

MINUTES OF THE PARKS, BUILDINGS & HIGHWAY MEETING HELD AT 8PM ON MONDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2012 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC HALL, POYNTON.

PRESENT

Chairman: Cllr Alex Smith

Cllrs G Bartos, Ms R Horsman, Mrs S Horsman, G King, Mrs J Sewart, G Smith

Attending under SO53: Cllrs M Beanland, L A Clarke, H Murray, Mrs J Saunders

Also attending: John Brooks, Assistant Clerk and Operations Officer

Questions from Members of the Public

Mr Ken Lloyd of 12 Clumber Road, Poynton, addressed the Committee. Mr Lloyd raised his concern about the double yellow lines along this stretch of Clumber Road. These were introduced as part of the temporary traffic management measures while the Village Revitalisation Scheme was in progress. Even though this work is now completed, Mr Lloyd said that the double yellow lines have not been removed. The Clerk explained that he and Cllr Murray had conducted a site visit with Rob Colville of Cheshire East Highways some four to five weeks ago. A solution was put forward for the whole of Clumber Road, which also took issues concerning Styperson Way parking into account. However the Clerk said he had not heard anything back from Rob Colville despite sending a reminder. It is CE Highways who are responsible for delivering the solution, and the Clerk will continue to pursue Rob Colville on this. Cllr Murray agreed with Mr Lloyd that this matter needs to be resolved since it has been some three months since the road works in Poynton were completed. The Chairman confirmed that the action proposed will be taken forward.

Also an issue of signage on the one way section of Clumber Road was raised, given that cars do not always take adequate notice. John Brooks the Operations Officer explained that there are two signs at present. One sign has no illumination, and the position of the other sign means it can barely be seen. The Operations Officer explained that the work here has been deferred because of an intended Phase 3 Gateway (part of the Village Revitalisation Scheme) when work on the signage can be incorporated as part of this. Cllr Murray confirmed that further work at Poynton Green has been deferred for this year due to the delays caused by the road works on London Road South during work on the Scheme. The signage will be resolved as part of this work, scheduled to take place within the next 6 to 12 months.

A further issue of the difficulties caused by cars manoeuvring through the Working Men's Club on Clumber Road believing this to be an access car park was raised, and the need for better signage here. The Clerk offered to visit the Working Men's Club and request a suitable sign to indicate the car park location.

Cllr Ms R Horsman requested that Total Garage is also informed of the correct use of the one way section of Clumber Road. The Clerk said he would visit Total Garage too.

1. Absent

Cllr N Cowan and Cllr B Lewis

2. Declarations of interest

Cllr A Smith declared a personal interest in the item on tree surveys in the Operations Officer's Functional report, given that his property is close to the Inclines.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2012

Page 306 – On the issue of chewing gum boards Cllr Mrs Sewart asked if there had been any developments. Cllr A Smith explained that he had decided not to add this item to this agenda until he has had time to consider all the options to help eradicate this problem.

Final page – Cllr Mrs J Sewart pointed out a correction which should read, "Cllr Mrs J Sewart thanked the *Committee* for their support during her time as Chairman".

**RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2012 be approved, subject to the minor amendment above, and signed by the Chairman (6 - 1 abs)**

4. Functional Report for May 2012 from the Assistant Clerk and Operations Officer

John Brooks explained that the Town Council has received a request from the Scout group based in Higher Poynton to help them repair the access road to their scout hut. This is also the access road to the Coppice Road Allotments, which are due to be transferred to the Town Council on long lease. Cllr Mrs S Horsman commented on the very poor condition of this road. The Scout group is in a position to provide the labour and machinery but are looking for the

Town Council to supply the material. John Brooks explained that a cost of about £300 is envisaged.

The Operations Officer explained that it has been some five years since the last tree survey was conducted on the Inclines, and that a new survey is required as soon as possible. The Committee agreed. A local company has provided a quotation of £1920 for this. John Brooks explained that the survey would prioritise those trees requiring attention.

Cllr Clarke also mentioned Footpath 71, the section that skirts Capenhurst Close and Charlecote Road. Some trees heavily overhang this path. These trees are in a Cheshire East area of responsibility. John Brooks explained that Cheshire East have inspected these trees and will only act if these trees are causing problems.

Poynton in Bloom have identified a shortage of planters at Fountain Place and have suggested that cast iron planters may be suitable for this area. The cast iron planters would be placed at Fountain Place near the RBS, but involve a substantial cost of c.£1,000 each. The Committee discussed the cost, suitability in relation to other street furniture in the centre, and possible obstacles these might present to disabled people. Cllr Clarke suggested that a decision is deferred on this matter following further consultation with the Revitalisation Scheme Steering Group and Disability Advisory Group.

On the issue of the Vernon School field, John Brooks informed the meeting that he has received an email from Cheshire East which states that a survey has been undertaken at this site, which highlights a problem with one of the culverts that takes the water away from the school and from properties on Clumber Road. Cheshire East has suggested that the school pay for the repairs. John Brooks said he intends to go back to Cheshire East to find out exactly where the problem is identified.

Cllr Murray said it was important to secure a copy of the report. Cllr Clarke explained that because of a planning application involving the Vernon School a number of residents have regularly been attending Planning Committee meetings. Cllr Clarke asked the Clerk to ensure that residents are informed that the Town Council is pursuing this matter and keep residents updated. John Brooks confirmed he would gain a copy of the report.

Cllr Mrs Sewart raised an issue from a previous meeting where it was agreed to ask the LAP for a survey to be carried out, to consider the possibility of a roundabout at the junction of Glastonbury Drive and London Road North. Cllr Mrs Sewart said that this needs to be added to the LAP list so at the very least it can be considered in time. Cllr Mrs Saunders said that unfortunately the closing date was the end of May 2012, and she was not aware of this issue at the time but confirmed that it will be added for consideration to next year's request list.

**RESOLVED: That the Functional Report for May 2012 and the agreed work programme to end-June 2012 from John Brooks is received;**

**That funding is approved for the access road in Higher Poynton as requested by the Scout group (£300) and for the Inclines Tree Survey (£1920);**

**That the Operations Officer requests the survey report on flooding at Vernon Primary School field, and updates residents on progress;**

**That a decision on the cast iron planters is deferred until further consultation with the Revitalisation Scheme Steering Group and Disability Advisory Group**

**(NC)**

#### 5. Civic Hall/Library complex

The Clerk explained the options in his written report concerning the Civic Hall/Library complex. The recommendation is option d), which involves Cheshire East submitting a capital bid during this Financial Year or next, and the Town Council drawing on £34,000 from their reserves. The Town Council would be liable for around £15,000 to fund further work that it intends to carry out, such as converting the current reception area to a meeting room. The Working Group had recommended option d), and the purpose now is to seek approval for this way forward from this Committee.

Cllr Bartos asked for a breakdown of design costs which the Clerk provided.

**RESOLVED: That the report is received, and that this Committee approves the recommendation by the Working Party for option d) (NC)**

#### 6. Clifford Road Width Restriction Experimental Order

The Committee noted the introduction of Cheshire East's Clifford Road Width Restriction Experimental Order. The Chairman explained that the Clerk will publicise that there is a 6 month consultation period, during which time objections can be raised. Cllr Mrs Sewart said that in just doing this near the junction of Clifford Road with London Road South had been short sighted without any consideration given to the knock-on effect on Gloucester Road and possibly Queensway and Balmoral. Residents have already noticed an increase in traffic along Gloucester Road. Cllr Mrs Sewart clarified that she did not object to the width restriction at the end of Clifford Road per se, only that residents in the surrounding areas had not been considered.

John Brooks informed the meeting that one unintended consequence of this restriction is that there will be no more gritting along Clifford Road.

The Clerk clarified that if residents object to the making of a permanent order they have six months in which to do so. The Clerk will publicise this matter through the PUN. Cllr Clarke suggested that the issue of gritting is also included in the PUN, and the Town Council review the situation in September if they wish to make a formal submission.

**RESOLVED: That the report is received, and that the Town Council review the situation in September 2012 (6 – 1 against)**

#### 7. Poynton and District Rotary Club

The committee considered the request from the Poynton and District Rotary Club for an easement of Poynton's Byelaws for their annual Open Air Charity Concert at Poynton Pool, to be held on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2012.

**RESOLVED: That the Town Council agrees to the request from the Poynton and District Rotary Club for an easement of Poynton's Byelaws for this event (NC)**

#### 8. "Quiet Lanes" scheme by Adlington Parish Council

The Committee considered the correspondence received from Adlington Parish Council concerning their interest in a "Quiet Lanes" scheme. The Clerk explained that the "Quiet Lanes" scheme is essentially 'shared space' on rural roads to give due consideration to cyclists, horse riders and for motorists to cut their speed. Following discussion of the scheme the meeting agreed that the Town Council would support the Adlington Parish Council initiative.

**RESOLVED: That the correspondence from Adlington Parish Council is received, and that Poynton Town Council indicate its support for their initiative (NC)**

#### 9. Minor works requests to the Poynton LAP Highways Group for 2013/14

Cllr Mrs Saunders explained the two minor works requests to the Poynton LAP Highways Group. One concerns a survey of the junction of Woodford Road and Chester Road, and the second is the introduction of cycle lanes on London Road North. Cllr Mrs Sewart raised her concern that Woodford Road was referred to as a busy 'main' road in the paperwork. It was agreed that while this is a very busy road it is not a main "A" road.

**RESOLVED: That the correspondence from the Poynton LAP Highways Group for 2013/14 is received, with the amendment that Woodford Road is 'a busy road' (NC)**

#### 10. CE consultation on public transport (bus services)

Cllr Mrs Saunders explained that the two bus services at risk are the Higher Poynton 391 service and the Bird Estate 390 service. Cllr Mrs Saunders explained that the Town Council needs to consider a response to the current CE consultation on public transport (bus services) in order to ensure that there is a viable alternative if the bus service is changed in any way. Cllr Mrs Saunders said it was important to ensure that as many residents as possible are given the opportunity to take part in the survey. A response from the Town Council is necessary because there is a need to ensure that public transport is adequate, given Poynton's large proportion of elderly residents (28% over the age of 60 years old). Also the number of young people taking driving tests has fallen dramatically, and the cost of car insurance for the young has increased steeply, making public transport necessary for the young too. For a variety of reasons it is important to ensure that there is a public transport service that is sustainable, viable and fit for purpose. The Flexible Transport scheme would not in any way suffice.

Councillors discussed the need for a sensible transport plan for Poynton which provides a proper alternative for residents. Many issues were raised on this important matter. Cllr Mrs Sewart suggested a Working Party is formed to consider the issue in more detail. Cllr Mrs Saunders agreed to this as a very good idea. A response in the meantime is still necessary.

The Committee agreed that Cllr Mrs Saunders notes all the points discussed at this Committee and formulates a response on behalf of the Town Council, together with two or three other Councillors. Cllr Bartos offered to assist.

**RESOLVED: That a Town Council response is formulated by Cllrs Saunders and Bartos and any other interested members to the current CE consultation on public transport (bus services). That a Working Party is set up under this Committee to consider a sustainable transport plan for Poynton (NC)**

The meeting concluded at 9.25pm