

Main issues covered: Clifford Road; Operations and Events Manager's update; Draft remit for FIED; Insurance claim for former bus shelter

MINUTES OF THE FACILITIES & INFRASTRUCTURE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (FIED) COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT 8.00PM ON MONDAY 26TH JANUARY 2015 AT THE CIVIC HALL, POYNTON.

PRESENT

Chairman: Cllr A Smith

Cllrs. I Hollingworth, Mrs R Horsman-Johnson, Mrs S Horsman, G King, B Lewis, Mrs J Sewart and G Smith

Attending under SO 54: Cllr R West, substituting for Cllr G Bartos

Attending under SO 56: Cllr P Hoyland

The Chairman proposed moving agenda Item 6 to Item 4.

RESOLVED: That Item 6 is moved to Item 4 (NC)

51. Apologies for absence

Cllrs. G Bartos and Mrs I Thornton-Maddocks

52. Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary or Other Interests

Cllr Mrs Sewart noted that on discussion of Clifford Road she would like to make it known that she has friends and family in the area. This is a non-pecuniary interest, and so does not preclude her from taking part in any discussion on this issue.

53. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 15th December 2014

Page 168 – Cllr Mrs Sewart said that the members of the Clifford Road Task and Finish Group including Cllrs Mrs Sewart, A Smith and P Hoyland were incorporated within the main proposal. Members agreed and the minutes will be altered accordingly.

Cllr Lewis asked if either Cllr West or Cllr Beanland were part of the Task and Finish Group. The Chairman confirmed that Cllr West declined to be part of the group, and that Cllr Beanland is not on the group either.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Facilities, Infrastructure and Economic Development Committee meeting held on 15th December 2014, as amended, are approved as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman (6 for - 3 abs)

54. Clifford Road

Cllr Mrs Sewart summarised her written report regarding road narrowing and other traffic issues on and around Clifford Road. She explained that the Task and Finish Group have been told that the issue cannot be taken to CE until it is approved by the LAP Highways Sub-Group. Cllr Mrs Sewart said that they have made the point that it is peculiar that an elected body, namely the Town Council, should take the issue to the LAP, a non-elected body, before going to CE. The next LAP Sub-Group meeting is on 11th February 2015 and it is hoped that LAP Highways approval is granted after which the issue can then be recommended to CE, with support from the LAP. Cllr Mrs Sewart said this project would cost far too much for the LAP budget.

The Operations Manager has today spoken to Paul Kenyon, the CE Road Safety Officer, who had explained that such issues need to be progressed through the LAP, but added that some projects have been processed through CE Ward Councillors.

In a wide ranging discussion that followed, Members made the following points:

- The LAP Highways Sub-Group budget is for small, new, innovative works covering various areas - this is a CE Road Maintenance issue and nothing to do with the LAP.
- A proper, full and comprehensive consultation is required. There was an argument that this issue arose as a consequence of Shared Space, since the congestion caused by the Shared Space road works had contributed to the problems on Clifford Road. The current arrangement was a temporary measure because of the increased traffic.
- Concern was voiced about introducing any short term measures since the completion of a Poynton Relief Road will effect traffic patterns.
- This is a CE Highways project and the Town Council are highlighting their concerns and resident complaints, and ensuring that everyone affected is consulted.
- The road calming measure on Clifford Road was designed to prevent heavy vehicles using it.
- Keith Lambert of 71 Clifford Road was present, and invited to share his views. He felt that the position of the road calming installation is very dangerous, particularly at night, because it is effectively placed on a bend. It should be placed at an equal distance on Clifford Road. Large trucks are still accessing the road.
- Cllr Sewart's report outlines the required process before implementation of the project. It would be necessary to understand what the scheme should look like before approaching CE for funds.

- The SEMMMS scheme will increase traffic on Chester and Clifford Roads until there is a Poynton Relief Road. There is mitigation money being negotiated as part of the SEMMMS scheme but this is not likely to be applied until 2017.
- The current arrangement on Clifford Road was perhaps premature in that it was installed just as the Shared Space road works were about to be lifted, and care should be taken not to repeat a similar situation.
- With the expected increase in traffic due to the SEMMMS project CE are not going to do anything at present to change the flow of traffic. This is a CE project and there is little point in approaching the LAP. The Town Council should lobby the Chairman of CE Highways through the Town Council CE Ward Councillors.
- It was agreed this was a frustrating process but it needs to be followed. The Town Council should seek the support of the Town Council's Ward Councillors in trying to expedite this process as soon as possible.

RESOLVED: That the written report is received, and that the Town Council seeks the support of the Town Council CE Ward Councillors on this issue (NC)

55. Update from the Operations and Events Manager for December 2014

Double Yellow Lines

Cllr Lewis asked about the situation with aged and worn double yellow lines. The Operations Manager confirmed that he continues to chase the reinstatement of these lines with CE Highways.

Fingerpost

Cllr Lewis said the London Road South fingerpost was for three arms and not two. The Operations Manager will gain quotes for three arms and the decision request will be deferred until the next FIED meeting, when a full list of quotes is available.

Litter Bins

Following discussion it was agreed that the dog waste bin on Lady's Incline next to Brecon field is removed.

Lighting

On discussion of the column replacement programme Cllr Clarke said he had noticed that some of the new lights on Waterloo Road had been connected but others not, such as at the junction of Sutton Road and Waterloo Road. The Operations Manager will update at the next meeting.

Hockley Play Area

The Operations Manager explained that the outcome of any WREN funding bid would be at least 12 months away.

Cllr Mrs Sewart asked if the Town Council put funds into improving the safety and drainage would jeopardise the WREN bid for modernisation. The Operations Manager explained from his understanding that this would demonstrate the Town Council's contribution to the project and would not jeopardise any bid. Cllr Mrs Sewart asked if this was known for a fact and the Operations Manager said that he did not know for certain.

Cllr Clarke said that the Town Council do have an Earmarked Reserve and this should be used especially to address any safety issue as soon as possible, and for the purpose it is intended. Cllr Clarke explained that the soak away is the cheapest option. There is currently no Youth Co-ordinator in post and in his personal opinion this should be taken forward with the Earmarked Reserve.

Cllr Lewis said that any Town Council funding for the project could be seen as a contribution to the overall scheme.

RESOLVED: That the cost is approved on the basis that it enhances any WREN bid, and the soakaway is reinstalled (NC)

Prince's Incline

The Operations Manager requested members to consider the formation of a Task and Finish Group to progress the issue of footpaths, particularly on the Inclines.

Cllr Hoyland thanked the Operations Manager for his intervention and efforts on the oil pipeline remediation work. Cllr Hoyland said that in his personal opinion United Utilities had caused significant damage on Prince's Incline and have not be held to account. They should, he said, because to make any improvement the Town Council would have to effectively pay for the damage caused. Cllr Hoyland said that he is aware of the CE cycling strategy that is being developed and there is revenue available within a number of organisations towards cycling, walking and improving health outcomes. A number of towns are developing cycling town plans. Cllr Hoyland said this is a great opportunity for the Town Council to establish a plan, so if any money does become available the Town Council is ready.

In the discussion that followed Members made the following points.

- There are a number of other paths around Poynton that need attention, such as the path from Dickens Lane to Vernon Road and the path that runs parallel to the brook.
- The levels are incorrect in that the gardens are higher than the paths, with water therefore pouring onto the paths.

- Cyclists can only be encouraged once the paths are wide enough.
- The Vernon Road pathways were improved as part of the “safer pathways to school” scheme.
- A footpath review and assessment would be a good starting point.
- It was proposed that a Task and Finish Group is formed to consider the footpaths and that it includes members of the community, to first assess and form a gradation scale to decide in which order to deal with the paths.
- In the best interests of the population of the village “paths” should be considered in their wider sense rather than just footpaths. Also suggested that the outcomes from the Neighbourhood Plan survey are considered by the Task and Finish Group.
- This should be included as an agenda item for the next FIED meeting.
- To begin a small Councillor-led Task and Finish Group should establish a remit in terms of a way forward and as a second step open it up to a wider audience. Sources of funding available should also be established.
- It was suggested that Councillors from both the East and West Wards join the Task and Finish Group. This can be considered outside of this meeting.
- The Chairman confirmed that at present the remit would be decided by this Committee including consideration of publicity and other involvement. The Chairman and the Operations Manager will prepare a report for the next meeting.

RESOLVED: That the Chairman and the Operations Manager prepare a report for the next meeting (NC)

Dog Fouling

The Operations Manager reported that he been made aware of a “Keep Britain Tidy” campaign targeting dog fouling and he is planning on using this as a publicity campaign to raise awareness of this disgusting issue around the village.

Cllr Mrs Sewart noted the increase in dog fouling across the village and suggested some sort of Council-led community involvement to prevent owners from dog fouling in the area.

Following a lengthy discussion on ways to tackle the issue members agreed that dog fouling is an unacceptable and disgusting issue with environmental and health risks. Members agreed that signs are installed as part of a publicity campaign and the issue monitored monthly.

Car Parking

The Operations Manager requested direction on this issue. Cllr Hoyland said that the Neighbourhood Plan survey results are awaited and decisions can be based on this information. Mr Wood was urged to make a contribution to the Neighbourhood Plan.

Cllr Lewis reported that the hedges and trees on Park Lane and Towers Road previously reported are still overgrown.

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

56. Draft Remit for the Facilities, Infrastructure and Economic Development Committee

Cllr Mrs Sewart suggested the second bullet is amended to read: Liaison with CE Council on issues such as highway *projects* and maintenance.

Cllr Clarke suggested - *liaison with all CE open spaces.*

Cllr Hollingworth asked that the remit includes - *any other item that is reasonable and necessary relating to parks, buildings and highways.*

RESOLVED: That the draft remit is received and approved with the agreed amendments (NC)

57. Former bus shelter on London Road South

Members were asked to receive a local solicitor's letter dated 16th January 2015 regarding the Town Council's insurance claim for a former bus shelter on London Road South. A Member stated that something should have been done on this issue from the start, and that the Town Council has lost the value of one of their assets. Another Member agreed, and said the owner of the vehicle should have been brought to justice long ago.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and seconded that the letter referred to be received (NC)

The meeting concluded at 9.30 pm