

MINUTES OF THE FACILITIES & INFRASTRUCTURE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (FIED) COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT 8.00PM ON MONDAY 13TH FEBRUARY 2023

PRESENT

Chairman Cllr K Booth

Cllrs: Patrick Bailey, L A Clarke, P Oakes, Lee Podmore, Mrs J Saunders, M Sewart and J Waterhouse

Officers in attendance: Haf Barlow (Clerk)
Chris Oakes (Operations Manager)

60. 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 Chair 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.

61. Questions from members of the public

There were members of the public present regarding Hockley Park. The Chairman suggested that Item 8 be moved up the agenda.

62. Apologies for absence

Cllr M Blackie

63. Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary or Other Interests

Cllr L A Clarke declared a disclosable pecuniary interest being the owner of property on Park Lane.

Cllr M Sewart declared an interest in item 17c being a member of the Poynton Festival Working Group. The Clerk confirmed that this was not a disclosable pecuniary interest.

64. Approve the draft minutes of Facilities, Infrastructure and Economic Development Committee meeting on 14th November 2022

RESOLVED: That the draft minutes of the Facilities, Infrastructure and Economic development Committee meeting on 14th November 2022 are approved (NC)

RESOLVED: That agenda item 8 -To receive a report from the Clerk on locking and unlocking Hockley Park, is moved up the agenda. (NC)

67. To receive a report from the Clerk on locking and unlocking Hockley Park.

The Clerk spoke to her report on locking and unlocking Hockley Park by volunteers. Following discussions with the Town Council's insurance company the Clerk had undertaken a risk assessment of the activity based on risk assessments already in use by the Town Council. A copy of the risk assessment was provided to the committee. Following control measures the residual risk for unlocking the park is low to medium. However, even with control measures in place the residual risk for locking the park was high.

Taking into consideration the advice from the insurers and the risk assessment, the Clerk recommended that it would be inappropriate to ask volunteers to lock the park in the evenings as it is unlikely to be covered by the Town Councils insurance policy.

There have been very few instances of anti-social behaviour reported and the Operations Manager and the Clerk remain of the view that there is currently no operational requirement to lock the park. The Clerk made the following recommendations: That anti-social behaviour at the park continues to be monitored by the Operations Manager. If there is evidence of increased anti-social behaviour, the Clerk, Operations Manager and the Chair of FIED will assess the evidence and determine if the park should be locked. If the park has to be locked, the Town Council will employ a trained security operative or trained Town Council Staff.

A councillor suggested that any decision taken by the Clerk, Operations Manager and Chair to lock the park should be a temporary decision and a report should be made to this Committee in order for the committee to decide long term whether to lock the park.

Residents were told that they should continue to report any incidents of anti-social behaviour to the police and to the Operations Manager and photographs or recordings would be particularly helpful. Residents asked a number of questions relating to why the risk was assessed as high which the Clerk responded to. A resident also asked about fencing at the park. The Clerk confirmed that the parks are inspected annually by an independent qualified ROSPA Parks Inspector. The inspector has not raised any issues relating to security or fencing at Hockley Park.

RESOLVED: That the report is received with an amendment to item 2 that the Operations Manager and the Chair of the FIED committee make short term decisions referring to the FIED committee for a final decision as to whether the park should be locked (NC)

65. Receive and consider the action log for the FIED Committee for 2022-2023.

It was noted that Cheshire East had recently employed a contractor to clean gullies in Poynton.

RESOLVED: That the action log for the FIED Committee for 2021-2022 is received (NC)

66. To receive and consider the Operation Manager's report from mid-November to mid-March and agree any recommendations therein.

The Operations Manager outlined his report, and the following resolutions were made:

RESOLVED: That the contract for the recommended work on the Inclines for 2023 is awarded to Swift Tree Services (NC)

RESOLVED: That the Operations Manager drafts appropriate wording for the information boards and obtains quotations and to explore the possibility of the oak tree which is due to be felled, being turned into a carving (NC)

RESOLVED: That the Operations Manager continues to monitor surface water at Brecon Park and obtains costings for the addition of accessible play items. The Clerk to pursue confirmation from Cheshire East on available S106 funding (NC).

The members discussed London Road North verge and the maintenance of the beech hedge. It was noted that although Cheshire East own the verge they refuse to accept any responsibility for the hedge and have confirmed this to the owner of the property adjoining the London Road North verge. The Committee were in favour of retaining the hedge if possible. The Clerk suggested obtaining quotes for immediate hedge cutting, and then budget for future hedge cutting split 50 50 with the resident. An agreement would need to be drawn up to provide clarity over the agreement to maintain the hedge Maintenance would be carried out by professional tree surgeons.

RESOLVED: That the Town Council approach the resident with a suggestion as a way forward to maintain the hedge and reduce the hedge height and width and plant evergreen shrubs on the Council side to ensure privacy and that arrangements are made to share costs for the continued maintenance of the hedge (NC)

RESOLVED: That the Clerk asks members of public through a poll what colour lights should be purchased for the Christmas Tree (NC)

68. To receive the meeting notes from the recent meeting between the Town Council and businesses in Poynton

The Clerk confirmed that the meeting had been well attended. The "Welcome to Poynton" leaflet was well received and 1,000 leaflets are to be printed. Business owners were keen to have a poster with a QR code to the leaflets and this is now ready for distribution. Businesses have also meet to agree what they will be doing for the Coronation.

RESOLVED: That the meeting notes from the recent meeting between the Town Council and businesses in Poynton is received (1 abs)

69. To consider and approve the draft banner leaflet

The draft banner leaflet was shared with the Committee. The Committee considered the location where banner displays were suggested. It is hoped that the leaflet will prevent fly posting. The Clerk is seeking clarification from Cheshire East as to whether the Town Council can remove fly posting or just report it.

RESOLVED: That the banner leaflet, subject to minor amendments, is approved (NC)

70. To receive a report from the Chair on the volunteers in Poynton Facebook Group

The Chair provided an update. The Chair has suggested the name “Volunteers in Poynton” (VIP’s) for the group. The committee discussed the relationship between the group and the Town Council. It was agreed that the group should be run by the Town Council this would ensure that they would be covered by the Town Council’s insurance. The Town Council could also provide support through councillors, the Operations Manager, Village Ranger and the Communities Coordinator.

RESOLVED: That the report from the Chair on the volunteers in Poynton Facebook Group is received. (NC)

71. To receive and consider the email from Cheshire East regarding speed limits on Poynton Relief Road and HGV limits in Town.

Members expressed disappointment at the response from Cheshire East regarding HGV limits in the Town. The Clerk was asked to review correspondence from Cheshire East regarding shared space and the relief road to see what assertions had been made by Cheshire East in the past.

RESOLVED: That the Town Council write to David Rutley MP, that the matter is referred to COPS asking them to speak to the local police about whether they would support a weight limit (NC)

72. To consider what action should be taken in relation to the Shared Space once the Relief Road is completed.

The members discussed the need for repairs to the Shared Space.

RESOLVED: That the Town Council write to Cheshire East Highways requesting their schedule of works and repairing for the Shared Space area now the Relief Road is near completion (NC)

73. To note that under the S106 agreement for Hazelbadge Road Development that £61,875 has been granted for allotments – existing facilities and new opportunities in Poynton

The members discussed land around Poynton that could be used for allotments. The Clerk will write to Cheshire East Council to ask if they have any sites which could be used. The Clerk will also investigate other potential sites around the Town.

RESOLVED: That potential sites are investigated and reported back to the next meeting (NC)

74. To consider the Cheshire East Highways December 2022 and January 2023 newsletters

A member commented that street light repairs seemed to have stopped. Streetlights on Park Lane had not been repaired. The Operations Manager said Fix my Street was the only way to contact Highways. A member asked if the lights had been repaired in the car park outside the Civic Hall. The Operations Manager explained they had been temporarily repaired but were still not working properly.

RESOLVED: That the Cheshire East Highways December 2022 and January 2023 newsletters are received. (NC)

75. To consider correspondence received from residents and agree a response

The Committee reviewed the correspondence from residents.

Parking on Parklands Way

RESOLVED: That the CCSO's will continue to patrol the area (NC)

Empty commercial property on Park Lane.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk writes to the owner requesting an update on progress (7 for, 1 abs)

Shared space.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk will write to the resident to inform them what action the committee has agreed to take (NC)

76. To receive reports from the following Working Groups and to agree recommendations contained therein.

- a) Car Parking Working Group
- b) Village Improvement Working Group
- c) Poynton Festival Working Group
- d) Civic Hall Capital Projects and Scheduled and Preventative Maintenance Working Group
- e) Flood Working Group

a) Car Parking Working Group

No report

b) Village Improvement Working Group

Report provided, there were no questions from members.

c) Poynton Festival Working Group

Cllr J Waterhouse gave an update on the progress of the Festival. The Festival is progressing well and has received some offers of sponsorship including an offer to set up a standalone website for the Festival. Projects for Poynton have also offered to assist the Festival by allowing them to use it's bank accounts. Members discussed the relationship between the Festival and the Town Council and whether it would be beneficial for the Festival to be independent of the Town Council in a similar vein to Christmas Fest

d) Civic Hall Capital Projects and Scheduled and preventative Maintenance Working Group

No report

e) Flood Working Group

The Clerk updated the members. The Flood group have not met since the last FIED meeting but they have been dealing with issues around Poynton Pool.

RESOLVED: That the reports from the working groups are received. That the offer of sponsorship is accepted by the Festival Working Group. That F&GP is asked to consider how to proceed with the Festival and prior to any decision being made that the editorial content for the website rests with the Working Group and the Clerk (NC)

77. Communication messages

Christmas tree lights & Facebook poll
Request for allotment land

RESOLVED: That the above communication messages are agreed (NC)

Meeting end time: 9.45pm

Chair.....

Dated.....