

PICKMERE PARISH COUNCIL

604

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON

TUESDAY MAY 12th 2015 AT 7.30 PM

The meeting commenced with:

The Chairman's Report for 2014/2015 Pickmere Parish Council

The Council met on all planned occasions during the past 12 months each meeting having a full agenda of business covering finance, planning, HS2 and improvements to village assets. The council has taken an active role in CE meetings and conferences.

I believe the precept budget has been excellently managed with proper due diligence being applied at every stage. Careful planning and control has enabled us to deliver services without any cost increase to individual households.

Notable attachments have been:

Increased income from Village Hall bookings

Installation of a new boiler in the Village Hall

Annual contracts for grounds maintenance at the Children's Play Ground and Green Spaces.

In 2014 Pickmere, supported by the Parish Council, won the Community Pride Awards Competition for:

"Best Kept Village" in the category for 601-1000 residents and

"Best Community Initiative Award 2014", reflecting the diverse contributions of the Community Group to the village.

The Parish Council Website continues to provide a variety of information to a large number of people, with 2000-3000 visits per month. The council increasingly uses this as a communication method to supplement or replace paper.

The Council took legal advice before objecting to the application to change the status of the IROS, from an area owned, managed and operated by PPC to that of a Village Green. We are awaiting the outcome of an independent review by a Barrister appointed by CE

The Council has co-ordinated the response to the HS2 consultation and has led the group of some 11 Parish Councils in the North West of Cheshire East. We now await the government response to the country- wide consultation.

The Council resolved to develop a Neighbourhood Plan for the parish. An application defining the area has been submitted to Cheshire East along with applications for local and central funding. It is expected that the Neighbourhood Plan process will take many months and require the input of residents.

It has been decided to fund and install a number of speed enforcement devices on Pickmere Lane and Park Lane. Speeding is a continuing problem in the Village and was raised as a priority topic in the Parish Plan.

The Council takes great care in its activity of reviewing all Planning Applications with particular emphasis on a consistent approach, mindful of the National guidance, local plan and the stated preferences of the Parish Council in its response to the Local Plan Consultation.

Of particular importance to the council is the ongoing non-compliance with Planning Decisions relating to Spinks Lane. We continue to promote awareness of the non-enforcement within Cheshire East Council, to both Members and Officers.

Planning permission was obtained for a Storage Container at the IROS. The Community Group funded the container itself, but the installed container is now in the ownership and management of PPC, as with all other activities at the IROS.

The Council has decided to promote CPR training in the community in support of the Heart-Start initiative. Three members of the Council have experienced the training and become accredited. It is hoped that a large number of people will become involved.

I would like to thank all members of the Council past and present for their contribution to council activities and their consistent attendance. My thanks also to the Financial Officer and to our Webpage Manager for what has turned out to be a great deal of additional work than initially expected.

Finally, my thanks to The Parish Clerk for providing Agendas and Minutes on time, every time, and communicating our requests to others.

Andrew Shore
Chairman Pickmere Parish Council

Pickmere Parish Council members were returned uncontested in the recent local elections.

Andrew Shore welcomed Olivia Hunter to our meeting. Olivia is our new Cheshire East Councillor, for the High Legh Ward, following the recent elections.

The Election of Officers then followed.

The Clerk, Mrs Rosemary Fogerty, asked the present officers to vacate their seats, and went on to request nominations, followed by voting.

The following councilors were elected as Officers for 2015-2016:

Chairperson: Mr Andrew Shore

Vice Chairperson: Mr Chris Tarrant

Responsible Finance Officer: Mr Philip Gough

Planning Committee: Councillors: A Shore, C Tarrant and P Gough.

The Agenda then followed:

1. Present: AS, CT, PG, SR and RF (Clerk), CE Councillor, Olivia Hunter.

Apologies: Nil

Public: Nil

2. Minutes –

2.1 The Minutes of the last meeting, held on 7th April 2015, were approved and signed by Chairperson, Mr Andrew Shore.

2.2 Matters arising from those Minutes: CT reported that the manhole cover/culvert at the Lake had now been dealt with and U.U. had done remedial work on the path and verges.

3. Declaration of Interests

Nil.

4. Open Forum (Including PCSO)

4.1 No public present.

4.2 The PCSO had sent a report to the Clerk. She reported on youths attempting to buy alcohol at the local Spar Shop and ‘appeared’ under age, and may have been heading to the Lake. Spar intervened and contacted the police.

5. Planning

5.1 Applications received during April:

5.1.1 15/1812T Work to TPO Trees at 27 Clover Drive Pickmere WA16 0WF

5.1.2 15/1755M The Willows Mere Lane Pickmere WA16 0LB Proposed single storey front extension and associated patio. No objection raised by Pickmere Council but take neighbours views into consideration. Not reported on by CE yet.

5.2 Decision on: 15/1157M Demolition of stable block and erection of garage/storage building in its place. Trygen Pickmere Lane Pickmere Cheshire WA16 0JH – Approved.

6. Finance: To be reported on by PG:

6.1 Audit: 2014 to 2015: Preparation to date: This has now been completed and awaiting Internal Auditor doing her check. To be signed off at next meeting. A Notice has been placed on the board to inform public available to see from 26th May to 22 June.

6.2 Financial update for April. PG distributed Finance Sheets. VAT still needs to be reclaimed . The first half of the precept has been received. Gas understated but DD now been increased to account for this. Renew Sale Moor Angling contract shortly. Clerk to call treasurer to delay renewal cheque. Clerk to send list of cheques over £100 in last year to PG for audit purposes.

6.3 To approve the payments for this month: signed for Clerk, Cleaner, Finance, Chalc Membership, R Platt (grass cutting), A Wright (Clover Drive P G Area cutting hedge)

6.4 Payments received during last month: Nil.

6.5 AS proposed to the councillors that due to the increase in the amount of work involved for the RFO, particularly with constant changes taking place, that they should consider some 'professional input' to assist Councillor Gough with this aspect of the council business. This was unanimously agreed and PG will report back to council with information and costs.

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

7.1 Village Hall Booking Charges: It had previously been discussed that there was no need to make changes to the cost and terms of hire, this being £6.00 per hour, minimum 2 hours. AS requested the Clerk to send a letter, accompanied by the new Hire Agreement Form, to all present users of the Village Hall. This will be effective from September 1st.

Due to some difficulty in unlocking the Village Hall door, it was unanimously agreed to renew the locks.

7.2 Community Pride Competition: Posters now on boards: CT/RF: Letter received today from Sylvia Batty to request meeting re. entries for the Competition. CT will communicate with appropriate residents, and confirm with Sylvia for meeting on 2.7.15.

7.3 Speedboats on Lake: Update from AS reported that he had met with Police Officer, Jim Day (Officer for Wildlife) and PCSO Sophie Emmerson at the Lake following last month's meeting. AS will provide documentation for the councillors relating to the use of the lake. Brenda Yates, resident of Wincham, is prepared to help by posting details of the fast-speeding of boats on Facebook and asking people to report details to herself or our Clerk.

7.4 Collier's Lane vehicles: CT reported that posts have been put in position at either end of the Bridlepath.

7.5 Path at Lakeside remedial work: CT reported this has now been carried out.

7.6 Update on Spinks Lane: AS reported that this is in the hands of CE and the courts.

7.7 Neighbourhood Planning: AS has registered Pickmere's intention to develop a Plan. This has now to be ratified by CE's 'Cabinet'. He has also applied for funding

to assist in taking this forward..

7.8 SIDs:AS reported that the SID provided by CE has now been installed on Park Lane by CE. It is not yet in 'recording mode'. We are awaiting installation of the 2 devices that the PC are funding.

7.9 Community Payback: Following communication by the clerk soon after the last meeting she was informed that we were not in their area. We have now been connected up with the organiser, Grenville, for our area, who is based at Ellesmere Port. She and CT have met with Grenville and have now produced a list of jobs to be done in our village by their team. It is likely to be about 6 weeks before a supervised team of 6-8 will be attending and working in Pickmere.

8. HS2 Update from AS:

Patrick McLoughlin has been re-appointed as Secretary of State for Transport following the recent General Election. We are now awaiting up an date on this item.

9. Report re: Cheshire East Borough Council from new CE Councillor Olivia Hunter. Olivia is our High Legh Ward Councillor appointed recently in the local CE elections No items to report on – await any updates for June Meeting.

10. Issues raised by Councillors/Parishioners:

Nil.

11. Items for next meeting's agenda – June 2rd

Finalising audit documents.

Clerk: Rosemary Fogerty