



Penketh Parish Council

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Parish Council Meeting

Meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 10th January 2022

At the Pool & Community Meeting Room

Part 1

Cllr Solan-Cooper opened the meeting, advising of the installation of a CO2 monitor in the committee room, under guidance from Public Health England and due to the ongoing concerns with covid-19 and the omicron variant.

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

2. Apologies

Cllr K Snape, Cllr L Fox, Cllr A Haywood

Clerk – joined online

Public -2

3. **3.1 Code of Conduct – Declaration of Interests** – Cllr Fellows may have a conflict of interest with the pool update and will make a decision to vote at the time of discussing item 12.

3.2 Localism Act 2011 – Dispensations - None

4. To approve the minutes of the previous meeting

Cllr Potts queried amendments to the minutes, and these being sent out to all Cllrs, so they are aware of suggested changes ahead of an updated draft.

Proposed by Cllr Solan-Cooper Seconded by Cllr Potts
All in favour

5. Matters arising from minutes of previous meeting - None

6. Updates from Committee meetings

Cllr S Jones updated there has been a Finance meeting to discuss the precept and budget, which are to be voted on in this meeting.

7. Consideration of Planning Applications

Two planning applications have been received in December 2021.
There is also the planning committee that can 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 December 2021

Summary sheet of spend for December 2021 for approval, KLS summary spend provided prior to the meeting, PPC summary provided in the Cllrs meeting pack.

Cllr L Jones asked if Peninsula is missing in the PPC summary

Cllr Solan-Cooper confirmed that all items in the summary are correct to 30/12/2021.

Cllr S Jones queried why two Microsoft payment entries

Cllr Solan-Cooper it is for the host account and domains for Cllrs, which need to be kept separate for audit purposes.

Cllr Lenihan queried absence of website provider invoice, does anything need to be read into this following meeting in December 2021.

Cllr Heaver queried income from hall and when this will be reviewed.

Cllr Solan-Cooper suggested this is picked up and reviewed by the business management committee.

Cllr Heaver would like to launch this, Cllr Solan-Cooper can ask the business management committee and bring it to a future meeting.

Cllr Potts, questioned if he was the only one who hadn't received both account summaries.

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

Actions – Clerk to check website invoice received

Summary accts for KLS and PPC to be sent ahead of full PC Meetings

9. Precept 2022/23

Cllr Solan-Cooper advised that this had been discussed in Part 2 of the last PC meeting, with a document outlining the budget and precept submitted by Cllr S Jones

Cllr S Jones – following discussion, had reviewed some information around the pool and possible loan payments which could reduce immediate payments. A line for this has now been added to the budget and Capital Expenditure reduced.

Cllr Solan-Cooper asked for questions from the proposed budget and last meeting discussion

Cllr Solan-Cooper advised for the people in the room and public viewing online that the precept is to increase in line with the 4.2% inflation rise

Cllr Lenihan advised it has been agreed by full Parish Council to round up to 5%

Cllr Solan-Cooper confirmed proposing increase in line with inflation from 4.2 rounded up to 5%

Proposer Cllr Solan-Cooper Seconded Cllr S Jones – agreed by 8 Cllrs present

1 abstain

10. Budget 2022/23

Cllr Solan-Cooper checked all Cllrs had a copy of the proposed budget document

Cllr L Jones asked if the budget lines would be set up in Xero and whether there would be monthly monitoring

Cllr Potts advised that Financial Regulations and Standing Orders state a quarterly review

Cllr Solan-Cooper advised that this should be straightforward in Xero

Proposer Cllr Solan-Cooper Seconded Cllr Potts – agreed by 8 Cllrs present

1 abstain/against

11. Pool Update – Cllr Layfield

11.1 Buildings Insurance Update - the loss adjuster advised there is only one clause that can be claimed through insurance and this has a £1k value, some concerns about how this may affect the premiums

11.2 Business Plan Update Cllr Layfield has completed a first draft of a business plan and submitted to all Cllrs. Comments received from one Cllr, would encourage all to send comments back for discussion at next business management committee

Cllr S Jones asked for date of next business management meeting

Cllr Solan-Cooper asked all Cllrs to submit comments on draft business plan by 21/1/2022

11.3 Cost Consultant Update - appointed in Part 2 of last PC meeting. Meeting on site 9am Friday 14th January 2022. Cllr Layfield hopes to bring costs update to the February full PC meeting
Cllr Beddows queried the options the Cost Consultant is looking at, Cllr Layfield advised they will be costing all options but focussing on 3 to 6

11.4 Pool Specialist (Aquality) Update - Cllr Potts advised there is no real update, Aquality information has been sent to the Clerk. Contact made with Concept Pools to check whether there is any agreement with them (Concept) to do pool works

Cllr Layfield advised not all Cllrs know about Aquality and the information they have sent.

Cllr Potts - It is the contractors who did the work at Beechwood in Runcorn. They have not been asked for a quote but have submitted some costs. Cllr Potts has spoken with the Clerk about putting info on Contract Finder

Cllr Solan-Cooper advised Clerk looking at what details of contractual obligations with Concept are. Aquality are recommended by another community pool.

11.5 Structural Engineer Appointment - discussion paper for Part 2 of the meeting.

11.6 Architect Appointment Update - Four architects have been approached, had one good quote back and two have come back to discuss but no other quotes received.

Cllr Solan-Cooper asked Cllr Layfield if he needs any support, as it is a lot of work and there is a full council of 12 with responsibility for the pool.

Cllr Layfield will continue with working groups and the business management committee will input. Has included in business plan, short, medium, long-term actions. Would like to work together with Cllrs Fellows and Potts on work they have done.

Cllr L Jones offered his time, as would like to see more regular contacts and movement and the issue to not roll month to month.

Cllr Fellows expressed frustration about the time it is taking to get the pool open and we should be aiming for a date. Aquality fed back they could be on site and get the pool back online by April/May and costs also in constraints of finances currently available. Two very good reasons to give this more thought.

Cllr Heaver has concerns about pushing things due to structural issues, possibly needs complete wiring overhaul and feedback not received about that, project management and leadership needed.

Cllr Lenihan – had meeting beginning of December and had discussed a potential 16-week timeline. Need to break it down into phases and project plan. Need to make sure lead times are available.

Cllr Solan-Cooper states there can be as many working groups as needed, extraordinary committee meetings can be held if any decisions need to be made or immediate approval for finances/spend etc, but focus is needed, we cannot let dates slip and need to get on with it.

Discussion about timescales, different phases running concurrently, with each phase given a timeline.

Cllr L Jones – is Aqua more about dealing with overdue maintenance? How do we work this into other options. Pool is the reason why the building is closed. Cllr Solan-Cooper confirmed it is Aquality.

Cllr Layfield has started to put some of this into the first draft business plan he submitted to all Cllrs ahead of the meeting. Looking at phases to work, timescales, options for other areas of the centre, including changing rooms, meeting room, entrance to building.

Cllr Solan-Cooper - pool is the priority as the biggest source of income.

Cllr Potts – Aquality were applying a common sense approach to just getting the pool working.

Cllr Lenihan – asking do we need to consider rebranding, making a good first impression, opening and then closing again to do other works.

Cllr Heaver – Cllr Fellows mentioned pecuniary interest, questioned Cllrs Fellows and Potts having a vested interest.

Cllr Potts – the loss of income is to the Parish Council, elected to save the finances of the council.

Cllr Solan-Cooper advised have gone through the Declarations of Interest and project is being dealt with by Cllr Layfield.

Cllr Fellows asked if we could come back to this as it is his choice and right to leave or vote and not for anyone else to call out.

Action – Cllr Layfield to produce a draft programme of works - complete

12. Pool Consultation – Cllr Heaver

Cllr Heaver put forward a motion to resolve to communicate with the public on the current state of the pool, by running a public consultation. He is aware that some amendments to this have been put forward by Cllr Potts. Cllrs Heaver and Layfield agree with all but the last suggested amendment.

Cllr Heaver – go through motion, discuss amendment and go back to vote on motion.

Cllr Lenihan asked could the amendments be discussed between proposer and amender, then the motion could be agreed and voted as one.

Cllr Solan-Cooper has asked if the council can keep to time with the Standing Orders as this discussion could run over.

Cllr Potts states it is one amendment, consider the motion then discuss.

Cllr Heaver suggested go through amendments with all but the last one reviewed.

Cllr Potts picked up the discussion for the last amendment, suggesting emails through the Clerk with any comments from the public and council members to facilitate the consultation, referring to the Business Management committee and not using another group of people. Referenced the Clerk currently working 16 hours. Thinks this is the only way it will work properly.

Proposer Cllr Potts Seconded Cllr L Jones

Cllr Heaver thinks it should be a working group, who can report to the sub-committee, which is why he is rejecting the last amendment.

Cllr L Jones explained why he seconded the amendment, thinks whilst it could be a subgroup, the talent to upgrade the pool is best held in the business management committee. Finds it odd that we would ask Cllrs not involved in this committee to do the consultation.

Cllr Lenihan suggested that all want public consultation and wouldn't have a motion coming to the PC for something we're going to do anyway, when it's at least 6 months before it can be overturned. He doesn't want a motion that stops things getting done quickly and efficiently.

Cllr S Jones advised that committees are not closed shops and any Cllr can join.

Cllr Beddows - in support of Cllr Heaver and doesn't think it should be limited. States we should open it up to anyone that wants to help

Cllr Fellows – just being clear that Cllr Heaver only objects to last amendment, would he prefer to create a polling document? Every committee has a public forum

Cllr Solan-Cooper asked if any member of the public in the business management committee has come up with anything when discussing the pool?

Cllr Lenihan doesn't want a motion that prevents people from giving feedback. 40+ people watching live stream tonight. Lots of people in community likely to want to input.

Cllr Solan-Cooper any costings for advertising? Cllr Heaver advised needs to be voted on first.

Cllrs voted on the amended motion

In favour – 5

Against – 4

Motion to pass the amended version

Cllr Heaver now debating and voting on version as amended. Talks about the public consultation benefits. Cllr Heaver states sitting on the fence about the pool but is passionate about doing the right thing for the people of Penketh.

Cllr Lenihan comments on public consultation, no one is questioning the need for this.

Cllr S Jones asked if it needs to be a 12-week consultation period, can we set a period for consultation

Cllr Potts need to decide an option for the pool and put this out to consultation, have open public forums. Has too many issues with the points of this motion. This is to invite analysis from the public. Consultation is not to outsource own decision-making responsibility and money can be used from existing budget. Makes comment about Cllr Heaver and the pool being demolished. Advised by Cllr Solan-Cooper that words used were sitting on the fence about it. Cllr Potts stated that wants to make right the inefficiencies of the former council.

Cllr L Jones accepts the need to be communicating more with the public, but the decision needs to go back to the business management committee. He has some health and safety concerns about letting people on poolside, doesn't think it's the right time but accepts we need to do it

Cllr Solan-Cooper, it is unclear whether it's communication with the public or consultation and one being updating the public, the other involving the public. Takes on board Cllr Potts comments about lack of maintenance

Cllr Lenihan – Cllr Heaver brought the motion with the best of intentions and doesn't want it to appear to the public that we don't want them involved if he votes against the motion as minded not to. Talks about further options, comprehensive options reports, referencing 'golden window' options 3 to 6. When it does go to public consultation need to narrow down parameters and decide which options to put to the public, this is what the council have been elected to decide on.

Cllr Potts – the consultation should be us deciding what we're doing

Cllr Heaver – we have a responsibility to spend money on what the public want, comments on proposed £400k, Cllr Solan-Cooper advised we don't know that and cannot comment on figures.

Health and safety issues can be made safe for the people visiting the pool. Cllr Heaver is proposing consultation on those who put their foot in the door, he feels quite ambivalent about the pool but he is getting a lot of people coming to him about it and where their money is being spent.

Cllr Solan-Cooper asks for a vote on the motion

In favour – 4

Against – 5

Motion not passed.

Cllr Solan -Cooper thinks it is important to emphasise to the public that we are here. It's not to shut them out, precept has just been increased and most round the table are precept payers. The majority of the council discussed the pool during elections and they want the public to have a say and a voice. Need to look at communication.

13. Individual Councillor Reports/Questions

Cllr Potts reported on completing the Clerk review with Cllr S Jones

Cllr L Jones – Pool refunds, Clerk in contact with everyone we have details for. Now in progress.

Cllr Solan-Cooper– Have seen some responses and need to decide where any wanting to forfeit monies paid should go.

14. Parish/ Borough Surgery Report January 2022

Cllr Fellows advised he went along as he wasn't sure who should be going and wanted to make sure someone was in attendance.

No one attended but Cllr Fellows did update that people had been asking at the library about the pool. Updates to the library are still on their agenda, hoping it will be done 2022.

Cllr Potts advised the rota for the surgeries includes parish and borough councillors and new Cllrs should have slotted into outgoing Cllr places.

Cllr Solan-Cooper make sure any Cllrs not able to attend let the Clerk know so this can be covered. Any swaps, make sure these are reciprocated.

**Actions – Review of parish and borough council surgeries
Clerk to update and refresh noticeboard at the library**

15. London Bridge – Cllr L Jones

Advised that preparations have been made, pre-defined statement has been drafted, polices and processes are now in place and Cllr Solan-Cooper has ordered required items – no questions

16. Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Cllr Solan-Cooper advised that a meeting was taking place on 11th January 2022 to discuss ideas coming forward and would encourage everyone to get involved. Good opportunity to involve Parish Council and wider community.

17. Correspondence for December 2021

Correspondence list sent to all Cllrs ahead of meeting – no comments.

18. Clerks Report for December 2021

None – business as usual, no exceptions this month.

19. Update from PCSO for December 2021

Contact has been made between the Clerk and new PCSO who will be invited to attend the next full PC meeting.

20. A.O.B

Cllr S Jones asked what the plan is for the Christmas tree, Cllr Fox is dealing with this

Cllr Lenihan has had 9 calls about a house for sale on the Sportsman Arms site. No building work has been started but there has been a planning application submitted for a plot yards away from the site and the plan for the Sportmans Arms has been resubmitted.

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

Part 1 closed at 20.52pm

Public Forum

HS – some minutes are now on website but poorly scanned PDFs, not typed up minutes. How is it progressing with the website provider, mentioned at the last meeting? Cllr Solan-Cooper advised he will pick the issue with the documents up with the website provider.

HS – promised at previous meetings that minutes from 2/8/2021 would go onto website but still not on there and no agenda. Is asking for this as this is the meeting when the accounts were agreed.

Cllr Solan-Cooper advised that October 2021 have been pulled together from the Cllrs, with Cllr Potts finalising.

HS asked can there be something that shows a record that there was a meeting on 2/8/2022.

HS – there is an inaccurate representation in some minutes stating ‘none’ to questions from the public, noticed in the minutes from September 22nd and November 8th 2021. Cllr Fellows personally apologised as he had approved some of these minutes.

HS – what is the minimum number of meetings a Cllr is required to attend and do extraordinary meetings count? Cllr Solan-Cooper advised no. Cllr Fellows stated a previous council member had been absent for 9 months.

GS – asking about update on status of temp Clerk/RFO. Cllr Solan-Cooper advised temp clerk still in post and had contract extended.

GS – is the other person helping with accounts and are both temps ongoing? Cllr Solan-Cooper advised the other person is working on the accounting software and there is a timescale on the financial side as there is a cap on spend. This won't need to be reviewed as it has moved much quicker than expected.

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Part 1 closed a 9.05pm.

Jo Worthington Temp Clerk