

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

2nd May 2017

Present: AS, CT, PG, AB, SF, IK, DH, SR
Absent: Nil
Apologies: Nil

1. Chairperson's Report for 2016-7

The report will be posted on the Parish Council website.

2. Elections

2.1 The following were unanimously re-elected for the ensuing year: Cllr. Shore - Chairperson; Cllr. Tarrant - Vice-Chairperson; Cllr. Gough - Responsible Financial Officer.

2.2 The following were unanimously elected to serve on the Planning Committee: Cllr. Shore (Chairperson), Cllr. Tarrant (Vice-Chairperson), Cllr. Gough, and Cllr. Bold.

**MINUTES of THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING (624)
in PICKMERE VILLAGE HALL**

2nd May 2017

1. Present: AS, CT, PG, AB, SF, IK, DH, SR
Absent: Nil
Apologies: Cllr O Hunter
Police: Nil
Public: Nil

PART A

2. Minutes

2.1 Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 4th April 2017 were approved and signed by the Chair.

2.2 Matters arising from Minutes

Clover Drive Play Area fence : PG had consulted J Moore, whose opinion was that the fence was incapable of partial repair and that it would be necessary to replace the whole fence. CT has spoken to A Wright, who will, for no extra cost, do two hedge cuts per year to encourage

the hedge to thicken. It was agreed that a quote will be sought for the erection of a 'sheep' fence to reinforce the hedge and replace the timber fence – i.e. about 1m high. PG to contact David Platt.

3. Declaration of Interests - Nil

4. Open Forum (Including PCSO) - Nil

5. Administrative matters

5.1 Programme of meetings for 2017/8

The programme based on the 1st Tuesday of the month was agreed, except that the April meeting would be held on 10 April, to avoid Easter week. The Clerk will be away for the June 2017 meeting, and also for the General Election. SR offered to arrange access for the election officials on 8 June. Appropriate measures will be taken to issue the agenda etc. for the 6th June Council meeting.

6. Report from Cllr O Hunter - Nil

7. Finance

7.1 Approval of Annual Governance provisions – PG explained the content of the Annual Governance Statement 2016/17, which is part of the annual financial reporting/audit process, and went through each of the questions requiring the Council's approval. The Council agreed that all appropriate governance provisions were in place and the Chairperson and the Clerk were authorised to sign the return.

7.2 Approval of annual accounting statement etc. – PG explained that it was not possible to arrange a meeting with the internal auditor in time to present figures to this meeting; this would be done to enable consideration of the figures at the June Council meeting. This also fitted with the required timetable for publicising the figures and submitting them to the external auditor.

7.3 Current financial position – The monthly report was tabled; it had been delayed because of the additional work required to complete the end of year figures. The report was accepted.

7.4 New payments and payments between meetings – the schedule attached to the agenda was agreed and accepted.

8. Report from Planning Committee

8.1 Planning decisions - The Clerk reported that the planning application for the erection of a new dwelling at 'Nywen', Pickmere Lane had been approved. Concern was expressed that Green

Belt policy was not as strongly applied as previously and that this might lead to other difficult cases in the future.

The Clerk reported that CE had replied to the Council's communication about several potential planning enforcement cases. Much of the response was considered unsatisfactory, as it appeared to demonstrate CE's unwillingness to pursue enforcement action in certain cases. The Clerk was asked to request a meeting with the author of the CE response to discuss the issues raised.

9. Reports for Assets Working Groups

9.1 Funding Sub-Group – nil

9.2 Planning Sub-Group – nil

9.3 Asset Register Working Group – Further to the discussion at the previous meeting about establishing a volunteers' working party to carry out jobs in the parish, it was agreed that we will try to establish, for the summer months, a regular Wednesday evening working party, from 6.30 p.m. until dusk, the first to be held on 10th May. AB will arrange for publicity posters at the pavilion and on notice boards, and via Pickmere Press. The Clerk will place a notice on the website.

There was discussion of a further offer to provide a bench near the Lake: CT is to liaise with the person concerned. The Clerk was asked to contact PI in respect of the IROS. IK referred to an area near the lake which had been the subject of clearance of overgrown vegetation/bushes in the past and was in need of early action again. This was agreed; in addition, CT will consider the safety of the jetty leading from the Council's land and consider and report on what action needs to be taken.

10. Reports from Clerk and from Councillors

10.1 Unused speed indicator devices – following discussion about the risk that CE might 'reclaim' the operational SIDs in the village, it was agreed that one of the unused SIDs would be erected attached to an existing pole at the triangle, Frog Lane, and that Lach Dennis PC would be informed that Pickmere PC is willing to sell its remaining unused SID; PG is to research the price paid for it and inform the Clerk.

10.2 Annual Parish Meeting – the sub-group has a list of possible participants. There was discussion of possible alternatives should the Village Hall be not large enough – perhaps the Methodist Church, or marquees on the IROS. The sub-group will continue its considerations.

10.3 Planting of donated tree etc. – Council recorded its thanks once again to Mrs V Pearson, and also wished to thank D Platt for his work in planting the tree on land at Clover Drive.

10.4 Communication from CHAIN re proposed incinerator at Northwich – the Clerk was asked to write to CWAC to express the PC’s continued concern about the potential impacts of this proposed development on the local environment, and on the road system, and its concern that if any amendments are made to the proposed scheme that the proposal should be reconsidered and the opportunity given to the local community to comment.

10.5 Cheshire Showground – Issues arising from proposed events – recently published flyers advertising the various events proposed at the showground were tabled. Concern was expressed about the potential impacts of the proposals on the surrounding community and on livestock in the vicinity, including concern about the lateness of the proposed alcohol licence and related activity. The PC was particularly concerned at the lack of consultation by the Cheshire Agricultural Society in advance of the proposals being finalised, and wished to re-establish the previous liaison arrangements. PG is to contact Mr N Evans to raise these issues and seek a meeting.

PART B – Confidential agenda

B1 Minutes relating to Part B of the Council agendas on 1st November 2016 and 4th April 2017 were approved as a correct record.

Clerk: Jack Steel