MINUTES OF THE FACILITIES & INFRASTRUCTURE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (FIED) COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT 8.00 PM ON MONDAY 23RD JUNE 2025

PRESENT

Chairman: Cllr K Booth

Cllrs: L A Clarke (SO52) S Lees, P Oakes, M Sewart,

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

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 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.

2. Questions from members of the public

There were two members of the public present regarding agenda items 7 and 14

3.Apologies for absence

Cllr Mrs J Saunders, J Waterhouse.
No apologies were received from Mark Blackie.

4. Declarations of disclosable pecuniary or other interests

Cllr Clarke declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in the agenda items 9 (Operations report lighting on Park Lane) and 12 as a part owner of a property on Park Lane and will leave the meeting when these items are discussed.

5. To approve the draft minutes of Facilities, Infrastructure and Economic Development Committee meeting on 10th February 2025

There were two typographical errors on page 187.

RESOLVED: Subject to amendment of the two typographical errors, the draft minutes, of the Facilities, Infrastructure and Economic Development Committee meeting on 10th February 2025 are approved (5 for 1 abstention)

6. The Chair proposed that agenda item 14 is moved up the agenda and taken as the next matter of business

RESOLVED: That agenda item 14 is moved up the agenda and taken as the next matter of business (NC)

7. <u>To receive a report from the Clerk on football pitches and 3G pitches in Poynton and to agree any actions</u>

A representative from the Baptist Church was in attendance and had spoken to the Members prior to the meeting about a project that they would like to undertaken using the disused containers situated in the park. At present they had not been able to gain access to the containers or discuss their proposals with Cheshire East Council.

Members reviewed the report from the Clerk and it was noted that separate meetings had taken place with representatives of Richmond Rovers and Cheshire East Council. Cheshire East Council are about to undertake a feasibility study on improvements to the playing pitches and changing facilities at the park. It was noted that s106 money has been allocated to Deva Park pitch improvements. Cheshire East Council had stated that Deva Park is an important part of their plain pitch strategy and would have difficulty relinquishing the site. The potential Youth Zone project had been raised with Cheshire East and Councillors Saunders and Beanland have also raised this issue. The Baptist Church confirmed that at present there had not been any comprehensive discussions between the parties.

The Clerk advised members she had spoken to Cheshire East regarding the Youth Zone, they confirmed they had been approached by the Baptist Church. A representative from the Baptist Church gave an overview advising there was not much communication between them and Cheshire East but confirmed they had been in touch with the right people.

Early discussions were also taking place between the Football Foundation and True Learning Partnership regarding a 3G pitch

It would be useful if the Town Council could engage with any project at Deva Park from the outset as this might allow the Town Council to have an input regarding the future of the park and pitches. There was a possibility that additional funding might also be available form other sources such as the Football Foundation, the Town Council could ensure that this was been explored effectively.

RESOLVED; That the Clerk contacts Cheshire East regarding Deva Park and asks if we can be involved in their future plans for the site and would welcome the opportunity to be part of the discussions going forward. (NC)

8. <u>To consider the request to move the defibrillator at Fountain Place and to note the Town Council's ownership of a parcel of land in the location approximately 85m^2</u>

The owner of an adjoining building spoke on this issue and the problematic issue of parking in the area. It would be helpful if the area the telephone box a could be removed and the defibrillator be relocated. It was noted that the Town Council owned the land to the right of the building where the telephone box is situated. Possible solutions were discussed but it was agreed that there needed to be a comprehensive plan for the area which would have to include solutions to the parking issues.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk investigates the possibility of using the land owned by the council as reserved parking including possible licence/lease for the area, the removal of the telephone box and relocation of the defibrillator.

The Operations Manager requests a site visit with Highways to discuss the issues and possible solutions (NC)

9. <u>To receive and consider the action log for the FIED Committee for 2025 - 2026</u>

Members considered the action log.

RESOLVED: That the action log for the FIED Committee for 2025-26 is received (NC)

10. <u>To receive a report from the Operations Manager on operational issues and to agree any recommendations</u>

The Operation Manager gave an overview of his report

Play parks – Play parks planned works are complete, there is currently a small surplus.

Councillor Clarke had declared an interest in this item and left the meeting
Decorative lighting - expanding the decorative lights on the trees on Park Lane. The Operation Manager gave an overview the quotes obtained. The Clerk confirmed that this matter will have to go to F&GP but anything over £10,000 will have to go to Town Council. The Operations Manager confirmed he has asked for quotes for tidying the trees.
Councillor Clarke returned to the meeting.

Boundary Signs - Members considered the design options, the wording and the size.

Park Lane, Middlewood Road wooden fencing. - Cheshire East have failed to provide a quote so the Operations Manager approached private companies for quotes. Members considered the quotes.

Tree Protection - No cost effective suitable protective shield for the trees had been found. Following the vandalism to the Queen Elizabeth circle all but two trees have been saved.

Street Furniture - A survey on the condition of the public seating had been undertaken.

RESOLVED: That the report from the Operations Manager is received and the following recommendations are agreed:

That a price for a football net, 2 additional benches are obtained and purchased if they can be funded from the surplus s106 money. Any additional surplus could be used to further extend the footpath.
That the Operation Manager obtains an official quote from Lite Illuminations and an official quote from Swifts for tidying the trees to take to F&GP and Town Council.

That the proposal to replace Park Lane fencing and to approve the cheapest quote is recommended to F&GP.

That two silver birch trees are replaced this autumn.

To replace missing timber to three seats on Park Lane (NC)

11. <u>To approve the FIED Committee remit</u>

RESOLVED: That the FIED Committee remit is approved (NC)

12. <u>To receive an update from the following working groups:</u>

a) Accessibility
The Clerk gave an update on the working group. A survey for residents and schools was ready to be publicised.
b) Allotments – This will be discussed later on the agenda
c) Leisure Centre – The Working Group hasn't met since the last meeting

RESOLVED: That the reports from the Working Groups are received and the accessibility survey is published (NC)

13. <u>To receive, consider and approve the remit of the Accessibility, Allotment and Leisure Centre Working Groups</u>

The Clerk shared some suggested minor amendments to the Accessibility remit. The Clerk confirmed there were no amendments to the other remits

RESOLVED: That the remit of the Allotment and Leisure Centre Working Groups are approved and subject to the proposed amendments the remit for the Accessibility Working Group is approved (NC)

14. <u>To receive and consider the email from Tim Roca and the response sent from Peter Skates, Director of Growth and Enterprise at Cheshire East Council regarding the empty property at Skanza.</u>

Cllr Clarke left the meeting while this agenda item was discussed.

RESOLVED: That the email from Tim Roca and the response sent from Peter Skates, Director of Growth and Enterprise at Cheshire East Council regarding the empty property at Skanza is received (NC)

15. <u>To consider the request from a resident and the subsequent response from ANSA to undertake repairs to the tyre track at Deva Park</u>

The Clerk advised members that Cheshire East will replace the tyres if the Town Council source them.

RESOLVED: That permission is given for the Operations Manager to source replacement tyres (NC)

16. To receive a report on a replacement van

Members discussed the various options within the report. The purchase of another second-hand vehicle was not discounted by Members.

RESOLVED: That the Operations Manager investigates options for a van order of preference electric, hybrid, petrol, diesel. All additional fitting out, equipment and signage costed and a report on costs to the next meeting (NC)

17. To receive and consider a report from the Clerk on Memorial benches

The Clerk gave members an overview of her recent correspondence with Tim Roca's office and the Cheshire East Council's updated policy on memorial benches. The Committee considered the Clerk's report and discussed the Cheshire East policy, and whether it should allow memorial benches on land it owns. It was also noted that plaques were allowed in the churchyard.

The new Cheshire East policy is difficult and convoluted and the Committee could not see the justification in involving the Town Council in a purchase of a bench that a resident has requested on Cheshire East land. Any agreement should be between the resident and Cheshire East. If benches were purchased under this policy, it would encumber the Town Council with additional liabilities for assets on land it doesn't own. The Town Council would have to take ownership of the bench and be responsible for all future maintenance.

RESOLVED: That the Town Council responds to Tim Roca's office stating that it is with regret that the Town Council doesn't feel that it can support Cheshire East's difficult and convoluted policy around memorial benches and that it would place an administrative burden on the Town Council that should not be required as any agreement should be between Cheshire East and the resident.

18. To receive and consider the Cheshire East Highways Newsletter for May and the email from Cheshire East Highways regarding the new Highways programme

RESOLVED: That the Cheshire East Highways Newsletter for May and the email from Cheshire East Highways regarding the new Highways programme are received (NC)

19. To receive and consider the request from Poynton Show to ease the byelaws at Poynton Park

RESOLVED: That the request from Poynton Show to ease the byelaws at Poynton Park is received (NC)

20. To agree any communication messages arising from this meeting

RESOLVED: That the communication messages relating to the play areas and the accessibility survey are approved

21. To resolve to exclude the press and public on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

RESOLVED: That the press and public are excluded due to the confidential nature of business to be transacted.

Part B

22. To receive a report from the Clerk on the Street Light Contractors process and to agree which contractor/contractors should be awarded approved contract status, if any

The Clerk gave an overview of the report members had before them. The Clerk highlighted the tendering process. All the documents had been anonymised. It was noted that there were significant price differences between the quotes, all were dependent onsite visits.

RESOLVED: That the decision to approve a contractor/contractors is deferred and the Clerk arranges an extraordinary meeting before the P&E meeting on the 30th June 2025 (NC)

23. To receive a report from the Clerk on the Purchase of land for allotments

The Clerk gave a brief overview but the meeting had to conclude as the time was 10pm.

Meeting End Time 10.00pm

Signed…………………………………………..

Dated……………………………………………