

## **REPORT TO PICKMERE PARISH COUNCIL**

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

### **AGENDA ITEM 9.2 – Lettings Policy for Village Hall**

#### **1 Background**

**1.1** The recent booking of the Village Hall for a non-children's party has raised a number of questions about the principles to be adopted in relation to future requests.

#### **2. Report**

**2.1** The Hall is frequently used for the booking of children's parties, and the booking form contains a series of booking conditions; the same applies to other hall bookings. However, the recent request for the booking of an adult party (a 70-year-old birthday party) on a Saturday evening has raised questions about the conditions that should be applied in respect of:

- Hours of use
- Use of music
- Consumption of alcohol
- Damage Deposit

**2.2** The recent event was permitted to operate until approximately 11.30pm, with a condition that any music was to cease by 10.30 p.m. In that case the participants were simply using a domestic hi-fi system rather than employing a disco/other means of amplification. Alcohol was provided at the party, but being a 70<sup>th</sup> birthday it was not felt that there would have been excessive consumption. For normal events, a damage deposit of £30 is requested; in this case a deposit of £50 was requested and provided.

**2.3** No complaint was received from other residents in respect of the operation of this event.

**2.4** A request has been put to Cheshire East Council for confirmation as to whether events of this sort require any form of additional licence, and the Council has confirmed that the licence for the Village Hall does not allow the activities mentioned unless:

- Alcohol is free of charge
- Invites/tickets are free of charge
- Recorded music is between the hours of 08.00 and 23.00 and so long as the audience does not exceed 500.

**2.5** The events under consideration here would all comply with these criteria, subject to a general rule that music would cease by 23.00. Any events that may be outside the conditions of the licence must be held under a Temporary Event Notice.

**2.6** Clearly, the views of the Parish Council will be influenced by the wish to avoid creating public nuisance or significant management issues, but at the same time by the view that a Village Hall should be available for village functions, which cannot all be expected to end by 10.00. Members' views on the above issues are therefore requested.

**3. Recommendation**

3.1 That members consider the questions raised and decide on any future action to be taken.