

# PICKMERE PARISH COUNCIL

## Number 582

### MINUTES OF THE PICKMERE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 5<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2013 AT 7.30PM AT PICKMERE VILLAGE HALL

- 1. Present: Councillors:** A Shore, Chairperson; C Tarrant, Vice Chairperson, S Wilkinson; P Gough, V Brown; J Webb; S Read; R Pepall; R Fogerty (Clerk)  
**Others:** PCSO S Emmerson; PCSO J Regan.

**Apologies:** Nil

**Public:** 3

**2. Minutes –**

**2.1** Reference 4.1 6<sup>th</sup> line from bottom page 1 change ‘Mike’ to ‘Michael’.

Reference 4.1 2<sup>nd</sup> line from bottom page 1 change ‘Portfolio.....’ to Prosperity and Economics Regeneration Portfolio Holder.

Reference 6.4 3<sup>rd</sup> line from end of paragraph to read ‘putting £500 aside’

The Minutes from February 5<sup>th</sup> 2013 meeting were then approved and signed by Chairperson, Andrew Shore.

**2.2** Matters arising from those Minutes – HS2 will be dealt with under Item 7.

**3. Declaration of Interests**

Steve Wilkinson declared a non-pecuniary interest in HS2.

**4. Open Forum**

**4.1** Resident 1 asked if the Cluster Group for HS2 is now formed and if so, is that the way that HS2 matters will go forward? AS confirmed the formation of the Cluster Group to take HS2 forward.

**4.2** Resident 2, addressing SW, has concerns about the future housing development in the area as there are plans for potentially 300 houses within 3 miles of Pickmere. SW clarified this as being in the Knutsford area.

**5. Police Community Support Officer**

**5.1.** PCSO Emmerson reported that a youth with an air rifle had been seen shooting birds in the vicinity of the lake. She and another PCSO, who were in Pickmere at the time, had picked up message on air wave and had gone to investigate. Search made and no trace found. No other incidents during February of note. Both PCSO’s left the meeting at 7.50pm

**6. Finance:**

**6.1** Financial update: PG reported on the accounts.

Total of General Account: £8695.36 Land Asset Account: £1894 as per bank statements.  
VAT to be reclaimed is £ 1675 for Land Asset Account and £321 for General Account.

**6.2** To approve the payments for this month: Pest Control,(quarterly), Clerk expenses, Cleaner VH, C Tarrant (expenses for repairs) G Enion (repairs) Comm. Pride (Entrance fee) Gardening VH. Total in cheques £563

- 6.3** Payments received during month: £680 from Village Hall Lettings. VB thanked JW for her efforts in raising this amount. This figure includes some annual pre-payments.
- 6.4** Maintenance of Capital Assets: Bench at Clover Drive Play area and Open Space area. Picnic bench in play area being done by resident, G. Enion at the moment. He is awaiting getting special fixings. Several other benches are in need of repair. AS requested that a comprehensive list of repair jobs be produced at the next meeting. CT reported broken post in fencing at Clover Drive Play Area – Safety aspect necessitates this being done urgently. Proposed by SW, seconded by JW. Resolved; Allow £40 for materials. Councillors will attend to repair. **Agenda item next meeting; Assets Review.**

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

- 7.1** High Legh Ward Cluster Meeting of Chairpersons re. HS2: Report from AS. He had started to create the Cluster Group but waited until SW back from holiday to hold the meeting. There are now 10 parishes in total, 8 parishes being in High Legh Ward, namely Pickmere, Mere, Rostherne, Tabley, Aston-by-Budworth, Millington, High Legh, Ashley. Additionally, Agden because HS2 will affect them, Warburton who are interested, and Plumley who wish to join. Wincham have not responded yet.
- The first Cluster Group Meeting was held in High Legh Village Hall, on February 20<sup>th</sup>, when mainly Chairpersons only attended. AS had circulated to our councillors notes on agreements and actions on that evening. To date 4 of the group have signed up to oppose HS2. It is expected that the others will join up, decisions expected this week.
- The name of the group is to be: *“HS2 Parish Council Action Group in Cheshire”*
- RP proposed and CT seconded support for Cluster Group : Resolution unanimously passed by Council. He went on to explain that each parish will arrange a drop-in-session in their own parishes, and present large drawings of the areas affected. We now need to update our residents of session. (Pickmere Press just gone out so not due yet). It is purely information at the moment; agreed to fund costs by the council at the moment. PG proposed a banner and seconded by JW, then resolved. Distribute by delivery leaflet-drop. RP will sponsor printing of leaflets, thanked by councillors. Pubs in village should also receive one (A4 size). Allow 2 weeks notice if possible. The next stage for the Cluster Group is to arrange a meeting with George Osborne, attended by all Parish Councils who have voted to join. This will include all councillors. This will take the form of a list of questions, some of which will be made available to George Osborne prior to the meeting, and some for use ‘from the floor’ at the meeting, challenging the need for HS2, and questions on the impact we will all experience from now on. At some point later a meeting will be made with CE Council Officers and the Leader, Mr Michael Jones, requesting them to explain why HS2 is seen as such a good plan for Cheshire East. SW and Jamie Macrae will ask what is CE’s mandate for supporting this. SW (CE Councillor) had attended a presentation on HS2. It would appear to be of great benefit to Crewe. He had warned the Leader and the Mayor that he wished to make ‘a statement’: ‘Can the Leader tell parishioners in Pickmere and surrounding parishes what benefits will be gained by rural businesses and farms being broken up, and green belt destroyed. It will blight our countryside. Questions will address:
- a) Where is the CE Mandate for supporting this?
  - b) What immediate support is there for those people affected now?

No local press were present at this meeting. SW stated that there was no support for him following his statement, from other CE Councillors. One councillor’s response was to build it in a tunnel.

There is a need for the Council to respond to George Osborne soon, with copies to other relevant parties. Doubts about economic benefits. There is an Exceptional Hardship Scheme, but the criteria is so tight that it is a matter of who will qualify for it. There are doubts about environmental and ecology impacts, as it cuts through farm-land in the Parish of Pickmere, decimating areas of farmland. Letter to be done by one of the councillors ?AS

AS reported that there is a possibility of using the Cheshire Show as a means of providing information and communication. It is likely that the 'Group' will support this idea. Nigel Evans, Cheshire Showground Executive Director, has agreed a stand for the purpose, in the countryside area overlooking the actual area which will be affected, and therefore demonstrating exactly what effect HS2 will do to the countryside in our area.

- 7.2 Heyrose NFU meeting: Attended by AS and PG; Report from AS – NFU more concerned that their members should not suffer, but not necessarily against it. Any information from HS1 would be shared with them. The NFU are very well represented and have access to right people.
- 7.3 Chalc Meeting at Wilmslow : Report from AS: 15-20 Parish Councillors attended this. Chalc do not offer support or legal advice to support groups against HS2. Only 2 Macclesfield area councillors 'concerned' re HS2 most others seemed to think a good idea.
- 7.4 Community Pride: Update on actions required: VB informed the council that she had entered the Competition for 'Best Kept Village' and 'Website'. She asked SR if he would look into 'Young People' Category for next year. Judging starts in mid-April to September. Coloured poster re. this to go on all boards. Keep village tidy!  
She is concerned about trees at the IROS, vicinity of car park that they are killing red hawthorns . It was suggested that we encourage people in the village to contribute to some of the tasks in the village.
- 7.5 Village Hall Maintenance: Update: PG reported that maintenance jobs at the Hall are up to date. VB requested attention to drawers in kitchen – decision to allow £20 to improve these. At 9.15pm 2 members of the public left the meeting.
- 7.6 Agenda Process: AS requested that councilors give more information when asking Clerk for items to be placed on Agenda; need to know whether just a report, or item needing a resolution, and some information on it, so that Clerk can inform Chair.
- 7.7 Report sent to Northwich Guardian, after request from them, re. footpath around lake: Clerk had sent email re. the closure of the path by CWAC due to its slippery unsafe condition. Wincham PC had also provided a report.

## 8. Planning

8.1 To note information from Cheshire East Borough Council: No applications last month

8.1.1 Application 12/4899M Extension to 1 Royle Cottage: Application withdrawn

8.1.2 Spinks Lane: CT will give update on this and the forthcoming Public Inquiry:

Statements have now been submitted. Awaiting hard copies for the Inquiry which starts 25<sup>th</sup> March and is expected to last 4 days. Notices to be placed on boards, encouraging residents to attend. SW will present our evidence. Ecology report will also be used and aerial photos from 2009, showing changes from open green belt. Plans in place in case of additional professional support.

SW thanked CT for the time and dedication that he has given to this situation in our village, over the years, and for the recent preparation of all the documents for the forthcoming Inquiry.

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

Budget now been set by CE. There have been changes in management structure. His own role has changed and he is now Chair of Corporate Scrutiny for CE.

He had responded to a call from a resident in Clover Drive re. speeding and will chase up the road signs re. this.

He addressed the resident who had questioned the development of greenbelt land on the north Knutsford site which will need to be developed over the next 20 years. The Consultation period is now closed. Comments are being examined . The area is on the A50 out of Knutford on the right and left, close to the Land Rover Garage. This resident left the Parish meeting at 9.25pm

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

**10.1** Decision on date of November meeting: (falls on Bonfire Night at the moment!) Resolved by Council to leave meeting date as it is.

**10.2** Fields in Trust: VB – cancelled item this evening; to be put on **April Agenda**. RP to circulate information on this to all councillors.

**10.3** PG asked could the Council consider ‘Rainy Day Insurance’ for Family Fun Day run by the Community Group. AS requested to supply more information next meeting and report on where this activity falls within Parish Council responsibility.

**10.4** Reports on Safety Clover Drive: VB to bring to next meeting.

**11. Items for next meeting’s agenda –**

Assets Review- PG VB

Fields in Trust- VB

Rainy Day Insurance for Fun Day and Concert - PG

Safety of Clover Drive- VB

**Next Meeting will be on Tuesday April 2nd in the Village Hall at 7.30pm**

