

REPORT TO PICKMERE PARISH COUNCIL

14th January 2020

AGENDA ITEM 8.4 RECEIPT OF PETITION RE THE VILLAGE HALL

1 Report

- 1.1 A letter with an accompanying petition has been received from members of the Pickmere community. The petition contains 17 signatures with related postcodes. All such postcodes appear to be within the parish boundary. The letter states as follows:

As you know, I made a verbal request for the Parish Council to investigate the purchase of an acre of land to the rear and side of the Village Hall and I am by no means the only one who wishes this to be done.

We believe the Parish Council is wilfully ignoring the potential of the Village Hall and the loss and integrity of Open Space at the IROS. The IROS was passed to the Parish in the 1990s because Mere Lane was deemed substandard for regular business/commercial traffic and is certainly not suitable for such traffic on dark, frosty nights in the winter. Furthermore the number of residents accessing their homes via Mere Lane has almost doubled since then. The IROS is a Parish facility and its maintenance is funded from the Parish precept so all residents have a right to a say in its future.

Attached is the first of a number of sheets of names of residents who request this action. However, if the Council ignores this request we will be obliged to take the matter to Cheshire East.

Will you therefore please ensure that all Councillors, especially the newer ones, are aware of the situation.

Many thanks.

- 1.2 The petition itself states as follows:

Dear Sir

We understand that land adjoining our Village Hall is now for sale through Savills of Chester and that a verbal request for the Parish Council to investigate the purchase of one acre to the side and rear of the Village Hall has been made but so far no response obtained.

We request that the Parish Council investigate the possibility of purchasing one acre, ie 0.5 acre on the north side for parking, and 0.5 acre at the rear for open space/possible future extension and provide the details to residents.

- 1.3 The petition will be available for inspection by members, but GDPR provisions do not permit the inclusion of the signatories in this report.
- 1.4 Your Clerk has no knowledge of how the petition was procured and of the information that was given to petitioners that led them to add their signatures.
- 1.5 There is no sanction available to Cheshire East Council to require the demand of the petition to be implemented since your Council is properly elected and constituted and has the power to make its own decisions in respect of the Village Hall which it owns.
- 1.6 Members will recall that at your meeting on 4th June 2019 you resolved that the Council should develop a project to deliver an affordable, eco-friendly, fit for purpose Village Hall on land at the IROS, incorporating various elements and subject to various considerations.

2 Recommendation

- 2.1 That the content of the petition be noted.

Jack Steel
Clerk to Parish Council