



Penketh Parish Council

Council Office, Penketh Pool and Community Centre, Honiton Way, Penketh, Warrington WA5 2EY

Jo Worthington – Temp Clerk/RFO to Parish Council

Tel 01925 724 515

clerk@penkethparishcouncil.org.uk

Parish Council Meeting

Meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 14th February 2022

At the Pool & Community Meeting Room

Part 1

1. In attendance

Cllr D Solan-Cooper (Chair), Cllr M Potts (Vice). Cllr G Fellows, Cllr A Heaver, Cllr C Lenihan, Cllr L Beddows, Cllr S Jones, Cllr K Layfield, Cllr L Jones, Cllr L Fox, Cllr A Haywood

2. Apologies

None

Clerk – JW

Public - 4

- #### 3. 3.1 Code of Conduct – Declaration of Interests
- Cllr Solan-Cooper reminded members to declare any interests. Cllr Fellows declared himself as chair of Penketh Swimming Club and previous hirer of the pool

3.2 Localism Act 2011 – Dispensations - None

4. To approve the minutes of the previous meeting and October 2021

Cllr Lenihan queried the minutes from October 2021 and whether there had been any amendments made by the current Clerk and how this would affect them constitutionally and should they be signed by the former Clerk, as current Clerk can't confirm these are an accurate recording of the meeting. Clerk confirmed no amends have been made.

5. Matters arising from minutes of previous meeting

Cllr Beddows raised an issue with a named vote being asked for in the January 2022 meeting by Cllr Heaver, which had not been recorded in the notes and could not be heard on the Dictaphone. He states it could be heard when he viewed the recording of the Facebook live stream and doesn't think the minutes are factually correct.

Cllr Potts – a wider discussion is needed on why it would be a named vote.

The question was asked by Cllr Lenihan about deferring approval of the minutes, Cllr Solan-Cooper advised he has noted Cllr Beddows objection and although happy for the Clerk to review the recording of the live stream, the minutes need approving.

Cllr Solan-Cooper advised this is why he has requested that members speak up when the live stream is taking place as discussions don't always resonate into the live stream.

Proposed by Cllr Solan-Cooper Seconded by Cllr Potts

7 in favour, 4 against

6. Updates from Committee meetings

None – committees to be held the week before full PC so committee Chairs can provide updates.

7. Consideration of Planning Applications

Objections were sent for a Neon sign installation at the side of 197 Warrington Road
There is also the planning committee that can review and discuss any applications.

8. Finance

8.1 Applications for Financial Assistance

No new applications and any previous requests have now been updated and concluded.

8.2 Accounts for Payment for January 2022

Summary of spend for Penketh Parish Council and KLS January 2022 for approval, KLS summary spend provided prior to the meeting, PPC summary provided in the Cllrs meeting pack.

8.3 To approve regular and ad-hoc spend for March 2022

Cllr Solan-Cooper explained that at full PC meetings going forward, regular and ad-hoc spend for the month ahead would be submitted for approved. Asked for any questions on the process, there were none.

Cllr Layfield asked when structural engineer paid for, confirmed paid in January 2022.

Proposer Cllr Solan-Cooper Seconded Cllr L Jones – agreed by all Cllrs present

At this point in the meeting, Cllr Solan-Cooper advised that smaller agenda items were to be discussed first, to allow for more time on the bigger agenda items. For the purpose of the minutes and the corresponding agenda, the items will be kept in the same order as the agenda.

9. Swimming Pool Update – Cllr Layfield

A cost consultant report has been received on 10 options and sub-options for the pool. Cllr Layfield's objective is to review those options and come away from this meeting with an option or options to proceed with or be ruled out. He would like to update the business plan, with options 4 to 6, those being focused on. Draft copy sent to all Cllrs.

The reason for a business plan is to support any loan applications to pay for works on pool, which would need Secretary of State approval and a business plan to set out the options and answer questions. He doesn't know how long it would take to get approval but would like to get the ball rolling.

Cllr Solan-Cooper advised that's for loan approval is anything over and above what we've budgeted for, works needed are in the budget available to the PC, which doesn't need Sec of State approval. Cllr Layfield wants open conversations and has no issue with sharing costs in Part 1 after discussion with the Chair, but not contractor or supplier information. We will refer to as specialist company or contractor A, B etc.

VAT of 20% is included in all costs, all options have a 10% contingency, and all options have a cost allowance for someone to project manage.

Option 2 – all prices assume work will start this financial year so no option to increase due to inflation. There is sufficient money from 2021/22 and 2022/23 to undertake the works to the pool.

Cllr Potts – the quote of the pool specialist is for improvements as well as the cost of repair.

Cllr Layfield – Option 2 explanation

Cllr Potts – asked what extra work would be done in option 3 for the additional £110k? Cllr Layfield, under floor heating and electrical rewiring

Cllr Heaver – what are the on costs?

Cllr Layfield – certain items we've already paid for

Cllr Solan-Cooper advised that the presentation on the screen in the room would be uploaded to the website for transparency and for the public to view and the reason why it hasn't been made available before is due to waiting for all of the information we now have.

Cllr Layfield went on to talk through the presentation and the options at cost level (reflected in the presentation)

Cllr Potts – it does say existing pool floor tiles, this needs to be updated with info from the pool, specialist, which wouldn't be in those costs would it? Cllr Layfield needs to be reworded slightly.

Cllr Layfield asked if based on the presentation, the PC would like to hear his recommendations. Cllr Solan-Cooper confirmed this would be useful and then open up for general comments or debate.

Cllr Layfield – would be inclined to go with a two-pronged approach but immediately with the repairs needed for the pool, which would be approx., £100k and at a future time, instruct an architect to draw up plans for the changing rooms. The existing changing rooms would need a deep clean but can be used, which has been accounted for. A similar project, Beechwood in Runcorn had to use alternative arrangements whilst the work was done and during the pandemic, which is something to consider. Eg, a container/portacabin, or do the changing rooms in stages.

Cllr S Jones asked if the necessary works were done to the pool as a first phase, what would be the life span, and would it give some longevity? Doesn't want to paper over the cracks.

Cllr Layfield believes that it would, based on the quality of the work that has been seen by the specialist contractor.

Cllr Beddows – if a structural survey is being done, do we need this before getting works done, otherwise water might come still come in from outside the building, Cllr Layfield advised a structural engineer is being appointed and the costs for this have been factored into the report and he has estimated how this would look from a programme perspective. The specialist pool contractor would be doing the digging.

Cllr Potts advised ground sump included in specialist costs, Cllr Fellows advised specialist wouldn't rely on what another contractor had advised, and they would need to do their own investigations.

Cllr L Jones –for clarity, the pool specialist, what they would be doing would get the pool to a reusable state.

Cllr Potts – the works would include tiles, drainage around outside of pool, steps, health and safety compliance, pool walls, painting the pool, skimmers replacement, and wall sumps, Cllr Layfield also includes filtration system in the plant room.

Cllr Solan-Cooper advised the business plan needs to be signed off, a decision on the option and then moving forward can be considered.

Discussion followed about using Contract Finder due to the value of works.

Cllr Lenihan – finances, two phase approach, start where we're at and progress to option 2.

Cllr Layfield – if we can appoint a specialist contractor, we can do it in approx. £100k, not providing heating and lighting

Cllr Lenihan – if we have set amount of money now, move from option 1 to option 2. Is the mention of loans about other objectives as a council. When does 2 finish and the move to option 6 start?

Business plan centred around options 4 to 6. Is there a loss of £26k per annum if we don't get to option 6? Lots of questions around finances and how they fit with everything.

Cllr Solan-Cooper advised in 2022/23 £100k has been budgeted for the pool only. There is a carry-over of £120k from 2021/22, so £220k to use on the pool. Any other expenditure the PC has, comes from the 2022/23 precept

Cllr Fellows – need to consider, if we do nothing, we get no income

Cllr Potts – where did the £138k figure for poolside income come from?

Cllr Layfield – can give a breakdown, has been through this with Cllrs S Jones and Solan-Cooper, opening hours can be extended, a better percentage of time utilised, swimming clubs, schools, private lessons, all given hourly rates.

Cllr Potts – can see its potential, income used to be around £86k but this could be optimised.

Cllr Solan-Cooper – has contacted the local schools and they all want to come back.

Cllr Lenihan – is there a buffer with the Sec of State approval for loans? In the business plan, are the costs for when we can open the doors (196k per year)? Costs are more certain than income and we need to consider that users have gone elsewhere.

Cllr Solan-Cooper – the interest and appetite are there for the pool to be opened and has confidence that it will be structured in a way that will maximise income and the pool will be staffed accordingly.

Cllr Layfield – if a decision is made tonight, we would consider how it reopens and would be staffed initially.

Cllr S Jones – running costs have been allocated separately and there is a separate line in the budget for loan repayments.

Cllr Heaver – concern is that we're coming up with a hybrid and soft open which is a bit vague and would like to know firm numbers, would be happier if we had a plan for phasing, costs for hiring a container, hiring staff, which not currently talking about in options.

Cllr Layfield – this would take it to option 6 and we may as well get on with a phasing plan.

Cllr Lenihan – as long as we complete option 2, if we don't get to option 6, we're still a viable business.

Cllr L Jones – getting the pool back to standard, where water stays in, trying to fix what we had. This should have always happened with ongoing maintenance over the years.

Cllr Solan-Cooper advised there were 30 minutes left of the meeting in accordance with the Standing Orders.

Cllr Fellows – thanked Cllr Layfield for putting everything together and happy to support but would want to know it is a fluid document that we can make amendments with.

Cllr Layfield – can we agree the business plan tonight, to see if we can get Sec of State approval and confirmed it is not a set in stone document and unless anyone wants to go for options 7, 8, 9 or 10 the business plan is fit for purpose. The plan can be reviewed at every Business Management Committee.

Cllr Fellows – do need to remember the size of the pool and that we have a solution but there will be a ceiling of how much income we can create when considering we can get the work done to get the keys and open the door.

Cllr Heaver – if we're talking about Sec of State approval for £50k loan, why are we now looking at £550k?

Cllr Solan-Cooper – that's the ceiling to go into the business plan

Cllr Layfield - £50k per year loan repayment line has been added into the budget and they want to see what you're applying for and when, We haven't factored in any grant applications or community funding.

Cllr Potts – looking at costs, we wouldn't be looking to go over that amount? Don't want to go too high.

Cllr Lenihan – tonight's decision is to approve business plan.

Cllr S Jones – it's not a commitment to get a loan, it puts us in a position where we can apply.

Cllr Solan-Cooper – move on for the purpose of approving the business plan and a consensus on options.

Proposed Cllr Solan-Cooper Seconded Cllr S Jones – 10 Cllrs in favour, 1 abstain

Cllr Layfield – would like to agree appointing the specialist contractor, understands contract finder but would push on the basis that they are a specialist pool contractor, we've seen their work at Beechwood, they come recommended and it's their day-to-day work, possible waste of time to put out to contract.

Cllr Fox – haven't we gone out previously

Cllr L Jones – isn't there a dispensation for specialist projects, Cllr Solan- Cooper

Proposed Cllr Layfield Seconded Cllr Solan-Cooper – 10 in favour, 1 abstain

Cllr Layfield – final proposal would be to appoint architect and building services engineer for redeveloping the changing rooms

Cllr Potts – the specialist pool contractor can also do changing rooms, so worth exploring this first.

Cllr L Jones – have we had quotes for both?

Cllr Lenihan – in standing orders, have we gone out for 3 quotes?

Cllr Layfield – been out to 4 architects, one good quote returned, 2 others want to visit site. Building services engineer – 4 consultants approached, one quote back, one company too small, 4th quote not received. The good quote is with a company Cllr Layfield worked with approx. 10 years ago.

Cllr Solan-Cooper - have been out and got required quotes

Clerk – there is provision in the Financial Regs, under Contracts, to have necessary/specialist repairs undertaken

Cllr Lenihan – if this is the process Cllr Layfield wants to follow and Clerk is happy this is in line with Financial Regs can we make the figure known?

Cllrs Solan-Cooper & Layfield – not yet

Cllr Layfield – asking for permission for delegated powers to progress discussions

10. Standing Order Amendments – Cllr Lenihan

Cllr Lenihan would like to propose similar timescales as main council meetings, although not exact as in some standing orders full council is different to committees. Has spoken to the Clerk about the 7 days' notice and wants to make things easier for them. Can work to 7 days but may need to reduce to 3 days by exception. Clerk would prefer the 7 days to try and simplify the process in getting info, so meetings are more productive. If info isn't sent to the Clerk in time, then it doesn't get included. Cllr Fellows – former meetings used to have 7 days' notice, so all were the same, best practice, not sure that it needs to be an amendment.

Discussion followed about having 7 days as standard, across all meetings and short notice if an urgent meeting needed.

Cllr Solan-Cooper – once packs have gone out, no one should be trying to drip feed info into the meeting and as a group, not always the best in responding to emails. If there is a request to amend standing orders, it will need to be put to a full council meeting.

Cllr Solan-Cooper – need committee chairs to contact Clerk to set dates for meetings and need to give more notice. All need to email the Clerk.

11. Individual Councillor Reports

Cllr Beddows has spoken to Hudson's Garden Centre about the missing trees on the central reservation and whether they could provide the same tree.

He has been in contact with the fabricator of the planters, and they are now outside of their (5 year) lifespan and they have also suggested sending a technician to see if they are structurally sound. Cllr Beddows is also speaking with WBC to see if the road would need to be closed for any works to be done to the planters.

Christmas tree – worked to get the tree removed with the help of Kingsmead, who came and lifted it out and EDR who came and cut it up and removed it.

Cllr Solan-Cooper – can bullet points be sent to the Clerk and Cllr Fellows as chair of the Open Spaces Committee.

Cllr Potts – thanked Cllr Beddows for his work. Knew there was no service level agreement for the planters and asked if the company said there would be a charge for coming to look at them. Cllr Beddows confirmed not.

Cllr Lenihan – could Cllr Beddows send costings for road closures to all Cllrs so know what they're looking at. He has a relationship with a contractor who were hired to deal with the road closures for the Remembrance Parade.

Cllr Beddows – no exact costs, ballpark figure to give an idea.

12. Parish/Borough Council Surgery Report February 2022

Cllr Heaver advised there were a number of attendees and the first issue raised was about White Moss and a demolition company now on the site. They've not actually done anything, but residents concerned. There are still some ongoing issues with the appeal against how White Moss site is being used.

A resident reported low hanging branches at Penketh Court.

Cllr Solan-Cooper advised there has been some concerns about the new builds on Greystone Road, what is affordable housing, who is going to be living there and the allocation to over 55s. Posts from the public on social media were suggesting otherwise. This has been checked with the local authority and housing association and it has been confirmed this is for over 55s.

An issue raised about parking on Farnworth Road has been passed to the Highways team at WBC to investigate.

13. PCSO Update January 2022

A full update has been provided by PCSO Roger Stevens, included below:

‘Summary for Penketh and Cuardley.

ASB seems to be the favour of this month with 7 reports of youths causing annoyance, alarm and distress, the reports are spread over most of the Penketh area, but it would seem to be the same group of males.

Urban explorers and cable thieves continue to plague Fiddler's ferry. I know this does not affect the general public, but we still have investigated these incidents when damage or thefts occur. We do regular patrols around the inside of the site but given it has 8 miles of perimeter fence and given a site as remote and dark it is difficult to deal with these incidents.

Theft of goods from McColls is going to prove fruitful as the offenders have been identified by staff.

Anti-Social Behaviour.

Penketh. 7 reports of ASB.

Cuardley. 0.

Attempt theft from motor vehicle

Penketh. 2.

Cuardley. 0.

OTHER INCIDENTS

Friend's lane speeding complaints. The site/road does not qualify for any form of speed enforcement due to several reasons, however I have carried out Radar gun speed monitoring, this has been done at various times of the day including school drop off and pick up as these times put pressure on all roads.

The result is I only found one vehicle to be traveling 1mph above the prescribed speed limit.

TRUCAM SPEED ENFORCMENT

TruCam has been used on Stocks Lane and no vehicles were traveling above the prescribed speed limit.

Other matters –

We now have access to a TruCam device that enforces speed during the hours of darkness, and I will be looking to use this new device over the coming weeks.

I have booked into Penketh south primary school and Penketh primary school to spend two whole shifts there introducing myself to the children and presenting Roles of police presentations plus the children will be able to inspect the police cell van and pretend they have been arrested plus set the sirens off.’

PCSO Stevens will be attending the full PC meeting in April 2022. Residents can meet him then, but he is available to see at other times, at the station and out and about.

Cllr Potts – ASB is being mentioned quite a bit on social media, the pool would have been a distraction. can we link in with PCC (Police and Crime Commissioner) grants and what might be available at the youth club. Can we open up discussions with PCSO Stevens about this?

Cllr Fellows – does PCSO Rogers have a schedule of surgeries and can we request that PCSO Stevens attends the future meetings as his predecessor did. Should be able to schedule this in with his shift patterns.

Clerk has been in communication with PCSO Stevens to hold surgeries at the pool.

14. Queens Platinum Jubilee Update

Cllr Solan-Cooper advised that the PC will be marking the occasion over the Jubilee weekend. We will be taking part in a beacon lighting ceremony on the Thursday of that weekend and there will be an event at the time, which will end with lighting a beacon. Had a beacon commissioned by a local fabricator and will be placed in Penketh Gardens as a legacy of the event. More info will be shared in the coming weeks.

Cllr Haywood – announced the Queen’s Green Canopy and tree planting project that the local community are encouraged to get involved in. a successful bid for over 100 trees was granted and they are being delivered to the pool in 22/2/22. Tree planting can commence up until the end of March and must be on public land. Contact has been made with local groups and anyone who gets involved is encouraged to take photos and the location of the tree can be plotted on an accessible electronic map. Cllr Haywood has spoken to the library who are going to have the first tree.

Cllr Solan-Cooper has spoken to a tree expert, and they have suggested which type of trees should be planted where, with one being planted in Penketh Gardens with a plaque made by the.

Cllr L Jones – we will update social media and reach out to other groups.

Cllr Haywood – also spoken to Canal Restoration Society about adopting a piece of land (1 mile) and we maintain and look after the land, which we can also plant on. Waiting to hear back from them.

Cllr Potts – can we plant in the central reservation? There are some missing trees, would we need to get permission from WBC. Possible issues with maintenance.

Cllr Solan-Cooper thanked Cllr Haywood for her work and organising the project.

Action – for all to share to social media and reach out to those who may not use social media or watch live stream of meeting

15. Hynet Northwest Hydrogen Pipeline – Cllr Lenihan

All Cllrs have been sent information relating to this. A company are doing some high-level consultation about proposals for the installation of a pipeline that is of in interest to Penketh and Cuerdley as it may be identified as a site for a Haggi, an above ground pipe that is the size of two football fields. The public consultation is open from 26/1/2022 to 11/3/2022 and enquires can be submitted to

www.hynethydrogenpipeline.co.uk

16. Greystone Benches – Cllr Beddows

Cllr Beddows thanked a local resident for reporting the damage to one of the benches that has impacted the integrity of the structure and it can't be repaired.

Cllr Solan-Cooper advised that the company who had originally supplied and fitted the benches had provided a quote for a replacement but with the cost of steel this was a big increase on the original cost so currently looking at other options. In the meantime, arrangements will be made for the removal of the bench.

Cllr Fellows asked if for a quick fix could we look at a fabricator removing the back of the bench, but this might pose a health and safety risk to users.

17. Correspondence for January 2022

Cllrs provided with January correspondence list ahead of meeting.

Cllr Lenihan asked about correspondence from end of Jan to date, whether anything pertinent need to know. Advised not.

18. Clerks Report for January 2022

Swimming lesson refunds have been processed with close to 100 refunds issued, some to households with multiple swimmers. This will be ongoing with any other request with a cut-off date of 31st March 2022.

Internal audit visited on 31/1/2022 to complete the interim audit with the report provided on 13/2/2022. There is a big reduction in the number of recommendations from the 2020/21 audit. There are some outstanding legacy actions, and the People and Scrutiny committee will develop an action plan to resolve those they can.

Cllr Solan-Cooper thanked the Clerk for the work put into getting the audit completed, considering the short time they have been with the Parish Council. Stated that we need to close off what we can by the end of March 2022 and final audit.

19. A.O.B

Cllr L Jones gave an update on the changes to the website, following his meeting with Cllr Solan-Cooper and the website provider and our ability to be able to upload documents, make changes to contact and set meetings. This is still ongoing but working well and is far more user friendly in its layout. Any thoughts or feedback, email the Clerk.

Cllr Beddows had asked about using the community hall as a centre for blood donations and whether we had heard anything, no response so this will be followed up.

20. Date and venue of next meeting confirmed as Monday 14th March 2022 at 7.30pm at the Pool and Community Centre.

Part 1 closed at 21.20pm

Public Forum

MR – most of the questions have been answered. Trees, publicly accessible land is WBC< have we got permission, for example, to plant at the library?

Cllr Haywood advised that we haven't looked at specific areas yet but have spoken to St Josephs, Heathside etc. Confirmed the trees to be planted are the 20 species that the Woodland Trust have identified as becoming extinct.

Cllr Solan-Cooper advised we can upload this information to the website.

CO – the A574 to Cuerdley is heavily littered on both sides, past the fire station. WBC seem to stop picking up when working on the grass verges.

Cllr Solan-Cooper -some community group events are planned, including litter picks from March to June 2022 and we can come to those areas. Asked CO to keep us informed if WBC come back to remove the litter. The resident's association have sorted some issues at Doe Green roundabout.

CO said he has been trying to raise issues with WBC since October 2021. Cllr Lenihan can be emailed directly to raise with WBC. Cllr Potts suggested if we could link WBC reporting form to the PC website.

Cllr Solan-Cooper – proposing standing order extension to the meeting – all in favour.

HS – Hynet – did Cllr Lenihan say an area the size of two football pitches being looked for and is there any benefit of the pipework to residents? Cllr Lenihan advised that it is a high-level consultation at this stage, mainly in Cuerdley but it does come into Penketh, pipework will be underground. We will put links to it on social media and the website. Cllr Beddows has looked at the Hynet website and there's not much info on it yet.

GS – has seen from the website that Cllr Snape has resigned, can we ask why? Cllr Solan-Cooper, personal reasons.

GS – would there be a plan to co-opt again? Cllr Solan-Cooper – it would be favourable to us, given the big projects working on and finances are needed for that.

Part 1 Public Forum closed at 21.33pm.

.

.

Jo Worthington Temp Clerk