

MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT 7.00 PM ON MONDAY 31ST JULY 2023 AT THE CIVIC HALL POYNTON

PRESENT

Mayor: P Bailey

Cllrs: M Beanland, K Booth, L Clarke, L Podmore, M Sewart, T Swatridge, J Waterhouse, H Whitaker.

Officer: Kate McDowell (Deputy Clerk)

52. To note, if anyone attending, or present, at the committee meeting is making, or intends to make, an audio recording or film of the meeting.

The Mayor confirmed that the meeting is recorded for the purpose of minute taking and the recording is deleted when the draft minutes are agreed. There were no other declarations of a recording of the meeting.

53. Questions from members of the public

There were no members of the public present.

54. Apologies for absence

Cllrs: D Belcher, M Blackie, S Lees, P Oakes, Mrs. J Saunders.

55. Declarations of disclosable pecuniary or other interests

There were no declarations of pecuniary or other interests.

56. To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 19th June 2023

There were typographical errors on pages 34 and 35.

RESOLVED: Subject to the small amendments on pages 34 & 35, the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 19th June 2023 are approved as an accurate record (8 for, 1 abstention)

57. To receive the letter from Lee Shears, Deputy Chief Fire Officer at Cheshire Fire and Rescue

The letter was discussed by members.

RESOLVED: That the letter from Lee Shears Deputy Chief Fire Officer at Cheshire Fire and Rescue is received. (8 for, 1 abstention)

A member suggested that as it was a public matter, a copy of the reply should be sent to the Fireman from Offerton who came to the last meeting and that the Clerk & Cllr Clarke should draft a reply commenting on the following aspect of the letter.

The member had firsthand experience of the Offerton engine turning up first to a major fire at a domestic residence and where the data showed that the fire engine from Offerton attended on average 19 incidents in a year in the Poynton area, only arriving before a

Cheshire appliance on 7 of these occasions. He would say seven is a significant proportion and would say “Only” 7 out of 19. It shows in at least 35% of cases the Offerton engine arrived first, from a starting point several miles away is not over impressive.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk sends a copy of the letter from Lee Shears to the Firefighter who attended the last meeting and a draft response together with Cllr Clarke regarding the fact that the Offerton engine arrives first at 35% of the Poynton incidents (8 for, 1 abstention)

58. To note the final Cheshire East proposals for the reduction in the library opening hours and to agree whether to “top up” the library opening hours.

A Cheshire East Councillor gave an overview of the situation and members discussed the proposal. It was noted that the revised timings felt more realistic than the initial proposals and therefore a “top up” was not deemed necessary.

RESOLVED: That the final Cheshire East proposals for the reduction in the library opening hours are noted and that there was no need for Poynton Town Council to “top up” the library opening hours (8 for, 1 abstention)

59. To receive, consider and agree a response to the Cheshire East consultation on the Civic Hall Car Park.

Cllr Sewart spoke of the confusion surrounding the consultation. The notices stated that 150 car parking spaces are being removed from the original traffic order passed in 2015. These car parking spaces will be handed over to Waitrose to manage but not for the exclusive use of Waitrose customers.

Cheshire East Officers are currently reviewing car parking charges including which car parks will be chargeable and what the charging structure would be. It is likely that charging will commence next year. The charges would not apply to the 150 spaces which had been handed over to Waitrose.

Concerns were expressed that two separate charging systems for one car park would be confusing and also that charges would inevitably damage the local economy. A number of businesses had expressed concern about the impact charges would have on their businesses.

RESOLVED: That the Town Council responds to Cheshire East to say that we believe that their proposal for having two parking regimes in what amounts to the same car park will cause considerable confusion to users of the said car park and this may have an affect of driving trade away from Poynton and damaging local economy. The Town Council and Councilors have been lobbied by local businesses with concerns of the impact of this (5 in favour, 4 against)

60. To receive and consider an update from the Clerk on Poynton Pool and to agree any recommendations therein

Cllr Clerk and Cllr Whitaker who were at the meeting with Cheshire East provided an update. The Reservoir Engineer had advised that if there was a risk of the dam topping then there was a risk of severe flooding downstream, including fatalities which would lead to

Cheshire East being sued. Cllr Clarke indicated that it was likely that the Engineer would not change his recommendation. It was noted that the Town Council had instructed their own experts to provide a view on these matters.

Cllr Whittaker added that in terms of the planning application, the Town Council have been told it is imminent. The request to “call in” the decisions on the virements and tree planting had not been decided.

A Councillor asked how the reservoir posed a risk to life. The flooding maps for the reservoir show that if there was a major breach of the dam the water would flow through the field into Poynton Brook. Some water would go upwards and flood at least part of Glastonbury Drive. Most of the water would go downstream and flood Bramhall and possibly Cheadle Hulme.

Cllr Whitaker had requested at the last Cheshire East Council meeting that the inflows and outflows of the dam could be continuously monitored for a period of six months to determine properly the catchment area of the pool. No response had been received. The Town Council at the recent meeting with Cheshire East had raised the issue of the catchment area being incorrect, the effect of the coal mining on the catchment and the experiences of flooding in Poynton in both 2016 and 2019.

RESOLVED: That the verbal reports from Cllrs Clarke and Whitaker are received. It was noted that the Town Council had instructed two experts and their reports were awaited. (NC)

61. To receive and adopt the Minutes of Committees:

- a) Community, Order and Public Safety Committee 27th March 2023
- b) Finance & General Purposes Committee 27th February 2023
- c) Management & Establishment Committee 17th April 2023
- d) Planning & Environment Committee 12th June 2023

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Community, Order, and Public Safety Committee held on the 27th March 2023 and the resolutions contained therein including the correction made on page 223 be adopted by the full Council (8 for, 1abstention)

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on the 27th February 2023 and the resolutions contained therein be adopted by the full Council (NC)

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Management & Establishment Committee held on the 17th April 2023 and the resolutions contained therein be adopted by the full Council (8 for, 1 abstention)

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee held on the 12th June 2023 and the resolutions contained therein be adopted by the full Council (8 for, 1 abstention)

62 Urgent Items of Business

It was proposed that two items of urgent business, 1) Consultation on the closure of Poynton Railway ticket office and 2) Public Spaces Protection Order are added to the agenda under SO19 as they require responses before the next meeting of the Town Council or any relevant committee.

RESOLVED: That the two urgent items of business, 1) Closure of Poynton station ticket office and 2) Public spaces protection order are added to the agenda under SO19 (NC)

63. To respond to the consultation by Northern Rail on the closure of the ticket office at Poynton Railway Station.

Members noted that the ticket office provides a service for those customers who struggle to use the machines on the platform. Having the station manned for part of the day deters vandalism and provides reassurance for customers using the station. Although the proposals included a member of staff being available for two hours Monday to Saturday, Cllrs were concerned that this continued presence at the station was likely to be short-lived and would eventually stop.

RESOLVED: That the Town Council replies to the consultation objecting to the closure stating that some Customers who struggle to use the machines on the platform rely on the office and that having a manned office deters vandalism and reassures the passengers of their safety (7 for, 1 against, 1 abstention)

64. To respond to the Cheshire East consultation on the Notice of Intention to extend the Dog Fouling and Dog Control Public Space Protection Order.

The Member's discussed the public spaces protection order and dog fouling and control public space order that has been in place since 2017 and agree to its extension.

RESOLVED: That the Town Council respond in support of the intention to extend the Dog Fouling and Dog Control Public Spaces Protection Order. (NC)

65. To consider any communication messages from this meeting.

RESOLVED: To publish the following items from this meeting

- Cheshire East consultation on the Civic Hall Car Park.
- Cheshire East consultation on the notice of Intention to extend the Dog Fouling and Dog Control Public Space Protection Order.
- Northern Rail consultation on the closure of the ticket office at Poynton Railway Station.

Meeting end time: 19.50pm

Chair

Dated.....