

REPORT TO PICKMERE PARISH COUNCIL

4th May 2021

AGENDA ITEM 8.5 COVID BUSINESS RESTART GRANT

1 REPORT

- 1.1 At your last meeting, mention was made of the above, and your Clerk reported that from perusing the relevant information on CEC's website, the Parish Council did not appear to be eligible to apply. Council asked that a further check be made with ACRE.
- 1.2 That has now taken place and your Clerk's attention has been drawn to a document available on Cheshire West's website, but not reproduced on CEC's, which lists examples of each category of organisation eligible to apply for these grants. On this list, 'Village Halls' are included as eligible under the 'Leisure' category. The Government's advisory note states that: "For the purposes of this scheme, a leisure business can be defined as a business that provides opportunities, experiences and facilities, in particular for culture, recreation, entertainment, celebratory events and days and nights out."
- 1.3 On reflection, this is perfectly reasonable since both the Village Hall and the Pavilion are used primarily for leisure purposes – accommodating local groups and societies and events such as Sunday Teas.
- 1.4 ACRE are firmly of the view therefore that the Council is eligible to apply for these grants in relation to each of its Business-rated buildings.
- 1.5 Council is therefore advised that it is eligible to apply for such grants. The deadline for applications is the end of June 2021.
- 1.6 In considering whether it wishes to submit applications, it may be of relevance to point out that of the projects so far funded through Community Infrastructure Levy and Covid Business Grant:
 - The new noticeboards have been sourced from a company based in Northwich.
 - The boards have been erected by a company based in Wincham.
 - The new signs were erected by a Pickmere company.
 - The new signs were sourced from a company based in Manchester.
 - The footpath works at the IROS have been implemented by a Pickmere company.
 - The doors to the pavilion have been installed by a company based in Wincham.
 - The new lamppost was sourced from a company based in Malpas and Manchester, one of whose employees is a Pickmere resident.
- 1.7 Thus it can be seen that the grant moneys so far spent have not been wasted or spent unwisely but have contributed to the quality of the Council's amenities, to the benefit of Pickmere's

community, and further have been primarily recycled into the local economy, thereby contributing to the region's economic recovery from the pandemic.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That members consider whether applications should be submitted for Covid Business Restart Grant in respect of the Village Hall and the Pavilion.

Jack Steel
Clerk to the Parish Council