



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 11th April 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 - 3

3. 3.1 Code of Conduct – Declaration of Interests – Cllr Solan-Cooper reminded members to declare any interests - None

3.2 Localism Act 2011 – Dispensations – None

Cllr Fellows doesn't see anything on the agenda, but if anything does come up, he declares himself as Chair of Penketh Swimming Club

4. To approve the minutes of the previous meeting

Proposed Cllr Lenihan Seconded Cllr Beddows

5. Matters arising from minutes of previous meeting

None

6. Updates from Committee meetings

Cllr S Jones– Finance committee took place 7th April 2022 with a lot of discussion around the pool, which will be picked up in the pool update.

An application to the Secretary of State for a loan is being completed, we just need to agree a figure
Interim Audit actions are being worked on, there are 8 recommendations

Cllr Layfield – Business Management committee was held on Tuesday 5th April 2022, the update will be provided in agenda item 17.

7. Consideration of Planning Applications

Cllr Beddows – a few applications for residential properties have been sent across.

Cllr Lenihan – attended a WBC planning meeting and will provide an update in his Cllr update.

8. Finance

8.1 Applications for Financial Assistance

No new applications

8.2 Accounts for Payment for February 2022

Summary of spend for Penketh Parish Council and KLS March 2022 for approval.

Cllr Solan-Cooper advised that no validation had been received yet regarding the precept, but this is due within the next few weeks.

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

Ad hoc spend this month is to Aquality leisure and removal of the damaged bench on Greystone.

Cllr Lenihan queried the spend on removal and disposal of the bench, Cllr Solan-Cooper advised that the costs of replacement is significantly higher than when the benches were originally bought. There will be a plan to replace the bench, but we need to consider what this will be.

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

9. Queens Jubilee

Cllr Solan-Cooper provided an update on events planned for the jubilee, including a beacon lighting ceremony on 2nd June 2022, in Penketh Gardens. This has been chosen as a place where the beacon will be a permanent feature.

There will also be an interactive beacon trail, which encourages walking and involves 7 local businesses/organisations who will be hosting a virtual character and it will be free for people to do. There are QR codes to scan along the way and once at the end of the trail, it gives more information about the event. It has been arranged with businesses across the parish and commences on 30th April 2022

Cllr S Jones asked if the businesses involved are accessible if people are walking to them? Cllr Solan-Cooper advise they are, and the characters will be advertised in the window.

Radio Merseyside have approached the PC to ask if they would do an interview or a live broadcast of the beacon lighting ceremony, this is to be considered.

10. Individual Councillor Reports

Cllr Lenihan updated that the application for affordable housing on the Sportsman's Arms site has been approved at DMC. It is classed as affordable as it is for shared ownership. The biggest local resident concern was around the trees, and it has been agreed that it is the lesser quality trees that will be removed.

He has also dealt with 3 issues of parking, people blocking pavements and advised that the type of obstruction depends on whether it is a 101 call or not.

ASB on Honiton Square is an issue again, grit bins have been thrown around and littering, and the traders are worried that it will put people off wanting to use them. Cllr L Jones advised he had received complaints of litter on Honiton Square and had liaised with Cllr Lenihan as this has been an issue since the bins were never replaced after Covid. The issues have been reported to the PCSO and they are now in hand.

Cllr Solan-Cooper asked if the traders have approached the landlord, Cllr Lenihan confirmed they have and they are looking at setting up a Trader's Association, which is something that was discussed pre-Covid.

Cllr Heaver updated that he has finally pushed through a number of dropped kerbs, something he has been working on as a pledge he made. 8 will be installed and he will continue to push for the rest, this is a real result as he has been constantly told there is no budget.

Cllr Fellows advised that there will be an update on the bus service offer in Penketh and has opened up some communication channels due to government funding. Cllr Lenihan advised that after the last meeting he has contacted Cllr Mitchell regarding Warrington's own buses and the outcome was not favourable, said they're not introducing new routes. Cllr Lenihan is taking this forward as it's not new.

11. Parish/Borough Council Surgery Report April 2022

Cllr Haywood advised that two residents turned up with concerns about the development at the former British Legion site. One concerned that refugees will be rehoused there and the other about the lead time for completion, as they hadn't heard anything.

Cllr Solan-Cooper advise that there is now a folder in the library with up-to-date minutes of the full PC meetings. An updated timetable for the parish council surgery will be sent out and all Cllrs are asked to notify the clerk if they are not able to cover their allocated slot.

Cllr Heaver advised that updated posters are also in the library and in Tesco.

12. PCSO Update March/April 2022

No update had been sent for the meeting and there have been several attempts to communicate with the PCSO.

13. Correspondence for March/April 2022

Correspondence list has been provided from the date of the last full PC meeting to date.

Cllr Layfield declared an interest in APR009 on the correspondence list, a request to use an open space for a sporting use - no decision has been made on this yet.

Cllr Potts queried APR015 regarding a quote for decorating, no further contact to date

APR008 – carnival email, Cllr Solan-Cooper advised it had been sent to all Cllrs as requested and didn't think it necessary to read out as all Cllrs have had access to read it.

14. Clerks Report

No specific update, as BAU

15. Co-option

Cllr Solan-Cooper advised that a Cllr resignation had opened up a casual vacancy for the PC. After sending to WBC as required, no election was called. We weren't able to add to the March meeting as the packs and notices had been sent and advertised. A notification regarding co-option will go onto the PC website and noticeboards and people can apply as Cllr Haywood previously did.

Cllr Lenihan asked what the closing date might be for applications, would we want to get it in for May?

Cllr Solan-Cooper advised that it will be filled when the right candidate comes along and can look at applications on a rolling basis. Cllr Lenihan asked if a line can be drawn in the sand, and it not be left open indefinitely.

Cllr Solan-Cooper agreed a closing date would be put on and it would be added to the website and noticeboards.

16. Penketh Carnival

Motion: Penketh Carnival

This Council rescinds the motion that was raised as a non-agenda item in March 2019 by the previous Council for indefinite consent for use of Parish Owned land, specifically Greystone Recreation Ground, Greystone Road, Penketh.

Original motion from Wednesday 13th March 2019: This Parish Council agrees the date of this year's Carnival 13th July 2019 and agrees that the Carnival can be held annually on Greystone recreational Ground on the 2nd Saturday in July going forward for future years.

Proposer: Cllr Michael Potts Seconder: Cllr Geoff Fellows

Cllr Solan-Cooper gave some context as there had been suggestion that the PC doesn't want the carnival. As Chairman, and he is sure others feel the same, they do want a carnival and want to make sure it is all organised properly, following issues with the fairground the previous year.

Cllr Fellows advised of the declaration when they were elected and a majority vote regarding the carnival.

Cllr DSC read out a statement to that effect.

Cllr Lenihan has an amendment to the motion.

Original motion was heard from Cllr Potts, who had proposed (seconded by Cllr Fellows) and it is to rescind a motion that was moved by the then vice chair of the PC in 2019 and the use of the land. Whilst paperwork was received last year, there were issues and also with the fairground, which the PC had to take responsibility for at the last minute. It seems that things are hidden behind a team name, with no named individuals and there are concerns about this if anything goes wrong.

Cllr Solan-Cooper read out Cllr Lenihan's amended motion. The amendment to the motion put forward by Cllr Potts, is:

The reason the council must rescind this motion is that such permission cannot be given in perpetuity, when so many other legal factors have to be taken into consideration on a case-by-case basis. Tonight's motion in no way reflects the relationship with any hirer. Indeed, this council hopes that in taking this professional and just position, these relationships will grow and the people of Penketh will benefit from safe and enjoyable community events for many generations to come.

Proposed Cllr Lenihan and as the person seconding the amended motion was TBC, Cllr Heaver declared he would second it.

As the motion had been seconded, Cllr Lenihan asked to speak on the amended motion, as he is fully in support of Cllr Potts' motion but felt that it needed to be added that the original motion could not stand in perpetuity. The reason for the suggested amendment is the brevity of the motion and some upset in the community. The council want a carnival, they are all for it but want it to be right and safe, Cllr Lenihan has made no bones about having to deal with the fairground at the 11th hour in 2021. The relationship with any hirer needs to be a good one, he has seen that WBC have the documents from the events team, are they with the PC? Once the livestream recordings have gone into the depths of social media, the minutes remain as a record of the discussion.

Cllr Solan-Cooper asked Cllr Heaver if he wanted to speak as seconder, he did to say that he is in support of a carnival, the organisers do a good job, but the PC need the paperwork.

Cllr Fellows as the seconder of Cllr Potts' motion agrees that it needs this context, and asked does he want it adding to the original motion? Cllr Lenihan confirmed yes.

Cllr S Jones asked if instead if indefinite consent and getting documents in, there is a commitment to support the carnival with a 'hold the date'? Cllr Potts advised this will be move into part 2, as it is unfair that hirers hear things on the night.

Cllr Heaver asked if Cllr Solan-Cooper and Cllr Potts are happy to move on the amended motion, Cllr Potts is happy to have the amendment moved into his.

Cllr Solan-Cooper asked for a vote, with 10 in favour and 1 abstain from Cllr Potts and by virtue of a show of hands the motion was passed.

Two motions discussed and voted on in part 2 of the meeting have been moved to Part 1 minutes for transparency.

Motion one was to allow the use of half of Greystone Recreation Ground on the date requested, subject to the provision of all documents by the carnival events team 4 weeks before the event.

All voted unanimously in favour of the motion.

Motion two was that Penketh Parish Council are not hosting or taking responsibility for a fairground on 9th July 2022.

All voted unanimously in favour of the motion.

17. Pool Update

Cllr Fellows declared his interest as a hirer of the pool 2 years ago and as nothing to vote on, is staying in the room.

17.1 Cllr Layfield – gave an update on the progress to the pool works, these are progressing well, but some additional items need to be reviewed.

17.2 Additional Items are disabled hoist, replacement pool cover, air heating system, concrete repairs, painting and lighting. Cllr Fellows pointed out that some of these needed to be discussed in part 2, as they had costs attached.

Cllr Heaver asked about the floor tiling as there had been talk of underfloor heating, Cllr Layfield advised this has been discounted as it is not cost effective.

Cllr Layfield advised that some works have been identified as needing to be done prior to reopening, these are being reviewed by the Business Management Committee (BMC). Urgent works needed are to cracks around the handrails. BMC approved the spend to instruct this under 4.1 of the Financial Regulations and have brought to full PC to vote on. Cllr Layfield advised if this is not done, there is a risk we are ‘painting over the cracks’ and further work will be needed 12 months down the line. Cllr Lenihan advised it had been a lengthy discussion at BMC and not a decision reached quickly.

Proposed Cllr Solan-Cooper Seconded Cllr L Jones

Approved by 10 Cllrs present 1 abstain

Cllr Beddows asked if a structural survey has been done and if anything, else has been found about the building itself, Cllr Layfield advised nothing else has been found.

Cllr Layfield has been speaking to Aquality about darker tiles for the visually impaired. Cllr Potts asked Cllr Heaver if there is someone that this can be run by so we can be sure meets criteria? Cllr Heaver can ask Warrington Disability Partnership.

Cllr Solan-Cooper put forward a recommendation that floor tiles are added as additional spend subject to validation from Cllr Heaver.

Proposed Cllr Layfield Seconded Cllr Potts – all in favour

Cllr Fellows raised a point of order and suggested that we hold off on discussions about point 3, air heating system. Cllr Layfield advised there is no proposal for this tonight.

Discussion followed about the current system, with any further discussion to be taken back to BMC. Painting will be discussed further in part 2, as the 3 quotes not yet received.

Pool Cover – BMC agreed they would go out for 2 further quotes, the recommendation is to replace with a wall-mounted cover. If it's left for now, the tiles around it will need to be replaced.

Cllr Beddows asked if there was any reason why we would go for wall-mounted, Cllr Layfield advised that it frees up space, prevents people sitting on it and damaging it, and tiles run through.

Discussion followed with Cllr Heaver expressing concerns that items are being reviewed line by line and there is no summary of effects and seems we're committing to costs. Cllr Lenihan suggested opening up invite to all Cllrs to the next BMC, Cllr Heaver can't attend.

Cllr Layfield asked Cllr Solan-Cooper as Chair, how he would like to proceed? There is no request for commitment on spend tonight, just a recommendation that at some point the pool cover will be replaced with a wall-mounted one.

Cllr Fellows, advised ahead of moving on, that when the kit was replaced, the cover wasn't and thinking of the finances for the council, a thinner cover would be more economical.

Cllr Solan-Cooper asked for it to be taken out of this meeting and put back with the Business Management Committee to consider health & safety, how effective the current one is, any degradation.

Cllr L Jones asked if there were any implications to Aquality Cllr Layfield confirmed they can tile around the current stand and cover.

Disabled hoist – we have one quote and await two more, this item will be brought back to a future meeting. Some discussion followed and Cllr Heaver will speak to Disability Partnership and take forward if 3 quotes are obtained. Cllr Lenihan queried if the steps could be considered but these are already included in the Aquality work.

Lighting – this is being looked at, Cllr Heaver asked if the hall is being considered and further discussion will take place in part 2.

17.3 Cllr Potts has been leading on cleaning and improving the look of the existing changing rooms. Full clean is taking place and they will be painted. Hand dryers will be looked at, as these can be bought of the shelf.

17.4 Cllr Layfield met with an architect on site a few weeks ago and they are going to come back with some options to present to the Business Management Committee.

17.5 Cost update provided by Cllr Layfield. Current budget as we see it is £100k cap ex on the pool, £29k cap ex on the hall. There is an added line for £50k for loan repayments, should this be required. Nothing has been put in for grants, as no applications in yet.

There is £93k committed spend, remaining budget of £35.5k. with some cost estimates as not all items have had quotes. Based on current estimate, an additional £82k would be needed to get the pool open.

There is an overall revised estimate of £254k for pool refurbishment works only.

Future works will include below ground drainage repairs and external works (e.g. repointing of brickwork).

Discussion followed about loans, the precept increase and wanting to make the pool nice for local residents but also thinking about the target audience, which is the swimming lessons.

Cllr Solan-Cooper thanked Cllr Layfield and those on the Business Management Committee for their work so far.

17.6 & 17.7 – Cllr Layfield is not going through these tonight.

18. A.O.B

Cllr Heaver asked about the whereabouts of the battery charger for the speed camera, which has disappeared from the kitchen

19. Date and venue of next meeting and the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council is confirmed as Monday 9th May 2022 at 7.30pm at the Pool and Community Centre.

Part 1 closed at 21.05pm

Public Forum

MM – noticed that Penketh Carnival was down for part 2, given the earlier discussion, can there be an open discussion and part 1 reopened as people might think it's closed-door discussions.

Cllr Solan-Cooper advised that there are some things that need discussion, but we will publish what we can in the part 1 minutes.

JK – has lived in Penketh 47 years, has met a few Cllrs and has been speaking about this for 3 years, about who would be considered for the legion, where is the list? Cllr Heaver spoke to JK at the recent parish/WBC surgery and has contacted the council but told it was Torus, which is a housing association.

SD – who do they get in touch with about the light above the alleyway by Latham Hall, Cllr Heaver is already dealing with this.

JK – raised an issue with the bushes on Stocks Lane, Cllr Fellows suggested that a previous clerk might have sent a polite letter asking for them to be cut back.

Cllr Solan-Cooper asked for agendas to be left behind

MM asked if the agenda was on the website, Cllr Solan-Cooper advised it is and will be amended.

Part 1 Public Forum closed at 21.15pm.

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Jo Worthington Temp Clerk