

638
MINUTES of THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
in PICKMERE VILLAGE HALL

2nd October 2018

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| 1. | Present | AS (Chair), CT, AB, SF, SR, IK, PG |
| | Apologies | Cllr O Hunter |
| | Public | 7 members of the public |
| | Police | None |

AGENDA PART A

- 2. Minutes**
- 2.1 Approval of Minutes** – The minutes of the meeting of 3rd July 2018 were agreed. The minutes of the meeting of 4th September were agreed with the amendment that reference in item 9.6 to SR should have stated SF.
- 2.2 Matters arising from Minutes (4th September 2018)** – 9.6 – It was noted that the yellow lining/highway repair works on Mere Lane had been commenced (completed?), though there was some comment about the quality of the repairs. SF has referred other current highways issues to her contact at CEC, including the grating near the old Post Office on Park Lane.
- 3. Declaration of Interests** – AB and IK expressed a personal interest in relation to Item 9.1 and Part B item 10.3.
- 4. Open Forum (Including PCSO)**
- 4.1 Open Forum** A member of the public, again noting the recent refusal of outline planning permission for the replacement Village Hall on the IROS, stated that if any more precept money is spent on that project ‘we’ (though again without specifying the identity of ‘we’) will seek an investigation. She considered that there was the possibility of acquiring more land next to the existing Village Hall from Crown Estates. She considered that there is no evidence of the level of costs ascribed to the possible renovation of the existing Hall, and thought that if renovation costs were too much it may be appropriate to replace the Hall with a prefabricated building. A second member referred to the parking issue at the IROS, wondering if the problem of parking overnight could be resolved through the erection of further signage rather than employing a parking company. He referred to the car that has been parked there for a number of days. He would not want precept money spent on this issue. On the issue of maintenance of assets, he wondered why the Community Group had donated funds toward the works of the painting of the play area equipment, the painting of the Pavilion, etc when there is money in the Council accounts. He also referred to the apparent lack of maintenance e.g. of grass under benches on the IROS and e.g. on the carved seat. A third member referred to his comment at the previous council meeting about the apparent disconnect between the

Council and parts of the local community and said that he had seen no response from the Council.

AS responded to some of the comments made, saying that a report later on the agenda (at 8.2.1) commented on the issues raised.

- 4.2 Report from PCSO** The PCSO was unable to be present.
- 5. Report from Cllr O Hunter** Cllr Hunter was unable to be present.
- 6. Finance**
- 6.1 Current financial position** – the monthly financial summary was noted. The tabled report summarising the financial movements in the last quarter relating to the funds earmarked for maintenance of the play area and the Clover Drive sites was noted.
- 6.2 New payments** - the schedule of payments was approved, including the insertion of the Clerk’s expenses figure of £155.27, the detail of which is shown in the schedule presented to Council.
- 6.3 Adoption of accounts** – the Parish Council accounts for the year 2017-18 were formally adopted.
- 7. Report from Planning Committee**
- 7.1 Planning application update** – members noted the planning application decisions listed in the circulated schedule. Further reference was made to the tardiness of CEC in investigating potential planning enforcement issues.
- 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 Implications of decision on Outline Planning Application 18/0544M** – SR initially made reference to the need for members to remind themselves that the PC is now operating a system through the Asset Register Sub-Group, to keep its built and other assets under regular review; also that the Community Group have made donations to the asset maintenance work carried by the Council partially in recognition that the Council permits the Group to use the Pavilion for the operation of Sunday Afternoon Teas at no cost to the Group.

Reference was made to the Clerk’s report on the options available to the Council and possible actions which might now be pursued. Arising from the discussion of the report it was agreed that the report’s suggestion at 3.3 bullet 1 would be an essential way forward whether the Council was to proceed either with renovation of the VH or its replacement on another site. It was therefore unanimously agreed (CT proposer, AB seconder) that the Clerk should seek at least 2 quotes for appropriate survey and building estimate work in relation to the works

required to renovate both the VH and the Pavilion to maximise their potential for community development.

In relation to the report's suggestion at 3.3 bullet 2, the Chair commented that there was a need to engage the community further in relation to the decisions that the Council needed to make in relation to the future of its built assets, and he asked how this should be taken forward. Several suggestions were made, including the possibility of a regular bulletin to be circulated to all households, and/or some form of further public meeting(s). IK referenced the importance of seeking a more representative response from the whole of the Pickmere community. The Chair suggested the arrangement of a working group (to involve all those councillors who could attend) to discuss these aspects further. This was unanimously agreed and the Clerk was asked to make appropriate arrangements.

8.3 Asset Register Sub-Group

8.3.1 To consider proposed actions for 2019/20 and suggestions for budget – this will be reported at the November meeting.

8.3.2 To consider making an application for grant aid from the Manchester Airport Community Trust Fund – It was suggested that the Council might wish to submit an application to fund the purchase of replacement chairs for the Village Hall; there was a slight element of doubt as to whether a Parish Council was able to submit an application to this body although a staff member at the Fund had suggested we do so. Members resolved to ask the Community Group if it might wish to submit such an application with the PC's aid.

8.4 Report from Community Group - AB reported that the Group had recently met and had discussed past and possible future events. The Group was keen to recruit new (and younger) members and volunteers and noted that several people had volunteered to help with recent events. Members noted the comment that without the voluntary work of 10-12 persons, the Group would not be able to operate as it does, and thereby to develop the village's activities and generate funds to assist in enhancing the village.

9. Reports from Clerk and from Councillors

9.1 Update as to parking at the IROS - AB and IK did not take part in this discussion and did not vote on this item.

With reference to the issue of parking outside permitted hours at the IROS, the Chair noted that the Police cannot take action in respect of such a vehicle, even if apparently abandoned. The report to Council noted that CEC could remove such vehicles, but they would charge the landowner, i.e. the Parish Council, £105 per vehicle to do so. Members accepted the report and its recommendations, including that the permitted hours should be 6.00 a.m. to 10.00 p.m., that the Clerk should seek to register the Council with the parking company UK-CPM in respect of their iTicket scheme, that appropriate members of the Council and the Clerk should be authorised to take photographs etc of contravening vehicles and submit them to UK-CPM, that an appropriate notice be placed on the vehicle parked in the parking areas for the last few days, and that authority be given to spend up to £150 if such is required to provide specially worded signage in conjunction with the proposed parking enforcement referred to above. It was noted that through this approach the decision as to which vehicles are referred to the parking company for potential service of Parking Charge Notices would rest with the Parish Council and not with the parking company. The motion was passed unanimously.

Members wished to emphasise in making this decision that it has done so in the wish to help the local community, and to ensure the spaces are reserved for their proper purpose and to enforce the long-established requirement that vehicles should not be parked overnight at the IROS, so as to deal with issues of e.g. overnight anglers, vehicles being left here for long periods whilst their owners flew on holiday from Manchester Airport, etc. These parking spaces are there to serve users of the IROS and not for general parking purposes.

SR summarised the position in relation to the repainting of the yellow lines, and the road repairs that had preceded this on Mere Lane etc., which has all been funded by Cheshire East Council. Members noted this information (recommendation 4.5) and that the works now appeared to be complete.

- 9.2 Government Planning for Shale Gas Consultations** – the deadline for responses on these consultations is 25 October. Members unanimously agreed that the representations stated in the report to Council should be submitted to Government.
- 9.3 Cheshire East Spatial Planning Update and further Local Plan consultations** - The various CEC documents were noted. The Chair drew particular attention to the ‘Call for Sites’ for land to provide sites for gypsy or traveller communities and expressed concern that this type of survey/request seems to appear periodically from CEC, with little or no action actually proceeding. It was unanimously agreed that the Clerk should reinforce to CEC the view that the Spinks Lane site should certainly not be included in any schedule of potentially available land for this purpose.

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.

- 10.1 Parish Council Insurance** - SR proposed and PG seconded the motion that the appointment of INSPIRE, through AXA, as the Council’s insurers for a period of 3 years from 1st October 2018 and that payment of the company’s invoice for 2018-9 be authorised. This was agreed unanimously.
- 10.2 Injury claim against the Council** - Members noted the report and unanimously confirmed (SF proposer, SR seconder) that it wished to defend the claim for injury compensation in this case.
- 10.3 Possible Tree survey/protection works** - (AB and IK did not take part in the discussion nor the votes on this item). Following consideration of the report, SF proposed and CT seconded a motion that the contractor in question be appointed to carry out the work referred to at an estimated cost of £360 plus VAT. The motion was passed unanimously. It was further agreed that the Clerk should send an appropriately worded communication to the person who had trespassed on the Council’s land and instructed vegetation clearance works to be carried out there, in relation to the re-establishment of the fence between his property and that of the Parish Council.

Clerk: Jack Steel

Next meeting: 6th November 2018