

648
MINUTES of THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
in PICKMERE VILLAGE HALL

1st October 2019

- 1.1 Present** AS (Chair), AB, PD, SF, SR, HS, CT; CEC Cllr K Parkinson (KP)
Apologies PC Kaminski, PCSO Darroch (sent prior to the meeting but received after it)
Public 5 members of the public
- 1.2 Co-option to the Council** – the Chair welcomed Christopher Tarrant as a councillor co-opted through the recent post-elections process. Cllr Tarrant took his seat.
- 2. Minutes**
- 2.1 Approval of Minutes** – The minutes of the meeting of 3rd September 2019 were agreed.
- 2.2 Matters arising from Minutes –**
- 4.2** – the Clerk noted that the postal box stolen from the site near Cobb Lodge had now been replaced.
- 8.2** – HS had followed up with CEC the possible use of biodegradable/compostable rubbish bags for use in the play area litter bin, but CEC having discussed the possibility with their supplier have decided that they will not change current arrangements. KP will follow this matter up at CEC.
- 8.3** – SR said that he had not received yet any response from his contact re equipment at the play area.
- 8.5** – the Clerk reported that he had spoken to an officer of CEC who stated that CEC have extensive plans in place to mark the death of a senior national figure and that books of condolence would be made available to the public in various locations around the district. It is anticipated that CWAC would have similar arrangements.
- 8.6** – the Clerk Reported that YU Energy had been appointed to provide gas and electricity to the Village Hall following an evaluation exercise and a price comparison with the current supplier.
- 8.7** – AB/SR have had an initial look at potential for the location of any memorial benches outside the IROS and will report back to Council at the November meeting.
- 3. Declaration of Interests** – AB declared a personal interest in item 9.
- 4. Open Forum and PCSO**
- 4.1 Open Forum** A member of the public drew members' attention to the reasons for refusal of the past planning application for a replacement village hall on a small part of the IROS, felt

that the Council should comply with the law in this matter and asked the Council not to spend any more of its resources on this project. The Chair responded exceptionally to state that the Council had no intention in any circumstances of not complying with the law.

A second member of the public stated that one of the Council's benches near the lake had disappeared. The Chair pointed out that it had been damaged in cutting the vegetation there and had therefore been removed from the site for repair.

The member of public commented further:

- How would the compost heap referred to in agenda item 8.7 be managed?
- The Council's website calendar had not been updated to include the proposed Annual Parish Meeting on October 22nd.
- It would be a good idea if the parish boundary and the so-called 'inset boundary' (one element of the saved Macclesfield Local Plan) were provided on the Council's website.
- He considered that in considering agenda item 8.2 members of the community group should not speak or vote.

A third member of the public in referring to the proposed volunteer clean-up of the exterior of the Village Hall, arranged for early December 2019, said that the Council itself should arrange and presumably pay a contractor to carry out any such work as it was its responsibility.

4.2 Report from PCSO The PCSO was not present and no report had been provided. Mention was made of a very recent incident involving the alleged possible targeting of a horse for theft.

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

- That she had had further discussions with CEC officers and with the Showground management about problems resulting from events at the Showground, particularly because complaints had again been received this time about the 'Truckfest' event, and she had pressed for there to be further action to prevent future problems.
- She had discussed road gritting with officers of CEC; the service to Pickmere was going to be curtailed but following intervention it is to be retained in the programme and is to be extended.
- Aston by Budworth Council were seeking to renew the equipment on their play area and request Pickmere Council (through KP) if we would help with the funding of this project through the holding of a fund-raising event.
- KP asked whether problems of blocked gullies reported to CEC had been dealt with; the response was that there had apparently been only a partial response. Reference was made to a problem opposite Wellfield Close; a potentially dangerous depression in the road surface as one enters the village along Park Lane from High Legh; a pothole in dangerous location on the severe bend on Flittogate Lane, near Flittogate Farm; a pothole on Clover Drive near Park Lane; and also that where the dangerous sinkhole on Frog Lane had recently been repaired, the repair was now starting again to sink.
- KP asked for any further matters on highways to be referred to her before Friday this week as she has one of her regular meetings with Highways to go through issues.

6. Finance

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

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

6.3 Budgeting process 2020-21 – proposed property actions for 2020-21 – AB/CT will consider and convey suggestions to the Clerk who will then refer them to other members, prior to consideration of the proposed budget at the November meeting.

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. Members in particular commented on the following planning applications for submission to the relevant authorities.

- Planning application 19/4261M – Erection of glazed link – Crown Farm, Frog Lane – this scheme would enable completion of virtually the same larger project as was refused planning permission in September 2018 (18/3587M). Members agreed to submit similar objections to those submitted in relation to that application, also making reference to the earlier approval 00/1470P which sought to restrict use of the garage which abuts this proposed link.
- Planning application 19/4438M – Erection of 1 dwellinghouse and garage – land adj 2 Wall Hill Cottage, Frog Lane – It was pointed out that this site was not in the Pickmere Inset and was in the Green Belt. Objection is to be made on that ground, with reference also being made to the approval at appeal of a similar application on land further up Frog Lane, which the Appeal Inspector stated should not be used as a precedent for any other decisions that may follow it. In addition, if planning permission were to be granted members considered that the planning authority should ensure that an adequate undeveloped strip is retained to ensure the retention of the existing frontage hedge and trees, as proposed in the application, as these are an important feature in the street scene.

8. Reports from Clerk and from Councillors

8.1 Consultation – Manchester Airport – Future Airspace – SF summarised the content of the report. The public were advised to access the Airport's consultation website.

8.2 Pickmere Community Group request to erect event posters – the Chair proposed withdrawal of this item from this agenda. It will be included on the November agenda.

8.3 Proposed arrangements for VE celebration 2020 – SR reported that following the matter being raised at Council, the Community Group had had discussions with the Red Lion PH and had agreed to hold a public event to take place on the celebration day (which is the amended Early May Day Bank Holiday on Friday 8th May 2020). The event will be held in the grounds of the Red Lion. It will be appropriately advertised in due course. Members noted this report.

- 8.4 Neighbourhood Planning** – members asked the Clerk to arrange a meeting with an officer of CEC to explore the merits of commencing such a process for Pickmere together with the level of potential work, complexity, and cost that it might involve.
- 8.5 Parish Council Risk Schedule** – the report and schedule were agreed and approved.
- 8.6 Website Accessibility Regulations 2018** – the report was noted. The Clerk was asked to ask its website provider for advice; he advised that the time might be approaching when a fundamental revision of the Council’s website might be required.
- 8.7 Compost pile at the IROS** – the report was noted and agreed, as was the proposal to review the position in a year’s time.
- 8.8 CEC Members’ Enquiry Service** – the report was noted.

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. The meeting was temporarily adjourned to enable discussion of some housekeeping matters. The meeting then reconvened. AB left the meeting at this point.

- 9. Damage to planting at the IROS/lakeside** – Members agreed that this damage should be formally reported to the police, with a request to meet a police representative to discuss appropriate action. The matter is to be included on the agenda for the November meeting.

Clerk: Jack Steel

Next meeting: 5th November 2019