

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

**6<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

- |    |                  |   |
|----|------------------|---|
| 1. | <b>Present</b>   | <b>AS (Chair), CT, AB, SF, SR, IK, PG, RB</b> |
|    | <b>Apologies</b> | <b>Cllr O Hunter</b>                          |
|    | <b>Public</b>    | <b>5 members of the public</b>                |
|    | <b>Police</b>    | <b>None</b>                                   |

**AGENDA PART A**

**The Chair welcomed Cllr Barrett to his first Council meeting (see item 9.1 below)**

**2. Minutes**

- 2.1 Approval of Minutes** – The minutes of the meeting of 2<sup>nd</sup> October were agreed with the amendment that reference in items 8.2.1 and 9.1 to SR should have stated SF.

**2.2 Matters arising from Minutes –**

**2.2** The Clerk noted that the repair works to the grating outside the old Post Office on Park Lane had been carried out, and members also welcomed the apparent general cleaning out of road gullies that had taken place in the last few weeks.

**9.1** The Clerk noted that the Council had registered with the car parking management company in respect of the spaces on Jacob's Way, that the signs were now awaited, and that there would be no charge to the Council for adding to the signs the proposed times of permitted parking.

**3. Declaration of Interests – nil**

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

- 4.1 Open Forum** A member of the public asked why members of the Community Group who were also members of the Parish Council did not declare an interest when CG matters were discussed. Exceptionally the Chair responded, explaining that it had been agreed with the CG that there should be an appropriate link between the Group and the PC and that a member of both should act as communicator between the two.

The member of the public also asked why in 2010 the Council's precept rose by 97%: he considered the PC had far too much money. On the latter point he was referred to Agenda item 6.3 which considered the Council budget for 2019-20. Thirdly he asked whether the Council had considered carrying out a risk assessment in respect of legionella in the Council's two buildings.

A second member of the public commented on the recent replacement of a bench at the IROS and the placing of the old bench as if it were dumped.

**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 with no comments.

**6.2 New payments** - the schedule of payments was approved.

**6.3 Parish Council Budget for 2019-20** – the Clerk summarised the circulated report which explained the proposal to separate consideration of the budget into three categories – revenues and expenditure that are proposed to be budgeted for, the provision of a category of possible contingency expenditure, and the identification of earmarked funds for particular purposes within the Council's financial balances.

The three categories of expenditure or possible expenditure made up the total balance projected to be available at 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019. Included in this total was a working balance of approximately £14400.

Members resolved (AB proposing, SF seconding) that the report be accepted, the budget be adopted and that a precept of £13650 (no change from the current year) be requested of CEC.

**7. Report from Planning Committee**

**7.1 Planning application update** – members noted the Clerk's report that an appeal had been submitted against the refusal of planning permission for erection of a dwelling etc at land at Frog Lane (17/5078M). Members asked that the Council's objections to the proposal be submitted to the Appeal Inspector, with an additional reference to the refusals of similar proposals on other Green Belt sites close by in the last year.

Members also noted that 18/5078M (Extensions at the Brambles, Pickmere Lane) had been approved by CEC.

Again, reference was made to the tardiness of CEC in investigating potential planning enforcement issues (in particular on the two sites the subject of the above reports) and the Clerk was asked to write to Cllr Hunter again raising those concerns and asking for an update on them before the December PC meeting.

**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 Public engagement and physical survey of Council buildings** – Following discussion the report was unanimously agreed, including the proposed initiatives aimed at increasing engagement with all the residents of Pickmere. It was further agreed that the date of the first Surgery for Parish Councillors, to which members of the public would be invited if they wished to raise particular issues, would be 4<sup>th</sup> December at 6.00 pm at the Village Hall. It was further agreed that the date for the Annual Parish Meeting would be 30<sup>th</sup> March 2018 at the Village Hall. A working group to organise this will be discussed at the December meeting.

The Clerk reported that it was hoped to submit quotations for the carrying out of a survey etc at the VH and Pavilion to the December meeting.

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

- 8.3.1 To consider proposed actions for 2019/20 and suggestions for budget** – CT/AB reported that these proposals had been incorporated into the budget just agreed.

- 8.4 Report from Community Group** - AB reported that the Group is currently discussing the acquisition of its own PA system. Father Christmas will be visiting the parish on 19<sup>th</sup> December; dressing his sleigh will take place at Dunholme Farm on 15<sup>th</sup> December at 10.00a.m. and any help from parishioners would be welcomed.

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

- 9.1 Results of Parish Council Election** – members noted that the recent election had resulted in a single candidate, Mr R Barrett, who was duly elected and earlier took his seat at this Council meeting. It was noted that as the election was not contested by two or more persons there would be no financial cost to the Parish Council for the election. Had there been more than one candidate, requiring a full local election procedure, then a cost of around £4000 would have fallen on the Parish Council. The Chair has made his views known to CEC as to the unfairness of this.
- 9.2 Report back from SLCC Day Conference** – members noted the Clerk's report of this conference, which provided useful information and guidance on various topics.
- 9.3 Highway repairs and yellow line issues** - It was noted that the yellow lining etc works to Mere Lane were complete except for the provision of new signage. Members asked that CEC be thanked for their attention in dealing with this matter and that they be reminded of the need for the signage. SR raised an issue mentioned by several local residents affected by the Mere Lane/Orchards etc yellow lines – is there a possibility of some form of residents' parking permit? It was noted that this is a matter for CEC. SR agreed to bring a proposition to the December meeting.
- 9.4 HS2 Consultation - Working Draft Environmental Statement** – Considerable concern was expressed not only to the nature of the proposals but the lack of time for consultation, particularly bearing in mind the difficulty experienced in trying to access the consultation documents (the Clerk noted that the relevant map books had still not been received despite several weeks of phone calls to HS2). It was reported that Esther McVey MP had lent her support to the demand for the consultation period to be extended, and it was agreed that the Clerk should write to the MP adding the PC's request for such an extension and referencing the difficulty in accessing the documents. Concern was expressed at the absence of a

reference to Pickmere Lake and e.g. the Village Hall in the one relevant document that had been received.

A meeting had already been arranged with representatives of HS2 on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> November where they would discuss issues with members. This meeting was essentially immovable as a result of the HS2 team's commitments. SR proposed a separate meeting of members to discuss the HS2 proposals and seek to arrive at some agreed comments for formal submission to HS2 and also a separate meeting/drop-in session to which local residents would be invited. It was agreed that members would meet informally at the VH on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> November to discuss the issues arising, and also to consider the nature, format and date of a meeting to involve residents of Pickmere. [Note: the public 'drop-in' session on HS2 will be held at the Village Hall on Tuesday 27 November between 4.00 pm and 9.00 pm.]

**9.5 Cheshire East Pre-Budget Consultation Report** – members noted that this report was available on CEC's website and members could comment individually if they so wished.

**9.6 Cheshire East Member Code of Conduct and Standards Complaints Process** – the report was noted. The meeting resolved to continue to operate under CEC's pre-2018 Code of Conduct for Members until such time as a revised code is published and agreed between CEC and CHALC.

#### **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 Payment for Planning consultancy services** – the report was noted and Council authorised the payment of the sum referred to to the Clerk in recognition of the particular work undertaken.

**10.2 Receipt of quotation for painting IROS metal gates** – the report was noted and Council resolved that Mr Brannon be commissioned to paint the gates and associate railings in accordance with his quotation, at a suitable time dependent upon weather conditions. The Clerk was asked to request a Risk assessment in relation to the work.

**Clerk:** Jack Steel

**Next meeting:** 4<sup>th</sup> December 2018