurs elsewhere in Poynton, such as Deva Fields. The yellow card scheme can be utilised which has generally worked well in the past. Cllr Lewis said the difference is that Deva Fields is subject to the Town Council's byelaws, which permit fixed price penalties to be issued. Cllr Mrs Saunders said this is still deemed as ASB, and she agreed to speak to Insp. Griffiths about this. Cllr Lewis agreed as long as PCSOs are happy to take action. The Clerk added that these signs were requested by the PCSOs.

**RESOLVED: That Cllr Mrs Saunders speak to Insp. Griffiths to confirm that yellow cards would be an appropriate way of dealing with ASB in the Civic Centre Car Park, with the PCSOs instructed accordingly (NC)**

#### Hanging Baskets

Cllr Mrs S Horsman enquired about the provision to water the hanging baskets because the current bowser is out of action. The Operations Manager explained that he has a short term solution to this, and agreed that a long term solution will be sought to water further afield and more easily.

#### Civic Hall – Paving

The Operations Manager is obtaining quotes to have the broken paving outside the Civic Hall replaced. Cllr Lewis said that vehicles should not be parking on this area, and bollards should be installed to prevent parking. The Clerk said one difficulty is the Friday shoppers who have mobility issues and need access to the entrance. The Chairman proposed that the cost of bollards is investigated and incorporated into a decision request.

#### Water Trough/Wall, London Road North

Cllr Lewis pointed out that this belongs to Cheshire East and they should be contacted in the first instance. The wall is unsafe and it is for Cheshire East to maintain. The Operations Manager said that he has been in touch with the Heritage Officer and the Highways Officer both of whom do not see this as a risk - in their opinion the wall is in a reasonable condition. The Chairman agreed that the wall is in a poor state. Some sort of financial input from Cheshire East is required.

**RESOLVED: That pressure is brought to bear on Cheshire East on this matter; that the Operations Manager will pursue this initially; and that Cllr West and Cllr Mrs Saunders will assist as required (NC)**

#### School Lane Opening Day

This community event to celebrate the makeover of the School Lane retail frontage will be held on Saturday morning 20<sup>th</sup> July 2013.

#### PVRS Snagging

The Operations Manager explained that he had not included an update on this in his report since it will be dealt with at a meeting of the PVRS Steering Group on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July, to which Kevin Melling from Cheshire East has been invited.

#### AOB

Cllr Lewis requested that white lines are reinstated following CE Highways repairs in the village. He has received complaints from drivers regarding Towers Road, plus overgrown hedges which exacerbate the situation. Yellow lines here as well as in the rest of the village are required if there is going to be any enforcement of parking on yellow lines. The Operations Manager will continue to pursue.

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

#### 14. Dickens Lane/Clumber Road zebra crossing

The Clerk presented his written report and recommendation concerning the reinstatement and improvement of the busy Dickens Lane/Clumber Road zebra crossing, including LED-lit poles. Cllr Mrs Saunders explained the effect of staffing changes at Cheshire East Highways on progressing this issue. Cllr Hollingworth noted that this is an urgent safety issue. Following discussion it was agreed that the matter should be resolved in time for the new school year in September 2013. Cllr Mrs Saunders agreed to contact the new Highways Safety Officer, Paul Kenyon, about this and report back.

**RESOLVED: That Cllr Mrs Saunders contact the CE Highways Safety Officer to press for action to be taken in time for the new school year and report back (NC)**

#### 15. Coppice Road Allotments

The Clerk presented a written report and recommendation concerning the transfer on a 125 year lease of the Coppice Road allotments to the Town Council,

Cllr Lewis asked why this issue is being dealt with by the FIED Committee. Under devolution of services he believed this matter fell within M&E's remit.

Although management of the allotments may eventually come back to FIED it is proper to the Town Council to take on negotiation and signing of the lease. The Clerk thought that at some stage there had been a resolution to move allotments to this Committee. A previous update had been given to a FIED meeting earlier this year. Cllr Lewis questioned who would take on the areas of repair and maintenance of the allotments. The Clerk confirmed that this would not be the Town Council because these items had been removed from the draft lease agreement.

Cllr Gorst said that before the lease is signed it should be looked at by a Committee. The Chairman confirmed that there is no intention to sign the lease until the matter has been considered by the full Town Council. He and the Clerk have undertaken work on this issue, and have been very careful to ensure that the Town Council's interests are safeguarded.

Cllr West asked if the issue of low rent is being addressed in this transfer. Cllr Lewis explained the law states that rents must be "reasonable". The Chairman agreed that current rents are low, and Cllr Mrs Saunders felt that a stronger decision regarding rent should be taken. There was also discussion regarding the long waiting list for the allotments, and the possible identification of alternative sites, such as the land at the back of Lawrence Place, to help reduce the waiting list. Cllr West kindly offered to take this forward with Cheshire East. The Clerk added that an additional strip of land had been identified between the Coppice Road allotment site and the scout hut which could provide more plots. The boundary had been redrawn on the site plan.

**RESOLVED: That the report is received; that the lease document be presented to the Town Council for consideration prior to signature; and that the issue of options to reduce the waiting list for allotments, such as increasing plot rentals and cultivating the additional strip of land, be considered separately (NC)**

#### 16. Civic Hall and Library Buildings

The Clerk presented a written report and a draft sketch concerning the joining together of the Civic Hall and Library buildings.

There is no detailed breakdown of costs available yet. It is hoped that building work will commence in October this year.

Cllr Lewis questioned the design of the entrance shown on the drawings included in the paperwork. He pointed out that the entrance originally envisaged by the Working Group was intended as a striking feature and not a straight sliding door as shown on this sketch. This matter needed to be raised with the architect. Cllr G Smith was concerned that this was the first time he had seen this sketch and had not had time to consider or comment on it. The Chairman believed that at this stage this was just for information. Cllr G Smith was concerned that work may start in October, and said that the Working

Group was supposed to have been working alongside the architect's team to evolve the design, to ensure it was in keeping with what had been agreed.

Cllr Bartos asked if there was any intention of updating the Town Council staff offices, which he felt were inadequate. Cllr Lewis agreed, adding that the staff should in the best offices in the building.

Cllr Mrs Saunders provided some background and explained that a ball park figure was required for the work, and this was at least a start to the process. As stated in the paperwork a progress group now meets on a regular basis. Cllr Lewis suggested that the architect is pressed for the draft plans at the earliest possible stage so that they can be considered, and alterations pointed out as required.

Cllr Mrs Saunders said that at least one Councillor needed to be present at the next progress meeting later this month. She added that there is a real danger that if the stipulated designs are too expensive the Town Council will simply not get their wishes. Cllr G Smith reiterated his concern that in project terms there is very little time left to affect the design, and that the Town Council's original wishes had not been incorporated. The Clerk pointed out that funding is a real consideration, with Cheshire East funding the lion's share of the project costs.

The meeting agreed that a Councillor be present at the progress meeting later this month. The Chairman said this should be with a common sense approach to protect the Town Council's interests. The member should be familiar with the previous requirements as outlined by the Town Council. The Town Council should also press for early sight of the architect's plans. A detailed breakdown of costs (Cheshire East/Town Council) should be provided too, and an Extraordinary Meeting of the Town Council called, if necessary, given the timescale for the project.

**RESOLVED: That at the progress meeting later this month one or more Councillors attend to represent the Town Council's views on the preliminary design; that detailed costs are sought as early as possible; that the architect's plans are supplied, and any significant deviation from the Town Council's original wishes explained at that time; and that if necessary an Extraordinary Meeting of the Town Council is called to debate this important issue (NC)**

17. Easement of the Town Council's Byelaws: the Poynton Show

**RESOLVED: That the Committee note action taken under SO 51 granting an easement of Poynton Town Council's Byelaws to enable the Poynton Show to take place on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> August (NC).**

The meeting concluded at 9.20 pm