

PICKMERE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday 5th September 2024

Pickmere Village Hall, Pickmere Lane, Pickmere, WA16 0JP

MINUTES

The Chair thanked Mrs Jackie Weaver for attending the meeting for the purpose of recording the minutes of the meeting.

1. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Marshall.

2. Procedural Matters

2.1 To approve and authorise the signing of the minutes of the meeting held on 1st August 2024.

It was **agreed** to adopt the minutes as a correct record subject to an amendment at 7.3 replacing 'Gardening Club' with 'Maintenance Team'.

2.2 Update on action list from Chair

The draft Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) has not been received from Cheshire East Council and was currently being worked upon.

With regard to the recovery of the fencing monies unfortunately little progress has been made so far.

The Police have agreed to continue to visit Pickmere daily as operational duties allow.

The new springers on the playground (funded by the community efforts holding a Jumble Sale) have been deployed.

Cheshire Fire and Rescue outreach programme has confirmed its commitment and hope to be able to attend the next meeting.

A dispersal order for 1 weekend was arranged and was a good example of the three councils, Wincham, Marston and Pickmere, working together.

There has been no police surgery as there is still no PCSO for Pickmere.

The Annual Fun Day went ahead and the Chair gave his thanks to everyone who was involved in making it such a success. Pickmere women's team won the Tug of War.

Due to the efforts of volunteer groups Buttercup Way had a clean-up up and the Chair wished to give his thanks to Alison and her team for their work at Buttercup Way and Jaynes's Team for their ongoing efforts to repaint the Cheshire railings at the top of Clover Drive.

The Police and Crime Commissioner will meet with the Council in September at a date to be advised.

3. Declaration of Interests

The Chair declared an interest in item 8.4 having recently had his own hedge reported to Cheshire East Council.

4. Public Forum

The Council was thanked for the good job it had made of clearing the land at Jacobs Way. Concern was raised at the bank at the IROS, which runs along the back of houses at Jacobs Way, being used as a toilet and the Council was asked if there were any plans to deal with this. The Chair responded that this would be raised with the maintenance company.

With regard to the Family Fun Day this was a great example of the community working together and very positive comments had been received.

At the Pavilion there was a strong smell from the gents toilet indicating that the water miser may not be operating properly.

5. Report from CE Cllr K Hague re Cheshire East Council Matters

There was no formal report but Cllr Hague continues to work with the Council on Pickmere Issues.

6. Finance

6.1 To note current financial position

Apologies were offered that there was no formal financial report but the Current Account stands at £10,132.54 and the Deposit Account at £52,252.40. The Council is due to receive the second tranche of the precept next month.

6.2 Payments in between meetings to be noted

The payment to 'Steve Bennett' was queried and advised that it was a payment to the Painter which was accepted. It was questioned whether the Finance Committee could meet to develop the Budget and it was agreed they could but that the Terms of Reference needed to be formally agreed first.

7. Planning Matters

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

There were none received and none showing on the Planning Portal.

8. Report from Clerk and Councillors

8.1 IROS: Black Gate Update new lock required to the black gate

To review the black gate locking (or not) post September

It was **AGREED** that a new lock be purchased as at cost of £53.74

Following a discussion on the report previously produced by the Chair it was **AGREED** that the gate be locked until the March meeting where the decision will be reviewed.

8.2 Claims court and to take other legal actions for the return of funds owned to the council by the fencing company.

It was **AGREED** to proceed with a cost of £205. The question of recoverable costs was discussed but not resolved.

8.3 Land on Mere Lane opposite Orchard Lodge

Members discussed the pressure washing of the wooden seat and agreed that this was not acceptable. It was asked if the Council had agreed to moving the cared bench and the response was 'no'. It was noted that there was drug use there but that there was also drug use in other areas around the lake. It was considered that the wood did perhaps need treating.

It was **AGREED** that the bench would not be relocated (previously picnic benches had been moved there in any event) but the Council would be grateful if it could be maintained.

Drug taking should be reported in the usual way.

The tree at Buttercup was topped by 3m some 2 years ago and has recently been cropped making it somewhat neater however, permission had not been sought. Some of the wood has been thrown over the fence. Cllr Read agreed to action the hole in the fence.

8.4 Hedge policy

Cllr Greenwood was seeking to address the issue of hedges growing over the footpaths. It was noted that it is the responsibility of the highways department but an initial approach to the owners may be deemed less aggressive.

It was **AGREED** that general statements be published on social media and members would agree the wording of the via email after the meeting.

8.5 Asset Management Log

The status of the Asset Maintenance Working Group was discussed and that it may be they keep the log so that it did not get overlooked.

It was **AGREED** that Cllr Knights would take responsibility as custodian of the log and would bring regular updates back to the Council.

8.6 Clover Drive Playground

Cllr P Knights advised that the springers had been fitted and the annual inspection completed.

It was agreed that the installation needed to be advised to the insurers but it had been inspected and was correctly installed and safe. However the signage was not up to date with incorrect contact details and needed to be repaired. It was suggested that the person who previously did the benches and tables might be able to address the signage.

The installation of Sensory Boards was imminent and quotations for the multiplay areas were currently being considered.

8.7 To review the need for parking charges to be introduced at the IROS

Members agreed that the big question was how would this be enforced? It was suggested that the Cheshire Rangers might cover this but that this should be further considered following the implementation of the anticipated yellow lines. Should Cheshire East introduce charging then the council would pursue the sharing of any profits.

It was **AGREED** that this would come back to council in due course.

8.8 Mental Health Swims request to use the IROS for an event

Although it was only anticipated that 6 + leader would be involved it was agreed that the Council policy does not support swimming at all and that the only permitted water sport on Pickmere Lake was motor boating.

9. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on Thursday 3rd October 2024 at 7.45pm

PART B

10. Under the Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960 1(2) the council resolved to exclude the press and public due to the confidential nature of the business to be conducted.

11. Staffing Update

The Council **AGREED** the appointment of the new clerk and confirmed the contractual details to be included in the Contract of Employment to be drawn up by the Chair.

12. Land Assets in Pickmere

There continues to be a lack of clarity around various different parcels of land and the covenants attached thereto.

It was **AGREED** that further research was necessary and that this should come back to council in due course.