

616
MINUTES of THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
in PICKMERE VILLAGE HALL

5th July 2016 at 7.30 p.m.

1. **Present** AS (Chair), CT (Vice Chair), AB, SF, PG, IK,
 Absent DH, SR
 Apologies DH (Illness), SR (Employment responsibilities). Cllr O Hunter
 apologised for her absence subsequent to the meeting, which was
 due to illness.
 Police None (see below)
 Public None

2. Minutes

2.1 Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the meeting of 7 June 2016 (615) were approved and signed by the Chair

2.2 Matters arising

7.3 - Community Speedwatch - IK confirmed that he had contacted the Police to request setting up a training course but was awaiting a reply.

9.2 - Tree r/o 11 Jacob's Way - Chair confirmed that any action relating to the tree in question would await the comprehensive asset assessment discussed at last month's Council meeting.

3. Declarations of Interest

None

A representative of Cheshire Police entered the meeting.

4. Open Forum

4.1 None

4.2 Report from PCSO - PC Mike Dawber (for PCSO) made reference to only 1 item on the recently circulated Monthly Police Report - damaged fencing on Pickmere Lane. Due to other work pressures he had not yet pursued that matter in detail.

5. Finance

5.1 Current financial report - monthly financial summaries had been circulated. There was nothing specifically to report, except that bank charges of £33.10 noted in the summaries were to be refunded by the bank.

5.2 Payments not previously authorised - None

6. Report from Planning Committee

AS reported that the Committee had submitted representations to the local planning authority on two planning applications -

16/2609M - Erection of Agricultural Worker's Dwelling at Land at Frog lane Farm. Although the Committee was supportive of this agricultural enterprise it had resolved to not support this application for reasons relating to the level of justification for this particular proposal, factors referred to in the application's supporting information, and the detailed siting of the proposal (all in the context of the need for exceptional circumstances to be demonstrated in relation to the siting of the proposal in Green Belt).

16/2872M - Single storey extension at Fernhill Farm, Frog Lane . The Committee had no comments.

7. Report from Asset Working Group

The Group's first meeting was arranged for Tuesday 19 July at 7.30 p.m. at the Village Hall and all Councillors are invited to attend. The aim of the initial meeting is to establish how to progress the topic, and in this context to establish individual Councillor responsibilities.

8. Correspondence to Clerk and Reports from Councillors

8.1 Personnel Gate - IROS - There was discussion of the merits of reinstating the gate to the IROS (alongside the Pavilion), including the ability of persons using wheelchairs being able to access and exit the field, and the need for the Council to ensure that it retains control over this access so that it does not assume the status of a public right of way. It was resolved that:

The personnel gate is to be reinstated, preferably so that it opens in both directions. CT and AB abstained from this decision.

Both that gate and the metal gates on the road access to the IROS and the Lake should be closed for a 24 hour period once per year.

8.2 Receipt and Circulation of correspondence - There was some discussion of this item, where a distinction was drawn by one Councillor between 'normal' correspondence and correspondence from the Council which records an apparent decision having been made on a matter, albeit that there has been no reference of that question to the Council as a whole. That raised the question of whether the

Clerk should, on receipt of a relevant question or request from a member of the public, place such request/question on a Council agenda.

It was resolved that, since DH had raised this matter but was unable to be present at this meeting, further discussion should be deferred until the Council's next meeting.

8.3 Use of IROS land - Access to Lake - PG explained his understanding that although various landowners, including the Council, own land fronting the Lake, the Lake itself is 'open water', and is not within the direct control of any individual landowner. The Council applies its own rules covering access to the lake from its own land, and other landowners have legal agreements in place, originally secured through Cheshire East Council, which apply certain restrictions on users of the Lake who access it through those landholdings. There is also a public footpath which runs through the Parish Council's landholding, although it does not access the Lake itself. Questions arise in relation to the Council's insurance and liability in case of accident in and around the Lake. The Council does carry such cover.

The Council discussed issues relating to access to the land and Lake, erection of notices on the land, and insurance. It was resolved that:

The Clerk is to check on the rights of Sale Moor Angling Club, which has an agreement with the Council to fish in the Lake, to camp overnight.

A further check is to be made on the Council's existing rules for the use of the IROS land and also the Clover Drive play area.

8.4 Standing Orders - Powers of Planning Committee - it was resolved that -

Paragraph 8.1.3 of the Council's Standing Orders be amended to read as follows:

8.1.3 Committees will normally report to the full Council for resolution and decision making, apart from Planning Committee, which is empowered to submit representations to the local planning authority (or in appropriate cases the relevant Secretary of State) or to take other action in respect of planning matters directly.

8.5 Use of IROS land - Dog Water Rescue Training Group - There was discussion about the possible broad community benefit arising from the working of this group, and members considered that they would like to learn more about the Group's operations before making a final decision on its request to use the Lake for dog-training purposes. It was resolved that:

The Dog Water Rescue training group be invited to attend a future meeting of the Council to explain its objectives and activities.

8.6 Use of IROS land - Litter and waste - the question was raised of whether there are sufficient waste/litter bins in the IROS land. The Council can supply additional bins but clearly we have no control over when CE empty them. By agreement, they do empty the bins on a daily basis through the summer. The issue has been raised again with CE because of periodic overflowing bins, but as they are located on 'private land' i.e. the IROS, the Council is in no position to demand further help from CE, it can only request it. CE have, as a result of recent discussions with them, supplied a further bin. There is a conflict in bin design between the need for easy access to put items in the bins and the wish to keep foxes and other vermin out of them. Bins are now dual-purpose - i.e. for both litter and dog waste. No ideal solution presented itself and Councillors were asked to look at solutions in other locations/tourist attractions to see if there were other ways of dealing with the issue. It was resolved that:

The Clerk is to contact CE Dog Warden to ask if signs relating to dog waste can be supplied. The Clerk is also requested to review the signage that exists around the IROS, with a view to avoiding an undue proliferation.

8.7 Clover Drive Play Area - Annual Survey - CT introduced on behalf of SR the recently received annual survey report. Most items raised are to be noted and do not require immediate action. Two items do require attention - cleaning of areas of the play area, e.g. of graffiti, and repair of a cracked surface under one of the pieces of equipment. SR has undertaken to arrange a group of volunteers to deal with these matters. AS is to check on the merits of the quarterly survey which has been carried out in recent years.

9. Report from Cllr O Hunter re Cheshire East Council - None, due to absence of Cllr Hunter

AGENDA PART B

B1 Remuneration - The Council agreed to the remuneration request submitted by the former Clerk relating to the time spent in the handover period.

Clerk: Jack Steel