

MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT 8.00 PM ON MONDAY 18TH
MARCH 2024 AT THE CIVIC HALL POYNTON

PRESENT

Deputy Mayor: Cllr H Whitaker (in Mayor's absence)

Cllrs: M Beanland, D Belcher, K Booth, L Clarke, S Lees, P Oakes, L Podmore, J Saunders, M Sewart, T Swatridge and J Waterhouse.

125. 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 Deputy 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.

126. Questions from members of the public

There were no questions from members of the public.

127. Apologies for absence

Cllrs P Bailey, M Blackie, Mrs J Saunders (arrived item 7)

128. Declarations of disclosable pecuniary or other interests

There were no declarations of pecuniary or other interests.

129. To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 15th January 2024

There was a typing error on page 179.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 15th January 2024 are approved as an accurate record (10 for, 1 abstention)

130. To receive the action log 2023-2024

The Clerk advised members the action to open the CCLA bank account was the only outstanding action. The application had been submitted but no response had been received to date.

RESOLVED: That the action log is received (NC)

131. To receive and note the Mayor's and Deputy Mayor's engagements/announcements

The Mayor was not present at the meeting, the Deputy Mayor had no announcements to make. The Mayors Charity Concert will be on April 13th at the Civic Hall. The Town Council will publicise this event.

RESOLVED: That the Mayor's and Deputy Mayors engagements/announcements are received (NC)

132. To note the correspondence received from a local business regarding the proposed car parking charges and to agree a response

The Deputy Mayor provided an overview of the correspondence received from a local business. It was noted that an annual or quarterly pass would be available to purchase and the Town Council was not aware of any restrictions regarding returning within 2 hours.

The Clerk confirmed she had contacted Cheshire East for a meeting to discuss parking but had yet to receive a response.

Members discussed a suitable response and agreed that the Clerk would write to the business owner, to say that they are a valued business on Park Lane which has been established for over 30 years. That the Town Council would be sorry to see the business relocate and regret that Cheshire East Council are introducing charges which has made the business consider leaving the Town. That the Clerk has requested a meeting with Cheshire East Council to discuss parking charges and we are waiting for this to be arranged. The Town Council understands there will be an opportunity to purchase quarterly and yearly passes and we are not aware that there will be a 2 hour no return policy.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk respond to the business in the term set out above (NC)

133. To consider the request to sign a petition to ask for the removal of the Cheshire East Council Leader, Sam Corcoran

Members considered the request to sign the petition to ask for the removal of the Cheshire East Council leader but felt that the Town Council as a corporate body were not able to sign the petition.

RESOLVED: That the Town Council declines to sign the petition on the basis that it would not be appropriate for the Town Council to collectively call for the resignation of Cllr Corcoran as signing the petition was a matter for individuals (NC)

134. To consider the request to sign a petition to support breaking free from Cheshire East Council and calling for a new Macclesfield led council.

Members discussed the possibility of a Macclesfield led council and examples of other councils across the UK which had separated from their larger authorities.

Members discussed the effectiveness of Cheshire East with regards to Poynton

RESOLVED: That the Town Council reply stating that unfortunately as a Corporate body the Town Council cannot sign the petition. That the Town Council supports the concept of a council for North East Cheshire. Cheshire East having being in existence for 15 years has not worked and in recent years has displayed an indifference to a large part of the County, particularly those in the north. That the Town Council believes that Cheshire East should be dissolved and that the authority be reconstituted covering North East Cheshire and based on the former Macclesfield Borough Council which existed from 1974 to 1989. That the Town Council write to the MP, Mr. David Rutley, urging him to take this forward. (10 for, 1 against, 1 abstention)

135. To receive and consider a report on the D-Day arrangements

The Clerk provided a verbal report on the D-Day event that is currently being organised to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the D-Day Landings. COPS had agreed that the event should be a fund raising event, involving a local chip shop serving chips and a themed chippy lunch at the Civic Hall or depending on the weather, the Heritage Garden. There will be music, staff in costume, a small interpretation of D Day and the relevance of fish and chips. The event will take place between 12 noon-3.00 pm. The budget for the event will be approximately £20.

It is suggested that a donation is given to one of the five armed forces charities. They are the Royal Naval Association, Armies National Charity, Royal Airforce Benevolent Fund, Merchant Navy Association, The Normandy Memorial Trust or a combination of all of them.

RESOLVED: That the report is received. That a donation from the Town Council would be split equally between the charities highlighted. (NC)

136. To approve the recommendation from the FIED Committee to fund Street Lighting proactive maintenance to the sum of £15,000.

The Clerk advised that a condition survey was carried out on all the Town Council lampposts and some required substantial maintenance. It is possible that some of the older lampposts may require removal. FIED had recommended an initial budget of £15,000 to address the high priority lampposts. The Operations Manager will provide a detailed report on how the £15,000 will be allocated and what work will be required. The Town Council need to authorise.

RESOLVED: That the Town Council approve the recommendation from the FIED Committee to fund the streetlighting maintenance to the sum of £15,000 from CIL earmarked reserves. (NC)

137. To approve the use of £1,500 from the Rolling Capital fund to install thermostatic mixer valves

During the refurbishment, the Town Council had employed an Electrical Mechanical contractor to advise on the heating and hot water requirements of the Civic Hall. It has now come to light that thermostatic mixer valves have not been fitted. These are required to ensure that the hot water which is at 30 degrees is not too hot when it comes from the taps. The Clerk advised that she was currently in discussion with David Trowler and ECS regarding work. The Clerk will keep the Civic Hall working group updated. Members agreed the work needed doing but asked the Clerk to continue to investigate what should have been carried out under the contract. The Clerk advised that, in the meantime, caution signs have been placed by each hand basin.

RESOLVED: That, pending investigations as to whether mixer valves were included in the original contracts, the Town Council authorises the use of £1,500 from Rolling Capital to install the mixer valves if they are not included in the contract. (NC)

138. To note the donation of £3,000 received from Round Table and agree that it should be spent to refurbish the Fountain.

RESOLVED: That the donation of £3,000 received from Poynton and District Round Table to be spent to refurbish the fountain is noted. That thanks is given for the donation. (NC)

139. To note that Councillor Clarke has been asked to appear on ITV Tonight to discuss the closure of the Household Waste and Recycling Centre and to agree his appearance.

Cllr Clarke confirmed he was willing to appear on ITV's 'Tonight' programme.

RESOLVED: That the Committee agreed to Councillor Clarke appearing on ITV's 'Tonight' to discuss the closure of the Household Waste and Recycling Centre (NC)

140. To review and consider any updates to the Strategic Plan

The Clerk apologised for the lateness circulating the document due to being unwell. The Strategic Plan had now been discussed at each of the committee and the Clerk gave an update on progress.

It was noted that the precept leaflet was available for distribution. It has also been published in the PUN. Councillors discussed having a street stall on Park Lane on Saturday, 23rd March to distribute the leaflet.

A member asked how the dance and football initiatives were proceeding, the Clerk confirmed that funding had been secured for both until 2025.

RESOLVED: That the Strategic Plan is received. That Cllr Hayley Whitaker will organise a street stall between 10.00am -12.00 noon with other councillors who are available to help (NC)

141. To receive and adopt the Minutes of Committees

- a) Community Order and Public Safety Committee 30th October 2023
- b) Facilities, Infrastructure and Economic Development Committee 20th November 2023
- c) Finance & General Purposes Committee 8th January 2024
- d) Planning & Environment Committee 8th January 2024
- e) Planning & Environment Committee 29th January 2024
- f) Planning & Environment Committee 19th February 2024

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Community Order and Public Safety Committee held on the 30th October 2023 and the resolutions contained therein be adopted by the Full Council (NC)

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Facilities, Infrastructure and Economic Development Committee held on the 20th November 2023 and the resolutions contained therein be adopted by the Full Council (NC)

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on the 8th January 2024 and the resolutions contained therein be adopted by the Full Council (NC)

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee held on the 8th January and the resolutions contained therein be adopted by the Full Council (NC)

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee held on the 29th January 2023 and the resolutions contained therein be adopted by the Full Council (NC)

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee held on the 19th February 2023 and the resolutions contained therein be adopted by the Full Council (NC)

142. To consider any communication messages from this meeting.

Donation from Round Table, D Day Event and Councillor Street Stall.

Meeting end time: 9pm

Chair

Dated.....