

Penketh Parish Council Community Governance Review

Open comments from the consultation

This document contains open comments (25) and file uploads (7) from those participants who stated **YES** to question 4 below.

A unique ID is displayed for each participant and all personal details have been redacted.

4. Do you feel that Penketh Parish Council should be abolished? Please select one option.				
Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes	<div style="width: 100%; height: 15px; background-color: #92d050;"></div>	100.00%	31 (+ 1)
2	No		0.00%	0
3	Don't know		0.00%	0
			answered	31
			skipped	0

5. In support of your answer to the above question please give your reasons why in the space below. Please provide as much detail as possible including what alternatives could be considered. (max 250 words) Alternatively, you can upload information below.				
Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Open-Ended Question		100.00%	25
1	ID: 207778879	Apart from the arguments there's to many discussions and no action. It should be to help give the people of Penketh what they need and not what they think we need or don't need.		
2	ID: 207791726	Comment removed as consent not provided to publish.		
3	ID: 208157063	So politically charged. No good to come from it when councillors argue so much		
4	ID: 208312220	The lead councillors have an interest in swimming lessons at the community pool. This raises issues with conflict of interest		
5	ID: 208313146	Absolutely no regard for young people within the Parish. Biased towards the older community, not inclusive or diverse. Unless they diversify & deal with the pensioner bullies that stalk Facebook then it should go		
6	ID: 208315889	Don't feel that it is value for money		
7	ID: 208343761	We are paying for some services which can be done via Warrington borough councils and local community groups.		

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5. In support of your answer to the above question please give your reasons why in the space below. Please provide as much detail as possible including what alternatives could be considered. (max 250 words) Alternatively, you can upload information below.

8	ID: 208440706	See attached Word document (duplicate) File uploaded to support response
9	ID: 208727317	After asking for information under the freedom of information act my request was ignored, as such I feel they are not fit for purpose.
10	ID: 208890260	Whilst the principle of the Parish Council is good, Penketh Parish Council is being dominated by individuals who have little consideration of the wishes of the residents and are wasting the tax payers money. A third option would have been nice, two monitor and regulate the Council, but that is not an option here.
11	ID: 209173084	<p>I am concerned on a few levels. The day to day running of the PC seems to have become a political nightmare of new councillors resigning because of open accusations of political and personal bullying. It seems that if you aren't in the clique then you are frozen out, with no voice and no contribution being considered. It's my way or no way!</p> <p>Secondly my concerns are of the running and management of the Penketh Pool. There has been for some time a conflict of interest with at least two councillors running commercial businesses from the public funded pool. Their own requirements for pool time would seem to be taking the pool facility away from community projects, i.e. school pool time and adult public swimming.</p> <p>Finally the actual staff employed by the parish council seem to be under intolerable strain. Some posts, e.g. the parish clerk, have had up to 5 different people in post over around 12-15 months. With pool staff also being affected. I do know from a personal contact that one former clerk was quite badly affected by, allegedly being bullied by at least one councillor.</p> <p>It's a very sad state of affairs when a small parish council, in its present state apolitical, is beset with bullying that prevents it being run for the community.</p>
12	ID: 209524923	I feel that the parish council should be abolished because as someone who has been attending resident's association meetings for years, and has been at the parish council meetings, it is clear that they only want to make themselves look good as opposed to helping the community. We have given them so many ideas and suggestions on things that would improve our area, from improving the local parks to having more to do for the youth, and yet instead they chose to focus all their money on causes that weren't as desired (e.g. the local pool). I have also seen them treat the parishioners with contempt, which is simply unacceptable, and they cannot organise themselves as a group to save their life. It's a shambles and embarrassing. Even if we were to come under Sankey's parish council, things would be better for us and stuff might actually get done.
13	ID: 210671349	Since the current Parish Council was formed (after the 2021 elections) the Council has spent significant amounts of public money on repairs and renovations to Penketh Pool to the exclusion of all other projects which would have been of benefit to the community (such as draining Greystone Recreational Field). Despite all the

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		<p>money spent, the Pool is still not open to the general public.</p> <p>When the petition to abolish the Council was first created I did not sign it as I did not agree with it. Having seen the large amount of money which continues to be spent on the Pool and that nothing else is getting done in Penketh, if the petition to abolish the Council were available now, I would not hesitate to sign it.</p> <p>I would add that since the last election, 6 Parish Councillors have resigned from Penketh Parish Council. My understanding is that most of these did not agree with the Council focusing solely on the Pool to the exclusion of any other projects and I believe this has been the main reason for their resignations.</p>
14	ID: 210767664	<p>I pay a precept to Penketh Parish Council for what feels like absolutely nothing. I don't use the leisure centre, because it's closed anyway, but in addition it's dated and doesn't serve the needs of the community. I wish it was owned by Warrington BC, so that it could have had the investment it needed years ago. I don't use any of the parks owned by Penketh Parish Council because the facilities are inadequate. We go to Warrington BC owned play areas with our kids because the facilities are better. Penketh Parish Council is a waste of money, and should be abolished immediately. I don't even know, or indeed care, who my parish councillor is. It's a waste of space, and during hard economic times, money can be better spent elsewhere.</p>
15	ID: 210768478	<p>As far as I am concerned Penketh Parish Council is a waste of money. If they spent as much time trying to improve the facilities and local community as they do infighting maybe I would feel differently about it!</p> <p>It says something when the BBC report swearing over a Zoom call between councillors to really typify what an unprofessional group of no marks they are. If you are unfamiliar with his article I have added the link below:</p> <p>https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-manchester-54598286.amp</p> <p>As you can see ambassadors for the area and upstanding members of the community they are certainly not.</p>
16	ID: 210771104	<p>I do not believe I receive anything more for the premium council tax I pay for the additional parish council</p>
17	ID: 210771237	<p>I feel as though we pay one of the highest rates of council tax in the Warrington area, then also pay an extra payment on the local Penketh council tax for services that other non parishes in Warrington don't pay for . It's basically a way of getting people in Penketh to pay more taxes .It's not a fair system. So yes we should abolish Penketh Parish Council.</p>

5. In support of your answer to the above question please give your reasons why in the space below. Please provide as much detail as possible including what alternatives could be considered. (max 250 words) Alternatively, you can upload information below.

18	ID: 211269645	I would like to see this current PC closed, with the assets being taken over by a professional and well renowned organisation like Live Wire, to put it on a well managed and even footing ready for the next election. 1The misuse of publicly funded amenities namely Puddle Penguins and Penketh Swimming Club. Between them they have the best time slots and more hours than local schools and impinges on normal swim time for local residents. PSC charge membership fee's and is run by volunteers, they pay only for pool hire. They were asked to open there books over 3 years ago and still haven't. 2 Chair having access to the Clerks E- Mail account possible filtering of communications. 3 Bullying of Clerks. CHALC held an independent enquiry and found severe bullying of the then clerk. Four clerks have since resigned. The Chair is now the clerk, writing the minutes. 4 Bullying of councillors.. Seven Councillors resigned in one year. 5 We need full transparency of all accounts and audits. The Nolan Principles seem not to apply to this terrible council. I have put complaints into the Monitoring Officer before now and if he says it is ok ,I have no problems with your committee having access to these. Regards, REDACTED (sorry for this being so "BLOCKY" wanted to cram everything in.)
19	ID: 211295427	Councillors leaving every few months citing attitude of the chair REDACTED Chair who makes up his own rules and is not following correct procedure Conflicts of interest - one councillor runs a business from Penketh pool which they have spent a lot of money on. Putting obstacles in place to prevent the local carnival as the chair doesn't like that the council don't run it. Clerks resigning as they cannot work with the chair and councillors The current chair acting as the clerk Complaints of bullying within the council from exiting councillors The chair intimidating people who challenge him, online bullying and recording people's conversations Chair monitoring councillors emails and deleting the ones he wants to ignore
20	ID: 211296183	This council are not following correct procedure. In one meeting councillors voted twice on a co-option. I cannot comment on the meetings online anymore as they have closed the Facebook comments. The meetings are not publicised, not on the website until late the same day. It's too short notice to attend. The councillors are recruited by REDACTED via the business he runs at Penketh pool. It is not open or fair.
21	ID: 211328570	I do not think parish is being run correctly. Current chair is very abusive and intimidates councillors and pupils. All money seems to go towards pool. Which is only open for private sessions which one of current councillors is benefitting from. I think wbc should take control
22	ID: 211329810	File attached

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23	ID: 211330592	<p>The council should be suspended with immediate effect as there are issues of great concern. Live wire to take over safe management of the pool (please see document attached for reasons why) The local resident association or WBC should take over the Council until another election</p>
24	ID: 211331118	<p>Council meetings not advertised appropriately. Last week was not made known until 1 hour before meeting. Agenda not made public Chair has been the Clerk for at least 12 months – cannot be RFO and chair Emails intercepted to other councillors by the Chair/ clerk. Reports many are deleted. Huge financial decisions made on the pool which is the business premises of the 2 main councillors. Public funds subsidising this private business. Charity, Penketh Youth association, given a covid loan. They were approached on the doorstep by Parish councillors and request for money to pay for the pool equipment made. The charity was then requested not to write the cheque in the name of the parish council and to leave it blank. Creation of multiple sub committees means meetings held behind closed doors. Authorisation requested during recent meeting that subcommittees can increase their spending up to 10k of public money without consultation. Consider each of the business committees have REDACTED present and spending is largely directed to the pool Money taken from fairground operator 2021 carnival not recorded, and not spent on anything for the public. Resignation of 7 cllrs and 5 clerks. Formal CHALC investigation and report confirmed breach of HR processes and bullying of staff .PC now blacklisted by CHALC who are now unwilling to provide a clerk. Evidence that in the 2021 election REDACTED used his email database for puddle penguins to contact parents and ask them to vote for him</p>
25	ID: 211334040	<p>Councillors resigning regularly due to the poor attitude of the chair, REDACTED. Co option procedures not followed. Chair does not follow correct procedure and changed the rules to his own benefit. Conflicts of interest - a current parish councillor operates a business from Penketh pool. This pool has also recently had a full, very costly refurbishment. Putting obstacles in place to try to prohibit the local carnival, as the chair doesn't like that a volunteer group organise it and thinks that the Parish Council should. Numerous clerks have resigned as they cannot work with the chair and the councillors. The current chair is acting clerk as this has been advertised but nobody seems to be prepared to work with them.</p>

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Complaints of bullying within the council from ex councillors
The chair intimidating people who challenge him, online bullying, recording people's conversations and going to their houses to confront them.
Chair monitoring councillors emails and deleting the ones he wants to ignore
No continuity and some meetings are not even advertised.
Public cut short and told they can only ask 2 questions in total during meetings and seem to be hand picked by council and not an open forum as it should be

answered	25
skipped	6

6. You can upload up to two documents per comment by selecting the choose file button below. Each should be smaller than 10 MB and can be in any major file and shape file format. If you wish to submit a larger document or file in a different format, please contact us at elections@warrington.gov.uk

File Type	Average Size	Files Uploaded
.docx	15462.8571428571Kb	7
To view the files uploaded, go into the individual results.	answered	7
	skipped	24

Number	Unique ID	Response
1	ID 208064016	<p>Abolish Penketh PC</p> <p>The community benefit of a PC has been lost and it has become an expensive layer of government. Both the current and previous PC are out of touch with local people, they are not working for the benefit of the community. The current PC are only interested in imposing their own vested interests and those who genuinely stood for election in 2021 to deliver change have consequently resigned. The bye election in 2022 was a waste of public money that could have been invested in services or community improvements, instead we are paying for narcissists. Recent planning decisions have demonstrated that the PC has no voice and is ineffective in representing the views of local people at Borough level. The Resident's Association has demonstrated itself to be far more effective at challenging planning and liaising with the community and we have two Borough Councillors REDACTED who are active, available, and able to represent. We pay an additional levy but get nothing in return. Whilst there is currently no clerk in post – again - this is an unnecessary cost to the community. No PC would mean no clerks salary and reduce the level of council tax being paid.</p> <p>Of particular concern was the attempt last year to restrict use of Greystone Rec by community groups- if local scouts, guides and play groups cannot just turn up and use the field without permission what</p>

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Number	Unique ID	Response
		<p>has it come too. The swimming pool has been a major cause of dispute and used by the current chair of the PC and his partner as a political football. Too often REDACTED declares an interest then is allowed to influence the debate; he has a clear pecuniary interest. Such behaviour is of concern and counter to the principles of good governance and standards in public life, it warrants investigation. Added to this the cost of swimming lessons for the pool have now been set at commercial levels with no benefit to Penketh residents thus the principal of a community facility has been loss. There are more people from surrounding areas accessing it than Penketh residents, this was an ideal opportunity to introduce a reduce rate for Penketh precept payers yet instead councillors chose to operate as a business rather than a community asset. It would now make sense to hand the pool to a genuine commercial enterprise and remove the nepotism.</p> <p>The local green spaces could be handed to the borough council who do the maintenance anyway. Whilst it may still require residents to cover these maintenance costs this could be rolled into the standard council tax at a significantly lower rate than we currently pay.</p> <p>Too much money is now being wasted on vanity projects such as the ugly monolith hanging in Penketh Gardens, the creaking noise from it disturbing the peace of those of us who have always used the gardens as a quiet place of reflection - it's also a matter of time before it injures someone. The lack of long term H&S risk assessment of this runs counter to the hoops that the Penketh Carnival committee are forced to jump through. The local Remembrance March and service has also been turned into an Instagram opportunity rather than the respectful recognition of those who have lost their lives that it always was. Again, money being wasted unnecessarily- such events can be simple and humble without cost. I suggest that the green spaces be handed to the borough council for oversight, the pool should be sold to a private enterprise as it is being operated as one, and the Residents association recognised as the community voice through which local consultation is channelled. Abolition of this unnecessary layer of bureaucracy would remove the need for a parish clerk and all the associated costs – if you observe the meetings there is at least a tree felled to provide the paperwork for every meeting, where else currently are meetings ran by paper, they are in the dark ages and wasting both money and natural resources . This would all save most of the cost of the local precept which currently Penketh residents get nothing for.</p> <p>Finally, whilst the recent installation of a nativity scene for Christmas may have been a nice touch what has been offered for other religious festivals, there is not even a prayer room in the community that can be used by wider faiths. It will be interesting to see what is placed in the community to support the celebration of Eid, Diwali, and Hanukkah - or are we a community that is having a specific sectarian belief imposed on us, this is further evidenced this is not a PC that is there for all but is focused on self-interest and self-promotion. Abolish it now and do us all a favour.</p>
2	ID 208326064	<p>It's a waste of time and money. An excessive amount of infighting was caused by the Chairman. Petty squabbles are escalating at meetings. Penketh's citizens are not being served appropriately. They're only interested in their own private businesses, such as Penketh Pool and certain councillors running businesses from</p>

Appendix A

Number	Unique ID	Response
		Penketh Pool. Disruptive councillors trying to put an end to the carnival.
3	ID 208440706	<p>The PPC obsession with Penketh Baths is a disgrace. There is an obvious vested interest in keeping this facility available. REDACTED REDACTED have a business that operates from the swimming pool. Neither of them should have any say at all in the future of this facility. Several council members have left the PPC following May's election..... the majority of them quoting the dishonesty and lack of transparency surrounding the refurbishment of the baths. It is notable too that replacement Councillors have been shoehorned in if they are sympathetic to the continued support of Penketh swimming pool ... some having worked there in the past.</p> <p>It is clearly an under utilised facility that was costing £10k / month to support pre covid.</p> <p>Undoubtedly those running costs will be higher now and together with the reported refurbishment costs of circa £100K it's simply an unsustainable vanity project but as long as the PPC decision makers have a vested interest it seems it will suck all the finance from the precept. It's an unbelievable example of self serving local politics. There are far superior facilities a short distance away and easily available for the Penketh residents.</p>
4	ID 211304213	<p>Parish councils have no real power to change or make decisions that can improve the local area, in rural areas they may do, but not where there is a Borough council that oversees the area.</p> <p>I wrote to the parish council this week complaining about the amount of dog fouling on the parish owned open spaces, e.g., Greystone rec, and I have been advised that they don't have the authority to enforce dog owners to stop this on land that they own, or in the parish in general, so what is the point of a parish council?</p> <p>My council tax precept is allocated to Penketh parish council, but if we didn't have a parish council, the grass would still be cut, the bins emptied and I wouldn't have been taxed twice for it, as it is WBC that provides the grass cutting and refuse collection. Penketh parish council also pays business rates to WBC for the pool and hall, which is money that we would save.</p> <p>Penketh parish council has not improved or invested in the local area for at least 10 years, but they use approximately 60% of the annual precept to subsidise the pool and hall to the benefit of all user groups and the public for even those not living in Penketh.</p> <p>Penketh has the largest number of people aged 70 or over in the Borough, but the parish council spend the precept subsidising the pool, which is of no use to these residents.</p> <p>The unparished areas of Warrington have received far more investment and funding than Penketh has seen in decades, e.g., Dallam now has a brand new swimming pool, but the area of Penketh also needs this type of investment, but this will not happen whilst there is a parish council.</p>

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		<p>Cuerdley parish council is no longer functioning and the Cuerdley residents no longer pay a parish precept, but they have the same services from WBC as before.</p> <p>I have collated the last 6 years accounts from AGAR reports to show that the residents of Penketh are not getting value for money by having a parish council. Please see table on page 2.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th><u>C/forward</u></th> <th><u>Precept only</u></th> <th><u>Precept & Receipts</u></th> <th><u>Staff costs & expenditure</u></th> <th><u>Receipts less Expenditure</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2021/2022</td> <td>£123,631</td> <td>£201,856</td> <td>£228,350</td> <td>£234,507</td> <td>-£6,157</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2020/2021</td> <td>£136,010</td> <td>£201,707</td> <td>£289,130</td> <td>£301,609</td> <td>-£12,479</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2019/2020</td> <td>£128,614</td> <td>£198,661</td> <td>£306,876</td> <td>£299,480</td> <td>£7,396</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2018/2019</td> <td>£126,058</td> <td>£175,215</td> <td>£310,976</td> <td>£308,421</td> <td>£2,555</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2017/2018</td> <td>£83,223</td> <td>£161,063</td> <td>£293,406</td> <td>£250,562</td> <td>£42,844</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2016/2017</td> <td>£73,259</td> <td>£171,222</td> <td>£271,824</td> <td>£261,760</td> <td>£10,064</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Excluding the c/forward amount, for the last 2 years the Parish council has made a loss and the 2 years before that struggled to break even, and this is with a precept of @£200k.</p>		<u>C/forward</u>	<u>Precept only</u>	<u>Precept & Receipts</u>	<u>Staff costs & expenditure</u>	<u>Receipts less Expenditure</u>	2021/2022	£123,631	£201,856	£228,350	£234,507	-£6,157	2020/2021	£136,010	£201,707	£289,130	£301,609	-£12,479	2019/2020	£128,614	£198,661	£306,876	£299,480	£7,396	2018/2019	£126,058	£175,215	£310,976	£308,421	£2,555	2017/2018	£83,223	£161,063	£293,406	£250,562	£42,844	2016/2017	£73,259	£171,222	£271,824	£261,760	£10,064
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5	ID 211306519	<p>I think the parish councils in Penketh, and Gt Sankey for that matter, no long meet the needs that the villages the parish council where design for as the villages have long gone.</p> <p>Generally, parish councils were set up for rural type communities that are detached from the main municipal councils, but I think in Warrington they're completely dysfunctional this side of the borough, and it's a layer of bureaucracy that's not needed and costs quite a lot of money.</p> <p>We pay twice for services that in the inner unparished wards are standard services, if a parish has a building i.e. pool or in the case of Gt Sankey community centres, the borough charge business rates for these and they then charge for emptying the bins at these centres, the grass cutting and emptying rubbish bins in the parks even if they do not get the contract they are getting out of paying for services that they would have to pay for in the unparished inner wards so the precept is a stealth tax.</p> <p>This comes at a time when taxpayers are struggling so it is even more relevant now, why should the people of Penketh pay twice because we are deemed to live in an affluent area?</p> <p>I would like for WBC to visit the area and see this ageing population, the oldest in the borough, who are staying in their own homes and paying for their care packages because they have worked all their lives and are charged for it, if the parish was abolished perhaps Warrington Borough Council could do some levelling up in Penketh.</p>																																										

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		<p>All WBC do is to use the parishes to help fund projects like the dual carriageway planters and as for planning, no matter what the people of the parish want, it is the planning at WBC and the Cllrs on the planning committee that make the decisions, the parish council has no say.</p> <p>The parish used to be able to make by laws but that's now changed, so if the parish was abolished all that would happen is the 3 pieces of parish owned land would be looked after by WBC, just like in the unparished wards, and the pool and hall could be run by charities which could get the funding they need.</p> <p>For any planning issues, the local plan etc, there is a Residents Association that can be used for any input in these areas.</p> <p>Penketh has three elected Warrington Borough Councillors who can do what is needed for our area, just the same as in unparished areas; what is the need for another layer of parish councillors that don't really carry any weight and if anything needs doing it has to come back to WBC.</p> <p>Our elected WBC councillors represent our area, so we don't need parish councillors, just like the unparished areas only rely on their WBC councillors.</p>
6	ID 211329810	<p>For many years both the current makeup of the Parish Council and the previous one do not pay heed to their electorate.</p> <p>They are failing to advertise meetings correctly, with the legal directives ignored. The minutes are not all available for public access. Meetings are held behind closed doors. Decisions are made outside of the meetings.</p> <p>The independents are led by a conservative Councillor, so are not independent. The Chairman dictates what is in the agenda and ignores legitimate requests from other Councillors.</p> <p>The public session is not always offered, whilst this is legal it is certainly against what they for portrayed during the election process.</p> <p>With the current PC there has been bullying of the clerk, and of the previous clerk with the previous council.</p> <p>Concern arise regarding land and trustees. The names were changed with the charity commission when those named on it had no legal standing to do it. It was not raised at a meeting prior to being changed. (At a time when the current Chair was vice chair) No authority was given at any previous meeting and is not recorded in meetings at the time. The vice chair had no legal access at that time. Other Councillors do not appear to be aware or have the understanding about the trustee status.</p> <p>The Audit return indicated that the Chair was also acting as Clerk and Responsible Officer at the same time. This is despite being told it was not allowed, during a meeting which is recorded.</p> <p>Instructions regarding payments do not always follow financial regulations.</p> <p>Penketh itself is not presented as well as most other parishes with an abundance of litter and deterioration eg park on Withinshaw which , and has for some time needed, remedial work.</p>

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		<p>The area would be better served by being combined with a Parish that takes its role seriously eg Great Sankey or to be directly under the Borough Council.</p> <p>The pool and associated building would be served better long term as a CIC or Charity.</p>
7	ID 211330592	<p>The council should be suspended with immediate effect as there are issues of great concern. Live wire to take over safe management of the pool (please see document attached for reasons why) The local resident association or WBC should take over the Council until another election</p> <p><u>Administrative</u> -failure to follow due process</p> <p>-Lack of transparency -Council meetings are not advertised appropriately – short notice (sometimes one day) often hidden on social medial pages – Last week was not made public until 1 hour before following complaints - The public cant plan childcare /work commitments to attend meaning attendance and any opportunity to challenge the PC is limited</p> <p>-Minutes from contentious meetings not posted for months – It means controversial important issues are kicked into the long grass as public cannot see what has officially been said until it's too late to take action</p> <p>-Agenda –Not made public</p> <p>- Inappropriate use of part 2 -Items are being put into part two to keep them hidden from public – They do not relate to contracts / HR issues but they are issues relevant to the community ie Pool opening, Carnival , Residents association</p> <p>-Limitation of public discussions – 2 public questions only allowed (in total for everyone attending) -Censorship should not be acceptable</p> <p>-Chair has been the Clerk for at least 12 months – Individuals should not be the RFO and the Chair</p> <p>- Financial process not being followed -large cheques are being authorised by one person</p> <p>-All emails are intercepted to any other councillors by the Chair/ Clerk and there has been reports many are deleted before the intended party can read them</p> <p>-This survey is not on webpage -Closed comments on FB page during meetings -Historical minutes deleted -Co option process - PC didn't follow correct process -During AGM last May – voting twice occurred</p> <p><u>Financial</u></p>

Number	Unique ID	Response
		<p>Conflict of interest – Huge financial decisions beings made on the pool which is the business premises of the two main councillors. Public funds are subsidising this private business</p> <p>-VAT – Issue raised by auditor about non-payment of VAT doesn't appear to have been paid from 202/21 despite Auditor asking multiple times for this to be done even into the following year.</p> <p>-A charity called Penketh Youth association were given a covid loan during the pandemic . They were approached on the doorstep by Parish Councillors and a request for funds to pay for the pool equipment was made – After some pressure it was agreed . The charity was then requested not to write the cheque in the name of the parish council and to leave it blank</p> <p>The cheque was then written directly to the hoist company . The charity was then visited again and asked to pay VAT</p> <p>This appears to be an underhand way of the PC accepting a gift without it being public/ within the accounts</p> <p>-Multiple businesses in Penketh being asked by Parish Councillors in person for funding . Is this a breach of financial regulations? Soliciting gifts/ donations of large sums of money that may give businesses influence in Council decisions in the future . It doesn't appear that these donations are being made public and are not clearly documented within council accounts</p> <p>-Not publishing accounts</p> <p>-Creation of multiple sub-committees .This means meetings about issues of public interest can be held behind closed doors and PC are not held to account as minutes are not public up to 10k a year can be spent on each committee</p> <p>-Authorisation requested during recent meeting that the subcommittees can increase their spending to up to 10k of public money without consultation with the council or the public – Consider that each of the business committees have REDACTED present on them and spending is largely directed towards the pool</p> <p>-Failed audit of 2021 – Has not been addressed boxes ticked to state it has failed it's audit have not been actioned</p> <p>-Money taken from the fairground operator in 2021 carnival not recorded and not spent on anything for the public despite wide publicity that it was taken for this reason</p> <p><u>Inappropriate behaviour of Councillors /Harassment of staff and residents</u></p> <p>-There seems to be a repeated pattern of behaviour reported by at least 7 residents. Anyone who contests the view of the PC , challenges or even simply questions them are visited at their house but REDACTED without warning (often video recorded without consent also) .</p>

[Type here]

Number	Unique ID	Response
		<p>The individual is often unprepared / frightened/ caught off guard This invasion of privacy is incredibly intimidating and has resulted in many individuals contacting the police .How has that this not been managed by WBC ?</p> <p>-Along with visits to residents houses the two Cllrs also visit their workplaces to intimidate</p> <p><u>Miscellaneous</u></p> <p>-The hoist officially belongs to the charity who purchased it – therefore it is not covered on the insurance of the PC</p> <p>-All councillors are given email addresses which are not private and emails are reviewed by the clerk and the chair (the same person) before they are read by the intended party – This takes away any autonomy of any Councillors so they are unable to respond to any concerns directly</p>