

620
**MINUTES of THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
in PICKMERE VILLAGE HALL**

6th December 2016 at 7.30 p.m.

1. **Present:** CT (Chair), AB, IK, PG, SR, DH
Absent:
Apologies: AS (Illness), SF (Holiday)
Police: PCs Mike Dawber, Andy Roberts
Members of the public: 1

2. **Minutes**

2.1 **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes for the meeting of 1st November 2016 were approved and signed by the Chair.

2.2 **Matters arising**

8.1 The Clerk reported that the **meeting with the Community Group** would be arranged for the New Year arising out of diary difficulties at the present time.

8.3 The Clerk clarified, insofar as possible, the legal position relating to the organisation of an **Annual Parish Meeting**. It was agreed that an item would be included on the next Council agenda, with a view to deciding the form and date of such a meeting in 2017.

8.4 **Donation of new tree and replacement bench** on Clover Drive land. DH agreed to take up this matter with the potential donor, and will also involve SF. The Clerk will explore a quotation from the potential supplier of the bench referred to at Item 8.6 below.

2.1 CT stated that he had not yet received the **artwork** mock-up from the artist. In relation to the painting of the **Cheshire railings**, the weather has not been suitable yet to pursue this. 4 members of the public have volunteered to help. SR has allocated a day in the February half-term to help organise this work. The Clerk is to insert another request for help in Pickmere Press.

4.2 **Community Speedwatch** - IK reported that PCSO G Fulton had been in touch to rearrange the training. The 16th January was suitable for GF and IK; IK will agree a time with GF and inform the Clerk who will circulate all parties.

3. **Declaration of Interests**

None

4. **Open Forum**

4.1 **Matters raised by the public** - None

4.2 **PCSO** - PC M Dawber explained that the recently listed report of an arrest of a person with an offensive weapon in the Parish actually related to an incident near the Mere in

summer (previously discussed at Council); the carrying of an offensive weapon in that incident had to be recorded separately, and therefore appeared in a November incident log. MD made reference to a current spate of thefts of quad bikes and also thefts of tools from vans in the villages around Knutsford.

DH raised the issue, discussed at previous Council meetings, of HGV vehicles using Pickmere Lane in contravention of the 7.5 tonne weight limit. Several Councillors had viewed such incidents. Specific reference was made to vehicles from Jack Richards and Son in this context, although they were not the only vehicles which have been seen. The Clerk was asked to insert an item in Pickmere Press about this topic, and also to write to Jack Richards and Son requesting the company's cooperation in preventing such use of Pickmere Lane. MD said that the Police would be happy to follow up such incidents if they seemed to be occurring on a regular basis.

Finally, MD reported that there would be an increased on-street police presence in Knutsford town centre and Northwich during the Christmas period purely because the increased numbers using the town centres at Christmas traditionally gives rise to increased numbers of shoplifting etc incidents.

Members of the Council thanked the police representatives for their attendance and also for the increased on-street presence of the police in recent times.

5. Finance

5.1 Current financial position - noted

5.2 Approval of new payments - Council authorised the payments on the attached schedule together with a payment of £100, which is an annual fee paid to the Council's Payroll Administrators.

5.3 Pension Auto-Enrolment - PG reported that new rules requiring auto-enrolment of Council employees in a pension scheme were being introduced in 2017. Appropriate action will be taken in respect of the Council's sole employee, the Clerk.

CE Councillor O Hunter entered the meeting at this point.

6. Planning

Report noted. Reference was also made to the very recent planning application for land at Nywen, Pickmere Lane for the erection of 2 houses (Appn. No. 16/5653M). The Council's Planning Committee will meet shortly to discuss this application.

There was discussion of the land between Lyncroft and Lilac Cottage, Frog Lane, where planning permission has been granted for erection of a stable building (15/2665M), but where a caravan has been located and other works, possibly outside the scope of the planning permission, seem to be in progress. The Clerk is awaiting CE response to his communication in respect of the caravan. The Clerk is to copy Cllr Hunter on correspondence with CE, who will take the matter up if no action is forthcoming.

Cllr Hunter reported that she is still awaiting a response from CE in respect of the non-removal of a static caravan at Sunnyside, following the delivery and installation of the Park Home, where it has been confirmed by CE that the licence only permits one structure.

7. Reports from Assets Working Groups

None

8. Reports from Clerk and from Councillors

8.1 HS2 Route Refinement Consultation - The report was noted.

8.2 British Red Cross Open Gardens Scheme - The report was noted. The Clerk is to put a note in Pickmere Press.

8.3 Provision of Defibrillator box - Expenditure to purchase a defibrillator box was authorised, on the understanding that the cost would be reimbursed by the Community Group.

8.4 Cheshire East Local Plan Strategy - The letter confirming the present situation with regard to progress on the preparation of the Local Plan was noted.

8.5 Designation of Permissive Path adjoining lake - **resolved** that the Chairman and Vice Chair be authorised to sign the permissive path agreement as described in the report.

8.6 Offer of donation of bench seat - the Chair agreed to take this item as an urgent item. The offer was gratefully accepted, subject to the bench being of appropriate quality, design and sturdiness. There was discussion of the need, in case of any further such requests, for the Council to establish how many benches might be appropriate in the Parish, and to have an idea of potential locations. The Clerk is to notify the donor of the Council's decision, and it was agreed that CT/SR/IK would meet to consider the question of locations for this proposed bench and any others that may be offered in the future.

8.7 Report from Cllr O Hunter re Cheshire East Council - A number of issues were discussed:

8.7.1 Land between Lyncroft and Lilac Cottage, Frog Lane - (already referred to item 6 above) Clerk is to maintain contact with Cllr Hunter and to pursue an urgent response from CE Council.

8.7.2 Spinks Lane - Cllr Hunter has contacted the Leader of CE Council asking for an update on the current and future situation. It was agreed a meeting should be arranged with senior Council officers and members as soon as practical.

The Clerk was asked to write (copy to Cllr Hunter) to request an urgent meeting with Cllr A Arnold and appropriate officers of CE Council.

The matter is to be included on the February Parish Council agenda.

8.7.3 Formation of driveways, 100-118 Pickmere Lane - Cllr Hunter has received a communication from the occupier of one of these houses making reference to the lack of parking provision for the houses and the problems which result. The occupiers of several of the houses have requested a meeting with Cllr Hunter. She has responded by saying that such a meeting would have to involve officers from CE Highways and representatives of the Parish Council and said that she would seek to set up such a meeting. If arranged it might also involve e.g. the Police. Cllr Hunter has informed the resident that having a meeting does

not imply that a solution will be found to the lack of parking. The discussion which followed referred to several aspects, including the fact that residents of these houses clearly acquired their properties knowing of the parking situation and that removal of green space to provide parking areas is not something the Parish Council would wish to encourage.

It was agreed that if Cllr Hunter set up such a meeting a member of the Parish Planning Committee would attend.

Clerk: Jack Steel

Next meeting: 7th February 2017