

643  
**MINUTES of THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**in PICKMERE VILLAGE HALL**

**2<sup>nd</sup> April 2019**

- |    |                  |  |
|----|------------------|--|
| 1. | <b>Present</b>   | <b>AS (Chair), CT, PG, AB, RB, SF, IK, SR</b>  |
|    | <b>Apologies</b> | <b>Nil</b> (n.b. Cllr Hunter submitted an apology for absence due to illness prior to the meeting but this was only noted afterward) |
|    | <b>Public</b>    | <b>3 members of the public</b>   |
|    | <b>Police</b>    | <b>None</b>  |

**AGENDA PART A**

2. **Minutes**
- 2.1 **Approval of Minutes** – The minutes of the meeting of 5<sup>th</sup> March 2019 were agreed with a correction to item 9.2 where ‘8<sup>th</sup> March’ should have read ‘8<sup>th</sup> May’.
- 2.2 **Matters arising from Minutes** –
- 9.1 Annual Parish Meeting - SF reported that she has put a series of potential dates to RB and SR for consideration.
3. **Declaration of Interests** – AB and IK declared a personal interest in item 10.
4. **Open Forum and PCSO**
- 4.1 **Open Forum** A member of the public queried why a significant proportion of the annual precept of the Council had been spent on a survey of the Village Hall and Pavilion, yet the report had not been made public, and why discussions were to be held with the Crown Estate about the potential acquisition of land at the VH. (n.b. the minutes of the Council meeting of 5 March 2019 contain reference to and the reasons for these decisions.) The member further suggested that members of the Council who are also members of Pickmere Community Group (CG) have a conflict of interest.
- A second member of the public requested an assurance that those members of the Council just referred to will declare an interest in discussion of CG matters.
- 4.2 **Report from PCSO** The PCSO was not present and had not communicated with the Council. The Clerk was asked to write to Cheshire Police to ask whether the Police’s practice of attending Council meetings on a regular basis has now been terminated.
5. **Report from Cllr O Hunter** Councillor Hunter was not in attendance (see above). The Chair reported that Cllr Hunter had reported prior to the meeting that she has discovered that in fact CEC do not collect data from the Speed Information Devices (SIDs).

## **6. Finance**

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

**6.2 New payments** - the schedule of payments was approved. The Clerk pointed out that because the forthcoming May elections may result in a change of bank signatories, which could not be implemented until after the May Council meeting and may then take several weeks, it may be that several payments (e.g. for the Hall's cleaner) should be made between meetings so as to ensure essential Parish Council functions continue. Standing Orders permit such payments to be made up to a defined limit; if this limit is required to be exceeded, it may be necessary to call an extraordinary Council meeting prior to the elections so as to give authorisation.

**7.1 Planning application update** – The Clerk circulated a note of the current position with regard to planning matters in the parish, which was noted. The Clerk also confirmed, in response to a question, that he had written to CEC, Cllr Hunter, and the owner of the Elms site requesting the reopening of the public footpath across the site as it appears that construction work there has halted.

## **8. Reports from Assets Working Groups**

**8.1 Funding Sub-Group** – nothing to report.

**8.2 Planning Sub-Group** – nothing to report.

**8.3 Asset Register Sub-Group** – nothing to report.

**8.4 Report from Community Group** – nothing to report.

## **9. Reports from Clerk and from Councillors**

**9.1 CEC Consultation – Licensing Policy** – report and policy noted. Concern was expressed by a member that the opportunity for comment on licensing applications, e.g. that for large events at the Cheshire Showground, was severely constrained and was insufficient to allow for reasonable public comment on the licence applications. The Clerk was asked to pass this comment to CEC.

**9.2 CEC Consultation – Rural Action Plan** – report and policy noted.

**9.3 Rural Services Network – Call for national Rural Strategy** – report noted.

**9.4 Revised Code of Conduct** – the report was agreed and the revised CEC Code of Conduct adopted by the Council.

**9.5 Financial arrangements for Council inserts in Pickmere Press** – Council agreed the report and resolved unanimously that the proposed arrangements for the provision of Council inserts to Pickmere Press and payment of approximately £50 per issue to cover the costs of a two-page insert be confirmed and authorised.

- 9.6. Use of the Pavilion and IROS by Pickmere Community Group** – Council resolved (AS proposing and IK seconding) that Pickmere Community Group be permitted, for a period of 5 years from this date, to continue to use the Turton Pavilion for Sunday afternoon teas, and to use the IROS field and Pavilion for three community events per annum, without being liable for hire charges, subject to:
- Appropriate insurance cover being provided to cover the events;
  - The Group providing Risk Assessments on an annual basis in relation to each of the activities mentioned;
  - The Group continuing to be responsible for the cleaning and ongoing upkeep of the Pavilion.
- 9.7. Attendance at day course** – Routine Play Area Inspection – Council resolved that a place be reserved on this course at a cost of £130 excl. VAT.
- 9.8. Best Kept Village Competition 2019** – members resolved not to enter this competition in 2019, but that possible entry to the 2020 competition be considered toward the end of 2019. The Clerk was requested to circulate at that time the comments of the competition jury the last time Pickmere entered the competition.
- 9.9. HS2 – Discussions with Cheshire East Council** – the Chair summarised the results of the meeting that had been held and stated that it had been an excellent meeting, with the CEC officer very much agreeing with the concerns of the Parish Council (PC). In particular the following three aspects were discussed at that meeting:
- **HS2** – PC objections to the proposed closure of Budworth Road; PC objection to the large embankment structure and the form of the proposed diversion of Pickmere and Flittogate Lanes; and objection to the use of local Pickmere roads for construction traffic and diverted traffic.
  - **M6 J19 alterations** – the nature of and responsibilities for the proposed alterations to the Pickmere Lane/Chester Road junction.
  - **Further means of traffic calming on Pickmere Lane, entering the village from M6 J19.**
- 9.10. Calor Rural Community Fund** – members agreed that an application for funding should be submitted in relation to the replacement of chairs at the Village Hall.
- 9.11. CEC Spatial Planning Update** – update noted.
- 9.12. ‘Pickmere against Plastics’ (PaP) update** – SR reported that PaP had signed up with ‘Surfers against Sewage’ – a similar action group which has broadened its scope from concern with sewage to other areas, including plastic litter. The PaP initiative is therefore moving forward, and is looking to contact local businesses etc. It was pointed out that farmers use/come into contact with plastics on a significant scale and that they should also be subject of contact from the group.
- 9.13. Closure of Council term of office** – SF wished to note the closure of the 4-year term of office of the current Parish Council, with council elections to be held on 2<sup>nd</sup> May, and pointed out that 50% of the current Council have taken their seats since the previous council elections. This has meant that these councillors in seeking to protect and enhance the village and its community have in particular learned a great deal along the way. She proposed, and members agreed, that special thanks should be given to the current Chair and Clerk for their particular contributions.

## **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.

- 10. Erection of Fence rear of Jacob's Way** – members resolved that a contractor be appointed to erect post/wire/sheep netting fence, and to plant a hawthorn hedge and that expenditure of up to £500 be authorised for this purpose.
- 11. Quotations for re-surfacing Village Hall floor** – members resolved that the Clerk should commission this work at the costs specified in the quotations; in so doing the Clerk is to decide which of the two lower quotations is to be selected based upon the nature and perceived quality of the work each contractor proposes. In addition, pending the carrying out of the work, the Clerk was asked to write to regular hall users to advise them of the forthcoming work and to inform them of the Council's wish to attend to some of current shortcomings of the hall. Members asked that the question of the internal decoration of the hall be considered at the next Council meeting.
- 12. Clerk's Salary – 2019-20 National Salary Award** – Resolved that the Clerk's salary be increased as referred to in the report in accordance with the National pay award for 2019-20 for local council clerks, with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019.

Clerk: Jack Steel

Next meeting: WEDNESDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2019