

# PICKMERE PARISH COUNCIL

Number 593

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON

**TUESDAY APRIL 1<sup>ST</sup> 2014**

**AT 7.30 PM**

**IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

1. **Present:** Councillors: A Shore (Chair), C Tarrant (Vice Chair), P Gough, J Webb, S Read, S Wilkinson, R Pepall  
**Apologies:** V Brown  
**Public:** No public present. PCSO not present
2. **Minutes –**
  - 2.1 Corrections: Item 6.4: to read: ‘The total bill was £500, of which £380 being the Insurance element’. Item 7.3 last line to read: ‘SR to look into the possibility’. and put ‘2015’ at end of that sentence. Item 8: 2<sup>nd</sup> line remove ‘this’. Item 10.2 2<sup>nd</sup> line to read ‘Clover Drive Playground area’. The Minutes of the March 4<sup>th</sup> meeting were then approved and signed by the Chairperson, AS,
  - 2.2 Matters arising from those Minutes: CT reported that he has now submitted ‘The Web-site’ for entry into this year’s Community Pride Competition.
3. **Declaration of Interests:**  
Nil
4. **Open Forum**
  - 4.1 No Public present.
  - 4.2 PCSO: Sophie was not in attendance, but had sent her usual Councillors’ report and public report for the Notice Boards.
    - 4.2.1 Report for last month : Reported by AS: Burglaries had taken place once again in the High Legh and Great Budworth areas.
    - 4.2.2 Nil.
5. **Planning**

Applications/decisions of planning from Cheshire East Borough Council and other related items.

  - 5.1 Planning Application received during March:  
14/0862M 2 Storey side Extension and new garage.  
Fernhill Farm Frog Lane Pickmere WA16 0LJ: Our Planning Committee raised no objection.  
14/0803M Equestrian Menage at Tanyard Farm Pickmere Lane Pickmere: Our Planning Committee raised no objection.
  - 5.2 Plans for container at IROS:CT : see report in Item 7.
  - 5.3 Cheshire East’s decision to change receipt of Planning Applications from ‘paper’ to ‘electronic’ from April 1<sup>st</sup> 2014: AS expressed concern over the problems of viewing applications in this way, in that the plans will be difficult to see enough detail on A4 size, and also the expense involved if

the council were to purchase equipment such as a screen for the Village Hall, and the possible need for Broadband. Several other councillors agreed, and that ideally our Planning Committee should meet together to examine the plans. SW commented that the electronic method would save financially by eliminating paper-work. SR felt that this method was now the way forward in most areas of business. Decision: AS will be attending the Town and Parish Council Meeting on May 1<sup>st</sup> and will raise this problem at the meeting.

**5.4** RP raised the question re. Crown Farm, Frog Lane. AS reported that the Clerk had checked with Enforcement Officer, Derek Ward, at CE. He is still awaiting a Planning Application from the occupier for work already done. Clerk to correspond again with Derek Ward for further information.

## **6. Finance:**

**6.1** Financial update: PG reported on the accounts for the last year. He has transferred the balance on the General Deposit Account of £25.36 to the General Current Account. Balance on General Current Account: £12,642. Land Asset Account: £16,437.06. (This figure includes the Co-op Bond of £12,000)

**6.2** Payments received during last month: £12.00 for hire of Village Hall to MP George Osborne. Details of income from Hall will be reported on next month.

**6.3** Clerk has received 'External Audit Forms' for '2013 to 2014'; to be completed by end of June. PG will prepare these when he receives end of March Statements. The final date for presenting External Audit is June 30<sup>th</sup>. The notice for the public needs to be on the Boards by 19<sup>th</sup> May. PG will liaise with our internal auditor when he has finally prepared them.

**6.3** To approve the payments for this month. Cheques were signed for Clover Drive Playground quarterly check, annual memberships of Community Action, the clerk's expenses, the cleaner of the Village Hall, and for tree work at IROS.

## **7. Correspondence and Reports from Councillors, and to/from Clerk:**

**7.1** Reminder that next month's meeting, on May 6<sup>th</sup>, is the **Annual General Meeting**. AS requested that all Councillors be present for the AGM.

**7.2** Spinks Lane Update: AS reported that he had accompanied CT and SW to a meeting at CE, Sandbach with Michael Jones, Leader of Cheshire East Council. Also present at the meeting were Caroline Simpson, Head of Planning, and the Borough Solicitor. He stated they had expressed concern that this situation had been side tracked by legal arguments rather than adhering to Planning Procedure. MJ advised our councillors that there is nothing CE can do as it involves personal confidential circumstances of the occupants, and has become a legal matter, to be heard in Court presided over by a Judge. The Solicitor stated that CE could not challenge this.

AS will draft letter for Clerk to send, and a copy to MP George Osborne, requesting a written report on this latest action, and expressing our council's concern of process not being democratic.

### **7.3 Report on work carried out recently in IROS/ Clover Drive Area: CT**

**7.3.1** Grass cutting Clover Drive and IROS: CT: Amos is now looking after Clover Drive Playground area. The Community Group take care of the IROS area.

**7.3.2** Fence repairs Clover Drive area: CT: The residents of Wayfarers' Court have dealt with the repairs. PG reported that the Cheshire Railings were in need of repair and he will contact Alf Evans to do repair work.

**7.3.3** Tree work at IROS: CT reported that Allan James has carried out tree surgery to an overhanging branch at the IROS. CT has obtained a quote for an oak tree in proximity to 'hole' that was covered a couple of years ago, and also for 'gale damage' to poplar tree at IROS that now has a split trunk in 4 areas. Discussion: resolved that this tree should be 'felled'. Quote for this work would be £900 approximately for the two trees. CT will go ahead and obtain second quote – SW will liaise with CT re. a further quote from a tree surgeon.

**7.4 Community Pride Competition:** Details to be given by VB: VB absent so CT reported he has entered the Council 'Website' for the competition. VB will catch up with the rest of the entry during April.

**7.5 Holiday break for Councillors:** The Clerk raised this item: Agreement that the Council will not hold a meeting during August 2014.

**7.6** The Clerk reported that our regular cleaner of the VH will not be able to carry out her normal duties during August. Clerk to arrange 'cover' of this by a friend of our present cleaner. Clerk will meet her and discuss duties to be done weekly.

**7.7 Siting of container at IROS for Community Group Equipment:** (Planning Permission now granted for this). John Curtin will prepare the ground, charging for his materials. The Council will purchase the container supported by a £2000 + donation from the community group.

**7.8** The Community Group have requested the use of the IROS area to hold the annual 'Fun Day' event at the end of August and 'A Party by the Lake' on June 21<sup>st</sup>. Request was granted by the Councillors and the Clerk will email Brenda Wilkinson and Jo Ashcroft to this effect.

**8. HS2 Update:** AS informed the Council that the new Chairperson of HS2 Ltd had declared his support for a hub station at Crewe.

**9. Report from CE Councillor Steve Wilkinson re: Cheshire East Borough Council:**

**9.1** SW checked if the council had received a copy of the Local Plan, and stated he has a copy if Councillors wish to see it. We have already received a copy. Control of the Green Belt appears in the Plan.

**9.2** He went on to report on a change in service delivery by CE in the way in which they manage services. CE Ltd will now have been established, and has 4 subsidiaries, of which 2 are already up and running, and 2 new ones to be added. These services will cover catering, environmental waste and bereavement services.

Sport and Recreation will be a Charitable Trust and will cover Leisure Centres. Local Communities will be under the care of Local Thriving Communities.

**10. Issues raised by Councillors/Parishioners:**

**10.1** PG reported that he had checked on the Clover Drive Playground in VB's absence and he felt that the 'Multiplay' is in need of painting in order to preserve the wood. The equipment appears sound mechanically. The quarterly report carried out by JAP Lawton has been done, but report not yet received. Place Item: Playground Attention on May's Agenda.

**10.2** AS had prepared in print, the wording of the sign to be sited near the waste bin at the entrance of the IROS area, stating details that it belongs to the Parish Council and the conditions of use etc. Small alterations such as bolder headings etc were suggested. Sign to be made of metal, have curved edges, and to measure 3 feet by 2 feet. Resolved by all Councillors.

**11. Items for next meeting's agenda –May 6<sup>th</sup> 2014 AGM**

**11.1** Clover Drive Playground – Multiplay Equipment: condition of wood.

**Clerk: Rosemary Fogerty**

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