

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

**4<sup>th</sup> September 2018**

- |    |                    |  |
|----|--------------------|--|
| 1. | <b>Present</b>     | <b>CT (Chair), AB, SF, SR, Cllr O Hunter</b> |
|    | <b>Apologies</b>   | <b>AS, IK, PCSO E Darroch</b>                |
|    | <b>Not present</b> | <b>PG</b>                                    |
|    | <b>Public</b>      | <b>5 members of the public</b>               |
|    | <b>Police</b>      | <b>None</b>                                  |

**AGENDA PART A**

**2. Minutes**

**2.1 Approval of Minutes** – The minutes of the meeting of 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2018 could not be approved owing to the absence of members who had attended that meeting in full: approval of the minutes will have to be reconsidered at the October meeting.

**2.2 Matters arising from Minutes** - Nil

**3. Declaration of Interests** – AB expressed a personal interest in relation to Part B item 10.2.

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

**4.1 Open Forum** One member of the public made reference to the recent refusal of outline planning permission for the Parish Council's proposal for a replacement village hall on land adjoining the Turton Pavilion. She wished to emphasise that the IROS land did not have any commercial element, and that it is clearly the responsibility of the Parish Council and not any other Council. She said that 'we' (without establishing the identity of 'we') would not be happy if the Parish Council proceeds with any further proposal, and that if the Parish Council did so, 'we' would have to consider what to do in reaction.

A second member of the public made reference to comments made in one of the Parish Council's supporting statements for the planning application, and to various comments made at CEC's Northern Planning Committee meeting in relation to the apparent 'disconnect' between the Parish Council and the local objectors, and he asked what the Parish Council was doing about it.

The Chair responded that these comments had been noted, that no discussion about these comments could be entered into at this meeting (by virtue of the Council's Standing Orders), that the refusal of planning permission would be referred to later in this meeting, but that it will be discussed in more detail at a future meeting of the Council. Cllr Hunter supported the

Chair's comments that discussion of the item should be held when fewer parish councillors are absent from the meeting.

**4.2 Report from PCSO** The PCSO was not present but she had reported by email that there were no crimes of note to report to the Council. SR made reference to the attendance of the PCSO at the annual Fun Day, held on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> September at the IROS, and expressed his thanks for her attendance.

**5. Report from Cllr O Hunter** Cllr Hunter had nothing specific to report.

**6. Finance**

**6.1 Current financial position** – the monthly financial summaries were noted. The Clerk specifically noted the donation of £2788 made to the Parish Council by Pickmere Community Group, to help fund the year's repairs to and painting of the Pavilion, the Play area, the Cheshire railings, etc. The Council expressed its thanks to the Community Group for this donation. Thanks were also offered to the lady who had donated a sum of £50 to the Council in appreciation of the work of the Council in and around the mere.

**6.3 New payments** - the schedule of payments was approved, including the addition of a payment of £50 to Mr A Evans for repairs effected to the large metal gates at the IROS. In addition the payment due to the VH cleaner was not £156 as stated, but £138. The Clerk made reference to the upcoming annual conference of the county section of the Society of Local Council Clerks, which was to include a series of lectures/seminars on relevant parish council management topics. He asked for Council approval to attend, at a cost of £30. This was unanimously agreed.

**7. Report from Planning Committee**

**7.1 Planning application update** – the draft minutes of the Council's Planning Committee had been circulated and were noted and in addition the Clerk reported the following updates:

**18/3159M – Outline – two bungalows – Land at Sunnyside** – Permission refused primarily on Green Belt grounds

**18/3531M – Relaxation of condition on previous planning permission – The Brambles, Pickmere Lane** – planning permission granted for the variation of the condition. The Clerk also noted that a further application for extensions to this property had very recently been submitted. He also made reference to the continuing lack of meaningful response from CEC to the PC's expression of concern about the shipping containers, timber pallets (or similar), mini-digger etc which had been in the front garden of this property for some months. Cllr Hunter agreed to take this up again with CEC (D Ward).

**18/3587M – Proposed extensions etc – Crown Farm, Frog Lane** – no decision yet made.

**18/3463M – Construction of replacement dwelling – Caroldene, (Mereview Farm), Park Lane** – no decision yet made.

**Various potential planning enforcement matters – e.g. location of caravan on land at Frog Lane, Pickmere** – these had been reported to CEC still with no response as yet.

## **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 Chair made reference to the recent refusal of outline planning permission for the Council's application for a replacement village hall at the Turton Pavilion and noted that this will be the subject of a discussion at a future Council meeting.

**8.2.2 Update on Spinks Lane** – the Chair reported that a meeting had recently been held with two senior officers of CEC about Spinks Lane. Cllr Hunter was surprised and had not been aware that a meeting had been arranged, despite her lobbying her colleagues for a response to the Parish Council's concerns. The Chair said that it was a positive meeting; it was understood that CEC was seeking to address the issue through the local plan process, which is continuing over the next few months. Parish Council representatives felt more content with the CEC officers' responses than had been the case in previous meetings.

**8.3 Asset Register Sub-Group** – the sub-group had been considering what works require action, following the successful works at the Pavilion, the play area, and the Cheshire railings this year. They aim to present a shortlist of projects for consideration in the context of the Parish Council's budget for 2019-20, which is due to be considered by Council later this year. SR made reference in this context to the potential need for bollards to be erected on the piece of grass at the junction of Mere Lane and Jacob's Way to prevent vehicles parking on the verge.

The Chair made reference to a complaint that had been received from a local resident about persons who enter the Clover Drive play area to bag and put dog excrement in the play area bin, despite the notice asking residents not to allow dogs in the play area. SR agreed to erect a suitable notice at the site.

AB made reference to the number of persons who still allow their dogs to deposit and leave their excrement on the IROS field despite the notices that exist.

**8.4 Report from Community Group** – AB reported that the Sunday teas had now ended for 2018, and that the Fun Day had gone well. Thanks were expressed to all who helped with that demanding event. The next CG event will be the visit of Father Christmas, arranged for Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December. SR wished to record his pleasure in seeing the field used, and the event enjoyed by so many local residents at the Fun Day, and to see those 'newer' residents who had helped with the event. He added that he would like to purchase a set of simple tools, to be kept in the container for use in preparing for IROS events, at a cost of approximately £80. This had been previously discussed by Council. The cost was likely to be the subject of a donation from the Community Group. It was unanimously agreed that the PC would make this purchase.

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

**9.1 Review of Council Standing Orders** – the updating amendments proposed in this report were unanimously approved as an interim measure pending a more comprehensive review taking into account the Model SOs published by NALC.

**9.2 Review of Council's Risk Assessment Schedule** – The revised Risk Schedule was unanimously approved, and members noted the information about the operation of power boats on the mere. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to CEC to query the arrangements for the enforcement of the Unilateral Undertaking pertaining to the operation of power boats on the mere now that one of the signatories to the Undertaking had died. The Clerk was also asked to contact the other private landowner party to the Undertaking to remind him of the need for boats to carry ID numbers, so that enforcement of the rules might be made easier.

**9.3 Resignation of Cllr Halsey** – the Council noted the report, expressed its thanks to Cllr Halsey for her contribution to the work of the Council and to enhancing community activities in the village, and agreed that the necessary steps should be taken in respect of the vacancy created.

**9.4 Parish Council Insurance policy** – PG was not at the meeting and it was unclear what arrangements he had made for the renewal of the policy. In the absence of this information, it was unanimously agreed that in view of the current injury claim against the Council, it may be appropriate to continue cover with the current insurer for the year to come, and to review the provision more comprehensively next August/September.

**9.5 Clover Drive Play Area – Annual Survey** – the survey had been completed and SR repeated that it had found only a few low risk and very low risk items. SR will attend to some of these shortly, and it was agreed that SR should also explore the costs and practicalities of repairing the play area sign.

**9.6 Unauthorised parking at the IROS** – SF reported on the situation as regards the cones and the possible renewal by CEC of the yellow lines in the roads near the mere. Apparently this requires various road repairs and other matters to be sorted out before the repainting can take place, and has financial consequences for CEC. The cones have now been re-provided, following their removal by CEC for another event last weekend. SR will contact Paul Davies at CEC again to seek the latest information re the programming of the yellow line works.

The Chair made reference at this point to the lack of action by CEC to repair the gully outside the former Post Office on Park Lane, where there had previously been a severe accident injuring a cyclist. Though the cyclist had claimed against CEC, and Parish Council representatives had provided some corroborative information in support of the claim, CEC had still taken no action, and a further similar accident was likely particularly if it rains heavily, the gully remains blocked, and this part of the road floods, leaving the gully hidden from cyclists' view. A comment to this effect will be added to SF's communication with CEC and Cllr Hunter also agreed to take up this matter at the next CEC Highways Committee.

On the matter of considering appointment of a parking company to enforce the parking rules on the spaces at the IROS, SF and the Clerk will liaise and report back to Council in October.

**9.7 Government Planning for Shale Gas Consultations** – the deadline for responses on these consultations is 25 October. Members expressed opposition both to the possibility of plant relating to exploratory works relating to shale gas exploitation being covered by

'Permitted Development' and therefore not requiring explicit planning permission, and also to the proposal that planning applications for actual shale gas production works should be determined at Government rather than at local level. The Clerk was asked to draft appropriate responses to the consultation questions for consideration at the October meeting.

**9.8 Government consultation on proposed incinerator at TATA site, Northwich** – The deadline for response is 9<sup>th</sup> September. SF proposed and SR seconded the motion that an objection should be submitted to the proposal. It was unanimously agreed.

## **AGENDA PART B – CONFIDENTIAL**

Members of the public were asked to leave the meeting at this point to enable discussion of confidential matters.

**10.1 Issues relating to drug taking in and around the IROS** – there was discussion of the evidence of such activities, some of which had been submitted to the PCSO, and of the possible means of dealing with the problem, none of which were ideal. It was agreed that the Clerk should write formally to the relevant Chief Inspector of Police, copied to the Police and Crime Commissioner, making reference to the problem and requesting priority in countering it.

**10.2 Tree protection works at the IROS** – the matter was discussed again and it was agreed that CT would seek a quotation from a local arboricultural adviser for advice as to the matter; this will be reported back to the October meeting.

**Clerk: Jack Steel**

**Next meeting: 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2018**