

RECORD OF THE OF THE FACILITIES & INFRASTRUCTURE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (FIED) WORKING GROUP MEETING HELD AT 8.00PM ON MONDAY 14TH JUNE 2021 VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

PRESENT

Chairman: Cllr K Booth

Cllrs: L A Clarke, S Lees, P Oakes, Mrs J Sewart, M Sewart

Officers in attendance: H Barlow (Clerk), K McDowell (Deputy Clerk) and C Oakes

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 shorthand assistant confirmed that the meeting is recorded for the purposes of minute taking and the recording is deleted when the draft minutes are agreed.

There were no other declarations.

2. Questions from members of the public

There were no members of the public present.

3. Apologies for absence

Cllrs L Podmore, M Blackie, P Bailey

4. Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary or Other Interests

Cllr Clarke declared an interest in agenda item 14 relating to properties on Park Lane, Poynton and will abstain from the discussion and the voting.

5. To receive and consider the action log for the FIED committee/working group for 2021/2022 and agree recommendations to the Clerk for action under delegate authority.

The Clerk updated the Working Group on the following:

- Items 1 and 42 both are now marked as completed as the area highways team has now been disbanded. Requests for funding are now dealt with via a different mechanism going forward. Item 42, the drainage investigations have been programmed in by Cheshire East into their schedule of works for 2021.
- Twinning signs. Robust vinyl, reflective, highway stickers have been purchased to go over the existing twinning signs to reflect that Poynton is twinned with both Erd and Haybes.

- Item 43 – damaged wall on Park Lane opposite Waitrose. A reply has been received from Building Control Officer who has confirmed the wall is not considered dangerous and they cannot take any further action and are unable to help repair the wall. They confirmed the owner of the property is aware of the issue but are not expected to take any action.

A member asked for an update on item 13 wood carving. The Clerk confirmed there are no suitable trees on Town Council owned land for a carving if a suitable tree becomes available the arboriculturist will advise if it can be considered. It was noted that the Rangers at Poynton Pool will not allow wood carvings.

RESOLVED: That the report is received (NC)

6. To receive and consider the Operations Manager’s report for March to mid-June 2021 and agree recommendations to the Clerk for action under delegated authority.

The Operations Manager provided the following updates to his report:

- Item 7, Poynton Pollinators. Graham who are the contractors currently working on the A555, have agreed to provide men and a mini digger to clear the beds around the side of the Civic Hall. This will be done by 21st June 2021.
- Item 2, Park Security. The group discussed the recommendations regarding the secure closing of the parks. There were concerns around potential ASB, vandalism, damaged equipment and dog fouling in play areas if the parks were not locked at night. It was also noted that the police are now present at the hub next to one of the parks and the cost of the locking the parks is very expensive.
- Item 6 Allotments. The geographical area of applicants was discussed along with a request to consider of a policy around the allotments was needed. The Clerk confirmed most Towns only allow applicants from the local area. If the Council receive any out of area applications before the policy is agreed, they should be included on the waiting list.

RESOLVED: That there is a six-month trial of option C. Both Parks to remain open throughout the year. (3 for, 1 against, 2 abstain)

RESOLVED: That the Operations Manager draft a policy for the Allotments for consideration at the next meeting, to include appropriate geographical limitations in line with the allotment association rules (NC)

7. To receive an update from the Clerk in relation to the proposed lease of land adjacent to the Anson Museum and agree recommendations to the Clerk for action under delegated authority.

The Clerk provided an update and recommended that the Council do not enter into negotiations to transfer ownership of the land and maybe sublet the land to the Anson Museum. Cheshire East confirmed the Town Council would not be able to sub-let the land. It is proposed, therefore, that the Town Council should support an application from the Anson Museum to apply for ownership of the land via a lease for a 30-year period, with a caveat that if these negotiations fail, Cheshire East should re-approach the Town Council.

RESOLVED: That the Town Council (Subject to agreement from the full Council under SO51) do not enter into negotiations to acquire the land and support the application from the Anson Museum to enter into negotiations with Cheshire East to take on a lease of the land for 30 years (NC)

RESOLVED: That the Clerk (subject to agreement from the full Council under So51) writes to Cheshire East to state that if the negotiations with Anson Museum fail then the Town Council would want to reconsider their decision not to pursue the lease (NC)

8. To receive an update from the Clerk on the Flood Warden Scheme and the work of the Flood Action Group and agree recommendations to the Clerk for action under delegated authority.

The Clerk discussed the highlights of the report and advised the only outstanding items are to complete the handbook, recruit the wardens and carry out the training and purchase basic PPE for the wardens. It was noted that the Town Council have received a grant from Cheshire East as a volunteer coordination point and this will be used to purchase the items.

Members of the Flood Working Group attended a multi- agency meeting where the different agencies went through the work that is being undertaken throughout the village. The group will also be attending a walkaround to visit natural flood management sites later in the week with the Environment Agency and representatives from the Flood Authority.

The Flood PUN was published on the website and distributed to the email distribution list members. 6000 Flood PUN leaflets will be distributed shortly, after a briefing on 28.06.21 to the local volunteers who are distributing them, outlining basic information on how flooding occurs in Poynton in case they encounter any doorstep questions.

RESOLVED: The update on the Flood Warden scheme and the work of the Flood Action Group was received (NC)

9. To note the newsletter update received from the Environment Agency

The Clerk confirmed the newsletter contained updates on the Environment Agency work regarding flooding and it was included in the agenda pack.

RESOLVED: The newsletter was noted (NC)

10. To receive a verbal update from the Clerk in relation to the Waitrose Car Park and agree recommendations to the Clerk for action under delegated authority.

The Clerk provided an overview of the report and the recent social media statement from Middlewood Partnership. After discussion with Middlewood it was proposed that the Town Council meets with all stakeholders, including David Rutley MP, who is aware of the issue, to try and resolve the issue. To date Waitrose has not responded and Cheshire East have referred it to a manager to reply.

The Clerk confirmed that she had met with Cllrs Mike Sewart, Mrs Jos Saunders and a representative from Middlewood partnership last week and some alternative suggestions were discussed, with a view to putting them forward to Waitrose and Cheshire East to help alleviate the problems. These included a permit system for Hirers, Medical Centre and Civic Hall staff.

The Clerk confirmed that she had reviewed all car park agreements this afternoon – there were actually three separate agreements made at the time of the transfer:

- 1) Initial transfer of the land
- 2) How enforcement will work if it was introduced
- 3) Series of restrictive covenants

She also reviewed the car parking survey, undertaken in March 2020 before lockdown. It shows that although people were parking in the wrong stay sections, even when the car park was 100 full, there were still spaces available. For example, on the Friday it was 100 per cent full at 11am. There were 37 vehicles in the short stay for more than 2 hours but there were 61 spaces available in the long stay (if they hadn't had been taken up by short stay parking) Therefore, overall, it looks as if the car park has sufficient spaces for the needs of community.

Other suggestions were that the Council could have a discussion with the Sports Club, legion or working men's club to see if we can utilise their parking.

The Clerk noted that previously there had been some suggestion that a sum of money would be paid to Poynton Town Council, if enforcement ever went ahead. She confirmed that there is no records of this in any of the agreements or paperwork. What is clear, however, is Cheshire East or Waitrose can, at any point agree to vary the agreement including implementing charges for the car park, not just enforcement at any time.

Finally, it transpires that the parking spaces outside the medical practice actually belong to the library (they are excluded from the car parking agreement). The title plan for library and medical practice and historic car park agreement show that the medical practice own 3 spaces but the others are owned by the library. The library staff seem to be unaware of this as their staff currently park in the long stay section. If they moved into their spaces this would release more spaces in the long stay and maybe the Council could enter into negotiation to ask for use of their spaces for civic hall staff.

RESOLVED: That subject to other parties being in agreement, the Town Council will meet with all stakeholders to try and resolve the parking issue (NC)

11. To receive a verbal update from the Clerk on Town Centre revitalisation and agree recommendations to the Clerk for action under delegated authority.

The Council applied for funding for town centre revitalisation for opening up after the lockdown. The Department of Housing, Communities and Local Government have not made a decision yet and have stated that it is unlikely that funding will be available in time for this summer.

RESOLVED: The update regarding the application for Town Centre revitalisation funding was noted (NC)

12. To receive a report from the Clerk on the new Cheshire East Highways Scheme and agree recommendations to the Clerk for action under delegated authority.

Under the new scheme Cheshire East Councillors will be awarded £4,000 per ward to carry out small highway repairs/defects. There was a large amount of unease in the engagement sessions held by Cheshire East from Town Councils and Cheshire East Ward Councillors as the £4,000 could be split across a number of towns and villages. For example East Ward Councillors would have £4,000 for minor works covering Poynton East, Kettleshulme and Pott Shrigley which is a very large area. The funding will not be sufficient to deal with the repairs required. The costs indicated by Cheshire East do not include any traffic management that will be required to carry out any works.

Cheshire East now have a gully tacker, which allows anyone to look up any gully in the Town and see when it was last cleaned and what the state of repair is. This will be helpful when blocked gullies are reported.

Cllr Sewart states that he believed this money wasn't intended to fund repairs and was for schemes such as dropped kerbs etc and he understood that each ward Councillor would receive £4,000. Therefore, Poynton and the other areas mentioned will get £16,000.

RESOLVED: The report and recommendations are accepted (NC)

13. To receive an update from the Clerk in relation to the expression of interest in holding a Tour of Britain sprint stage.

The Clerk advised that British Cycling had confirmed that after driving the route that Poynton is not a suitable location to hold a sprint because of the street furniture and general road layout.

RESOLVED: The decision from British Cycling regarding the unsuccessful bid to host a cycle sprint is noted (NC)

14. To receive and update from the Clerk on the empty commercial properties on Park Lane and Coppice Road (formerly known as the top Co-op) and the empty residential property on Park Lane and agree recommendations to the Clerk for action under delegated authority.

The Clerk summarised the report. The owners of the two Park Lane properties have been located and the address confirmed via Companies House. Confirmation has been received that the offices are being used.

A member noted that there is a recently erected sign outside the property on Coppice Road stating the owners contact details.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk writes to the owners of the Park Lane properties to ask what their intentions are with regards to the empty shops. (5 for, 1 abstention)

RESOLVED: That the Clerk contacts Cheshire East Building Control to investigate if the building on Coppice Road is safe, as the roof has fallen in and also investigates who the owner is via the new contact details on the signage/ land registry and Companies House. Once the owner is determined a letter should be issued to find out their intentions with regards to this property. (5 for, 1 abstention)

15. To receive and consider the Peaks and Plains Estate Management Policy and to receive a verbal report from the Chair.

The Chair confirmed that he attended a virtual meeting which centred around Peaks and Plains wanting to create a management plan for their properties which clearly stated areas of responsibility ie. residents to maintain the gardens.
There were no items of note for the Town Council.

RESOLVED: The report was received (NC)

16. To receive and consider the Income and Expenditure report or Q4.

The Clerk noted that the letting income was significantly impacted by the lockdown. Less than 50% of the budgeted income was achieved. However, the overall net income and expenditure was only £2,780 over on expenditure which is remarkable in the circumstances. It was noted that the NHS vaccination centre in the hall, a Covid support grant and some furlough payments since October 2020 that had helped achieve this.

RESOLVED: The report was received (NC)

17. To receive a report from the following Working Groups

a) Village Improvement Working Group

b) Civic Hall Capital Projects and Scheduled and Preventative Maintenance Working Group

Cllrs Lees confirmed that he met with Officers and has an understanding and overview of current projects. He will be organising a Village Improvement working group meeting shortly.

The Deputy Clerk confirmed that an architect/project manager David Trowler Associates have been appointed and will be visiting later in the week to gather information and take measurements etc. He has worked with Town Councils before and was recommended by Cheshire East estates. He can also help with any funding applications the Town Council will need to make. The Working Group have compiled a wish list of all regeneration works/items that are required to the building and this has been passed to David for consideration when he is compiling his plans.

RESOLVED: The reports are received (NC)

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

- Flood leaflet and Flood Wardens
- Outcome of Car Park meeting with all stakeholders (once it has taken place)

Meeting end time: 9.05pm