

REPORT TO PICKMERE PARISH COUNCIL

4th June 2019

AGENDA ITEM 9.4 HOLDING OF CHURCH SERVICE AT THE IROS 25 MAY 2019

1 Report

- 1.1 At lunchtime on Sunday 26 May 2019, your Clerk was made aware that a church service had been arranged to be held at the IROS later that afternoon. The service was a 'renewal of baptismal vows' and may or may not have involved immersion in the lake. The church involved was 'Zac's House Kingdom Community Church', Northwich. It is understood that this church is connected in some way to Northwich Methodist Church. No prior contact or request had been made with your Clerk.
- 1.2 The church had hoped that the event would coincide with afternoon teas at the lake, but in the event, teas were not being served at the lake that weekend. However, a member of the Community Group through direct contact with the church provided teas and coffees from the Pavilion after the event.
- 1.3 The church subsequently offered to make a donation of £100 either to the Parish Council or the Community Group in recognition of the event being held on the IROS; such a donation has been refused so far by your Clerk and instead a communication was sent to the church asking why the prior consent of your Council as landowner was not requested for the event and stating your Council's policy as to access to the lake. The Minister in charge of the church has now responded, apologising if the church had contravened any controls in using the land; he was aware the land was owned by the Parish Council but understood that the Council had been contacted in advance and the necessary approval had been obtained. He says that they had a first aider and a lifeguard in attendance, as part of their own risk assessment.

2 Recommendation

- 2.1 That the report be noted and that members decide whether any action should be taken in respect of:
 - This particular organisation and event;
 - Whether the offer to provide a donation to the PC or CG should be taken up/ encouraged;
 - Any future request for similar gatherings/events on PC-owned land.

Jack Steel
Clerk to Parish Council