

MINUTES of THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ⁽⁶⁹⁶⁾
held at 8.00pm on Thursday 30th November 2023
at Pickmere Village Hall, Pickmere Lane, Pickmere

1. ATTENDANCE

Present	*	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
Clerk		Mrs A Riley
Public		None
Apologies		Cllr C Hart, PC John Milman (Police representative), CE Cllr K Hague

2. MINUTES

2.1 Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 7th November 2023 were **AGREED**.

2.2 Matters arising from minutes

Item 9.2 Cllr A Knights asked that it be minuted that members of the public would be involved in the working group to produce a Village Hall Repair Plan.

2.3 Update on Council's actions

The Chairman reported on the action list. Approximately 39 of the 104 actions were open and the Chairman asked Councillors to send information on any completed items.

3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None.

4. PUBLIC FORUM

None.

5. REPORT FROM POLICE OFFICER

None.

6. REPORT FROM CLLR K HAGUE (CEC)

Appendix 1. Cllr K Hague advised the Parish Council to respond to the Green Spaces Survey.

7. FINANCE

7.1 To note current financial position.

The monthly statement and payments were **NOTED**.

Opening Balance:	74,250.24
Expenditure	2,213.31
Income	146.00
Unrepresented	572.90
Closing Balance	72,755.83

7.2 To note, approve or authorise new payments.

The following payments were **AGREED**.

Compec	Electrical Safety Certificate	£240.00
Northwich Heating	Boiler repair	£150.00
Barlows	PAT testing	£66.00
Opus	Pickmere Press	£20.00

7.3 To note the NALC revised cost of living salary scale for the Clerk for 2023/24 together with the amount backdated to August

The Council **NOTED** the pay award and backpay.

7.4 To discuss and set the precept for 2024/25

The Council **RESOLVED** to set the precept for 2024/25 at £17,998. An increase of £5.95 for a band D property.

8. PLANNING MATTERS

8.1 To note and consider update on planning applications received and other planning matters

23/4148M Goldstone, Pickmere Lane WA16 0JP

Outline Planning - a similar sized house to the south of Goldstone to fill in the vacant land currently used as a large garden.

The application was **NOTED** and there were no objections.

23/3891M Existing barn off Spinks Lane,

The Council **NOTED** the correspondence from the applicant.

9. REPORTS FROM CLERK AND FROM COUNCILLORS

9.1 To discuss changing the Community and Assets Committee to a Working Group – Cllr P Knights

A discussion took place about the merits of a committee or working group structure. It was **AGREED** that the Clerk would put together draft terms of reference for the group and that the item should be deferred until these are completed. The committee structure will remain in situ for the present time.

9.2 To receive an update on the Pickmere Christmas Market – Cllr L Marshall

Cllr L Marshall spoke to the Council and explained that the day had been a success and that around £1,000 had been raised for charity. A short discussion took place about the parking on the day.

9.3 To resolve to buy an undercounter fridge for the Village Hall – Cllr L Marshall

It was **AGREED** that a fridge would be purchased using the funds delegated to Cllr L Marshall.

9.4 To agree the revised terms of reference for the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group – Cllr A Knights

The revised terms of reference were **AGREED**. It was **NOTED** that the terms of reference include advertising any meetings three clear days before the date on the Parish Council website and providing feedback after each meeting.

9.5 To consider the replacement of a bench – Cllr A Knights

It was **RESOLVED** to purchase and install a replacement bench at a total cost to the Council of £268.25. The additional £500.00 costs to be met by a donation from Pickmere Community Group.

The Chairman expressed the Council's appreciation of the donation.

9.6 To discuss and respond to Cheshire East's Strategic Leisure Review - Clerk

It was **AGREED** that Cllr P Knights would draft a response for the Parish Council to be submitted by the Clerk.

9.7 To discuss charging for use of the IROS and land at Clover Drive – Cllr E Campbell and Cllr C Hart

This item was deferred to the next meeting to allow the Clerk to research insurance requirements.

9.8 To discuss the offer of a donation from the Pickmere Photographic Society to fund a new interpretation board – Cllr E Campbell

It was **AGREED** that the Clerk should progress matters and report back.

9.9 To discuss holding an event to commemorate the 80th anniversary of D-Day in 2024 – Cllr E Campbell and Cllr L Marshall

It was **AGREED** that the Parish Council will hold an event on either the weekend of 1st/2nd June or 8th/9th June 2024.

9.10 To discuss the events that the Community Group would like to hold in 2024 – Cllr S Read

Easter Bunny - Easter Sunday 31st March

Party By The Lake - Saturday 29th June

Funday - Sunday 1st September

Father Christmas - Wednesday 18th December

Giving tree in December

The Community Group are also looking at the prospect of reintroducing Teas By The Lake.

The Council **NOTED** the dates and **AGREED** to allow the Community Group to hold the Easter Event on Council land without charge.

The meeting closed at 9.55pm.

APPENDIX 1

Email from Cheshire East Councillor Kate Hague

The CEC green space review has been extended until January 2024.

It is imperative that Parish councils and residents comment on this consultation.

This situation is rather dire as CEC are now looking at ways to cut more costs. The consultation, I personally feel, is a box ticking exercise that reviews your feedback. But unfortunately, the decision to cut the budget for green space maintenance in CEC has already been agreed behind closed doors, the same as most decision in the past 5 years..

CEC are asking town and Parish councils to take over a large portion of the maintenance for their areas.

Therefore, road sweeping etc, may be a Parish Council outgoing, so I am urging all cllrs in my Ward to set their precept accordingly for the next financial year, including anticipation inflation of services.

Please comment regardless of whether you feel this affects you or not, as CEC need to understand that it is unfair and unacceptable that services are being cut, yet residents of the borough are asked to pay more for less.