

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

**5<sup>th</sup> September 2017**

**AGENDA PART A**

1. **Present** AS (Chair), CT, IK, AS, SR, SF, Cllr O Hunter  
**Absent** PG  
**Apologies** DH (personal)  
**Public** One person
  
2. **Minutes**
  - 2.1 **Approval of Minutes** – the minutes of the meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2017 were approved
  - 2.2 **Matters arising from Minutes** – nil
  
3. **Declaration of Interests** – nil
  
4. **Open Forum (Including PCSO)**
  - 4.1 The member of the public did not wish to speak.
  - 4.2 3 members of the Police present, incl. J Stone (new Community Sergeant), PC A Baker ([andrew.baker@cheshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:andrew.baker@cheshire.pnn.police.uk)). Sgt. J Stone introduced himself. He reported that no crimes had been reported in the parish in the last month. On the previously-raised issue of HGVs using Pickmere Lane, G Fulton had made observations and had stopped and interrogated several HGVs on the Lane. The issue will be pursued by the Police, and a request made to CE for better signage. GF attended and contributed to the Community Group's Fun Day at the lake. AS said that Council members would pass on to GF details of any HGVs using Pickmere Lane (without accessing a property). Sgt. Stone asked as to the current position re the travellers on Spinks Lane; AS summarised the current position – i.e. the moratorium period granted to the travellers by the Court was very shortly to expire and the Parish Council was urgently seeking a meeting with senior management/members at CE to ascertain what action CE would now be taking. Sgt Stone said that he would be visiting the site to ascertain exactly who was there, and AS welcomed that.
  
5. **Report from Cllr O Hunter** – Following from discussion at the last Parish Planning Committee, there was further discussion on the question of CE's performance in relation to Spinks Lane and in responding to planning enforcement issues raised by the PC. Reference was again made to the possibility of either applying to the Local Govt Ombudsman, or seeking legal advice, but there were reasons to avoid those options at this stage. Cllr Hunter reported on her discussions with the Lead Councillor for Planning in respect of seeking a meeting about Spinks

Lane. AS confirmed that he was about to write to the Leader of CE requesting a meeting about Spinks Lane, and that a formal complaint was to be submitted to CE about their performance on Planning enforcement matters.

## **6. Finance**

**6.1 Current financial position** – the monthly financial summaries were noted.

**6.2 New payments** - the schedule of payments was approved.

**6.3 Email Account – Subscription** – the Clerk Reported that the email and hosting package had now been used beyond the initial offer period; the initial storage capacity for emails had been exceeded, and the package as a whole incurred a monthly cost of £9.98, excl. VAT. This arrangement was agreed.

**7. Planning** – AS reported that Planning Committee had held a meeting and that comments had been submitted in respect of three planning applications, including that for The Elms PH site.

## **8. Reports from Assets Working Group**

**8.1 Funding Sub-Group** – nil to report – awaiting progress on other aspects.

**8.2 Planning Sub-Group** – AS reported that a meeting had been held with a planning officer from CE as part of the pre-planning application procedure, in relation to the option of constructing an extension to the Pavilion. The officer response had not been wholly negative. AS and the Clerk were now to meet with the architect to discuss the form of a short, written submission to CE which would help the planner to respond in writing to the proposal.

SF queried the possibility of including the Community Group in discussions of the form of any such development, so that they could consider how necessary improvements to current Pavilion facilities might be formulated to fit with any future development. AS felt that it was too early in the process to do this, since any proposals now being put forward to improve operating facilities at the Pavilion might be superseded fairly quickly.

### **8.3 Asset Register Sub-Group**

**8.3.1 Cheshire Railings** - CT reported that refurbishment works had been commenced but inclement weather and holidays had interrupted progress. He noted that D Platt had been very helpful in trimming hedges and pressure-washing railings, and that he has offered assistance in doing the painting itself. Mr Platt was thanked for his efforts.

**8.3.2 A system for referring potential asset improvements to the Community Group for action/funding.** AB raised this matter, and suggested that it be a permanent Agenda item so that enhancement efforts could be more quickly realised. After discussion, it was agreed that the monthly PC agenda should contain an item 'Report from Community Group'.

**8.3.3 Clover Drive Play Area** – SR reported that one of the pieces of equipment on the play area was broken and has been removed. The Clerk is to seek a quote for repair under the arrangement with CE.

## **9. Reports from Clerk and from Councillors**

**9.1 Community Speedwatch** – AS reported that several Speedwatch sessions had been held, with details of about 35 speeding vehicles having been sent in to Cheshire Police. A further session is planned. Clerk to try to set up a further training session with G Fulton for those not already trained.

**9.2 Annual Parish Meeting** – SR tabled a possible letter to local community organisations. He had sought to emphasise in the letter that this event would not be a formal meeting. He proposed holding this event in mid-March – the 10<sup>th</sup> March was identified as a potential date. He will circulate the draft letter for consideration. The form of the letter and the date for the event will be decided at the next Council meeting.

**9.3 HS2** – CT is to attend the further publicity event to be held by HS2 on 9 September and feed back to Councillors. There was brief discussion of the borrow pits question, and agreement that the Council needed to ensure this aspect is considered when the planning of Phase 2B is reaching the appropriate stage.

**9.4 Local Council Award Scheme** – SF raised the possibility of the Council joining this award scheme. It was explained that the scheme seeks to improve the ways in which Parish Councils operate, and takes the form of a sort of peer review of systems and procedures. The Clerk is to arrange a meeting with relevant members to assess which elements of the Foundation award aspects we already comply with and where more work would be required to meet that standard.

**9.5 Village of the Year Competition** – SF reported on the process so far, and especially on the weekend of filming. That is now at the editing stage, with Pickmere as one of 76 villages still in the game at this stage. SF wished to thank all who contributed to the filming weekend, including the Monday afternoon teas by the lake. The Council wished to thank SF for her efforts in setting all this up and bringing everyone together – PC, Community Group, and Pickmere community.

**9.6 Coffee Afternoon – Macmillan Cancer Support** – AB reported that this event was now to be held at the Red Lion, and the Village Hall was not therefore required.

**9.7 IROS maintenance** – item deferred as PG not present.

**9.8 Peak and Northern Footpaths** – request for affiliation – the Council considered this but did not wish to affiliate.

**9.9 Possibility of Village flower containers as a possibility for those wishing to donate to the village environment** – AB put this proposal forward. There was concern that any such planters would need to be of acceptable quality, and that maintenance would have to be assured. AB is to consider potential locations in case such requests materialise.

**9.10 Cutting of roadside verges** – SF made reference to a contractor’s suggestion that a second cut of highway verges could be carried out if CE’s standard once per annum cut was felt insufficient. There was some unsureness about what regime CE actually operate. The Clerk is to request CE’s confirmation of their cutting regime, and to discuss informally with the contractor what he might be able to do and at what kind of cost.

**9.11 Trees in the Parish** – the Council considered the Clerk’s report, which was written in the context of the problem at the Elms PH this summer. Following discussion, it was agreed that members would consider before the next meeting whether there were individual or groups of trees which make a significant contribution to the public realm of Pickmere, such that they might be referred to CE for the possible making of Tree Preservation Orders.

**9.12 Establishment of a Hospitality Register** – item deferred as DH not present.

#### **AGENDA PART B**

In view of the special or confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the remaining item was considered in private.

**10.** Members considered the Cleaner’s request for an increase in her contract payment and agreed on a vote that the request should be granted – 3 votes for, 1 vote against and 1 abstention.

**Clerk: Jack Steel**

**Next meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2017**