

621
**MINUTES of THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
in PICKMERE VILLAGE HALL**

7th February 2017 at 7.30 p.m.

1. **Present** AS (Chair), CT, AB, IK, SR, DH, SF
 Absent
 Apologies PG (Holiday)
 Police None
 Members of the public None

2. Minutes

2.1 Approval of minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 6th December 2016 were approved and signed by the Chair.

2.2 Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting of 6th December 2016

4.2 Members noted the report relating to the use of Pickmere Lane by HGVs owned by Jack Richards & Son and welcomed that company's response to the Council's representations.

7 Asset Working Groups – DH queried the absence of this item from today's agenda. It will be added to the agenda for the February meeting.

3. Declaration of Interests

SF noted that she was a member of the group Mid-Cheshire against HS2 (see item 7.10 below).

4. Open Forum (Including PCSO)

4.1 Matters raised by the public – None

4.2 PCSO – None

5 Finance

- 5.1 Current financial position** – noted. The Clerk tabled a spreadsheet where he had added a column to the report showing expenditure in the period since the last Council meeting; members welcomed that and also requested a column indicating the budget provision for each item to be included in future reports. Reference was made to the award of £916.62 from the Government's Transparency Fund for the purchase of a laptop, associated software and as a contribution to the Clerk's time servicing the Council's website.

5.2 Approval of new payments

Council authorised the payments on the attached schedule (which include purchase of a laptop funded by the Transparency Fund award noted above) and in addition the payments of £54.50

for the carrying out of PAT tests on the Council's electrical equipment, and £7.50 for the cutting of keys.

6. Planning

6.1 Spinks Lane Update – report noted. The Clerk was asked to write to CE to confirm the Parish Council's expectation that a further meeting will be held with senior representatives of CE before the September deadline to explore further what action CE is to take on expiry of the two-year period.

6.2 Planning decisions – report noted.

6.3 Other current planning matters – report noted; response from CE now awaited.

7. Reports from Clerk and from Councillors

7.1 Annual Parish Meeting – There was discussion of how such a meeting could engage the local community. The possibility was tabled of holding a 'Village open evening', where the Chair could give a brief summary of Parish Council actions over the year, but where other local groups could play a role in highlighting what they do, and exploring what other interests might it be possible to satisfy. This item is to be included on the February agenda, and in the meantime Council members were asked to consider and explore possibilities for such a meeting.

7.2 Attitude to open water swimming in Pickmere Lake – the communication from a member of the public (referring to the apparent increasing prevalence of open-water swimming in the lake) was noted and the Council resolved that its policy of not condoning such an activity should be restated.

7.3 Community Speedwatch – the original training session was stymied by a road traffic accident issue in the locality which prevented the PCSO from attending. The Clerk was asked to re-contact PCSO Gary Fulton to try to set up a new date for training.

7.4 HS2 – Parish Update meeting – The Village Hall has been booked for an update meeting on Thursday 16th February at 7.30 p.m. This will take the form of a drop-in session rather than a formal meeting with presentation to an audience. HS2 have been asked to provide a representative(s) including an engineer, but though they can send 1 or 2 representatives, there is no engineer apparently available. The HS2 reps are also not in favour of the 'drop-in' format and the Clerk remains in discussion with them about their presence and the provision of further copies of explanatory material. The report was noted. However, members of the Pickmere community are invited to attend the meeting at any point between 7.30 p.m. and 9.15 p.m. on 16th February.

7.5 Donation of benches – CT reported that the first donated bench should be installed during this week in an agreed position overlooking the Lake. DH/SF have been liaising with Mrs V Pearson about the form of a replacement bench, that Mrs Pearson wishes to donate, on the land at Clover Drive/Park Lane and also the donation of trees. An appropriate bench has been sourced at a price of £399 incl. VAT; the Clerk was instructed to submit an order, and to include a hard surface fixing kit and a plaque requested by the donor. The donor will reimburse the Council. The donor has also agreed to visit a garden centre to select appropriate trees with DH and SF next month.

- 7.6 Transparency Code Funding** – The Clerk noted receipt of the award to the Parish Council of £916.62.
- 7.7 Meeting with Community Group** – the Clerk noted that the date for this meeting is Thursday 23rd February at 7.30 p.m. The Parish Council wished to record its thanks to Brenda Wilkinson for all the leadership and work she has invested in the Community Group since its inception.
- 7.8 Request for donation – NW Air Ambulance** – Notwithstanding the importance of the cause, which was acknowledged by all members, it was considered that the broadness of the organisation in relation to the interests of the parish's residents, and the responsibility of the Parish Council to administer the Council's public funds in the interests of the parish were such that it was inappropriate for the Council to donate. However, the Council wished to encourage any member of the public to donate to the organisation if they were so minded.
- It was unanimously resolved that as a matter of policy, the Council would not offer donations to general charities that do not have a clear focus on the specific interests of the local community of the parish.
- 7.9 Request to hire Village Hall for dog scent training** – it was unanimously agreed that this request be refused, on the basis that it would have implications for instance for the cleaning regime of the Hall.
- 7.10 Request for donation – Mid-Cheshire against HS2** – One member drew a distinction between this cause and that discussed under item 7.8, in terms of its potential local relevance. There was discussion of the merits of the request, some concern being expressed over the absence of any detail as to the likely financial requirements of the organisation, the scale of donation envisaged, and the level of control the Council would have over how any donation would be spent. It was agreed that the request would be reconsidered at the Council's next meeting, which would follow the HS2 parish update meeting planned for 16th February.
- 7.11 Damage to Pavilion CCTV camera** – Three councillors had met with the perpetrators of this damage, their parents and the police, where it was agreed that the perpetrators would fund a replacement and carry out some work in the local community. The replacement camera should be installed later this week.
- 7.12 The Elms PH** – the meeting noted Enterprise Inn's negative response to the Council's suggestion that the car park access of this vacant public house be temporarily blocked pending reoccupation.
- 8. Report from C.E. Cllr Olivia Hunter re Cheshire East Council - none**

Clerk: Jack Steel

Next meeting: Tuesday 7th March 2017 at 7.30 p.m.

