

Main points arising: Operations and Events Manager's Report and 2014 Work Plan/ Parking on Park Avenue/ Special Street Status/ Poynton's footpath and bridleway network/ Middlewood Station

MINUTES OF THE FACILITIES INFRASTRUCTURE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT 8.00PM ON MONDAY 27TH JANUARY 2014 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC HALL, POYNTON

PRESENT

Chairman: Cllr A Smith

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

Attending under SO 56: Cllrs L A Clarke, C Gorst, P Hoyland, B Lewis, Mrs J Saunders and R E West

PART A

51. Apologies for absence

Cllr Mrs I Thornton-Maddocks

52. Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary or Other Interests

None

53. Minutes of the meeting held on 16th December 2013

On the Library/Civic Hall Project the Chairman said there was nothing to report at present, and that he will prepare a full written report for the next Town Council meeting. A decision on the planning application is due tomorrow. Assuming there is movement on the project Cllr A Smith will request this as a standing agenda item for future FIED Committee meetings.

Page 184 – Cllr Mrs Sewart asked how the matter concerning the former bus shelter on London Road South and our insurer Zurich has progressed. The Clerk explained that the Town Council questioned Zurich about chasing the driver's insurance. Zurich checked with the police at the time, who said they had made a thorough search of their records and were unable to find any trace of a report with respect to this collision. The Clerk produced a letter to this effect from Cheshire Constabulary, stating that the incident was dealt with under Section 170 of the Road Traffic Act 1988.

Cllr Lewis said this matter should be pursued with vigour because this was a matter of ineptitude on the part of Cheshire Police. Cllr Clarke said it was a serious matter if all records of a road traffic accident have disappeared. He suggested that the information could possibly be traced through officer's notebooks. The Clerk will follow up on this.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Facilities, Infrastructure and Economic Development Committee meeting held on 16th December 2013 are approved as an accurate record (5 - 3 abs)

54. Operations and Events Manager's Report

The Operations and Events Manager presented his written report for November 2013.

Shared Space

Cllr Lewis said that in his opinion the reference to the Leader of CE should not be in this report because it is a matter for the Town Council. The Chairman explained that the reason for including this item was because of the safety issues. This is part of the discussion and should therefore be included.

Highways

Anson and Waterloo Roads

Decision Request: Whether the Town Council wishes to continue funding the gritting of Anson and Waterloo Roads.

Cllr Mrs Sewart said the Town Council do not need to fund the gritting of Waterloo Road as it is no longer a bus route, although she could support the gritting of Anson Road as the access road to the amenity tip. Cllr Gorst said that keeping Waterloo Road gritted is important as it is a through road to the village. Cllr Clarke added that Waterloo Road is an extensively used road. Although CE considers this a country lane, it carries a large amount of traffic and even when this was a bus route the service was infrequent. For car users and on road safety grounds Cllr Clarke said that gritting should continue to be funded. Cllr Hoyland noted that many pedestrians/walkers use Anson Road and looking at the slope and width of the road it requires gritting. Cllr Gorst agreed with Cllr Hoyland. Cllr Hollingworth said that Waterloo Road is used by people to walk and cycle to the schools in this vicinity, and there is a responsibility issue to grit this road.

RESOLVED: That the Town Council continue to fund the gritting of both Anson and Waterloo Roads (5 - 1 against - 2 abs)

Bus Shelter

Previous brick built bus shelter on London Road South/Dickens Lane. The Operations Manager said there was no suitable location for a new brick built shelter. Cllr Lewis noted that this shelter was originally on the opposite side of the road to Johnson's Dry Cleaners and was used as a refuge and resting place by the elderly on their way to the shops. The Clerk clarified that this would mean it is directly on the mini roundabout, and since the day it was demolished following a vehicle collision, the Town Council has received no representations from any residents seeking its replacement. There is also a new bus shelter further along, towards Wetherspoons.

Highways

Regarding the excessive loose chippings on roads Cllr Lewis requested that the first corner on Towers Road is also noted. Cllr Clarke said that perhaps this issue could be raised with the Leader of CE as an example of failings when contractors are not suitably supervised, with no checks of the work carried out.

Litter/Dog Waste Bin

Cllr Hoyland asked about progress on the bin that was due to be installed on private land on Lostock Road. The Operations Manager said that a letter had been sent to the owner, he has not yet received a reply but he will follow up on this.

Playing Fields

Decision Request: To gain further quotes and initiate work on the path serving Brecon field.

Cllr Clarke proposed that due to the poor condition of the path the decision request is agreed. Further discussion included other options such as raising the path, and the most suitable material for reinstating the path.

RESOLVED: That the Operations Officer requests further quotes and seeks the most suitable and sustainable option for reinstating this path (7 - 1 against)

Poynton in Business

Cllr Gorst recently attended the Superfast Broadband Presentation at Alderley Edge Festival Hall. Here, it was mentioned that all areas of Poynton will be wired up for Superfast Broadband. This will be carried out in three phases. First, in Holmes Chapel, then work will start in Poynton from the summer and work on two final areas of Poynton will start in January 2015. Each phase takes about two to three months. Cllr Hoyland asked if this included the outlying areas of Poynton. Cllr Gorst understood from the information provided that the whole of Poynton would be covered.

Operations Manager's Work Plan

RESOLVED: That the Operations Manager's Work Plan for 2014 is received and approved (NC)

Water Trough/Wall

On the issue of safety regarding the water trough Cllr Clarke noted his concern. This is part of Poynton's heritage which should be replaced as soon as possible - there is a duty to pursue this matter. Cllr Hoyland asked if it would be pragmatic to notify CE and the Town Council move the structures temporarily for safe keeping.

RESOLVED: That the Operations Manager notifies CE and arranges to recover the structures for safe keeping (NC)

Cllr Bartos requested that the total unresolved issues list is provided to Members. Following discussion it was agreed that the Operations Manager make the list available to Members on demand – he will also have a hard copy for Members to refer to at the next FIED Committee meeting. The Clerk confirmed that as part of the Manager's 2014 Work Plan these will be prioritised in future.

Cllr Lewis again requested that under PVRS the first bullet point in the Operations Manager's report should be removed so that Town Council staff do not come into conflict with CE. It not a legitimate reference in a staff report - it is purely a Council matter. The Chairman agreed that the first bullet point should be removed.

RESOLVED: That the Operation's Manager's Report is received, with the first bullet point removed (NC)

55. Double Yellow Lines on Park Avenue

Cllr Mrs Sewart presented her written proposal regarding double yellow lines on a section of Park Avenue to be considered.

Cllr Hoyland said there is a similar case for yellow lines on Nursery Drive next to the McIlvride GP Practice and requested that this request is also included in consideration of this item.

Cllr Lewis noted that there was supposed to be a complete review of parking and double yellow lines as part of the PVRS Phase 2 completion. This review was not undertaken as promised. At one stage there was a list compiled of roads requiring such work. Cllr Clarke agreed that there was a list and a timetable which has not been carried out. This included extending the double yellow lines at Towers Road to the first property. Following discussion the

Chairman agreed that this will be pursued with CE Highways. Cllr Mrs Sewart requested that her proposal is considered separately as stated in her written report.

RESOLVED:

a) That the written report by Cllr Mrs Sewart is received and the proposal therein approved (NC)

b) That CE are requested to review the case for double yellow lines on Nursery Drive and extend them on Towers Road as discussed (NC)

56. Special Street Status

The Clerk noted that the e-mail exchange with CE shows that the village does have open ended protection of the Shared Space zone. This information will shortly be published. CE Highways are also covered by that restriction and any work they undertake within the zone is reinstated with the existing or replacement materials.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Hoyland for having raised this issue. Cllr Lewis added that it is incumbent upon this Council to be aware of who carries out work on these roads, and ensure that they contact CE immediately as required. The Operations Manager agreed and noted the work outside the new bridal shop on Park Lane as a recent example of contacting CE, who then recalled the contractors to reinstate the surface to a satisfactory standard. This is the process followed on each piece of work.

RESOLVED: That the written brief from the Clerk regarding Special Street Status for Poynton's shared space zone is received (NC)

57. Poynton's Footpaths and Bridleways

Members considered the discussion paper from Cllr P Hoyland regarding Poynton's footpaths and bridleways. Cllr Gorst supported the paper put forward by Cllr Hoyland and mentioned local resident David Lambert, who had given a recent presentation on a 'Welcome to Walkers' scheme for Poynton, and for whom this subject of this paper would be of relevance. Cllr Mrs Saunders also supported the paper, but noted that it is necessary to consider where and how to target the finance. Areas that would mitigate traffic such as around the Bird Estate could be considered first. This could also tie in with the Shopmobility scheme. Given the cost involved areas to target first would be those that would benefit the most walkers, cyclists and access to and from schools. Cllr Clarke added that preserving the rural character is essential. Cllr Lewis said that it would be important to find out the funding available and how much could be accessed.

Cllr Hoyland said this would be a long term project. The Chairman raised his concern about the current workload of the Town Council. The Clerk highlighted some of the pressure points in terms of resources within the next three months. The Adult Health and Wellbeing Co-ordinator is currently working on two Community Transport bids. Cllr Mrs Saunders said that a six month window would probably be more realistic. Cllr Clarke suggested that in the short term some progress and research could be made and proposed approving the paper. Cllr Mrs Sewart suggested that there may be people in the community who could help develop this project. This could be publicised in the PUN. Cllr Saunders suggested that this project is mentioned to David Lambert at a meeting already arranged for next week. Cllr Hoyland would attend that meeting too.

RESOLVED: That the discussion paper from Cllr P Hoyland regarding Poynton's footpaths and bridleways is approved; that the Town Council establishes if there is interest outside the Town Council and seeks to identify someone to lead on the project; and that the timeframe is longer than the three months cited in the paper (NC)

PART B

The public and media were excluded from this part of the meeting in accordance with Poynton Town Council's Standing Order 71 (b) (iv)

The meeting concluded at 9.15 pm