

MINUTES OF THE FACILITIES & INFRASTRUCTURE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (FIED) COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT 8.00PM ON MONDAY 24th JUNE 2019 AT THE CIVIC HALL, POYNTON.

PRESENT

Chairman: Cllr L Podmore

Cllrs: K Booth, P Bailey, M Blackie, L Clarke, S Lees, P Oakes, J Sewart, J Waterhouse

Officers in attendance: H Barlow (Town Clerk), K McDowell (Deputy Clerk)
P Cunningham (Operations Manager)

1. Anyone attending or present at the Committee meeting declares that they are making, or intend to make, an audio recording and/or film the meeting

The Deputy Clerk confirmed that the meeting is recorded for the purposes of minute taking and the recording is deleted when the draft minutes are produced.

There were no other declarations.

2. Questions from members of the public

Holly Egboro, a resident addressed the committee to ask how decisions were made regarding upgrading parks and if it was possible for Barnaby Park to be upgraded. The Operations Manager confirmed that Barnaby Park was owned by Cheshire East and not Poynton Town Council. It was suggested that the resident could set up a resident's group, similar to the one set up for Deva to approach Cheshire East and fundraise. He noted Barnaby Park had been the scene of some anti-social behaviour recently, that the police were trying to stop. The resident asked if it was less likely for Cheshire East to want to fund any improvements if there had been this type of behaviour recorded and the Operations Manager confirmed this would not be the case. Cllr Podmore asked if there were any funds from the new home's bonus available this year, that could be used for improvements. The Clerk confirmed that it was unlikely that further funding would be received from the new homes bonus.

Mr Buxton addressed the committee on behalf of Middlewood Station. He gave a history of his and his colleagues plight in trying to get a more frequent timetable to and from Stockport reinstated. He feels there has been minimal support from the Council and MP David Rutley and has asked for help. They have also tried to request a "request only stop" which would only stop if there was someone on the platform, but Northern Rail had declined this request as well. Mr Buxton knows a train driver who works on the line and he has been advised that if the Buxton train started its journey 1 minute earlier then a train would not block the mainline and a stop could be arranged. Northern have advised that the footfall at the station does not warrant a stop but the station feels that if the timetable was better then the footfall would increase. He asked if the Council could assist in this matter.

The Chair proposed that item the order of the agenda and item 15 is the next item of business

RESOLVED: That the order of business is rearranged as set out above (NC)

Cllr Clarke suggested the Council could write to Northern Rail. Cllr Booth asked who was responsible for the parking area at the station. It was confirmed it was Cheshire East. It was noted that to access the station patrons had to walk from the A6, down a wooded area on to the platform. Cllr Mrs Sewart confirmed that previous Cllr Gorst had spent a considerable amount of time trying to improve this timetable but had not had any positive responses.

Cllr Waterhouse asked if the answer was a request stop, would it matter about the footfall numbers, Cllr Booth advised the trains would still need to be scheduled and timed, so it was relevant. Cllr Waterhouse asked if there were any other councils within walking distance of the station that could also write to Northern Rail. The Chair advised that High Lane do not have a Town Council but Marple South may be a possibility.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk draft a letter to Northern Rail and Transport for Greater Manchester to support the request for a timetable change and/or a request stop and also contact Stockport and Marple South Councils to see if they would do the same (NC)

3. Apologies for absence

Cllrs Mrs S J Gilmore and Mrs J Saunders.

4. Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary or Other Interests

There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary or other interests.

5 Approve as an accurate record the minutes of the Facilities, Infrastructure and Economic Development Committee meeting held on 29th April 2019

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Facilities, Infrastructure and Economic Development Committee meeting held on 29th April 2019 are approved (3 for, 6 abstentions)

6. Receive and consider the action log for the FIED Committee for 2019-2020

The Clerk spoke on the outstanding items:

- 2019 Christmas Tree – quotes are being obtained.
- London Road Gully – Cheshire East are scheduling an exploratory dig outside Panache.
- A meeting will be arranged with the Twinning Associations to discuss the review of signs.

- Footpath Work at Poynton Pool – The Operations Manager confirmed he is obtaining quotes for the work required and it is possible that this might be funded through s106 money.
- A review of the Issues Log will take place with the Clerk and Cllr Gilmore.
- Park Lane premises owner responsibilities and shared space defects. Owner responsibilities need to be clarified with Cheshire East. A new working group for shared space will be agreed at the meeting and these matters will be referred to the working group
- Audit of Highways Assets – This is being pursued by the Operations Manager with Cheshire East
- The Clerk, Operations Manager, Cllr Sewart and Beanland met with residents and 'Friends of Deva Park'. Having secured the grant for improving the park they now want a zebra crossing over Chester Road for easy access into the park. The residents are pursuing this with Cheshire East

Cllr Mrs Sewart asked if the Heritage Garden Working Group could now be closed and handed over to the community group as the Poynton Town Council role in it has finished. The Clerk confirmed that Cheshire East have agreed to have responsibility for the garden, but it has not stated if it will be insured. The Clerk will write to Cheshire East to confirm they have insurance cover and bring the response to the next meeting, with a view to closing the working group down.

RESOLVED: That the update on the FIED Committee action log from the Clerk is received (NC)

7. Receive and consider a report from the Operations Manager for May to Mid-June 2019.

The Operations Manager updated Councillors on issues since his report was completed:

- Shared Space sink patch outside Baptist Church has again been temporarily filled in with Tarmac after the first repair has failed, The Operations Manager chasing Cheshire East to establish when final repair will be made.

It was noted that the kissing gates at Poynton Pool will be modified to allow mobility scooters through as a result of a meeting between the Clerk, Operations Manager, Cheshire East and a local resident.

A councillor asked if one of the new "Bag it, Bin it" signs could be placed at Poynton Pool The Operations Manager confirmed the Park Rangers are against more bins as the Pool is classed as the countryside and feel residents should take the dog waste home with them. However, he will ask the Cheshire East Rangers if signs can be erected.

There are funds available from a grant which needs to be spent on improving the high street. Part of the funding would be used to hire a skip to tidy up London Road flowerbeds and grassing the area. Spraying equipment would also be purchased for the Village Ranger. New planters and plants could also be funded for Poynton in Bloom.

RESOLVED That the report from the Operations Manager is received and that a request is made to the Rangers to put up the Dog Waste signs at the three locations (NC)

RESOLVED: Funds available under the Community Clean Up Grant should be used as set out above (NC)

8. Receive a report from the Operations Manager regarding the Poynton in Bloom Planters.

Poynton in Bloom have requested that the planters currently on Chester Road are removed and new planters are located outside Well Pharmacy and Manners Pimblett Solicitors.

Cllrs discussed the issue. A number of councillors objected to the planters being removed as there had been significant parking issues prior to the planters being placed in that location. The planters should only be removed if alternative traffic management could be used. The Operations Manager confirmed there are similar parking issues on London Road North and it is possible that planters would also be a solution in this location.

It was noted that the planters are owned by Poynton Town Council and not Poynton in Bloom. As Poynton in Bloom are finding it difficult to maintain the planters, the Town Council could consider planting low maintenance plants in them. Additional planters could be funded through the 'Cleaner High Streets Grant'

RESOLVED: That the planters remain in situ on Chester Road unless an alternative solution is found to stop poor parking. If additional planters are required by Poynton in Bloom these are approved (NC)

9. Receive and consider a report from the Operations Manager on the milestone marker.

Funding is required in order to repair the milestone marker after it was vandalised. Quotations have been obtained which were outlined in the report. The Historical Society have agreed a donation of £100 towards the cost. There is no budget line for the repair however there is money in the Village Improvement Earmarked Reserves.

RESOLVED: That the stone is sourced from Earl's Stone Quarry, Kerridge at a cost of £457.47+VAT, the donation from the historical society is accepted and a request is made to F&GP to approve the funding of the repair of the stone from the Village Improvement Earmarked Reserve under a SO51 (NC)

10. Receive and consider a report from the Operations Manager on the purchase of two new bins for Brecon

Councillors agreed that the bins need to be robust and vandal proof, due to historical events. A councillor asked if an additional bin was needed at the stream exit. The Operations manager agreed to monitor the situation.

RESOLVED: Receive the report and approve the purchase of the two new bins (NC)

11. Receive and consider a report from Cllr Oakes regarding the entrance at Brookhouse Farm Nursery

Cllr Oakes summarised his report and recommendations. The Operations Manager highlighted the difficulties in either erecting concealed entrance signs or painting an H line as adjacent property owners would need to agree and this is often problematic.

Concern was raised that the situation was likely to worsen when the new houses were built. It was suggested that Cheshire East are asked to carry out a road safety assessment and report.

RESOLVED: To receive the report and for the Clerk to contact Cheshire East Highways and ask for a road safety assessment to be carried out and to also include the situation with the new houses (NC)

12. Receive and consider the two letters from National Grid regarding the overhead line refurbishment dated June 2019

National Grid has been granted permission to close the car park at Jacksons Brickwork between the 24th June and the 30th August for overhead line work to be carried out.

RESOLVED: That the letters from National Grid are received and the car park closure should be communicated to residents (NC)

13. Receive and consider a report from the Clerk regarding the boundary fence at 35 Oakfield Drive.

The Clerk confirmed that she had visited the site with the Operations Manager and met with the resident's son. There is no infringement on The Inclines. The hedge was clearly the boundary in the past rather than the post. The Clerk recommended that no further action is taken.

RESOLVED: That the report from the Clerk is received and that no further action is taken except to inform the resident of the outcome (NC)

14. Receive and consider a report from the Operations Manager in relation to the fencing at Brecon Park

The Operations Manager was contacted by Mr Heaton, a resident who stated that youngsters were entering his garden through a broken fence in the park. He has tried to repair the fence on his side but has asked Poynton Town Council to purchase a fence to fill in a 20-meter gap which has old fencing. The deeds have been obtained and show that the boundary is shared. Usually both owners would share the cost of repair.

The Council did not want to set a precedence paying for fences which are not their responsibility but as it is a party boundary, the Town Council has an obligation to contribute to the cost of the fence.

RESOLVED: That the Operations Manager's report is received and that he contacts the resident and neighbour to discuss funding half the cost of the fence and obtains three quotes on this basis (8 for, 1 against)

16. To receive and consider a request for an easement of the Town Council Byelaws on parks and open spaces from the Poynton Show for the 24th August 2019 and the Round Table for the Fireworks display on the 2nd November 2019

RESOLVED: That the report is received and the byelaws are eased for both events (NC)

17. To receive and consider a report from the Clerk in relation to risk management of physical infrastructure within the town

As part of Health & Safety review the Clerk has been reviewing activities that the Council carry out. The Town Council undertakes a number of activities in the town in order to assist residents for example salting and gritting Chester Road footpath over the railway bridge. However, this is Cheshire East Highways responsibility and the Town Council doesn't have the resources to carry out this activity for example over a weekend. The Town Council need to understand the potential risk in relation to claims if someone falls.

In addition the Town Council undertakes additional activities such as locking and unlocking the parks and clearing snow. The Town Council needs to understand fully the insurance and liability implications for these activities. Further investigation is needed with Cheshire East and the Town Council's insurers regarding these activities in order to mitigate risk and to consider whether these activities should be undertaken..

RESOLVED: That the report from the Clerk is received. That the Clerk investigates this further with Cheshire East and the insurance company and that a report is submitted to the FIED Committee under SO51 as the risk management document is due to be reviewed by the F&GP Committee at their next meeting (NC)

18. To receive and consider a verbal report from the Clerk on commemorative trees and benches.

The Clerk confirmed that Cheshire East do not have a formal policy and that they consider each request on a case by case basis The Town Council owns limited land where it would be appropriate to site benches and trees.

Councillors agreed that the siting of memorial trees and benches should be left to Cheshire East and no policy was required.

It was noted that the Twinning Association had requested replacing the Christmas Tree in the flowerbed outside the Civic Hall with a new tree and a plaque showing the Haybes twinning. Councillors agreed that if a plaque was erected it should commemorate the twinning of both Haybes and Erd.

The Clerk advised that the Civic Hall Capital Projects and Scheduled and Preventative Maintenance Working Group would be responsible for improving the flower beds around the Civic Hall

RESOLVED: That the verbal report from the Clerk is received. The current system with Cheshire East should be retained and no policy is required (NC)

RESOLVED: The Civic Hall Capital Projects and Scheduled and Preventative Maintenance Working Group would consider the Twinning Association's request for a commemorative tree but any plaque would need to reference both Haybes and Erd and that any maintenance/upkeep of the tree would be responsibility of the Twinning Association (NC)

19. To note the remit for the FIED Committee

RESOLVED: That the remit for the FIED Committee is noted (NC)

20. To agree the Working Group Membership and remits

Cllr Sewart gave an overview of the working groups for the benefit of the new Councillors.

Footpaths/Cycling – Village Accessibility

Neil Carmichael
Cllr SJ Gilmore
Cllr D Oakes
Cllr J Waterhouse

Shared Space

Cllr K Booth
Cllr S Lees
Cllr M Blackie

The Clerk to write to the former members of the group to see if they wish to continue with their membership of the Working Group.

A summary of Shared Space would be provided by the Clerk at the first Shared Space Working Group meeting

If former councillor Graham Smith does not wish to continue, the Clerk will invite him to attend the first meeting to provide a background to new members.

S106 and Community Infrastructure Levy

Cllr K Booth
Cllr L Podmore
Cllr J Sewart
Robert Sabin
John Knight

The Chair gave an overview of what this working group was and how CIL money is used.

Civic Hall Capital Projects and Scheduled and Preventative Maintenance Working Group
Cllr L Podmore
Cllr J Sewart
Cllr Oakes

The Clerk to write to former Councillor Les Berry to ask if he wishes to continue to be a member of the Working Group.

Heritage Garden

This may be closed shortly, so no membership discussed

The Clerk to email all Cllrs to ask if they would like to join any of the working groups.

RESOLVED: The remits for the working groups are received and the membership of the working groups noted. The Clerk to contact all Town Councillors and former members of working groups as set out above and invite them to be members of the working groups(NC)

21. To consider and agree any communication messages arising from this meeting

- Middlewood Station – use it or lose it
- Civic Pride – Positive Historical Stone Milestone Marker update
- National Grid work and road closures

The meeting ended at 9.50pm

Chair.....

Dated.....