

## **MERE PARISH COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON**

**MONDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 7:45PM**

**AT THE MERE GOLF RESORT AND SPA**

A COVID 19 Risk Assessment was varied out prior to the meeting starting

1 **PRESENT**

*Cllr R Finch, Cllr A Newnes, Cllr D Norcott, Cllr L Reynolds, Cllr D Walker and Cllr J Wright.*

2 **APOLOGIES**

*Cllr J Duncalf*

3 **MINUTES**

*The minutes of the Mere Parish Council meeting held on the 14<sup>th</sup> September were **proposed** by Cllr Newnes and **seconded** by Cllr Finch. **All agreed.***

4 **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

*Cllr Norcott declared an interest with regards to **HS2 and Winterbottom Lane.***

*Cllr Finch declared an interest with regards **Meadow Lodge.***

*Cllr Wright declared an interest with **regards HS2.***

5 **MATTERS ARISING**

*It was agreed that all matters arising from the previous meetings minutes are covered under the agenda headings.*

6 **CASUAL VACANCY**

*Cheshire East Council has confirmed that no claim by 10 electors has been received. Therefore no election has been requested. This means that we may co-opt someone onto the council this evening.*

*Cllr Reynolds **proposed** Mr Paul Sands. **Seconded** by Cllr Walker and **all agreed.***

*Mr Sands confirmed his acceptance to the position of councillor and signed the Acceptance of Office form.*

7 **POLICE REPORT**

*PCSO Emma Darroch had been invited to attend this evenings meeting but no correspondence has been received. Apparently PC Lawrence Price is the PC covering the area of Mere. It was agreed to invite him to the next meeting.*

**Action: Kathryn J Whitlow**

*Having spoken with PCSO Darroch, Cllr Walker confirms that a speed camera plus high viz vests will cost £100. Cllr Newnes informed the council that the Mere Residence Association will cover the cost. The Chairman thanked the Mere Residence Association.*

*With regards to Mere Parish Council offering to act as a trial area for the 20mph limit a response has been received from the Police Crime Commissioner. He states that our offer has been passed to a member of the team to review and a response will be sent through to us shortly.*

8 **M6 JUNCTION 19 IMPROVEMENT**

*A reply has been received from Laura Nelson, Communications and Stakeholder Manager working on behalf of Highways England. She has successfully secured manpower for litter picking and asks which areas need most attention. The council agreed for the Clerk to reply stating the following two areas:*

- B5569 Tabley to the Millington round about.
- A50 from Mere traffic lights to Mereside Road.

**Action: Kathryn J Whitlow**

9 **HOLLOW WOOD FARM FOOT BRIDGE OVER THE M6**

A message from Mark Mosley, Project Manager, Highways England stating he has passed our query onto the correspondence team for a response. We are still waiting a response.

Cllr Norcott suggested we contact Laura Nelson who is involved with the M6 J19 improvements.

**Action; Kathryn J Whitlow**

Tabley Parish Council has written offering any help they can give towards getting the footbridge reinstated.

10 **MANCHESTER AIRPORT**

An e-mail from Helen McNabb containing a letter from Robert Pattison, Group Head of Community Engagement, Manchester Airport. It informs us about the organisational changes they are about to announce at the airport as a result of the devastating effect of Covid 19.

11 **HS2**

A letter dated the 7<sup>th</sup> October from Andrew Stephenson MP which has been forwarded to Mere Parish Council via Esther McVey MP.

An e-mail dated 7<sup>th</sup> October from John Atkinson plus documents.

An e-mail from HS2 Helpdesk – containing a response form referring to HS2 Phase 2b: Crewe to Manchester Western leg Design Refinement Consultation. Deadline to reply is the 11<sup>th</sup> December 2020.

Cllr Norcott commented that there is no mention of the spur links.

Cllr Walker **proposed** that Mere Parish Council write to HS2 stating this fact. **Seconded** by Cllr Reynolds. **All agreed.**

**Action: Kathryn J Whitlow**

12 **B5569**

Mr Skates had been invited to attend this meeting but he had neither accepted nor declined the invite. He has however sent an e-mail answering our list of queries. See below. **Mr Skates reply is in red.**

1. It is not clear where you propose the village signs to be situated and also as to how many Mere Parish Council may have. **The Mere Village signs will be incorporated into the gateway features. I have requested Cheshire East Highways to review possible locations based on visibility, safety, road speeds, etc and to engage with the Parish once possible locations have been identified for consultation.**
2. You mention Bucklowhill but in fact there is no such place. It was a telephone directory area at one time but it is not a place. **I think this was raised at one of the parish meetings where there was an existing Bucklow Hill sign located on the southbound approach just north of the Swan. A new sign has been installed by Highways England after I raised it with them that the original one had been removed at some time during the works but not reinstated. I would not propose to further amend the new sign or assembly.**
3. We suggest one be positioned on the A50 outside the Kilton Inn and Hulseheath Lane. A second one to be positioned on the B5569 at the garage end. A third to be positioned again on the B5569 but at The Mere and Tabley Community Club end. **I will provide Cheshire East Highways with an update for them to concentrate locations review around these locations.**
4. The Mere sign as you leave Tabley and enter Mere on the B5569, is still missing but it was not mentioned in your last e-mail update. Can you confirm that it will be replaced? **I have envisaged that this sign may be incorporated into the third gateway feature as noted above.**

5. *There is a wooden bollard which has been knocked over on the bridle/cycle path at the junction with Bentlyhurst Lane. The council is concerned that travellers may park up there as a car has already been seen parking there. Can it be replaced please? **Yes I will get it replaced. We may not be able to obtain the exact type but I will try very hard to ensure it is suitable in look and style.***

*The decision was made for the Clerk to ask Simon Skates if he has any timescales for the above items to be completed. Also to remind him of our previous concerns:*

- ***Two-way carriageway signs** which we have been waiting for the last three years. This to be highlighted as urgent to Simon Skates owing to the fact several residents have experienced near misses with oncoming cars.*
- *When will the new **signage package** be installed?*
- ***Road sweeping** – Has Simon Skates contacted ANSA to confirm they are now sweeping the road and if so what regime will be applied?*
- ***Bund** – Can Simon Skates confirm that a second dose of weed killer to the areas most affected by broad leaf and thistle weeds has been applied?*

***Action: Kathryn J Whitlow***

13 **FENCING AT THE END OF THE MERE**

*Cllr Norcott will assess the necessary work required to tidy the area. He will then e-mail fellow Mere Parish Councillors to arrange a convenient time to meet and carry out the work.*

***Action: Cllr D Norcott.***

14 **COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE**

*Item to be carried over to the next meeting.*

15 **MERE PARISH COUNCIL WEB SITE**

*An e-mail has been received from our web site provider stating the necessary updates to make our web site framework accessible have now been completed. The council now has to complete the Accessibility Statement. The Clerk voiced concern that not all the documents on the web site have been made accessible yet. It is quite a timely exercise and as this is an on-going project at present the Clerk will report to the council at the next meeting with an update.*

***Action: Kathryn J Whitlow***

16 **WINTERBOTOM LANE AND HOO GREEN LANE**

*An e-mail has been received from Cheshire East Highway Team dated 24<sup>th</sup> September stating the following:*

- *Cheshire East Council is aware of the concerns we have raised and potential solutions have been investigated.*
- *Mere Parish Council's suggestion of a weight limit or HGV restriction would not resolve the issue as any vehicles needing to use the roads for access purpose would still be able to do so. Even if a Moving Traffic Order was in place.*
- *Passing places are not possible due to the ditches on either side. The most appropriate solution would be to introduce some structure at a carriageway edge in order to increase the width of the carriageway. However, this would be at a significant cost to the authority.*
- *Cheshire East Council receives an extremely high volume of requests for a variety of new safety measures and improvements to the adopted highway network across the borough and it is not possible to grant each and every request. The council must be able to reasonably justify all of its expenditure and therefore adopts an evidence led approach when using public funds. When considering additional road safety measurements we review the latest five year injury collision data provided by Cheshire Constabulary to identify high priority locations. There have been no reported injury collisions at these locations therefore the council has no plans to introduce any new measures.*

*Cllr Wright **proposed** that this item be taken off future agendas. **Seconded** by Cllr Norcott. **All agreed.***

17 **MOSS VIEW FARM**

Mr Salt from Cheshire East Council replied on the 12<sup>th</sup> October stating he has visited the property and has secured the three doors with batons.

It was agreed this item can be removed from future agendas.

18 **UNION JACK FLAG**

The Clerk has obtained a quote from Hampshire Flag Company Ltd and Flying Colours Flagmakers.

**Hampshire Flag Company**

- Sewn Flag - £104.44 includes postage. Excludes VAT
- Printed Flag - £79.94 includes postage. Excludes VAT.

**Flying Colours Flagmakers**

- Sewn Flag - £90 excludes postage and VAT
- Printed Flag - £50 excludes postage and VAT

Cllr Walker **proposed** and Cllr Reynolds **seconded** that we purchase the sewn flag from whichever of the two companies can provide the quickest. All agreed.

**Action: Kathryn J Whitlow**

19 **THE MERE GOLF RESORT AND SPA**

A reply from Mr Johnson, General Manager. He states that the matrix sign is a short term measure to try and let the local community know the club and facilities are open. Approximately six million pounds has been lost in turnover since the start of Covid 19 and they are trying to secure as many jobs as possible by maintaining as much business as possible. It is not a permanent fixture and will be removed as soon as feasible.

The Clerk to respond stating Mere Parish Council has also noticed a recently displayed banner too. We hope this is the full extent of the advertising and no more.

**Action: Kathryn J Whitlow**

20 **WELL MANAGED HIGHWAY INFRASTRUCTURE STREAMLINED CONSULTATION**

It is noted that the B5569 has been added to the list of roads to be gritted which the council is pleased with. It was agreed that the Clerk respond stating Mere Parish Council accepts the contents of the streamlined consultation.

**Action: Kathryn J Whitlow**

21 **MEADOW LODGE**

A response from Peter Hooley, Planning and Enforcement Manager at Cheshire East Council stating that following the refusal of planning permission the local planning authority will now need to review the expediency and content of any subsequent enforcement action. Due to other priorities in the department and impacts arising from COVID 19, this review has not yet taken place but they endeavour to progress it at the earliest opportunity.

22 **REMEMBRANCE DAY WREATH**

Cllr Walker will lay a wreath at the cenotaph on the 8<sup>th</sup> November at 11am. The Clerk to obtain a poppy wreath from The British Legion and deliver to Cllr Walker's home before the 8<sup>th</sup> November.

23 **PLANNING APPLICATION DETAILS**

There have been four **new planning applications** and **one decision notice** received since the last Mere Parish Council meeting. The details are recorded in the Planning Book.

24 **RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICERS REPORT**

I. The total in the cheque account at the beginning of this meeting is £6539.59  
of which £170.43 belongs to the Archive Fund.

II. **Cheque Signatures** – Matt Lewis spoke to the Clerk on the 16<sup>th</sup> October. He explained that he will be contacting John Wright to confirm his person details and will speak with the Clerk again on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October to give an update on the situation.

25 **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

- I. *The Clerk for hours worked in July, August and September* £959.39  
*Cheque made payable to "Kathryn J Whitlow"*  
*Cheque No: 100821*
- II. **PAYE** – *This has already been paid* £386.08  
*Cheque made payable to "HM Revenue & Customs Only – 120PD00337552"*  
*Cheque No: 100820*
- III. **Invoice from Town and Parish Council Websites** for hosting and maintenance £360.00  
*(01/11/2020 to 01/11/21)*  
*Cheque made payable to "Parish Council Websites"*  
*Cheque No: 100822*
- IV. **Invoice from Town and Parish Websites** for Website framework accessibility £410.00  
*updates and Websites content accessibility report.*  
*Cheque made payable to "Parish Council Websites"*  
*Cheque No: 100823*

Cllr Walker **proposed** that the above invoices are paid. **Seconded** by Cllr Wright. **All agreed.**

26 **BUDGET UPDATE**

*Once the cheques have been paid out of the account this evening there will be £4810.20 in the account. The next payment into the account will not be until 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021.*

*Between now and next April the predicted payments to be made are as follows:*

<i>Shires Pay Roll</i>	-	<i>£0090.00</i>
<i>Clerk Salary</i>	-	<i>£1600.00</i>
<i>HMRC</i>	-	<i>£0600.00</i>
<i>Remembrance Wreath</i>	-	<i>£0020.00</i>
<i>Union Jack Flag</i>	-	<i>£0100.00</i>
<i>Parish Maintenance</i>	-	<i>£1400.00</i>
<i>Councillor training</i>	-	<i>£0100.00</i>

**TOTAL        £3910.00**

*This means we will have approximately **£900.20 surplus in the account at the beginning of April 2021.***

27 **NEW BUSINESS**

- I. **Citizens Advice Service** – *Knutsford Town Council have asked if Mere Parish Council will consider contributing towards the upkeep of the Citizens Advice service. The decision was taken not to contribute.*  
**Action: Kathryn J Whitlow**
- II. **ChALC Annual Meeting** – *This will take place on the 19<sup>th</sup> November at 7pm. If anyone wishes to attend please let the Clerk know as it will be a virtual meeting.*

28 **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

*The date of the next Mere Parish Council meeting is Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December, 7:45pm. It will be a virtual meeting so the Clerk will send connection details out nearer the time.*

*The agreed dates for 2021 are as follows:*

*18<sup>th</sup> January*  
*22<sup>nd</sup> March*  
*17<sup>th</sup> May*  
*12<sup>th</sup> July*  
*13<sup>th</sup> September*  
*18<sup>th</sup> October*  
*13<sup>th</sup> December*

29 **ITEMS INTRODUCED BY COUNCILLORS**

- I. *Cllr Norcott commented that trees are hanging over the footpath near to the Kilton.*
- II. *Cllr Sands commented there are bushes growing over the footpath on the A50.*
- III. *Cllr Newnes is concerned about derelict properties within Mere.*

*The meeting closed at approximately 9.25pm.*

*Signed: ..... Date: 7<sup>th</sup> December 2020*