

Penketh Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Penketh Parish Council

Held in the Pool & Community Centre on Wednesday 10th March 2021 7:30pm

Present: Cllr R McKay (Chair)
Cllr L Ashton
Cllr L Dirir
Cllr G Fellows
Cllr A Heaven
Cllr C Lenihan
Cllr D Keane
Cllr T Keane
Cllr C Wych
Also in attendance: Lois Burey (Clerk)

The meeting was opened by Chairman McKay at 7.30pm

C9236 Apologies

Apologies received from Councillor Simm and Councillor Solan-Cooper

C9237 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST OF MEMBERS

Members were reminded of their responsibility to declare any personal or prejudicial interest that they may have in any item of business on the agenda no later than when the item was reached.

Cllr Fellows raised a declaration of interest as a business hirer of Penketh Pool and Community Centre.

Cllr Lenihan stated he worked with local businesses and was not aware of any interests.

C9238 Minutes of the previous meeting

A Councillor advised that in their opinion the minutes were factually incorrect due to the following statement *"The Chairman asked the Clerk about their recommendation regarding the costing matrix the Clerk advised the council that after seeking advice from CHALC it was advised that a matrix should not be in FR and should be removed as the Council does not have such a document"* The Councillor then advised they had looked through the Financial Regulations back to 2018 and the word "matrix" does not appear in any regulation. It was also said that the version that was for review did not state the word matrix. The Clerk stated the FR's that were sent out for approval in February's meeting had the incorrect date on the bottom, the Clerk did send an email to all Councillors advising this and amended the date on the new copy for approval in March's meeting. The reason 'Matrix' did not appear on the new FR's was because as per advice from the auditor the Clerk removed it and then it was presented to Council. Another Councillor stated the minutes did not reflect the discussion that was had regarding the pool and asked if we could add page numbers to the minutes.

Another Councillor stated the minutes were a factual record of what happened. The minutes were then moved by Councillor Keane and seconded by Councillor Dirir

Resolution

A vote was taken 5 for 4 against vote passed.

C9239 Monthly Accounts:

A Councillor stated the accounts were not a full set as the monthly spending for KLS had not been presented. They also queried what the amount given to KLS is spent on. A Councillor asked if the VAT return had been submitted late as it was missing from the accounts. The Clerk stated once the cheque from HMRC is received it is then added to accounts. Another Councillor asked would the pool users who have paid for sessions at the pool but due to Covid-19 have not been able to use them be offered a refund. A Councillor asked if the council is in deficit? Clerk advised on the accounts sheet it does show the amount that the Council currently have in the bank account for PPC there are adequate reserves. It was also asked what the reserves were for PPC and do we know what the staff have been paid in furlough payments in case the Council have to pay this amount back. Another Councillor asked what the Council spent £8000.07 on for outdoor spaces. The Clerk advised they did not have this document to hand, this was because the question being asked was from the previous month's accounts not the accounts for this meeting and those accounts were approved at February's meeting.

Councillor Dirir moved the accounts seconded by Councillor Ashton.

C9240 Accountant update

The Clerk advised that they had spoken with 4 accountancy firms which were unwilling to take on the work due to their current workload. The Clerk advised she was waiting on another 3 quotes to choose from.

C9241 Newsletter

A Discussion took place concerning the Newsletter and it was explained that it is a summary of events, achievements and plans led by the outgoing Chair. A Councillor queried how much it cost for the printing and delivery and should it be brought to the Council for approval. A Councillor stated the newsletter is traditional and has been done for over 20 years and it is usually worked on with the outgoing Chair and the Clerk. Another Councillor stated it is a good form of communication with the residents. Several Councillors stated they were not happy that all Councillors were not asked for their input. A Councillor asked if the planters had been quoted for and how much they would cost.

The Clerk stated the newsletter cost a total of £695.00 including delivery. This was paid for by Councillor Simm and was to be reimbursed, this was due to the Clerk not yet having a debit card and the companies not accepting payment by cheque. As the planters were agreed previously the Clerk advised she was waiting for quotes and once she has them and a contractor is agreed she will send the information to all Councillors.

Chairman closed the meeting at 22:12