

655
MINUTES of THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Held ONLINE

19th June 2020

AGENDA PART A

1. ATTENDANCE

Present	AS (Chair), AB, PD, SF, SR, HS, Cllr K Parkinson (CEC)
Apologies	CT
Police	Nil
Public	11 members of the public

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS – Nil

At this point, the Chair thanked members of the Council who had worked to implement some of the decisions of the previous meeting, in particular Cllr Flannery and also Dave Bradburn, who had worked hard to produce the recent Council newsletter, delivered to all houses in the parish, and also Cllr Read for his work in swiftly setting up the Council's Facebook page.

In addition the Chair on behalf of the Council welcomed the arrival this week of a new very small resident to the parish.

3. QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC – The Clerk read out the three comments / questions received from members of the public in advance of the prescribed deadline.

Resident 1 requested that CEC be lobbied to extend the yellow line parking restrictions on Mere Lane etc to operate every day between May and September, not just weekends and bank holidays, and to extend the restrictions to Clover Drive and other local roads.

Resident 2 raised objections to the idea of painted circles and fencing at the IROS on grounds of cost. The resident commented also on the origin of the IROS and how it should be managed, and suggested that CEC be asked to 'consider' sending a traffic warden when parking issues seemed likely, and that the Parish Council and the police should make known on social media the lack of facilities at the IROS.

The Chair noted that some of the comments made were inaccurate, in particular he confirmed that the IROS was provided through a legal agreement relating to the development of land near the lake, that the Parish Council was clearly the legal owner of the land, and that there are no covenants restricting how the Council might use the land. The IROS had never been used for a

commercial use, and there was no plan to do so. The annual Party by the Lake was a community event organised by Pickmere Community Group.

Resident 3 questioned the legal position regarding access to the IROS during daylight hours. The resident objected to “money making activity” there, and that “residents should stop advertising a wonderful place to live”. The resident objected to fencing and painted circles but concluded that “I don’t have a solution”. Finally, Part B of the Agenda should be open to the public.

The Chair responded that the opening hours of the IROS, which are the remit of the PC, had to his knowledge not been changed since its original opening, and that the PC is unable to stop members of the public advertising Pickmere as a pleasant place to live.

The Chair asked members to take into account all of the comments made in the discussion to follow.

At this point there was a technical hitch with Zoom. On resuming, the Clerk clarified that the report on the private part of the agenda contained financial quotations. Such information was commercially confidential, and therefore such matters were dealt with in confidence.

Two further residents joined the meeting.

4. REPORTS FROM CLERK AND FROM COUNCILLORS

4.1 Problems relating to visitors to the lake – Following a brief introduction to the report (which had on this occasion been circulated in advance of the meeting to all those who had expressed interest in attending) there followed a discussion of the actions that had been taken by the Council since the previous meeting of 2nd June. Among the points made were the following:

- The Chair expressed severe disappointment that despite the very best efforts of the PC through communications with 3 very senior members of Cheshire East Council, there had been no response to the Council’s request for a dialogue with that council about how future problems might be mitigated or prevented. Other members expressed astonishment at this lack of response. Cllr Parkinson expressed comments about the functioning of that Council.
- One practical request to be made to CEC is the repainting of faded yellow lines on Park Lane. However, observation indicated that even the operational lines were sometimes ignored because of the perception that CEC did not enforce them.
- KP suggested a residents’ permit scheme, since the fees charged for permits funds the presence of a traffic warden. However such a measure had been considered by the PC before and the structure of CEC’s scheme meant that it could not sensibly be applied to Pickmere’s situation.
- The suggestion of painted white circles would have been an early simple action but has probably now been superseded by the likely change in social distancing guidance.
- The continuing difficulty in contacting CEC to request action such as traffic warden patrolling.

- Again the remark that CEC's only positive contribution to Pickmere's problems was through their excellent litter bin/rubbish collection service.
- Suggestion that the PC should contact the local press about CEC's inaction.

Cllr Parkinson left the meeting at this point (to attend another meeting).

In relation to the options suggested in the officer's report, Members agreed **not to pursue further the circles idea**. There was some discussion about possible temporary or permanent fencing, but either form would have significant disadvantages, and may not solve the problems, in the face of its significant expense. Members agreed **not to pursue the idea of fencing** at the present time.

The Chair referred to a suggestion from the Police Inspector who had attended the Cheshire West meeting – the possible employment by the PC of private security to 'police' future incidents. This would obviously be expensive, but there was the option available to the Council of charging persons for entry to the IROS on certain occasions, thus contributing to funding such a measure. He did not propose this now, but perhaps it should be borne in mind for the future.

SF commented that the Council was trying to anticipate what might happen during the summer; some of the factors have changed – e.g. availability of other venues, weakening of the lockdown, etc. – and the hope remains that by the time a further problem arises, we will have clearer lines of communication with CEC.

The Chair proposed that this Council make a formal complaint to CEC arising from the complete lack of response to our requests. That was agreed. Following further discussion, it was agreed that:

A further communication will be sent to the Leader of CEC repeating the request for contacts with key CEC services, and informing that Council that if no response is received within a short period, a communication will be sent to the local press explaining this council's dissatisfaction.

At this point, members of the public were asked to leave the meeting to enable consideration of Part B of the Agenda.

AGENDA PART B – CONFIDENTIAL

5. RECEIPT OF QUOTATIONS

- 5.1 Quotations arising from agenda item 4.1** – Members unanimously agreed not to pursue any of the fee proposals for the provision of fencing.

Clerk: Jack Steel

Next meeting: To be arranged