

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

4th April 2017 at 7.30 p.m.

1. **Present** AS (Chair), CT, PG, SR (entered later in meeting), DH, SF
Absent None
Apologies AB, IK (Family reasons)
Police None
Members of the public None

2. **Minutes**

2.1 **Approval of minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 7th March 2017 were approved and signed by the Chair.

2.2 **Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting of 7th March 2017**

Community Speedwatch – the dates when G Fulton (PCSO) is available for training were inconvenient for most members of Council. Arranging such training is proving problematic. The Clerk was asked to explore whether persons other than the PCSO could provide training.

Donation of Bench – the bench has now been installed at Park Lane/Clover Drive.

Monthly Police report, Northwich – this has been requested by the Clerk but he has received nothing from Northwich Police. The Clerk is to contact the Clerk for Wincham Parish Council.

3. **Declaration of Interests**

None

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

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

4.2 **PCSO** – The PCSO was not present.

5 **Report from Cllr O Hunter** – Cllr Hunter was not present.

6. **Finance**

6.1 **Current financial position** – noted. Mr Platt was to be asked to furnish his invoice for 2016-7 (PG).

SR entered the meeting at this point.

6.2 Feedback from CHALC course on Audit and Transparency Code – report noted

6.3 Note/Authorisation of payments

Council noted/authorised the payments on the attached schedule and in addition the payment of £6.08 to Cllr Tarrant for the purchase of fixings for the bench referred to above.

7. Report from Planning Committee

7.1 Receipt of amended plans – 16/5653M Nywen, Pickmere Lane – Erection of one dwelling –

The Chair clarified that this item needed to be discussed this evening because of the deadline for a response to be made to CE. The previous proposal for two dwellinghouses on this site had been superseded by a proposal for just one house. However, members were unanimous in considering that the ‘in principle’ objections they had made to the previous proposal applied equally to this one, as do the comments made by the Planning Inspector in his decision of 1995 in respect of broadly the same site.

The Clerk was asked to convey these comments to CE and to request Cllr Hunter to ‘call in’ this application for a member decision at Cheshire East, as the site has been the subject of a previous unsuccessful planning appeal.

8. Reports from Assets Working Groups

8.1 Funding Sub-Group - no report as the sub-group awaits progress on other aspects.

8.2 Planning Sub-Group – the architect had contacted CE and it had been concluded that a pre-application submission would be appropriate in the circumstances. This submission will be made once the plans are drawn. The planning fee for this may be up to £200; such a payment was unanimously authorised by the Council.

8.3 Asset Register Sub-Group – the sub-group had met and had concluded that the three immediate maintenance priorities were:

- Painting of external doors etc. at the Pavilion (quotes being sought at present)
- Dealing with the Clover Drive play area fence, which was damaged in the recent storm; for that reason this is a new item; see below for further discussion.
- Painting of the play area equipment, which is a specialist job.

There are various other maintenance needs which could probably be dealt with through volunteer action during the summer; it was suggested that a monthly working party could be publicised and arranged. The sub-group will organise this.

It was agreed that reviewing the maintenance schedule should form part of the normal annual budgeting process.

8.3.1 Unused Speed Indicator Devices – Because CE had donated the devices that are now in use, devices which the Parish Council had purchased were not yet in use. It was agreed that before the next meeting thought will be given as to potential locations for these additional devices.

9 Reports from Clerk and from Councillors

9.1 Cheshire East Council – Speed Management Strategy – report noted

9.2 Dog and Horse fouling – Clover Drive area. SF is in discussion with CE about installing a further dog waste bin in the Clover Drive area. SH has also received complaints about horse droppings, in some quantity, in the area of Clover Drive and Buttercup Way, and also the paved footpath running from Buttercup Way to Footpath FP7/Mere Lane continuation. Clearly, whilst Pickmere is within a rural area where horses are to be expected, horses should not be using pavements nor the paved footpath referred to. The Clerk was asked to circulate a notice pointing this out (notice boards and website).

9.3 HGVs on Pickmere Lane (7.5 tonne Weight Limit) – the Clerk reported that following a complaint to Buildbase plc, Wincham, a response had been received from the company noting the action the company proposes. This was welcomed by members.

9.4 Annual Parish Meeting – SR/SF will meet to decide upon the detailed format of such a meeting, possibly to be set for later this summer. The Clerk is to pass to them a list of organisations using the Village Hall.

9.5 Manchester Airport – closure of runways for maintenance purposes – report noted.

9.6 Clover Drive Play Area fence – The fence was urgently inspected following storm damage but was found to remain effective in preventing egress to the field and pond beyond the play area. There remains the question of the future of the fence, its repair being likely to be expensive. Whether such a fence is now required is questionable as the hawthorn hedge on the playground side is now substantial. PG is to research the cost of replacing the timber fence with a low chainlink-type fence, to supplement the hedge, which would be retained as the primary barrier.

PART B – In view of the special or confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the remaining items were considered in private.

Clerk: Jack Steel

Next meeting: Tuesday 2nd May 2017 at 7.30 p.m.