



**MINUTES of THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING (692)**  
**held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> August 2023**  
**at Pickmere Village Hall, Pickmere Lane, Pickmere**

**1. ATTENDANCE**

<b>Present</b>	*	Cllr E Campbell (Chairman)
	*	Cllr C Hart (Vice Chairman)
	*	Cllr N Greenwood
	*	Cllr J Henderson
	*	Cllr A Knights
	*	Cllr P Knights
	*	Cllr L Marshall
		Cllr S Read

\* denotes attendance

**Acting Clerk** Mr J Steel

**Public** 11 members of the public for much of the meeting

**Apologies** Councillor S Read, PC John Milman (Police representative)

**2. MINUTES**

**2.1 Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 4<sup>th</sup> July 2023 were **AGREED** with corrections to the personnel who had been appointed to the Council's Committees:

Planning Committee –	Cllr N Greenwood, Cllr P Knights, Cllr E Campbell
Community and Assets Committee –	Cllr E Campbell, Cllr A Knights, Cllr P Knights, Cllr J Henderson, Cllr L Marshall

**2.2 Matters arising from minutes**

The Chair reported that he had contacted the Crown Estate in respect of land around the Village Hall and that he will report back to Council in due course.

**2.3 Update on Council's actions**

The Chair reported that a log of required actions is being kept and updated as necessary.

**3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

Item 9.10 Purchase of defibrillator – the Chair confirmed for clarification that whilst he used to have a pecuniary interest in the company mentioned in the report, he no longer has such an interest. Item 9.5 (para 1.3) Parish Assets – Play area – the Chair confirmed that he owns the land next to the land adjoining the fence referred to.

#### 4. PUBLIC FORUM

A member of the public expressed concern about the HS2 Working Group, its relationship with the Council and its powers in relation to the petition against AP2.

Council **NOTED** the points made.

#### 5. REPORT FROM POLICE OFFICER

No police representative was present but PC Milman had submitted a report of police activity in the preceding month, which the Clerk summarised for the meeting.

#### 6. REPORT FROM CLLR K PARKINSON (CEC)

CLlr Parkinson reported the following:

- She has a meeting shortly with the Police and Crime Commissioner and will make reference there to the kinds of issues that are experienced around the lake e.g. ASB issues, the need for dispersal orders etc.
- In terms of speeding on Pickmere Lane, she stressed the importance of residents reporting any road accidents/incidents to CEC since that forms a context for CEC's decisions on where further speed restrictions might be appropriate.
- That Pickmere Lane has been removed from the schedule for winter gritting.
- That there is the current possibility of further gritting bins being provided – residents can contact her if they wish to suggest possible appropriate locations.

#### 7. FINANCE

##### 7.1 Current Financial position

The summary report showing receipts of £9,481.81 and expenditure of £6,969.94 (to 26<sup>th</sup> July 20203) was **NOTED**.

##### 7.2 New payments

The Council **RESOLVED** to make the following payments:

Chalc Training	£25.00	Councillor Training
Netwise Website	£500.00	Website and email hosting
Cleaning of Village Hall	£84.00	June 2023
Cleaning of Village Hall	£21.00	July 2023

#### 8. PLANNING MATTERS

##### 8.1 Update on Planning Applications

Members **NOTED** the Planning update that was tabled and commented as follows:

- **23/2706M (Fernside, Frog Lane)** Concern was expressed by some members about the potential for traffic/access and parking issues arising, and about the implications of possible future applications for extensions to the premises/intensification through possible use by non-residents, if this application was granted. Council **AGREED** to submit comments along these lines.
- **23/2670M and 2617M (domestic extensions)** A member asked that CEC be requested to ensure that account be taken of any comments from neighbours to the properties.
- **List of potential planning enforcement referrals to CEC** Members were concerned that no CEC responses, nor apparently any CEC action, has resulted from these notifications despite reminders to CEC senior planning officers in the past. Council **AGREED** that a

communication be sent to the Lead Councillor for Planning at CEC expressing discontent with CEC performance and requesting feedback on the issues that have been raised.

## **9. REPORTS FROM CLERK AND FROM COUNCILLORS**

### **9.1 Councillor training**

Cllr P Knights is awaiting the arrangement of a further Planning training event by ChALC. Cllr Hart is similarly awaiting a further Induction training session.

### **9.2 Possible IROS parking measures**

The Chair had reported that he had received only 1 possible quote for provision of parking controls. However, it was considered that it was appropriate to consult residents on parking issues. The Acting Clerk pointed out that considerable community feedback on parking issues had been received through the parish-wide questionnaire survey carried out in connection with the Neighbourhood Plan; further, a separate more parking-focussed survey of residents in the vicinity of the IROS had been carried out in the last 2 years or so. Council **AGREED** that the Lake Issues Working Group should consider how a new community survey might be arranged.

### **9.3 HS2**

The report was **NOTED**; the Chair said that he would ask the incoming Clerk to action the submission of a petition in respect of so-called AP2, and Council **AGREED** to make a further approach to the former councillors who had been deeply involved in HS2 work to discuss further the possibility of them continuing work on the matter.

### **9.4 Selection of energy provider**

Following a discussion, Council **RESOLVED** that power be delegated to the Clerk in consultation with Cllr P Knights to consider and enter into appropriate contracts for energy provision at the VH and Pavilion on behalf of the Council, and in doing so to consider whether renewable energy sources can play a significant part in the Council's energy supplies, although bearing in mind that the Council needs to secure an economic solution.

### **9.5 Initial Asset maintenance**

The report was noted. Members were asked to respond to the draft asset schedule that had been circulated to them separately. Council **AGREED**:

- That consideration of a further tree condition survey be deferred for future consideration;
- To ask Cllr P Knights:
  - to explore further the question of whether a company should be engaged to carry out maintenance work on Council property assets;
  - to develop further a checklist for weekly survey of the play area and its equipment;
  - to seek a quotation for clearing the area at the rear of the VH.
- In respect of the land between the Jacob's Way houses and the lake, the Acting Clerk was asked to circulate to members the maintenance schedule for this land that Council had previously approved and implemented; consideration of any further action here was deferred until further information can be gathered particularly in respect of the impact of any maintenance work on wildlife and the natural environment in this location.

## 9.6 Programme of future Council meeting dates

Following a discussion, Council **AGREED** to the following schedule of Council meeting dates:

- Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September – with Councillors’ Surgery at 7.00 p.m.
- Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October
- Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November – with Councillors’ Surgery at 7.00 p.m.
- Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November
- No December meeting
- No January 2024 meeting
- Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2024 – with Councillors’ Surgery at 7.00 p.m.
- Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2024
- Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2024 – with Councillors’ Surgery at 7.00 p.m.
- Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2024

## 9.7 Meeting with Police and Crime Commissioner

The report was **NOTED**.

## 9.8 Report from Lake Issues Working Group

Following a lengthy discussion, Council **AGREED**:

- That the Council’s tree consultant be asked to look at and report on the few potentially ‘dangerous’ trees recently highlighted by members of the public;
- That the ‘beach’ area at the lake be NOT roped off for the present;
- That further investigations take place on the question of depositing rocks or trees at the area of erosion mentioned in the report;
- That United Utilities be asked to investigate the pipe odour problem at its outflow near the lake.

## 9.9 Council social events

Following a discussion, Council **RESOLVED** (Cllr P Knights against):

- That the events referred to in the report would NOT be organised by the Council itself;
- That Council would permit the holding of such events on Council property and organised by others, subject to the receipt of evidence of satisfactory insurance to cover the event(s), together with suitable Risk Assessments, and other necessary details in advance of the holding of the events.

## 9.10 Proposal to purchase defibrillator etc

The Council **RESOLVED**:

- To purchase the defibrillator from Veristat at a cost of £595.00 plus VAT and to install the equipment in the Village Hall
- To accept the donation of the projector from Veristat
- To accept the donation of the 2 wooden benches from Veristat

## 9.11 Changes to the contract for waste removal from the IROS

The Council **RESOLVED** to accept the revised working arrangement and contract discussed with Ash Waste. Waste will be removed weekly but with the maximum weight reduced from 90kg to 70kg. This should be more than sufficient and will result in an annual saving of around £120.00.

**Additional item – Quotation for repair of brickwork and external handrail at the VH**

Council **RESOLVED** to accept the quotation from John Mills Developments Ltd to repair the outside wall, rebed loose flags and repair the handrail at a cost of £325.00.

**9.12 Proposed Knutsford Area Parishes Forum**

Council **AGREED** that it wishes to be a participant in this proposed forum, and Cllr Hart and the incoming Clerk were asked to attend the opening meeting.

**9.13 Resolution to exclude the public**

Pursuant to Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, as applied by Section 100 of the Local Government Act 1972, members **AGREED** to exclude the press and public from the meeting as the matters to be discussed are confidential since they relate to an employee of the Council or they involve matters of commercial confidence.

## **PART B – PRIVATE AGENDA**

### **10 Replacement of Parish Clerk**

In accordance with the conclusions of the interview panel, Council **RESOLVED** that the post of Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer be offered to Ms Amanda Riley.

The meeting closed at 10.00 p.m.