

PICKMERE PARISH COUNCIL

Number 594

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON

TUESDAY MAY 6th 2014 AT 7.30 PM

The meeting commenced with the Chairperson's (Mr Andrew Shore) Report for May 2013-May 2014.

Firstly I would like to acknowledge and thank some of the individual efforts of councillors that go to make the council the success it is. This year we have a new member to the council, Simon Read, who is still attending so it can't be that bad!

The Village Hall bookings increase year on year along with the income received. My thanks to Joan for managing bookings and access. At last we have sorted the Village Hall heating system, thanks to a raft of people adding expertise. It now remains for us to completely stop users changing the control settings.

The Council is the focus of the Parish Community Pride Competition and the driving force behind our entry for many years has been Virginia. Thank you Virginia and let us hope for lots more success in the future

The IROS area is clearly an important asset of the Council and of particular note is the way the large field area is maintained by Steve. This is not only grass cutting but more general up keep of the facility.

A newer area of Council activity is that of our web site. It is good, and used extensively; 1000's of hits per month. The effort that Chris puts into both maintaining and uploading news, etc. makes it the success it is. I understand we have entered the Community Pride in this category.

I must thank Rosemary, our Clerk to the Council; our Minutes and Agendas are always timely and on view to the public as prescribed. As a Council we do appear to have more going on than most!

Lastly my thanks go to Phil, our RFO, a job I do not envy at all; it is complicated, takes time and the person who goes to prison if it all goes wrong !. Thanks Phil, your efforts are much appreciated

One person I would like to personally mention, and who is not a member of the Council, and that is Max, the member of our community who tirelessly collects rubbish from around our Parish and beyond, almost every day.

Notable activities 2013-2014

There was a satisfactory conclusion to the 'Freedom of Information Request' through the Commissioner's Office in Wilmslow.

The Council made representation with the aid of legal advice to Cheshire East to maintain the IROS land within its control and management and objected to it being converted into a village green which the council believes would be a less than ideal move for the village as a whole.

The Council has applied for, and been granted planning permission for storage on the IROS land associated with community and council activities. The container is now in place. Again, particular thanks to Steve and Brenda for storing equipment used by the community, for many years.

The Council has strongly supported residents in its objection to the proposed HS2 through our own and adjacent Parishes. The Council has arranged awareness sessions with detailed maps and held public meetings. We are currently the chair of a cluster group all opposed to this development

The illegal occupation by people on Spinks Lane continues to be of concern to the Council and we feel frustrated by the passage of time, and yet Cheshire East, because of recent court intervention are not able to act as we and they would prefer. Members of the Council have attended numerous meeting and or engaged in correspondence with Cheshire East in attempts to unblock the problem as we see it.

The planning committee have met and or discussed planning application on many occasions to understand the merits of Planning Application submitted to us by Cheshire East as Statutory Consultees. We have made recommendations on all in the time allotted to us. The committee strives to achieve consistency and fairness in line with our stated development plans for the Village

Andrew Shore

Chairman PPC 2013-2014

This speech was followed by the Election of Officers. The Clerk, Mrs Rosemary Fogerty, asked the present officers to vacate their seats, and went on to request nominations, followed by voting.

The following were elected as Officers for 2014-2015:

Chairperson: Mr Andrew Shore

Vice Chairperson: Mr Chris Tarrant

Responsible Finance Officer: Mr Philip Gough

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

NB. The Officers elected are the same as those of last year.

The Agenda then followed:

- 1. Present: Councillors:** A Shore, C Tarrant, P Gough, S Wilkinson, J Webb, R Pepall, S Read,
Apologies: V Brown.

Public: Nil

PCSO Emmerson: Sophie called in to report/discuss items with Councillor Shore, before the meeting commenced, as she was on duty and could not be present for the meeting. See Item 4

- 2. Minutes –**

2.1 Corrections: Take out in 'line 4' of Item 7.2 'had gone into a hole', and replace with 'been side tracked by legal arguments rather than adhering to the Planning Procedure'. Also, line 5 to read 'nothing CE can do at this time as it involves ..'

Correct 7.3.3 second to last line: 'tress' to read 'trees'. The Minutes were then approved and signed by the Chairperson, for the meeting, held on 1st April 2014.

2.2 Matters arising from those Minutes: CT reported that he has tried to contact Allan James, tree surgeon, re the trees at the IROS – he will obtain a quote and suggest felling the tree.

- 3. Declaration of Interests:**

SW declared interest in HS2.

- 4. Open Forum (Including PCSO)**

4.1 No public present.

4.2

4.2.1 PCSO: Report from AS because PCSO unable to attend. Three of the five incidents had occurred in High Legh. One local one was a suspicious male in Wayfarer's Court, and a male driving into a gate at a farm on Pickmere Lane.

4.2.2 Sophie would like us to attempt to get volunteers for Speedwatch – Clerk will contact 'Pickmere Press' and website. Sophie had done Speedwatch during last month and reported 4 incidents of speeding in one hour. There are no volunteers at the moment.

- 5. Planning**

5.1 Applications received during April:

5.1.1 14/1960 Change of use of former paddock to garden area and retention of rectangular water feature, border and timber boardwalk. Location: Crown Farm, Frog Lane, Pickmere WA16 0LL. Clerk to reply objecting to this.

5.1.2 14/1966M Proposed rear extension and 1st floor balcony with internal alterations. Location 10 Jacob's Way, Pickmere, WA16 0GZ: No objections to this – clerk to reply.

5.2. Decisions from CE during April:

5.2.1 14/0862M 2 Storey side Extension and new garage. Fernhill Farm Frog Lane Pickmere WA16 0LJ: Approved with conditions.

5.2.2 14/0803M Equestrian Menage at Tanyard Farm Pickmere Lane Pickmere: Approved with conditions.

5.3 Cheshire East's decision to change method of informing Parish Councils of Planning Applications from plans by post to 'electronic' from April 1st 2014. SW reported that he had been unable to raise this topic at a recent meeting. Clerk to do email to CE raising this problem.

- 6. Finance:**

6.1 To approve the payments for this month: cheques were signed for Clerk's expenses, Cleaner VH, Chalc Membership, Website annual fee, Insurance Brokers for Came and Co, for Container insurance.

6.2 Financial update: PG handed out statements for April: Balances: Land Asset Current £1,470, Deposit £1,273. General Account: £21,096. Bond £12,000. Put 'Bond' on June's Agenda.

PG is preparing the Audit; he has contacted N White, our Internal Auditor, who will check this before it is sent to External Auditors. Clerk to place Notice of Audit on Board for residents. PG reported on PAYE who felt that he required some 'expert' assistance with this. SR proposed 'expert' to do this aspect of the Finance. CT seconded. This will cost £100 per annum. Agreed by Councillors.

6.3 Payments received during last month: £1,094.00 for hire of Village Hall. JW reported that this sum was for February, March and April.

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

7.1 Garden waste tipping near pathway to Lake: CT to report: Discussion on this took place: Clerk to do note to residents.

7.2 Tape marking boundary to 'Market Garden' business on Spinks Lane: CT to report: No further action on this.

7.3 Update re. Container siting adjacent to Pavillion: CT reported that the container has now been installed adjacent to the Pavillion. He is awaiting the contractor to attend to treat the ceiling to prevent condensation. Then it will be time for Councillor S Wilkinson and Mrs Brenda Wilkinson to move in with all the equipment they have so kindly stored at their own premises for the Community Group, for so many years. Thank you to them both for this storage facility they have previously provided. A check of who possesses keys to the container was discussed.

7.4 'Multiplay' equipment at Clover Drive Playground: Area in need of attention to the woodwork etc. PG reported that VB (absent tonight) had previously looked into the repair of this, and organised it, but the person involved has moved from Pickmere. Repair and painting will be dealt with over next month. VB will report at next meeting.

7.5 'Community Pride 2014 Poster' received by the Clerk, now in position on notice boards: Judging will be taking place throughout the summer months. Keep our village very tidy everywhere, clean and free from litter please! We need to gain as many points as possible.

7.6 Update on Spinks Lane Site: AS had received an update (reply) from Caroline Simpson, CE, explaining that this has now become a legal issue, to be heard in court on July 21st. A copy of this letter is on the Parish Website.

- 8. HS2** Update from AS: AS had held a recent meeting of the HS2 Cluster Group. They are eager to keep up the impetus on HS2. It was agreed that AS and SW should attend George Osborne's surgery to keep up the pressure.

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

SW reported on attending a meeting for Town and Parish Councils.

AS asked SW to request CE for us to have 'repeater 30mph' signs on the road from Wincham through to Pickmere, to remind motorists of the speed limit.

Clerk to contact David Malcolm at CE re. Planning Applications Electronically.

10. Issues raised by Councillors/Parishioners:

10.1 Councillor Joan Webb informed the Council that she wishes to resign. Joan has had some bad health issues recently. She has served as a councillor for 40 years and was Chairperson from 1998 until 2012.

She spoke about her memories of how the council was first set up around 1947 and of those she remembered who were involved in this in the early days.

She offered to continue with the 'bookings of the Village Hall' in dealing with the bookings and financial side of this, and this kind offer was accepted by the Councillors generally.

A vote of thanks was made by Councillor S Read to Joan, recognising her long involvement and contribution to the Parish Council over the years and how her presence will be missed.

10.2 RP reported that he had attended a Manchester Airport meeting recently.

10.3 Clerk to do email to Steph. Cordin, Head of Communities, informing her that we would like to promote a rural Community Partnership.

