

645
MINUTES of THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
in PICKMERE VILLAGE HALL

4th June 2019

1. **Present** **AS (Chair), AB, SF, SR, HS; Cllr K Parkinson (KP)**
 Apologies **None**
 Public **2 members of the public**

2. Minutes

2.1 Approval of Minutes – The minutes of the meeting of 8th May 2019 were agreed.

2.2 Matters arising from Minutes –

10.1 The Clerk confirmed that he had written to CEC to request vehicle speed monitoring on Pickmere Lane. Cllr Parkinson noted that she had also spoken to CEC officers about the matter.

10.3 The Clerk confirmed that an application for grant aid was in the course of being drafted by representatives of Pickmere Wine Club and the Pickmere WI, and the Clerk.

3. Declaration of Interests – nil

4. Open Forum and PCSO

4.1 Open Forum A member of the public clarified the course of events which led to the use of the IROS for a church service (see agenda item 9.4 below).

4.2 Report from PCSO The PCSO was not present and no report had been received. The Clerk was asked to remind Cheshire Police that they had said that they would speak to the Chair, though no further contact had been received.

5 Report from Cheshire East Councillor Parkinson – Cllr Parkinson noted the following:

- That she had spoken to officers about the vehicle speed issue referred to above;
- That she had received representations from a local resident about gaining vehicle access to his property on Pickmere Lane; the Chair summarised some of the history relating to this topic;
- That she has spoken to a local resident about his complaint that gullies had not been emptied, and had been assured by CEC officers that the problem would be remedied shortly;
- That she had received a complaint from a local resident about a potential danger on the former Elms PH site, where a substantial hole had been excavated but not fenced. The Chair again clarified some of the history of this site, especially in relation to the former public footpath across the site which is currently blocked while development proceeds.

6. Finance

6.1 Asset register – the register as at 31 March 2019 was approved.

6.2 Current financial position – the monthly financial summary was noted.

6.3 New payments – Council approved the payments on the schedule, to which was added:

- An additional amount of £18.58 payable to CT in respect of purchasing fixings to install the memorial bench referred to below in agenda item 9.5;
- An additional amount of £12.00 to SR in respect of purchasing protective gloves for the litter picking exercise (see agenda item 9.2 below).

7.1 Planning application update – The Clerk circulated a summary of the current position with regard to planning matters in the parish, which was noted. The Chair referred to application 19/1652M (Outline – erection of 2 dwellings on land at Park Lane (opp. Frog Lane)) and in particular to the comments submitted on the application by CEC's Highways Officer. He considered these comments unacceptable in that they applied a subjective judgement as to probable vehicle speeds which was not supported by any survey or other data. Members agreed with this view and asked the Clerk to write further to CEC making this representation, and in addition asking whether CEC had agreed the positioning of the vehicle speed checking device currently found on this part of Park Lane.

SR made further reference to the lack of progress or feedback concerning the various enforcement matters referred to in the update. The Clerk is to contact CEC further (copy to KP).

8. Review of assets - the way forward – the Chair requested members' comments on the way forward, particularly in the light of:

- the Council's previous decisions as to the options in relation to the future of its property assets;
- the planning decision of 2018 and its implications;
- and the subsequent commissioning by the Council of physical survey and analysis reports in relation to the potential and costs of renovating the Village Hall and the Pavilion.

A discussion followed in which the following points were made:

- The survey reports showed the very substantial amount of work required to bring up either, or both, buildings to a condition fit for purpose and for future years. Anecdotally, comments have been received from Hall users about its poor environment and unattractiveness for use. There seemed no prospect whatsoever of the PC being able to raise the level of funds necessary to achieve these objectives, nor was there any potential source of grant aid that was likely to make significant contributions to such levels of cost.
- In considering issues of location, it is clear that the two foci of community activity in the parish are the Red Lion PH and the IROS; that is the reason these sites were chosen for the location of the Parish's two defibrillators. The Village Hall is at the least on the periphery of the village, and indeed almost out of it, and this factor needs to be recognised in deciding how to take forward the future of the Council's built assets.

- In considering the future of the Council's buildings it is essential in these times to consider issues relating to the world climate emergency, and the carbon footprint of the Council's activities. These factors should play a role in any decisions made.
- After several years of discussion and consideration of options it is essential that the Council decides upon a course of action.
- It is emphasised that in considering the options in the past and now, the Council is seeking to ensure the maintenance and enhancement of village resources and not the creation of any form of commercial enterprise.

The Chair proposed in the light of the discussion and the need to proceed to a decision:

- That the survey reports referred to above should now be placed in the public arena by way of the Council's website;
- Based on information now received and considered, the Council should develop a project to deliver an affordable, eco-friendly, fit for purpose Village Hall on land at the IROS. This project should:
 - incorporate a design and location that is sensitive to its surroundings, achieving minimum impact on the open space;
 - as closely as possible meet the requirements of Cheshire East Planning and National Planning Guidance;
 - incorporate public information events which will include discussion of location, finishes and the sustainable technology to be employed.

This proposition was seconded by SR and was approved by 4 votes for, with 1 abstention.

9. Reports from Clerk and from Councillors

9.1 Annual Parish Meeting – It was agreed that the meeting this year should be held during the evening of Tuesday 8th October 2019 (6.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m.) SR will contact the Methodist Church to ask if they wish to play a part. Contact now needs to be made with the various organisations.

9.2 Village Clean-up – SR reported on last weekend's community Litter Pick – this was very successful, attracting almost 50 local residents and resulting in 27 sacks of rubbish. The Council wished to thank those volunteers and also the Red Lion, who provided refreshments before and after the event. A similar event will be arranged later in the year.

Council authorised the payment of approximately £350 for the purchase of litter picking resources to be based at the IROS and available for local residents to use. The CG is likely to make a financial donation toward these costs.

9.3 Plastic-free Pickmere – HS introduced her report; she confirmed that the village now has 3 Community Champions in respect of this campaign – Pickmere Guest House, the Clinical Trials Co. and Oakmere Motor Group. There was then discussion of the proposition put by HS in her report. SR emphasised that the key objective was to reduce the employment of single-use

plastics and that users of the VH should be encouraged to reduce/minimise their use of such plastics. The Clerk will incorporate this in the hire conditions for the VH; HS will advise the Clerk on how this might be achieved for e.g. the holding of children's parties. In respect of the report SR proposed and AB seconded that the Parish Council will lead by example in using its best endeavours to remove single-use plastics from its premises; it will encourage plastic-free initiatives in the village, promoting campaigns and supporting events; and a Parish Councillor will continue to be named on the Plastic Free Pickmere steering group. This was agreed unanimously.

- 9.4 Holding of a Church service at the IROS** – reference was made to the report, AS clarifying that the IROS is essentially a resource for individual enjoyment, and that its use for organised events is not permitted without the Council's consent (as in the case of CG events). The question of the linkage of any such event or group to the Pickmere community is important. Members agreed with this conclusion, and that the Clerk should be informed/requested in advance if any such group or event is proposed; the Council will consider any such requests on their individual merits in the light of the above statement.
- 9.5 Installation of Memorial bench at the IROS** – the Clerk noted that such a bench had recently been installed in memory of Joe Robinson, funded by the Robinson family.
- 9.6 Community Infrastructure Levy** – the report was noted. The Clerk pointed out that while theoretically the Parish Council could benefit from the imposition of such a levy arising from the construction of dwellings in the Parish (approved after March 2019), in practice there seemed to be no categories of improvement required in the Parish that such moneys could be lawfully spent upon. In any case the amount of money involved is likely to be very small as the Parish is unlikely to be the subject of much housing development.
- 9.7 VE Day celebration – May 2020** – The suggestion from the organisers of the proposed national series of events was noted and SR proposed that he should investigate the possibility of holding such an event in the village. This was unanimously agreed.
- 9.8 Government revision of planning Permitted Development rules** – the report was noted.
- 9.9 Tidy up of the VH grounds** – SR suggested holding an event during the summer; to be discussed further at the July meeting.
- 9.10 HS2 – Early Ground Investigations** – the content of HS2's letter was noted. It was noted that HS2 are carrying some survey work already in the Parish. The Chair reported that he was shortly to attend an HS2 update meeting.
- 9.11 Applications for Co-option to the Council** – the Clerk noted that 3 such applications had been received and would be considered by the Council's sub-committee shortly.

Clerk: Jack Steel

Next meeting: 9th July 2019