

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

**10<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

- |    |                  |  |
|----|------------------|--|
| 1. | <b>Present</b>   | <b>AS (Chair), CT, AB, PG, IK</b>  |
|    | <b>Apologies</b> | <b>SF, DH, SR, Cllr O Hunter</b>   |
|    | <b>Public</b>    | <b>Mr S Davis – Cheshire East Council (Highways)</b><br><b>4 members of the public</b> |
|    | <b>Police</b>    | <b>None</b>  |

**PART A – PUBLIC AGENDA**

**2. Minutes**

**2.1 Approval of Minutes** – The minutes of the meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2018 were approved.

**2.2 Matters arising from Minutes**

9.3 The Clerk reported that the quotation for repair of the damaged walls and fence at the Village Hall had been sent to the person responsible for the horses that caused the damage, with a request for confirmation of payment, but no response had been received. The Clerk was asked to explore the costs and other implications of pursuing the matter through the Small Claims Court.

9.8 The Clerk reported on his telephone discussions with a highways officer at CEC about the 7.5 tonne weight limit on Pickmere Lane. A written response had been received and circulated to Councillors and a meeting was possible, but sensibly it should include representatives of Wincham PC and CWAC as the weight limit ran into Wincham. The Clerk to Wincham to PC had been contacted but a response was awaited. The Clerk was asked similarly to contact the Clerk for Tabley PC as the weight limit ran into that parish also.

9.9 The Clerk reported that he had sent a copy of this agenda to the Clerk for Wincham PC as agreed.

**3. Declaration of Interests** – none

**5. Report from Cllr O Hunter**

Cllr Hunter was unable to be present but she had asked an officer from CEC Highways to attend to discuss road maintenance issues in the Parish. The Chair requested, and it was agreed, that this item be taken at this stage in the agenda. There followed a discussion about highway conditions in Pickmere, principally the lack of gully emptying over the past few years, leading to road flooding in several locations, and the significant pothole problem. The PC was trying to be helpful in this respect. Various particular problems had been reported over past months

to CEC but little action was apparent. The officer reported on the highway maintenance regime operated by CEC, including:

- Gully emptying – should occur on a 1 and 2 year basis for A and B and some C roads, and 3 years on other C class roads and unclassified roads. His records showed that gullies were emptied in the Parish in 2015/16, and on Park Lane only in 2016/17 and 2017/18. Members responded that they did not remember such maintenance taking place – the officer said that he would double check and respond. He said that there should be gully emptying in the parish during 2018/19. Members commented that a 3 year cycle was insufficient. There was concern also that a relatively high proportion of gullies could not apparently be opened for emptying, and also that some gullies in the area were connected to field drains or soakaways which themselves have become blocked/inoperable, and are not being dealt with.
- Potholes – reference was made by members to the incident on Park Lane, opposite Merehaven Close, where a cyclist was injured because of a pothole/gully issue that had previously been reported to CEC and had indeed been marked by CEC for action. Reference was made to other potholes reported to CEC, where no action had been taken. At the same time a substantial CEC team had spent virtually a day repairing potholes on the largely unmade Spinks Lane, which was used by little traffic, in contrast with the other roads in the village.

The officer said that they were bound by current procedures for assessing priority for repair works, but that in common with other local authorities CEC were undergoing a review of such procedures which should allow for a more risk-based approach to be taken, whereby priority could be directed to those situations where the risk of damage to vehicles/injury to road users was more likely.

The officer agreed to check on certain aspects and report back to the PC, but members were not really satisfied with the performance of CEC in respect of these problems. The officer was thanked for his attendance and contribution.

#### **4. Open Forum (Including PCSO)**

**4.1 Open Forum** One resident asked if members had noted the email he had sent to the Clerk in respect of publicity given by CEC to the PC's outline planning application, and also to an incident at the recent Parish Meeting. The Chair confirmed that members had noted the email.

**4.2 Report from PCSO** The PCSO was not present.

#### **6. Finance**

**6.1 Current financial position** – the monthly financial summaries were noted. The Clerk highlighted the absence in those accounts of 2016 and 2017 invoices for grass cutting on the two Clover Drive sites, which had only been received after final March 2018 cheques had

been authorised and paid. These two invoices would have to be paid from the 2018-19 accounts.

**6.2 New payments** - the schedule of payments was approved (including the two invoices referred to in 6.1). The Clerk was asked to look at the condition of the fence on the lhs of the Clover Drive play area.

## **7. Report from Planning Committee**

**7.1 Planning application Update** – the Clerk reported that PA 17/5078M (Erection of 1 dwelling etc on land at Frog Lane) had been refused, 17/6152M (provision of roof windows at 23 Clover Drive) had been approved and 17/6399 (Erection of 2 dwellings on land at Mere Lane) had not yet been determined.

**7.2 CEC Spatial Planning Update** – the update was noted. The Chair suggested that it seemed that the only way to influence CEC in planning terms was via the making of a Neighbourhood Plan, which would require considerable financial and time resource input (although some central government grant was available). Members agreed that CEC should be asked if an officer could attend a future Parish Council meeting to discuss the implications and procedures for making a Neighbourhood Plan. The Clerk was asked to copy to members a selection of small, local, neighbourhood plans, for information.

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

**8.1 Funding Sub-Group** – nothing to report pending progress in other areas.

### **8.2 Planning Sub-Group**

**8.2.1 Update on Outline Planning Application 18/0544M** – The Clerk reported that CEC had erected a site notice part way through the application period and therefore CEC had extended the period for public comment, which had now expired. A further 6 or so objections had been submitted to CEC in addition to the 48 reported at the last meeting, although this number included some households having submitted more than one objection. The Clerk noted that a meeting had been arranged for next week between the Chair of the PC /Clerk and the planning officer dealing with the application.

### **8.3 Asset Register Sub-Group**

**8.3.1 Update on various painting tasks** – the Clerk reported that the play area equipment had now been painted (with just the small roof to the slide to be replaced, as agreed); painting of the Clover Drive Cheshire railings is due to begin in early May; quotations for the interior decoration of the Pavilion are included on the Private agenda at this meeting.

**8.4 Report from Community Group** – AB reported that the CG had held a successful AGM. CT reported that he had met the artist Eric Jackson again, and he has produced a Pickmere-focussed artwork which will be available in postcard and other forms at Sunday teas etc. Reference was made to a Green Party newsletter which advertised a monthly Green Party candidate's 'surgery' taking place at the IROS car park. The Clerk was asked to contact the

local Green Party, to point out that etiquette should have required the landowner's consent for such an arrangement.

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

**9.1 GDPR** – The report was noted and the report's recommendations were agreed, including:

- Authorising the purchase of a four-drawer filing cabinet
- Members individually to consider the need to password protect and provide anti-virus and firewall protection to any electronic devices accessing PC emails and items potentially containing personal data relating to the PC.
- Members advised to seek to use the PC email address for PC business.

It was suggested that when the Clerk was emailing to members documents containing personal data, that such documents should be password protected.

**9.2 Spinks Lane** – the copy correspondence between Esther McVey MP and CEC was noted, with the comment that the MP had not received any information or advice different to that provided by CEC to the PC. It was resolved that the Clerk should write further to CEC stating that we have been awaiting further action and contact from CEC about progress in dealing with this problem, but that no such information or contact had been forthcoming.

**9.3 Annual Parish Meeting** – SR/SF, who had been responsible for organising this event, were not present, therefore the item was deferred until the next meeting. However in doing so, members unanimously agreed that the Methodist Church should be thanked for their hosting of this event, and the provision of refreshments. PG proposed and CT seconded a motion that a donation of £50 should be made to the Methodist Church in recognition of their hospitality and assistance. This motion was passed on the casting vote of the Chair.

**9.4 Waiver of Village Hall hire fees for charity use** – AB had had an enquiry from such a body asking if normal hire fees could be waived for the use of the hall for a meeting because of the charitable nature of the organisation. Although that organisation had found an alternative venue, AB suggested it might be appropriate to discuss that principle generally. Such a waiver had not happened in the past and it was felt that to do so would cause the PC great difficulty in trying to distinguish one type of organisation from another. In conclusion, members agreed unanimously not to alter current hire fees in this respect. welcome

**9.5 Memorial Policy** – Members agreed that the Clerk, in conjunction with the Chair and AB, should explore further the sourcing of the bench (and any other items) to be used in conjunction with the approved policy, and that they be authorised to make a decision on this and the prices involved to be incorporated in the adopted policy.

**9.6 Overnight Parking at the IROS** – members noted the problem and agreed that in the first instance a note be attached to the windscreen of offending vehicles; another suggestion was to inform the PCSO of the registration number of such vehicles and to ask for a letter to be sent to the vehicle's keeper.

**9.7 M/cr Airport Community Trust Fund** – item deferred to a future meeting for the input of SF.

**9.8 Review of local bus services** – noted.

## **AGENDA – PART B**

In view of the special or confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the remaining item was considered in private.

**10 Receipt of quotations for internal decoration of Pavilion** – members resolved that G Brannon be instructed:

- to decorate the Pavilion at the price quoted.
- to replace front gutters/clean rear gutters at the Pavilion at the price quoted, and to repair/clean out or replace the rear gutters if considered necessary at a cost to be agreed with your Chair in conjunction with your Clerk.
- to clean out the guttering at the Village Hall at a price to be agreed with your Chair in conjunction with your Clerk.

**Additional matter** – the Clerk was asked to respond appropriately to the email referred to in item 4.1 above.

**Clerk:** Jack Steel  
**Next meeting:** 1<sup>st</sup> May 2018