

622
DRAFT MINUTES of THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
in PICKMERE VILLAGE HALL

7th March 2017 at 7.30 p.m.

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

2. Minutes

2.1 Approval of minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 7th February 2017 were approved and signed by the Chair.

2.2 Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting of 7th February 2017

2.1 Community Speedwatch – the rearrangement of this training session has now to be further postponed due to the sick leave of PCSO Gary Fulton. Clerk to seek to rearrange the training when GF returns, and to notify the member of the public who has volunteered for training.

7.5 Donation of Bench – the Clerk reported that the bench to be donated by Mrs V Pearson has now been delivered and awaits installation.

7.11 Pavilion CCTV camera – the replacement camera has now been installed.

3. Declaration of Interests

CT, SF, DH, AB, and IK noted that they were members of Pickmere Wine Club (see item 8.2 below). SF noted that she was a member of the group Mid-Cheshire against HS2 (see item 8.5 below).

4. Open Forum (Including PCSO)

4.1 Matters raised by the public – None

4.2 PCSO – The PCSO was not present (sick leave). The monthly Police report for Knutsford, incl. the Parish, had previously been circulated to members by email; it contained no matters relating to the Parish. DH referred to an incident that took place in the last month near Clover Drive relating to a youth who was somewhat agitated. The Police had been called and responded quickly but the youth could not by then be found. The incident had not appeared in the Knutsford Police report but perhaps the incident had been responded to by the Northwich station. The Clerk was asked to request Northwich's PCSO report.

5 Finance

5.1 Current financial position – noted. It was agreed that the defibrillator box should be listed as one of the Council's assets, and it may need to be notified to our insurers. PG and the Clerk are to liaise on this.

5.2 Approval of new payments

Council authorised the payments on the attached schedule and in addition the payments of £76.60 for the purchase of the guide 'Arnold Baker on Local Council Administration' (which is the legal 'bible' for the administration of Parish Councils). Also authorised was the payment of the account of Northwich Heating (£120.00) for the servicing of the Village Hall boiler and the provision of a gas safety certificate in respect of the Village Hall. Council confirmed the payments between meetings listed on the attached schedule.

6. Planning

- 6.1 Planning decisions** – report noted. It was noted that no response had yet been received from CE Council in respect of the Parish Council's communication re several potential planning enforcement issues. A member asked Cllr Hunter whether there had been any progress in the matter of parking facilities at 100-118 Pickmere Lane. Cllr Hunter reported that she had written to the relevant residents but no meeting with them had been held.

7. Reports from Assets Working Groups

- 7.1 Funding Sub-Group** - no report as the sub-group awaits progress on other aspects.
- 7.2 Planning Sub-Group** – outline drawings of the potential proposal at the Pavilion have been commissioned (as previously authorised) and are awaited. The architect is making enquiries of CE Council as to whether an outline planning application should be the first step or whether a pre-application site meeting with a planning officer would be appropriate. AS/Clerk are to progress a draft Design and Access statement.
- 7.3 Asset Register Sub-Group** – CT/AB will report to the next meeting in relation to a potential maintenance schedule for the Council's built assets.

8 Reports from Clerk and from Councillors

- 8.1 Annual Parish Meeting** – It was agreed that the Council would organise an evening event to which would be invited local residents; the detailed form of the meeting is to be discussed further, but the principle is to be that it should be informal, and it should be a means by which residents could meet individual parish councillors and also where local interest groups – e.g. the Pickmere WI, the Wine Club, the Photography and Heritage Group, the Community Group etc and perhaps the Methodist Church could play a role.
- 8.2 Submission of application for Premises Licence in respect of the Village Hall** – Following a discussion of the options, it was agreed that an application would be submitted, restricted solely to the activities of the Wine Club, which would need to operate on a membership-only basis. The meeting remained quorate with three members to vote. SR proposed the resolution and PG seconded; AS voted in favour of the proposal. CT, SF, DH, AB, and IK did not vote.
- 8.3 Meeting with Community Group** – AS reported that a successful meeting had been held. It had decided that the Parish Council and the Community Group would remain separate organisations. The CG is currently working to establish a more formal constitution for its future operation. It had been agreed that on a broadly twice-yearly basis, the Chairs of the Council and the Group, together with the PC Clerk, would meet to discuss issues of relevance to both organisations.

8.4 HS2 – Submission of representations – A wide-ranging discussion took place. The Council resolved unanimously to submit objections to the current HS2 consultation proposals. The Council remains, as in the first round of consultations, opposed to the principle of HS2b, on the basis of the inadequate business case that has been presented to support the proposal, and in the face of the considerable and detrimental impact the proposals will have. The currently proposed route refinements as they affect Pickmere parish were considered by members to be completely unacceptable on the following basis:

It is accepted that the line of the railway has been moved slightly further away from the main part of Pickmere village, but in doing so the height of the line has been raised throughout. This increased elevation, taken together with the height of trackside gantries and other plant, and the form of the engineering structures will:

- have a considerable and detrimental impact on the openness of the Green Belt within which the route runs. The creation of substantial lengths of embankment and viaducts will interrupt views across open countryside resulting in a substantial degradation of its character and openness;
- provide a hard barrier in the landscape, severing views, local communities and landholdings, and resulting in environmental and economic distress to the Parish's residents and landowners;
- result in even worse noise and vibration impacts on residents and on the local environment than a line constructed at grade, resulting both from operation of the route and its construction. Whilst mitigation measures may be vaguely promised in relation to the operation of the line, it is hard to conceive how effective mitigation of noise impacts can be achieved without exacerbating the visual impacts of the scheme as referred to above;
- result in a substantially increased land take, required to form the embankments proposed, to the detriment of the local environment and the working farms and other enterprises affected.
- result in substantial disturbance to land drainage systems, in an area (and in particular in the floodplain areas) where drainage is not good at present;
- require huge amounts of fill material to be imported to the Parish, presumably by road, causing disruption and substantial loss of amenity to the residents of the parish in their daily lives, using local roads. In this context, the Parish Council wishes to insist that no construction access is taken through Pickmere Village and on Pickmere Lane, Pickmere;
- result in considerable light pollution in the local landscape, both during construction operations and during operation of the proposed route, for instance when overnight maintenance to the track is required.

The Clerk was instructed to submit these representations.

8.5 Request for Donation – Mid-Cheshire against HS2 – The discussion considered the additional information submitted on behalf of the organisation. However, members resolved that a donation should not be made. Members resolved in addition that if a future noise survey was to be carried out which might include the Pickmere length of the proposed line, then they would wish to look again at this question. SF did not vote on these matters.

8.6 Repair/Maintenance works at the Pavilion – CT reminded members that certain elements of the Pavilion structure were in need of maintenance, in particular the paintwork on external doors and windows, and guttering. Ideally remedial work should be carried out before Sunday Teas commence. It was agreed that in the light of the provision within the 2017-8 budget, work on relevant items up to £750 in value was authorised; in accordance with Standing Orders, 2 quotes for work in excess of £500 were required. It was also agreed to seek supplementary funding for such maintenance work – in particular schemes run by Tesco and Waitrose were worthy of application – Clerk to action. Thirdly, the Asset Register Sub-Group (CT/AB/PG)

together with SR would report back to the next Council meeting on asset maintenance issues; including the playground. In the meantime, the Clerk and a member would carry out a risk assessment in respect of the fencing that has been blown down at the playground, to enable a decision on whether the playground needs to be closed until repair works to the fence have been carried out.

- 8.7 Request to trim/thin hedge opposite The Orchards** - the Clerk added to the report that such work had largely been carried out. Members agreed (AB abstained) that no further work should be carried out in this respect. The person involved is to be notified.
- 8.8 Additional urgent item** – Members agreed to send a card and flowers to Mr and Mrs Fogerty, Mrs Fogerty being the former Clerk, following the serious surgery recently carried out on Mr Fogerty.
- 9. Report from C.E. Cllr Olivia Hunter re Cheshire East Council** - none

Clerk: Jack Steel

Next meeting: Tuesday 4th April 2017 at 7.30 p.m.