

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MANAGEMENT AND ESTABLISHMENT COMMITTEE HELD AT 8PM ON TUESDAY 11TH DECEMBER 2012 IN THE VERNON ROOM, CIVIC HALL, POYNTON

PRESENT

Chairman: Cllr P Hoyland

Cllrs. L A Clarke, C Gorst, Mrs J Saunders and G Smith

Also attending under SO51: Cllr H Murray (substituting for Cllr Alex Smith)

20. Apologies for absence

Cllr A Smith

21. Declarations of interest

None

22. Previous meeting minutes

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Management and Establishment Committee meeting held on 30th October 2012 are approved as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman (5 – 1 abs)

23. Town Council Workload Matrix

a) Woodford Consultation

The Chairman gave an update on the revised SPD that has now been published by Stockport Council. Although there have been some improvements it does not give a direct steer to potential developers. Cllr Hoyland has circulated an e-mail with the dates of various Stockport meetings and requested people to attend where possible to emphasise interest, and focus minds on the importance of this issue.

b) Queensway Revitalisation

The Clerk explained that the Regional Manager of Wetherspoon's had at one time been keen to meet with Cllrs Mrs Saunders and P Hoyland but the Clerk has not heard from him of late. The Clerk therefore contacted Wetherspoon's Head Office and was told that they would ask the Regional Manager to contact the Town Council. There has however been no contact since. From his conversation with Head Office the Clerk believes that Wetherspoon's is

due to open a week before Christmas. The Clerk will try his best to pursue this matter.

The Clerk gave an update on contacts with Morrison's. The Regional Manager got back to the Clerk and is keen to meet. He is now chasing his Assets colleagues and will contact the Clerk once he knows their availability.

The Town Council has yet to make contact with the agent Garners.

The residents' survey intended for this area will be distributed to 500 households by 1st Poynton Scouts early in the New Year. The catchment area includes both sides of London Road and the Queensway estate.

The Chairman commented on the disappointing lack of engagement by Wetherspoon's. Members discussed possible ways forward if the Clerk does not hear back from Wetherspoon's in the near future.

c) School Lane Revitalisation

The Clerk explained that there is to be a meeting on Friday under Cllr King's chairmanship. There has been an attempt to fix the potholes at the entrance to the car park. Another attempt will be made following Richard Holland's intervention. The shrubbery to the side has been tidied and sponsorship for planters is looking positive, to replace the unsightly concrete bollards.

Cllr Murray suggested publicising the possibility of memorial planters dedicated in the memory of a loved one as an alternative to memorial benches. Poynton in Bloom might be able to maintain these.

d) 5th Gateway and Vernon Infants

Cllr Murray explained that together with Kevin Melling of CE Highways they would be looking at this area on Friday. Developments from Park Lane to Poynton Green will be considered first. A plan will be put together to develop features to help slow speeds but unfortunately there is no finance available at present.

In terms of a feature for Fountain Place a clock is considered the most appropriate idea in keeping with the area.

e) Visitor Economy

Cllr Gorst updated on the Visitor Economy. Following a meeting last Friday the Clerk will ensure the distribution of the map and leaflet early in the New Year.

f) Civic Hall / Library Complex

Cllr Mrs Saunders said there is a meeting with the architect at Macclesfield Library tomorrow, Wednesday 12th December at 1pm. The Chairman raised

his concern about the workload this project will generate for the Town Council team and the on-going disruption to the working day. The Chairman said that it was important that this impact is kept at the forefront as the project develops. Cllr Mrs Saunders explained that tomorrow's meeting is the very first on this subject for some months, and from this provisional timescales should become clearer.

g) Middlewood Station

Cllr Gorst explained that when the Town Council report was submitted this year copies were sent to both Cheshire East and Stockport. Unlike Cheshire East, Stockport provided a very good response. Cheshire East did not support the case for retaining the service. Cllr Hoyland said this was disappointing. Cllr Gorst said he hoped that as part of the half hourly Manchester to Buxton service Middlewood could be served by an hourly service. Cllr Hoyland suggested that a campaign is started in Poynton to help drive this forward and build a body of evidence in support of this service. Cllr Mrs Saunders felt that access to the station is still an important issue and a car park essential. The Clerk clarified that while the station is within Stockport the access is within Poynton.

h) Men in Sheds

This awaits an Adult Health and Wellbeing Co-ordinator being appointed and is essentially on hold until that time.

i) Standing Orders Revision

The Chairman acknowledged that this needs to move forward, and presented to full Council in January. Cllr Mrs Sewart has indicated her continued interest in reviewing the Standing Orders.

j) Annual Business Awards

Richard Holland has begun distributing 2,000 leaflets containing nomination forms. There will be one available on-line too. Hard copies are also available at the Civic Hall, and the Awards also feature in the PUN. The leaflet doubles as a poster and can be displayed inside shop windows and entrances.

Cllr Mrs Saunders asked about the publicity and availability of tickets for the Mayor's Ball. The Clerk explained that capacity at the Davenport Golf Club is restricted to 110, and this is likely to be taken up by Councillors and Business Award nominees. The tickets are priced at £30 each.

k) Communications

The Clerk acknowledged the development of the website and responsiveness of the new webmaster. This is subject to continuous improvement.

l) Broadband

A BBC employee has commented on the need for decent and consistent broadband speeds.

m) PVRS

Cllr Murray confirmed that most of the top dressing work at Fountain Place has now been completed. A small area around the bus stop remains and while this work is carried out the bus stop will be moved temporarily up the road towards Hazel Grove.

Following the Town Council's intervention the Co-op have lifted their car parking restriction at night which means that cars can now park between 7pm and midnight in their car park. The daytime restriction which allows parking for a maximum of one and a half hours will remain in place.

n) Town Strategy

The Chairman reported that from the Strategic Planning and CE Cabinet meetings it was announced that Poynton is not effectively in the Cheshire East plan in terms of housing development, which will be dealt with instead under the Site Allocations Plan. Cllr Mrs Saunders said this was good news.

o) Community Transport

A number of initiatives are currently being pursued.

p) Street Lighting

Cllr Murray reported that footway lighting levels for pedestrians are being considered by Cheshire East. This will also have a traffic calming effect. Cllr Mrs Saunders asked if pedestrians will be visible to drivers in such lighting. From experience Cllr G Smith replied that this would be general lighting rather than direct lighting so there would still be blind spots between the lighting posts.

24. ChALC

The Clerk provided a brief on the past relationship with ChALC. Committee members discussed the form a meeting with ChALC should take and the purpose of such a meeting. Cllr Clarke asked if other larger Town Councils are part of ChALC. The Clerk replied that membership is necessary to qualify for Quality Council Status, and that other larger Councils are members too. Discussion on this subject considered the objective and benefits of membership. It was agreed that ChALC should be lobbying on behalf of the Town Council rather than seeming to campaign against it on important issues. ChALC need to clarify and explain the benefits of their membership to the Town Council.

Cllr Mrs Saunders suggested that some structured pre-prepared questions could be agreed ahead of a scheduled meeting with ChALC. The Clerk proposed that with delegated authority he together with the Chairman formulate draft questions to be included in the agenda pack for consideration at the next Town Council meeting on 7th January 2013. Cllr Murray added that this would be with a view to inviting ChALC to attend a future Town Council meeting, and an opportunity to explain themselves fully.

Members also considered the membership of NALC who are the national organisation for Town Councils. Cllr Murray noted that NALC provide good advice.

RESOLVED: That Cllr Hoyland and the Clerk formulate draft questions to be considered by the Town Council on 7th January 2013 with a view to inviting ChALC to attend a future full Town Council meeting (NC)

25. Civic Hall Opening Hours

The Clerk provided a written brief concerning the Civic Hall opening hours for the Christmas and New Year period.

RESOLVED: That the written report from the Clerk is received and the recommended hours of operation approved (NC)

The meeting concluded at 9.05 pm