

MERE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON

MONDAY 11th SEPTEMBER, 2023. at 7.45PM

VENUE: THE MERE GOLF RESORT AND SPA

1 PRESENT

*Cllr V Bennett, Cllr N Ineson, Cllr R Nassab, Cllr A Newnes, Cllr A Richards and Cllr J Wright
(In The Chair)*

2 APOLOGIES

Cllr C Hough

3 MINUTES

- i. The minutes of the Mere Parish Council meeting held on the 10th July were **proposed by** Cllr Newnes and **seconded by** Cllr Nassab to be a true record. **All Agreed.***

4 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

*Cllr Wright declared a **Disclosable Pecuniary Interest** regarding **Dobb Lane**.*

*Cllr Wright declared a **Personal Interest** for **Hoo Green Lane**.*

*Cllr Wright declared a **Disclosable Pecuniary interest** regarding **HS2**.*

*Cllr Richards declared a **Personal Interest** regarding **HS2 and Winterbottom Lane**.*

*Cllr Bennett declared a **Personal Interest** regarding **HS2 and Winterbottom Lane***

*Cllr Ineson declared a **Personal Interest** regarding **HS2 and Winterbottom Lane***

5 CODE OF CONDUCT

*Cllr Wright **proposed** Mere Parish Council adopts the new Cheshire East Council, Councillor Code Of Conduct. **Seconded by** Cllr Newnes. **All agreed***

6 CASUAL VACANCIES

Cheshire East Council has informed us that we are now in a position to co-opt people into the two vacant Mere Parish councillor positions.

*Cllr Wright **proposed** Vicky Bennett, **seconded by** Cllr Nassab. **All agreed.***

Having completed the Acceptance of Office form Cllr Bennett took part in the remainder of the meeting.

We still have one vacancy to fill.

7 POLICE REPORT

PC Milman attended the meeting and reported as follows:

- Knutsford now has a new sergeant, Sargent Cook.*
- Still no PCSO for Mere.*
- New Inspector, Mr Rogers. This position will be split between Knutsford and Wilmslow.*
- There have been thirty five recorded incidents this month. Sixteen on the A556, no burglaries and very little crime. Only one car crash.*
- The speed gun is being used on the B5569 and Mereside Road.*

*Cllr Wright **proposed** the council write to the Police and Crime Commissioner asking for an update on staffing as it is understood the residents of Mere are paying via the precept for a PCSO and yet we do not have one. **Seconded by** Cllr Newnes. **ACTION: KJ Whitlow (Clerk).***

The Clerk wrote to the Police and Crime Commissioner, John Dwyer asking if we can have a more detailed list of criminal activities when we request a report from the local police. A response has been received dated the 10th July stating that the PCC cannot influence the reports we receive, or how they are written. However Mr Dwyer has spoken with the Inspector at our local policing unit and he advises that they are unable to provide much more detail. However, the reports will be written less 'policified' and in a language that will be more understandable.

8 **MANCHESTER AIRPORT**

Cllr Newnes stated there was nothing to report.

9 **HS2**

Esther McVey has informed the Clerk she is not available to attend this evenings meeting or the meetings to be held on the 16th October and 4th December. It was agreed that the Clerk will write back asking what dates she can attend a meeting next year. **ACTION: KJ Whitlow (Clerk).**

Notification received from Ria Mendelson (Undertakings and Assurance Team HS2 Ltd) regarding Mere Parish Council concerning the publication of the fifth draft version of the Register of Undertakings and Assurance in respect of the HS2 Crewe to Manchester bill.

Received e-mail from a Mere resident, Gabriella Manning. It was agreed for the Clerk to respond stating the following points.

- There is no grass verge to plant trees.
- The landowner would be on a three months' notice if HS2 goes ahead therefore mitigation would be the responsibility of HS2.

10 **B5569**

The Clerk wrote to Esther McVey MP asking for help in receiving a response from Cheshire East Council as to when the items on the mitigation list will be completed. A response has been received dated the 5th August from Esther McVey's secretary stating that she has written to Cheshire East Council and once she has a reply she will share it with us.

As it is now the 11th September and we have heard nothing. The Clerk will contact Esther McVey requesting an update. **ACTION: KJ Whitlow (Clerk)**

11 **SPEEDING IN MERE**

Hoo Green Lane – The Clerk has received a response from Cheshire East Council to the letter she wrote in July. It was a standard response stating that the council will consider our request against the Speed Management Strategy that was approved by the Highways and Transport Committee in 2022.

E-mail from Gabriella Manning stating she has e-mailed Cheshire East Council with regards to slowing the A50 traffic down around Hoo Green and asks for support from Mere Parish Council. Cllr Wright **proposed** that the current speed limit on the A50 stay unchanged. **Seconded by** Cllr Newnes. **All agreed.** The Clerk will reply to Gabriella Manning. **ACTION: KJ Whitlow (Clerk)**

12 **DOBB LANE**

Application for the lane to be made a restricted by-way.

Cllr Newnes **proposed** this item be carried over to the next meeting. **Seconded by** Cllr Nassab. **All agreed.**

13 FIREWORKS EVENT – 4TH NOVEMBER

- *Tabley Parish Council have replied to our concern about how financially they are prepared to help this event. Their Clerk has responded as follows: “In response to your e-mail regarding Tabley Parish Council’s help with the Fireworks Event the resolution that Tabley Parish Councillors passed at the last parish meeting was – **It was unanimously agreed that Mere Parish Council will continue to pay the full cost of the fireworks and Tabley Parish Council would only split the cost of any losses incurred.**”*
- **Ticket price** - *Cllr Wright proposed that the tickets be sold at the following price: £15 – adults, £10 – under 16 yrs.’ and free for the under 5 yrs. Tickets to include BBQ meal, sweet treat and hot drink. Cllr Newnes **seconded. All agreed.***
- *Advertising posters and Banner will be paid for out of money in Mere Residents Account, stated by Cllr Newnes.*
- *The Clerk will book the music man.*
- *The Clerk will ask Mr Stott if he will MC the evening.*
- *The Clerk to order more novelty toys*
- *The firework display will start at 7.15pm*
- *The Clerk to buy raffle ticket books.*
- *We need people to give raffle prizes.*
- *The Clerk will provide the gate, raffle and toy float on the night.*
- *Tabley Parish Council have arranged for food to be provided by Jacksons BBQ.*

14 KINGS CORONATION

As requested the Clerk has enquired as to the approximate cost of a wooden bench supplied from web site MBUK Memorial Benches. A two seater bench is £395, a three seater bench is £450 and delivery is £45.

Another possible siting for the bench was put forward which is on the B5569 opposite the cenotaph. The Clerk was asked to look into whether it can be funded using the CIL money.

ACTION: KJ Whitlow

The decision as to whether the council wishes to purchase a bench to commemorate the Kings Coronation will be decided at the next meeting.

15 AGENDA LAYOUT

According to ChALC the suggested agenda layout by Cllr Richards, although certainly contains a number of items that could form part of the agenda, it does not set out a way that conforms to the legal requirements for an agenda. The Local Government Act 1972 Schedule 12 paragraph 4 (1A)(b) states – a summons to attend the meeting specifying the business proposed to be transacted at the meeting and authenticated by the proper officer of the council, shall be sent to every member of the council by an appropriate method. Key word is ‘specifying’ – the agenda has to be specific about what the item to be decided upon is: Nothing in the agenda proposed by Cllr Richards does that.

The Clerk having liaised with Jackie Weaver (ChALC) has slight modified the current agenda format and it has been passed as conforming to the Local Government Act 1972.

16 PLANNING APPLICATION DETAILS

- There has been two **new planning application** and no **Decision notices** received since the last Mere Parish Council meeting. Details are recorded in the Planning Book.*
- An e-mail from Gabriella Manning has been received referring to an area of woodland at Barley Fields. She states the area was woodland but has been reduced to a hedgerow. The bird life has been greatly reduced. It was agreed the Clerk will respond to Gabriella Manning stating that the council will consider any future plans with her comments in mind.*
ACTION: KJ Whitlow (Clerk),

17 RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICERS REPORT

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|-----|---|-----------|
| i. | The total in the cheque account at the beginning of this meeting is of which £170.43 belongs to the Archive Fund and £3911.37 is the CIL money (has to be spent within 5 years – starting from 2021). | £12717.47 |
| ii. | Paid into the account on the 4 th September 2023 the sum of from Cheshire East Council as the half yearly precept. | £4500.00 |

18 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

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|------|---|----------|
| i. | Cheshire Association Of Local Council
Training attended by Cllr Nassab
Invoice No: 2023/101
Cheque made payable to
“Cheshire Association Of Local Councils”
Cheque No: 100899 | £0060.00 |
| ii. | Cheshire Association Of Local Councils
Training attended by Cllr Nassab
Invoice No: 2023/151
Cheque made payable to
“Cheshire Association Of Local Councils”
Cheque No: 100900 | £0030.00 |
| iii. | GDPR/Data Protection Act 2018 renewal
Renewal date being the 2 nd October 2023.
Cheque made payable to
“Information Commissioner”
Cheque No: 100901 | £0040.00 |

Cllr Wright **proposed** that the above cheques be paid. **Seconded** by Cllr Newnes.
All agreed.

19 BUDGET

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| i. | Once the above payments have been made it will leave £12587.47 in the cheque account. | |
| ii. | Expected payments to be made at the next meeting in October are as follows: | |
| | Clerk | £1000.00 |
| | HMRC (PAYE) | £0266.00 |
| | Parish Council Website | £0390.00 |

TOTAL	£1656.00
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This means we will have approximately **£10931.47** in the cheque account.
Minus the CIL and the Archive money leaves £6849.67 available to spend by the beginning of November 2023.

20 **NEW BUSINESS**

- i. **Ragwort – E-mail received from Rostherne and Millington Parish Council** asking for support regarding the ever increasing issue and the lack of maintenance of the weeds. A resolution was passed at Millington and Rostherne Council that if there is no acceptable action plan to resolve the issue, the Parish intends to raise awareness and get all the other parish councils and organisations involved.

Cllr Wright proposed we write to Millington and Rostherne Parish Council giving our support to eradicating the invasive weeds. **Seconded by Cllr Newnes. All agreed.**

ACTION: KJ Whitlow (Clerk).

- ii. **Share Your Views On FLEXILINK – E-mail from Cheshire East Council about the bus services.** *Noted.*

- iii. **ChALC – The Annual meeting will take place on the 12th October** starting at 6pm. Venue – Helsby Community Sports Club. *Cllr Wright proposed* Cllr Richards to attend on behalf of Mere Parish Council. **Seconded by Cllr Newnes.** The Clerk will inform ChALC that Cllr Richards will be attending. **ACTION: KJ Whitlow (Clerk)**

- iv. **Cheshire East Planning Policy Document Consultation – Noted.**

21 **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

Monday 16 October, 2023 starting at 7:45pm. Venue The Mere and Tabley Community Club.

The meeting dates for the remainder of 2023 have been booked as follows:

Monday 4th December

22 **ITEMS INTRODUCED BY COUNCILLORS**

None

The meeting closed at approximately 9.35pm

Signed: Date: