

Main agenda items: Operations Manager's update; Christmas decorations; Narrowing of Clifford Road; LRS shelter claim.

MINUTES OF THE FACILITIES & INFRASTRUCTURE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (FIED) COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT 8PM ON MONDAY 15TH DECEMBER 2014 AT THE CIVIC HALL, POYNTON.

PRESENT:

Chairman: Cllr A Smith

Cllrs. G King, B Lewis, Mrs J Sewart and G Smith

Also attending under SO 56: Cllr P Hoyland and Cllr Mrs J Saunders

44. Apologies for absence

Cllrs. G Bartos, I Hollingworth, Mrs R Horsman-Johnson, Mrs S Horsman and Mrs I Thornton-Maddocks

45. Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary or Other Interests

None declared.

46. Minutes of previous meeting held on 3rd November 2014

Pages 133, 134 and 137 - Cllr Lewis said that references should read, "Civic Hall Car Park", not, "Civic Centre Car Park." This prompted some discussion, but the Chairman agreed that the minutes be altered accordingly.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Facilities, Infrastructure and Economic Development Committee meeting held on 3rd November 2014, with the amendments, are approved as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman (NC)

47. November 2014 Update from the Operations and Events Manager

Resin-bonded pavement surface

Cllr Lewis said he thought Cheshire East Council (CE) had settled the bill for this work. Cllr G Smith said he believed this had been paid by Ringway Jacobs and not CE. The Operations Manager reiterated that the Town Council had not paid CE for the work and Cllr A Smith added that the matter is now likely to go to litigation.

London Road South fingerpost

Cllr Lewis suggested obtaining a quote for suitable plastic replacements as any metal fingers would be likely to be stolen or damaged. The Operations Manager agreed to try and obtain a quote and some images for the next meeting.

Memorial Benches

Cllr Hoyland noted that these were the only items in the Operations Manager's report that concerned West Ward.

Park Lane Traffic Regulation Order (TRO)

Cllr Lewis asked whether there had been any developments to deal with the damaged post outside the Co-Op Independent Living on Park Lane, as mentioned at a previous meeting. The Operations Manager reported that a request has been submitted to CE to remove the post and this will take place as part of the TRO work on the new signage and studs.

Prince's Incline oil pipeline work

Cllr Hoyland said that one of the filled holes on Prince's Incline needs to be packed down further to provide a safe surface. The Operations Manager agreed to follow this up with the project manager.

Allotments

Cllr Lewis said that given that all the allotments are now rented and there is still demand, what is the position with rent arrears and are there any plots not being cultivated. The Operations Manager said there were a number of plots not being suitably maintained, and any inspections and evictions would be made within the terms of the tenancy agreement. Should there be any evictions, the possibility of splitting any larger plots would be considered to help reduce the waiting list, which currently stands at around 50.

Operations Manager's 2015 Work Plan – Inclines

Cllr Hoyland observed that promoting use of the Inclines depended on improving the condition of the paths. Cllr Mrs Saunders agreed and suggested that some form of grant funding be considered. She cited the excellent treated surfaces on the Middlewood Way as an example. Cllr Hoyland said that it is possible to have a perfectly good surface while retaining a countryside feel. A comprehensive review of Poynton's footpaths was previously put on hold due to the Committee's workload. Members agreed that the Inclines required investment for improvements and the Operations Manager will pursue grants. Other footpaths in need of improvement include those in the Bird Estate, behind Vernon Road, West Ward and the Glastonbury Estate. Cllr Mrs Sewart suggested that the Town Council consult with the Science/Environmental Educational Co-ordinator

within local primary schools to encourage visits to the Inclines. This would help schools reduce costs by remaining in the area, and could be built into the curriculum. The Operations Manager pointed out that this could be part of the remit for the new Youth Co-ordinator, once appointed.

Double yellow lines

Cllr Lewis raised the issue of the poor state of the double yellow lines on Chester Road, noting that parking on missing double yellow lines cannot be enforced. He added that although repainting double yellow lines is not a Town Council responsibility, it would be worthwhile the Operations Manager raising the issue directly with the contractor as well as CE. The Operations Manager explained that the need for traffic management on major roads would slow progress. Cllr Hoyland suggested that under the new scheme where notice is required, the Town Council could proactively make it part of the formal condition to undertake the work and state that repair work such as broken double yellow lines is completed.

Dog fouling

Cllr Mrs Sewart raised the issue of the increased instances of dog fouling in Poynton. Cllr Mrs Saunders suggested that the Operations Manager follow up with Cllr West, as a Director of ANSA, on a recent resident's correspondence on the general cleanliness on the pavements in Poynton. Cllr Mrs Sewart noted the poster campaign led by Lower Park School on dog fouling but the problem persists.

RESOLVED: That the Operations and Events Manager's update is received (NC)

48. Poynton's Christmas Decorations

Members considered the written report by Cllr A Smith on Poynton's Christmas lights.

Cllr Lewis suggested that quotes are obtained from companies used by other Town Councils so that the Town Council is aware of the cost involved to outsource responsibility for Christmas lights. He also suggested that Poynton In Business be informed of the costs. The Operations Manager will obtain the necessary quotes and noted the input of the Town Council into both the Christmas lights and Christmas Fest which benefit businesses in Poynton.

RESOLVED: That the written report is received; and that quotes for Christmas decorations are obtained and reported at the next meeting (NC)

49. Narrowing of Clifford Road

Cllr Mrs Sewart presented a written report regarding the road narrowing and traffic issues on Clifford Road and asked for approval of the recommendations in the report.

Cllr Hoyland agreed with Cllr Mrs Sewart's report but said that writing to Cllr Jones, Leader of CE, as a means of solving issues was becoming more prevalent in the Town Council. As a CE councillor, Cllr Hoyland said his role was to liaise with CE officers and portfolio holders. The Town Council has four CE Councillors and they should be used as part of the escalation process. The Chairman agreed, but pointed out it was right to include as CE Councillors had been involved, and it had also been agreed at the last meeting as part of a resolution.

Cllr Lewis proposed that the last point in Cllr Mrs Sewart's report should be rewritten to include CE Councillor' involvement.

RESOLVED: That the written report from Cllr Mrs Sewart is received; and that there is an amendment to remove the last bullet point and replace with:

“Liaise regularly with Poynton Town Council CE Councillors to progress the issue”.

That the Task and Finish group comprise Cllrs Mrs Sewart, P Hoyland and A Smith, and that it meets ahead of a meeting with Chris Shields in early January 2015. (NC)

50. Town Council Insurance Claim

The Operations Manager reported that the Clerk has a meeting with a local solicitor to discuss the Town Council's insurance claim for a former shelter on London Road South. Cllr A Smith requested a written report for the next meeting.

RESOLVED: That the verbal report is received and that there is a written report at the next Committee meeting (NC)

The meeting concluded at 9.05 pm