

PICKMERE PARISH COUNCIL

597

NOTES TAKEN AT THE MEETING OF PICKMERE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 2ND September 2014 and taken by Cllr Chris Tarrant in the absence of the Parish Clerk

1. Present: AS, CT, SW, PG, VB, RP

Apologies: SR, RF

Public: Prospective CE Cllr Olivia Hunter (observing)

2. Minutes

2.1 The Minutes for meeting 596 held on July 1st were approved and signed by Chairperson **AS**.

2.1.1 **VB** asked if meeting minutes could be provided sooner and closer to the date of the meeting. **AS** agreed to check and report back.

2.2 Matters arising from these minutes:

2.2.1 **VB** reported at 7.1 that further damage had been caused to the boardwalk at Pickmere Lake after CWAC had carried out initial repairs. **CT** reported that Brenda Yates was aware and that further repairs would be carried out soon by CWAC.

2.2.2 **VB** raised her concern that recent approved tree work at lakeside at 12.2 had resulted in an oak tree being felled that she believed was covered by a TPO. No other member of the Council was aware that TPO's were in place at Lakeside and it was agreed **RF** would contact Cheshire East to obtain a complete record of all existing TPO's throughout the Parish as nobody seems to know of any record being provided or kept.

Nb Since this meeting the Clerk has now been advised by CEC there are just 3 TPO's in Pickmere – on land behind Rose Cottage, Park Lane, on Pickmere Caravan Park and another at The Grange, Pickmere Lane.

2.2.3 **PG** confirmed that the Community Group payment for the pavilion hire raised by **VB** at 6.5 was included in the Village Hall income, but that he would show this separately in future.

3. Declaration of Interests:

SW relative to Item 8 – HS2

4. PCSO report:

4.1 PCSO Sophie Emmerson was off duty, but her report was provided by PC Mike Dawber, Rural Beat Manager for Knutsford, who attended. PC Dawber explained there was a new community sergeant, Alison Howarth and that his role represented rural areas whereas his colleague PC Simon Waugh covered Knutsford town and Longridge. PCSO's Sophie Emmerson and Lindsey Whitehead report to PC Mike Dawber. Whilst rural crime nationally is up 5.2%, locally it is very low and the police are now communicating good news via Cheshire Police Alert and Twitter.

4.2 **The Council** again asked for proactive support from the Police to enforce speeding and vehicle weight restrictions, particularly along Pickmere Lane and for greater co-operation across divisional boundaries to ensure joined-up communication and consistency between Pickmere and Wincham from Knutsford and Northwich police divisions.

4.3 P C Dawber extended an invitation to the Council and rural watch co-ordinators to attend a rural watch meeting to be held on 25th September at 8pm at Mere Parish Club.

5. Planning:

5.1 **AS** reported that the planning committee had raised no objections to 5.1.1 the application for development at Style Matters, 14/3233M.

5.1.2 Detailed plans had now received for the new detached house on the site of the former builder's yard on Frog Lane 14/3347M that accord with the decision already made by Cheshire East to permit redevelopment of the site.

5.1.3 **CT** had requested better site and location plans from Cheshire East planning to make an informed comment on the plans to relocate a double garage and tack-room at Fernhill Farm, Frog Lane, 14/3728M.

5.2.1 14/2524M at Lyncroft, Frog Lane to extend side and rear with new dormers in the roof has been approved with conditions.

5.2.2 **AS** explained that 14/1953M at Crown Farm, Frog Lane had only partial permission and that the Council would maintain its position to object to any development encroachment into green-belt land.

5.3 **AS** informed the Council he was still trying to arrange a meeting with Peter Hooley to state parish council concerns about current planning processes.

6. Finance:

6.1 Cheques were signed for tree surgery at lakeside, pest control, clerk's expenses, cleaning and additional keys for the window shutter at the pavilion.

6.2 **PG** confirmed there was nothing exceptional to comment upon in this month's accounts and the General Account balance was £15,792.33 and the Land Asset (including the bond) was £15,027.61

6.3 **PG** informed the Council that the external auditors had raised two queries about the accounts for last year – one issue related to monies being shown in the wrong line in the audit report and the other related to the style of recording parish assets. **PG** will investigate and provide an update at the next meeting.

6.4 **PG** reminded the Council that it was an audit requirement to provide original and legible receipts for all approved expenditure for which there can be no exceptions. It is also necessary for the complete and accurate reclaiming of VAT.

6.5 **PG** asked if Joan Webb was still willing and able to administer the bookings for the Village Hall and to collect the monies. **VB** told the Council that Joan had been unwell and that she would ask her if she wanted any help and if she wished to continue in this role.

6.6 **PG** informed the Council that the bond is due to mature next month and that he and all Councillors should consider how the Council should reinvest this money next.

6.7 **PG** informed the Council that he was reclaiming £660 VAT, mostly from expenditure on the General Account.

7. Correspondence and Reports:

7.1 Spinks Lane:

AS told the Council he had received correspondence from Cheshire East Legal staff concerning the continued occupation of Spinks Lane. **AS** explained that although all planning matters had been concluded, enforcement had been delayed by an agreement reached out-of-court between Cheshire East and named family members to allow an extension of occupancy. This is of a personal nature, not known to this Council, between an individual and Cheshire East, but conditional on frequent and

regular independent medical reviews and other stipulations. **SW** also informed the Council a new planning application from the occupants for permission to stay permanently had refused to be determined by Cheshire East Planning.

7.2. Cheshire East have confirmed they will suspend green waste collections from end of November 2014 to mid February 2015. Communication will be via bin stickers and media announcements nearer the time.

7.3 Footpath signposts have been delayed pending a query over their design

8. HS2

AS told the Council he had written to David Higgins, Chairman of HS2 in his capacity as Chair of the Cluster Group of concerned Parish Councils, offering to help to mitigate the effects of HS2. The responses received are unhelpful and suggest no communication or meetings will be held pending the publication of the outcome of the public consultation in December to be announced by the Secretary of State.

9. Feedback from Cllr SW re Cheshire East

SW explained that Cheshire East is now underway with its preparations for setting the budgets for next year.

10. Issues raised by Councillors:

10.1 **CT** asked the Council to approve £80 for the end-of-season cutting of the hedge at the back of the playground. He also asked the Council to approve the cost of two further cuts of the grass as they will be needed to keep the area tidy whilst the grass is still growing. Both proposals were unanimously agreed.

10.2 **AS** informed the Council that following the display of the appropriate statutory notices informing the parishioners there was a vacancy for a Councillor, neither Cheshire East nor the Clerk had received any requests for an election, nor any volunteers for co-opting onto the Council. It was agreed unanimously that as all posts are available by election next May and that the Councillors could manage the current tasks, that no co-opting into the vacancy was necessary at this time.

10.3 **AS** informed the Council he had been asked if we would consider hiring the Pavilion for the Dog Club. A detailed discussion followed and it was unanimously decided that this was not appropriate. Councillors

agreed that the Pavilion is generally only suitable for use during Summer months (as services are isolated in winter months) and that its use should be restricted to community activities and occasional private children's parties for parish residents rather than commercial ventures. It was also recognised that there is an additional cleaning requirement and the size of the meeting room and its proximity to the kitchen meant it would be an inappropriate activity. The Council also considered the feasibility of the hire of the Village Hall for 3 weeks of the 4 each month on a Tuesday as well as the current Monday evening arrangement. Councillors were concerned that this would incur additional cleaning costs and also that its ethos was to allow all members of the Village the opportunity to use the parish assets for a full range of social and family activities that might not be possible if availability was restricted by too many commercial ventures.

11. Items for next agenda – October 7th.

11.1 Full discussion about Parish Assets and agreement about routine and ad hoc maintenance **PG**

11.2 Reinvestment of the Bond **PG**

11.3 Audit update re Asset Register **PG**

11.4 Full discussion re speed and weight restriction enforcement through the village / possibility of providing permanent speed indicator devices and community speedwatch signs – **All.** (**RF** to invite Nigel Evans to attend to discuss traffic issues for events other than Cheshire Show held at the Showground).

Chris Tarrant

3rd September 2014