

**630**  
**MINUTES of THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**in PICKMERE VILLAGE HALL**

**5<sup>th</sup> December 2017**  
**AGENDA – PART A**

1.     **Present**            **AS (Chair), CT, AB, SF, PG, DH, IK, SR, Cllr O Hunter**  
      **Apologies**        **None**  
      **Public**            **None**  
      **Police**            **None**

2.     **Minutes**

2.1    **Approval of Minutes** – the minutes of the meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2017 were approved with a proposed amendment to minute 7.3.2.

2.2    **Matters arising from Minutes –**

6.4 – Transparency Fund - the Clerk reported that following the submission of an application to the Fund, he had been notified that the claim for £200 for the purchase of software had not been accepted since such a category was reserved for software relating directly to the production of online documents for the Council’s web page, and such a claim had been successfully made last year. It is hoped that the remaining bid for a grant from the Fund of £360 would be successful.

7.3.2 – Spinks Lane – the Clerk reported that a meeting was being arranged with Esther McVey MP, and that it would be likely to take place in the New Year.

3.     **Declaration of Interests – none**

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

4.1    None

4.2    No Police representative was present. However, reference was made to the bulletin that the PCSO had previously circulated to the Council.

5.     **Report from Cllr O Hunter**

**100-118 Pickmere Lane** – Cllr Hunter reported that she had attended a meeting with some of the residents of these houses about the problems of the frontage of their houses and the parking problems that result. Cheshire East Council (CEC) are seeking to design a possible scheme to help alleviate this problem. Cllr Hunter will present the proposed solution to the Parish Council in due course when designed. She accepted AS’s suggestion that the Parish Council might prepare a sketch of a possible solution for consideration. It was agreed that such a sketch scheme would be sent to Cllr Hunter.

**Planning enforcement** – AS expressed continued concern about CEC apparently having a “no enforcement” policy with regard to the kinds of planning enforcement matters raised by the Parish Council, because of current CEC workloads and staff shortages. In part this was exemplified by the above example, where the PC had originally submitted to CEC complaints about the parking situation around 10 years ago, with no action being undertaken until very recently.

## 6. Finance

**6.1 Current financial position** – the monthly financial summaries were noted. AB queried the status of the £10,000 bond monies which are shown on the monthly accounts. PG responded and pointed out that these elements had been presented to external auditors with explanations.

**6.2 New payments** - the schedule of payments was approved, with the addition of a small item added to the cleaner’s bill for cleaning materials. In the context of the replacement of the gatepost at the Clover Drive play area, PG asked about the missing personnel gate on the road running down to the Lake. The Clerk was asked to seek a quote for the necessary work for possible implementation in 2018-9.

**6.3 Draft Budget** – the Clerk presented for comment the second draft of a proposed budget for 2018-9. This was accepted as a basis for financial planning for next year. It was accepted that it incorporated assumptions about the availability of voluntary labour from members of the community and also possible grant contributions from the Community Group. There was discussion about the current level of precept and it was agreed to retain the current precept of £13,650. The Clerk is to inform CEC.

## 7. Planning

The Clerk reported that an appeal had been submitted in respect of the recent refusal of planning permission for the erection of one dwelling **on land adj. 14 Park Lane (17/2166M)**. The Clerk was asked to resubmit the Council’s previous comments and also submit further photographs of the appeal site to supplement those taken by the appellant, which were very restricted in scope.

The Clerk reported that the following planning decisions had been made by CEC:

**17/4015M – Extensions to 34 Pickmere Lane** – Approved with very few conditions

**17/4507M – Variation to s106 agreement re 4 Thistle Close, Park Lane** – CEC solicitor authorised to vary agreement.

**17/4264M – Erection of dwellings – site of The Elms PH, Park Lane** – not yet determined; no information received from CEC re Committee visit.

## 8. Reports from Assets Working Group

**8.1 Funding Sub-Group** – nil to report – awaiting progress on other aspects.

**8.2 Planning Sub-Group** – AS reported that, as previously approved by Council, an outline planning application will be submitted by the Council for an extension to the Pavilion. This proposal was one of the options available to the Council in terms of its wish to enhance the its built assets, and consideration of the options could not sensibly proceed without knowing whether such a proposal was in principle acceptable in planning terms. He informed the Council that, assuming that planning permission in principle was granted for that proposal, Council would need to decide on which of the possible asset options is to be pursued. He asked Council what further information they would require to be able to make such a decision, hopefully at the February meeting. Following discussion, it was agreed that an outline business case relating to the options available would be prepared for discussion at the February meeting, together with potential development timescales.

**8.3 Asset Register Sub-Group** – CT reported that he and AB had met and submitted to the Clerk a short list of potential asset enhancements for inclusion in next year’s budget. The three priorities they had identified, bearing in mind financial factors, were:

- Painting the Cheshire railings on the two sites at Park Lane/Clover Drive
- Repainting equipment at the Clover Drive play area
- Interior decoration of the Pavilion.

Provision to carry out these potential projects was included in the draft budget for 2018-19, though it may be that some of the work could be carried out for inclusion in 2017-18 accounts. These projects will be put to the Community Group in the context of a request for funding from that group.

**8.4 Report from Community Group** – None

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

**9.1 Cheshire East reflects (Commemoration of WW1)** – Council agreed that the editor of Pickmere Press be asked to publicise the request from the organisers of this project.

**9.2 Manchester Airport Community Trust Fund** – DH/SF/AB will discuss the submission of an application for a grant, possibly towards the replacement of PC noticeboards.

**9.3 CEC Housing Strategy Consultation** – All members expressed concern about the esoteric nature of this exercise, especially in terms of the cost of preparing such a document in the context of the current financial environment, and the lack of relevance to issues at a Parish Council level. There was one topic with which the Council could relate, and it was that of Gypsy and Travellers (sic). Strong criticism was made of the fact that the draft Strategy was not proposing any action to resolve issues surrounding known problems with travellers, e.g. at Spinks Lane, or identify replacement sites, but simply proposed updating CEC’s ‘assessment of need’. It was pointed out that CEC were well aware of particular problems but was not

actually giving the solution of those problems sufficient priority. The Clerk was asked to respond to the Consultation, copy to Cllr Hunter.

- 9.4 Council meeting date** - It was pointed out that several members had severe difficulties with potential attendance at the Council meeting programmed for 6<sup>th</sup> February 2018 (there being no January meeting), and it was agreed that the February meeting would be held on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February.

#### **AGENDA – PART B**

In view of the special or confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the remaining item was considered in private.

**10. Painting of Clover Drive Play Area equipment and Clover Drive Cheshire railings** – The Chair agreed to the inclusion of an urgent item due to the late receipt of a quotation for this work. Members were minded to accept the quotations as follows; a formal decision will be taken at the February meeting:

- Clover Drive Play Area equipment – Mr G Brannon
- Clover Drive Cheshire Railings – Northwich Decorating Co.

**Clerk:** Jack Steel  
**Next meeting:** 13<sup>th</sup> February 2017