

**652**  
**MINUTES of THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**in PICKMERE VILLAGE HALL**

**14<sup>th</sup> January 2020**

**1. ATTENDANCE**

- 1.1 Present** AS (Chair), SF, PD, SR, HS,  
**Apologies** AB, CT, CEC Cllr K Parkinson likely to be late to the meeting  
**Police** PC Neil Cooke in place of PCSO Darroch  
**Public** 4 members of the public

**2. MINUTES**

**2.1 Approval of Minutes** – The minutes of the meeting of 3<sup>rd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> December 2019 were agreed.

**2.2 Matters arising from Minutes –**

**2.2 Blocked gully, Wayfarers Court/Park Lane** - the Clerk confirmed that this gully had finally been cleared but then immediately overflowed again. It was then emptied by tanker. Further investigation by CEC had apparently found that there was a blockage of the drain some distance from the gully. This was being reported back to CEC for a solution to be sought.

**3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS** – SR declared a personal non-pecuniary interest in item 8.7.

**4. OPEN FORUM AND PCSO**

**4.1 Open Forum** One member of the public asked if all the councillors who had voted on the council's Asset strategy had seen the reasons for refusal of the council's outline planning application for a replacement village hall. She understood that the parish council owns the current Village Hall but believes that it does so on behalf of the wider Pickmere community.

A second resident referred to the muddy state of the car park on the day of the General Election (see item 8.6 below).

**4.2 Report from PCSO** PC Cooke reported that there were no particular concerns or crime events to report in Pickmere in the past month. There have been some personnel changes at the Knutsford station and PC Kaminski has now been transferred to another section of the local force.

**5. REPORT FROM CHESHIRE EAST COUNCILLOR PARKINSON** – item deferred until Cllr Parkinson arrived at the meeting.

**6 FINANCE**

**6.1 Current financial position** – the monthly financial summary was noted.

**6.2 New payments** – Council approved the payments on the schedule.

## **7. PLANNING MATTERS**

**7.1 Planning application update** – the schedule of planning matters was noted, in particular the following:

- **19/1652M – Outline – erection of 2 dwellings** – Land off Park Lane (opp. Frog Lane) – refused as contrary to Green Belt policy – now APPROVED ON APPEAL
- **19/4261M** – Erection of glazed link – Crown Farm, Frog Lane – REFUSED – APPEAL NOW SUBMITTED - deadline for representations c. 6 February 2020 – the council’s objections to this scheme were to be submitted in respect of the appeal.
- **19/4438M** – Erection of 1 dwelling and garage – adj. 2 Wall Hill Cottage, Frog Lane – PERMISSION GRANTED
- **19/4546M** – Erection of single and two storey extensions – 102 Pickmere Lane – REFUSED (revised scheme submitted – 19/5911M).
- **19/5903M** - Crown Farm, Frog Lane – recent application for erection of two dwellinghouses on front garden.

Members agreed the following comments in relation to this last application. The gap between Crown farmhouse and the nearest building to the south was substantial, and it was considered that this proposal did not represent limited infill, as referred to in National Planning Policy Guidance and current CEC Local Plan documents. The proposal therefore represented inappropriate development in the Green Belt. In addition, the proposal would significantly increase the amount of vehicular traffic using the site access which enters Frog Lane via the end of a bridleway, resulting in hazard to walkers and horse-riders using the bridleway.

## **8. REPORTS FROM CLERK AND FROM COUNCILLORS**

**8.1 Revised Standing Orders and Financial Regulations** – The revised standing orders and financial regulations were unanimously agreed (proposer SF; seconder HS) and adopted for use.

**8.2 CEC Proposals for recycling of food waste** – the report was noted. It was evident that not everyone in Pickmere had received any communication about this from CEC. SF pointed out that food waste could now be placed in green recycling bins; the proposed CEC-supplied food caddies were to be provided to encourage this but they did not actually need to be used.

**8.3 Pickmere Photographic and Heritage Society – offer of funding for a new sign** – Following a short discussion it was agreed that the Council would like to explore with representatives of the Society renewal of the one or more of the existing interpretative signs rather than the placing of a new sign on the Pavilion wall. If any new sign could incorporate a Braille rendering of the text it would be beneficial.

Cllr Parkinson entered the meeting at 7.50 p.m.

- 8.4 Receipt of petition re Village Hall** – the petition was noted [*n.b. for information it is pointed out that the land surrounding the Village Hall is not on the market at the present time despite the content of the petition*].
- 8.5 Obstruction of public footpath – Pickmere Lane/Frog Lane** – PD had followed up his original complaint about an uninsulated electric fence blocking this footpath. The Public Rights of Way officer at CEC had agreed to inspect it in the next few days. (However a member of the public commented that he thought that this electric fence had very recently been removed).
- 8.6 Village Hall Car Park** – SR commented on the work that was now required to resolve this drainage problem, now that the VH grounds had been substantially tidied through volunteer effort. A local resident had in recent weeks re-exposed the gully at the car park low point (which was unknown to most), and he was thanked for his efforts. However the gully had now been covered again with mud/old leaf mould and was again blocked. The initial requirement was to remove the mud/leaf mould in that corner of the site, following which the laying of a further stone or hard surface might be considered. The Clerk was asked to explore whether a local contractor might do the clearing work.
- 8.7 Community Group events 2020** – the proposed dates for the CG events – Fun Day, Party by the Lake, Easter Bunny, etc were noted and agreed.
- 8.8 Village Hall electrical survey** – this survey had discovered that various electrical works were required, the principal one being replacement of the consumer unit and board, in part because of its age but also because of adaptations that have been made to it over the years. A quotation for these works is at item 9. Report noted.
- 5. REPORT FROM CHESHIRE EAST COUNCILLOR PARKINSON (KP)** – this item was taken later in the meeting following Cllr Parkinson’s arrival.

KP reported that she had attended Tabley Parish Council where a representative of Cheshire Showground had spoken about the Showground’s plan to hold a winter event late in 2020 which was planned to last 6 weeks/6 days per week, though closing early in the evening. KP reported that this representative had said that the Showground wished to make amends to the local community arising from recent matters. KP confirmed her understanding that this particular event would require a specific planning application, since the length of the event would in itself exceed the 28 days temporary use regime that the Showground normally benefits from in planning terms.

The Chair commented that despite the statement about ‘making amends’ he was still awaiting his promised invitation to a meeting of the Showground’s managing body to discuss the concerns of the Pickmere community about recent events and the apparent attitude and actions of that organisation.

KP continued that she is to have a meeting shortly with an officer of CEC about highway repair issues and asked for an up to date list of any current problems.

## **AGENDA PART B – CONFIDENTIAL**

The Council resolved that members of the public should be asked to leave the meeting at this point to enable discussion of confidential matters.

**9. QUOTATION FOR ELECTRICAL REPAIRS – VILLAGE HALL – quotation agreed.**

The meeting ended at 8.20 p.m.

The Clerk reminded the meeting that the next meeting would be on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2020

Clerk: Jack Steel

**Next meeting: 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2020**