

**MINUTES OF THE
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF PICKMERE PARISH COUNCIL
MAY 6TH 2008
AT PICKMERE VILLAGE HALL**

PRESENT:

J Webb, P Gough, S Wilkinson, R Pepall, P Mather, R Fogerty (Clerk) N White (Internal Auditor)

APOLOGIES: D Harris, C Wilcox-Baker, V Brown

MEMBERS OF PUBLIC: C Moorby, H Coombs, Mr and Mrs Jackson, Mr and Mrs Emslie, Mr and Mrs Howe. Mr Kuehnle.

1. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

The present 8 Parish Council members were returned unopposed in the recent local May elections.

Events at the Cheshire Showground had encountered very wet weather causing the ground to be soft.

'Reels on Wheels' (system to show recent films, in Village Hall) had been requested by a resident, but Village Hall unsuitable.

Thanks to Councillor David Harris who launched the Website of Pickmere Parish Council, this being designed by his son, Richard.

The Gents' Toilet in the Village Hall had undergone alteration, the urinals being replaced by a toilet, in order to reduce the excessive amount of water, which was flushing the urinals, even when not being used. Redecorating was done following this.

Commencement of the Parish Plan took place, headed by Councillors Pepall, Wilcox-Baker and Daffurn. It has had a few setbacks, but now proceeding.

Councillor Tim Daffurn has resigned and the vacancy on the council has been filled by Pat Mather.

Leak from a radiator caused the stage carpet to be soaked and this has been replaced, Thanks to Mrs Henderson who provided the carpet free of charge.

Our accounts are solvent – thanks go to Nicola White (internal auditor) and our Clerk Rosemary Fogerty.

Many thanks to Steve Wilkinson, who takes care of the IROS grass areas and several other jobs. Finally, thank you to the Councillors for their efforts on the Council, generally., during the last year. JW then vacated the Chair. (Vice Chair, Virginia Brown was absent)

2. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Clerk invited nominations for Chairperson and Vice Chairperson. Mr Steve Wilkinson proposed Joan Webb as Chairperson, this being seconded by Phil Gough. JW then proposed Virginia Brown as Vice and this was seconded by Richard Pepall.

3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Councillor Pat Mather had not been recorded as 'absent', although she had sent apologies. The minutes were then accepted and signed by Joan Webb.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Drain on IROS being dealt with.

SW has contacted Vic Heather re. painting of Village Hall and Pavilion.

Spinks Lane – order not been made yet on the public footpath.

The 5 plots of land on Spinks Lane which were for sale were being gated, but Mr Stephen Platt has stopped this and is in consultation with his solicitors.

5. FINANCE

Nicky White reported on the Accounts for the past year. The Lakeside had undergone very little movement opening at £10,554, expenditure being £310, and gaining some interest and reclaiming VAT, closing balance being £10,792. The General Account opened at £10,929.90 and closed at £6,967.40.

The precept was £5,500, and a water rebate was received. Fishing Licence brought in £150.00, and largely the expenditure had been in insurance cover, audit fees and clerk's salary and expenses. Maintenance of Pavilion is mainly covered by Hire fees from the Community Group. The Village Hall Hire fees do not cover running costs, overall, for the Hall, and precept is therefore used for some of this. The opening balance was £10,929.90 and the closing balance on the General account was £6,967 at end of March.

Nicky White will now prepare for audit, and this will be sent on to External Auditor. Details will be on Village Notice Board with contact numbers.

SW proposed acceptance of accounts, seconded by JW.

£500 to be set aside for running costs of Web-site.

SW suggested looking to fund a PCSO for Pickmere. Possible to split costs of one (£11,000) between other villages, and this would then cost us £3000.00 per year and the Police will match this. This would be a commitment for 3 years. SW will discuss this with Brenda Wilkinson (Community Group) to see if they would be willing to contribute towards this, but Council must be aware that this might not always be so. Brenda has spoken to several villagers and there is support for a PCSO. We could identify areas that are vulnerable. Discussion amongst councillors, Richard Pepall unsure. SW proposed and seconded by JW. The Clerk asked for her hours of work to be reviewed as she feels she is working far in excess of those presently paid for. Council agreed to increase her pay to cover 25 hours, from April 2008.

Account	Cheque Number	Signed by 2	To whom/for	Date	Amount £
General	101319	JW.SW	Water.UU. Pavilion	15.4.08	12.43
“	101320	JW.SW	Water UU. Vill. Hall	15.4.08	17.47
“	101321	JW.SW	Gas VH	15.4.08	224.21
“	101322	JW.SW	Chesh Comm Council	6.5.08	20.00
“	101323	JW.SW	R Fogerty Clerk Sal and expenses	6.5.08	145.75
“	101324	JW.SW	Scot Power VH	6.5.08	57.16

The first 3 cheques were signed during month, out of meeting, due to their urgency, otherwise remaining cheques signed in meeting.

6. OPEN FORUM

Several members of the public who were in attendance had come to express concerns re a planning application for a two storey side extension at No. 7 The Orchards, they being close neighbours of this property.

Mrs Moorby (No. 8) stated the extension would take light from upstairs and downstairs of her property, the front door would only be a few feet away, and there would be no off road

parking, and will also reduce the applicant's car parking area. She stated that there area is a rural setting and already a tight development.

Mr and Mrs Jackson said the window will look directly into their back garden.. Mr and Mrs Emslie said that car parking will be more of a problem. The application concerns a house in the corner position. On the map provided by MBC No. 10 house is missing.

The residents who attended have already made a complaint regarding the application. Charlie Oulton (MBC councillor) has visited the area, yesterday, and sent a report of complaint re. the application and emailed a copy to us.

Nicky White expressed comment that MBC normally take car parking issues seriously.

Mr Kuehnle expressed concern that 50% of our precept was going to provide a PCSO when already there has been a sharp increase in Police Council Tax. SW explained that this had been necessary to cope with local police having to respond to terrorism and other areas of crime. Also Mr Kuehnle felt that PCSO's do not have the powers of police. SW explained this is in addition to our normal police cover, and they do take the pressure off the Community Police and their presence is reassuring for the villagers.

Mrs Howe said people have brought up the question of parking, as part of the Parish Plan, and this will appear on the questionnaire.

Nicky White reported she had phoned MBC re damaged swings in Children's Play area, but had been told that the area is not adopted by them. Nevertheless someone has removed the damaged swings.

Mrs Howe felt that more information should be on Parish Board re. contact numbers for Parish council. RF and JW to have their numbers on board.

7. PLANNING

Two APPLICATIONS during April (seen out of meeting due to date of return)

a. 08/0429P Certificate of Lawfulness for existing use of land as garden.

At land to rear of 8 Mere Close Pickmere

Comment: Council not aware that the situation has been different from what is being claimed.

b.08/0133P Conversion inc. alteration of existing garage/stable building into offices, gym room.

At Oaklands Pickmere Lane.

No objection.

One Planning Application has been GRANTED during April.

Mere View House, 12 Jacob's Way. Insertion of windows.

The following seen in meeting:

Application 08/0618P Two storey side extension

7 The Orchards Pickmere Knutsford Cheshire

(See comments by public in Open Forum)

Comments to report on to MBC:

Overlooking neighbours. Will form precedent for rest of estate, which is already tightly compacted. There will be a 'light issue' for No. 8.

House No. 10 is missing from map we were sent. Car parking is currently restricted and this extension will cause further problems.

Councillor Charlie Oulton been to see area. In his email he mentions 4 metres, where it is actually 4 feet. Closing date for this application 13th May.

PG asked if people had experienced low water pressure recently. If further problems let Parish Council know.

DH had attended a Planning Forum meeting in Northwich. In the near future planning will be viewed on line. DH and 3-4 other Councillors will meet to view the plans on a laptop, and can then comment online, and it will be possible to view Highways and other implications at the same time. Due to start later this year.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

The correspondence received during April was reported on and inspected by council. SW/PG reported on the Cluster Meeting and that PC Mike Dawber is organising the Rural Watch Scheme.

Mr Watts email reported on flooded public footpath as it reaches Earles Lane.

Lymm Angling phone call applying for fishing licence – reply ‘No’ as Sale already have fishing rites with us.

Next meeting of Community Group – all welcome 21st May 8pm Pavilion.

9. IROS

The Clerk had received two email reports:

- a. A visitor had visited the Lake on May 1st. Commented on muddy areas, and the lack of toilet facilities or availability to get a drink. Reply to be done by RF and also contact Public Rights of Way re board walk.
- b. Email from person who had collided with small post near ornamental gates, and had damaged her car. She is looking to ‘claim’ and RF to reply giving her our Insurance details.

10. VILLAGE HALL

Nil to report on.

11. PARISH PLAN

Richard Pepall (Treasurer) reported on changes and developments. Sadly, Khanika Guy who had been Chair, had died recently, and Stephanie Ward has now been elected as Chair. The Questionnaire has been tested on a group of people, and is now almost ready to be sent to all residents. It is hoped that the ‘Plan’ will be launched at Family Fun Day in August 2009. Soon be ready to apply for grant of £5,500. RP asked if the Parish Council could make a contribution towards the Plan. SW proposed £250.00 and PG seconded this.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

DH had asked for ‘a professional insurance adviser’ to check we had good insurance cover for the Parish Council, as part of Risk Assessment and RF reported that this was satisfactory. (Check again next year).

PG had received a letter from Cheshire Showground, in which they reported that their events this year are the main Cheshire Show and one small Country Fair in October.

Pat Mather had attended a Licensing Meeting at MBC – Parish Councils will have more of a say and be able to become more involved in the future.

Discussion re. organising Councillors to be responsible for definite areas for meetings to be covered. Leave until next meeting, when DH will be back.

RP had attended Airport Meeting: Essentially they are trying to be aware of the community. Reported that Pick Ups are a problem and trying to improve on this. He had seen the 30 year plan.

NEXT MEETING SET FOR TUESDAY JUNE 10TH IN THE VILLAGE HALL

AT 7.30PM

