

MINUTES OF THE FACILITIES & INFRASTRUCTURE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (FIED) COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT 7.30PM ON MONDAY 27th MARCH 2023

PRESENT

Chairman Cllr K Booth

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

Cllr M Beanland SO 52

Officers in attendance: Haf Barlow (Town Clerk)

78. 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.

79. Questions from members of the public

There were no members of the public present.

80. Apologies for absence

Cllr S Lees

81. Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary or Other Interests

There were no disclosable pecuniary or other interests.

82. Approve the draft minutes of Facilities, Infrastructure and Economic Development Committee meeting on 13th February 2023

RESOLVED: That the draft minutes of the Facilities, Infrastructure and Economic development Committee meeting on 13th February 2023 are approved (8 for, 1 abs)

83. To receive and consider the draft notice of proposal (off- street parking places) (consolidated) order 2015 (variation number 9) order 2022 in relation to the Civic Hall Car Park

Committee members had received the notice prior to the meeting. There was some confusion as the map edged red did not show the area that was being removed from the order but rather the area remaining within the order. This wasn't clear from the documents but was explained in the accompanying email. The area edged red would continue as long stay but may be subject to charges in the future if Cheshire East decide to impose Borough wide charges. The map edged red did not show those car parking spaces owned/leased by other organisations on the car park. Clarification on the ownership should be sought and any plans used by Cheshire East during the period of consultation should be clear and unambiguous.

The Clerk explained that the conditions in the parking agreement regarding short stay had been met by Waitrose in September 2020. These notices were to formalise the legal work required to put the agreement into effect.

Questions were asked as to whether Waitrose staff could use the long stay car parking. The Clerk confirmed that there is nothing in the agreement that prevents them from doing this. It was also noted that the agreement states that there should be no dispensations on usage except for disabled car parking spaces.

A member suggested that the in the future, the long stay carpark, owned and maintained by Cheshire East Council, could be vulnerable to car parking charges. Cllr Mike Sewart advised that after the elections Cheshire East are planning to introduce charging on a range of car parks across Cheshire East and Poynton is included.

Members of the public were likely to have questions in relation to the car parking and the proposals set out in the draft notice.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk prepares an email with observations regarding the lack of clarity in relation to the proposal and a set of Frequently Asked Questions based on previously asked question by Members of the Public. The draft email to be circulated to Members for consideration before being finalised by the Clerk under SO51 (NC)

84. To receive and consider the non- domestic rate demand for 2023/2024 and the increased rateable value of £61.000 from £37.750. To consider appointing a specialist business rates appeal advisor.

The Clerk informed the committee when the demand notice was received, the Clerk contacted Montague Evans who had represented the Town Council in a rateable value appeal in 2016. They had confirmed that the increase is significant. The new value should be representative of the value of the building on the 1st April 2021. Many companies work on a no win no fee basis and Montague Evans have confirmed that they would be prepared to undertake the work on a no win no fee arrangement. The no win no fee basis would be 20% of the rateable value reduction or alternatively on a fixed fee of 5% of the published rateable value. Members agreed that an appeal should be pursued. The Clerk would also ask businesses if they had been impacted by significant rate rises at the business meeting on Tuesday 4th April 2023.

RESOLVED: That the Town Council will proceed to appeal against the rateable value decision notice. The Clerk will instruct Montague Evans to undertake the work on a no win no fee basis as set out above (NC)

85. Communication messages

Car parking

RESOLVED: That the above communication message is approved.

Meeting end time: 7.55pm

Chair.....

Dated.....