

PICKMERE PARISH COUNCIL

Number 584

MINUTES OF THE PICKMERE PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 7th May 2013 AT 7.30PM

AT PICKMERE VILLAGE HALL

The meeting commenced with the Annual Report from the Chairperson, Mr Andrew Shore, for May 2012/13:

Mr Shore reported increased revenue received from letting of Village Hall, for several activities, and thanked Councillor J Webb for her efforts relating to this. Activities include dog training, dancing and musical groups.

He thanked Councillor V Brown for her efforts which led to Pickmere's success in the Community Pride Completion, in that Pickmere was awarded the overall 'Best Kept Village' for Cheshire, for under 600 residents. In recognition of this The Woodland Trust then donated a tree to the village which was planted on the IROS by the Mayor of CE George Walton.

Our Website has gone from strength to strength, thanks to Vice Chair, Chris Tarrant, and hits are increasing monthly. The information complements the Pickmere Press very well.

Councillor S Wilkinson has contributed greatly to the work required at the IROS, involving many hours of his own time and also he has acquired additional help from supportive local business.

The Council have continued to support CE in upholding the Planning Process by meeting with the CE Leadership Team. Three of the Councillors (who are also members of PARG) were actively involved in the Public Inquiry held at Macclesfield Town Hall, in April, relating to the Spinks Lane Gypsy Site. Professional support was also engaged.

In 2012 the council started a process to establish a long term strategy for its community buildings, including maintenance. A Public Consultation was held in relation to this. Further work is now required to progress this.

In the last quarter of the period the government announced the route of HS2, which is devastating to the residents of Pickmere and local parishes.. PPC was instrumental in bringing together a Cluster of 12 parishes, known as 'HS2 Parish Council Action Group in CE', - an elected lobby already bringing pressure to our MP G.Osborne. A drop in session for all parishioners was held, to enable them to view plans and documents. A stand will be present at this year's Cheshire Show 'Against HS2'.

Following his report, the Clerk then asked the present officers to vacate their seats. This was followed by nominations for Chair, Vice Chair, Finance Officer and Planning Committee. Voting followed and the results were as follows:

Chairperson:	Andrew Shore
Vice Chairperson:	Chris Tarrant
Finance Officer:	Phil Gough
Planning Committee:	Andrew Shore, Chris Tarrant, V Brown, Phil Gough

These appointed officers remain the same as last year.

The meeting then proceeded as per **Agenda:**

- 1. Present:** Councillors: A Shore, C Tarrant, P Gough, J Webb, R Pepall, V Brown, Clerk-R Fogerty.

S. Wilkinson arrived at 8.30pm having attended a previous CE Meeting.

Apologies: Councillor S Read. PCSO S Emmerson

Public: Nil

2. Minutes –

2.1 The Minutes were approved and signed for the meeting on 2nd April 2013, by A Shore.

2.2 Matters arising from those Minutes:

2.2.1 VB reported that she had not been able to contact Steve Holden, CWAC, re. the footpath closure at the lake. CT had attempted to make contact with him also. The gate has now been thrown over to one side, and the boardwalk is being used. 'unofficially'. Decision taken to report this on our website and advise people to take care. Clerk to do email to clerk at Wincham re. this.

2.2.2 PG reported on 10.2 that the grass has been cut at the playground and the 'Open Spaces' areas by an unknown person.

2.2.3 VB reported that she did not see the plans for A556. Also the 'Digley Report' should be done in mid June to fit in with insurance, and she will deal with this. Decision reached to leave with Digley for time being. She also reported that the first inspection for the Community Pride Competition was done last weekend. Please keep village very tidy from now on!

2.2.4 VB gave further information on 'Fields in Trust'. To appear on June's Agenda.

3. Declaration of Interests

Discussion re pecuniary/non pecuniary interests. AS will raise this topic with the 'Cluster Group' and get clarity on it.

4. Open Forum (Including PCSO)

4.1 No members present

4.2 PCSO: Apologies were received so Clerk reported on April's update received from PCSO:

These included the theft of a horse from School Lane, and theft of sheep from Aston-by-Budworth. Other incidents were not actually in Pickmere.

The Clerk reported that she had, with the PCSO's help, traced the Speed gun to one of the volunteers who do 'Speedwatch'. He will return this and the yellow jacket to the clerk, as he is resigning from being a volunteer.

5. Planning

Applications/decisions of planning from Cheshire East Borough Council and other related items.

5.1 Applications since last meeting: Nil

6. Finance:

- 6.1 Financial update: PG reported: The Audit deadline is 25.6.13. PG will see our Internal Auditor and bring the Accounts to the June meeting to be signed off ready to send to External Auditors.
- 6.2 To approve the payments for this month: Cheques were signed for Insurance, website, VH Cleaner, Clerk's expenses, playground grasscutting, Planning (Spinks Lane), IROS path chippings.
- 6.3 Payments received during last month: The first half of the precept of £6,500 has been received. £312 from VH lettings. The Village Hall income from lettings amounts to £1412 from January to May.
- 6.4 Grass cutting quote: PG: Awaiting quote for this.
- 6.5 Maintenance of Assets: PG and CT: Update and way forward (Maintaining and 'Clean up') Item moved to Item 10.
- 6.6 Cheshire Showground: Insurance relating to 'HS2 Stand'. This will be dealt with by the 'Cluster Group'.
- 6.7 Discussion on Annual Insurance for 16 month cover, and then 3 year cover. Proposed by VB and seconded by SW. Resolution to go ahead with this. Need to sign LTA to send with cheque. Clerk will liaise with PG.

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

- 7.1 Footpath Closure by CWAC: Update from VB/CT – Dealt with in Matters arising.

8. HS2

- 8.1 Report on attendance at meeting of parishes with George Osborne, MP: AS had organised a Cluster Group Meeting involving 12 parishes and their Councillors and Clerks. Although it was held during the middle part of the day it was well attended, 44 in all. Questions were put to G. Osborne re Compensation? How would it create jobs. Could the line be modified? What about land values? Hardships? Funding? Route options – why was this route chosen and could it be considered to re-route with possible deeper cuttings. AS has sent a letter to G. Osborne on behalf of the Cluster Group. VB requested seeing the letter. The next stage is for a Public Meeting to be held at Cotton's Hotel, Knutsford for public to attend from all 12 parishes. This will be held on May 20th at 7.30pm. Posters will be on boards in our village, emails sent by Dave Bradburn to Pickmere residents, and word of mouth. AS gave details of the 3 speakers, including Michael Jones, Leader of the Council, CE, and these will take up to one hour, followed by one hour of questions from the public, particularly important is 'Why is this so good for CE?' There will be a collecting bucket at the event, to go towards funding.

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

- 9.1 Tonight CE had ratified the appointment of Michael Suarez as the new Chief Executive. He has held the post of Deputy Executive at other councils. He has recently held the post of Finance Director at Lambeth Council.
- 9.2 SW reported on the new management structure of senior posts at CE, which was put on place from 21.4.13.
- 9.3 SW referred to the documentation of the Cheshire Plan received by the Clerk. This details the possible sites not yet in the plan. There is only one in Knutsford, at Booths Hall.
- 9.4 £28.5 million government assistance has been granted to Cheshire Area to deliver improved Broadband to 95% Cheshire by 2016.
- 9.5 The Red Lion Inn, Pickmere has been awarded 'Best Small Commercial Building' being the winner, as part of North West Building Excellence Awards.
- 9.6 AS requested 30mph repeaters along Pickmere Lane.

10. Issues raised by Councillors/Parishioners:

10. 1(Item 6.5 moved to here) Maintenance of Village Assets: Way forward: PG/CT. No response from asking for volunteers in the village to assist with this. PG suggested making concise list and then prioritise, by getting advice on what really needs doing, eg seat on 'Open Space area'. Some of the work could be done by volunteers and some professionally. PG/CT to produce list.
Clerk to do letter to W.A.P Lawton thanking him for his generosity of help with tree felling etc.
- 10.2 Spink Lane Inquiry: CT reported that the Secretary of State will report on this before 21.7.13. Also Spatial Strategy has been abolished.
- 10.3 Web-site; CT Hits to website have risen greatly recently, there being 5,700 in April. Not sure why sudden increase from previous of 3,600. Positive comments being made.
- 10.4 Cheque received from PARG (AS) for £1227.60 being the amount repayable to the Council after deducting the VAT on initial invoice.
- 10.5 Crown Estates: AS reported that he and CT had met at the Village Hall, to meet up with representative from Crown Estates. Discussion re. possibility of purchasing/long-short term let etc took place. This is ongoing with Crown Estates: The Parish Council have requested further guidance from them on this.
- 10.6 AS feels another meeting re. the Village Hall Buildings is necessary, in order to decided which direction the Council wishes to go.

11. Items for next meeting's agenda – June 4th.

- 11.1 Fields in Trust VB
- 11.2 Declaration of Interests; AS
- 11.3 Audit of accounts
- 11.4 Crown Estates

Clerk: Rosemary Fogerty
