

MERE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON

MONDAY 18TH JANUARY, 2021, at 7:45PM

VIRTUAL MEETING

1 **PRESENT**

*Cllr J Duncalf, Cllr R Finch, Cllr A Newnes, Cllr D Norcott, Cllr L Reynolds, Cllr P Sands,
Cllr D Walker and Cllr J Wright
Cllr K Parkinson (Cheshire East Council)
Mr John Atkinson, Engagement Manager, HS2 North West Region*

2 **APOLOGIES**

None

3 **MINUTES**

*The minutes of the Mere Parish Council meeting held on the 7th December were **proposed by** Cllr Reynolds and **seconded by** Cllr Norcott. **All agreed.***

4 **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

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

5 **MATTERS ARISING**

It was agreed all matters arising from the previous minutes are covered under the agenda headings this evening.

6 **POLICE REPORT**

*PC Lawrence Price had been invited to attend this meeting and if he was unable to attend then a report is to be sent to the Clerk. PC Price did not attend and no report had been forwarded.
20mph Speed Trial Area – A reply has been received from the Crime Commissioner’s PA stating the Crime Commissioner is in regular communication with Cheshire East Council about this matter and the local councillors will be voting on the new speed limit at a meeting on the 16th December. The Clerk on the 8th January 2021 asked for an update but no response has been received yet.
Speed Camera Training – This has been postponed due to the Covid 19 lockdown restrictions.*

7 **HS2**

Mr John Atkinson, HS2 Engagement Manager for the North West Region gave a presentation to update everyone about the HS2 development in the area of Mere.

- *2022 the Hybrid Bill will be ready to go to Parliament.*
- *2024 is the estimated time the Hybrid Bill will be out of Parliament. HS2 will then have Royal Assent and power to start building.*
- *Independent Rural Plan – HS2 does not have this yet. It may be March 2021 before this is achieved. It could possibly affect the line route plan.*

Concern about increased traffic within Mere was put to Mr Atkinson. He replied this is something which needs to be looked into and possibly arrange a meeting with all the surrounding parishes to discuss it.

Mr Atkinson concluded by stating he will be retiring in March this year.

The Chairman thanked Mr Atkinson for attending after which he left the meeting.

- 8 **B5569**
Still no response has been received to the e-mail we sent Mr Skates (Cheshire East Council) on the 8th November 2020.
Cllr Parkinson commented that she continues to chase issues up relating to the B5569 but with no joy!
- 9 **MANCHESTER AIRPORT**
Nothing to report.
- 10 **M6, J19**
Details about the weekend closures have been sent to the councillors.
- 11 **M56, J6-8**
Nothing to report.
- 12 **HOLLOW WOOD FARM FOOT BRIDGE OVER THE M6**
The Clerk wrote to Paul Hupton voicing Mere Parish Council's disappointment that HS2 is considered a factor as to whether the bridge will be rebuilt. No further correspondence has been received.
- 13 **FENCING AT THE END OF THE MERE**
The Parish Council working party has not met up yet to tidy the area.
- 14 **THE MERE GOLF RESORT AND SPA – MATRTIX SIGN**
Cllr Parkinson stated that she has spoken with Mr Gary Johnson, The Manager, and asked for the sign to be taken down.
- 15 **MEADOW LODGE – Planning Application No: 20/0086M- Refused**
We are still waiting to hear who will be the Case Officer and Inspector to be allocated. This information is to be publicised by Cheshire East Council once known.
- 16 **CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL LAUNCHES CONSULTATION ON TRANSPORT AND PARKING**
Cllr Finch, Cllr Reynolds, Cllr Newnes and Cllr Walker have reviewed the consultation documents and decided that Cllr Finch will complete the survey on behalf of Mere Parish Council.
Action – Cllr Finch
- 17 **OVERGROWN FOOTPATHS**
 - *Cllr Parkinson has contacted Lee Glover, Senior Highways Officer at Cheshire East Council regarding the footpath by the Kilton and also the A50 near Mereside Road junction. A reply has been received dated 8th January stating he is to arrange for an inspection to be undertaken and if necessary arrange for a notice to be issued to the responsible landowner.*
 - *Hedge on the B5569 near to Mere Traffic lights – Meller Speakman are responsible for the hedge in question. An e-mail has been received from Sarah Carden (Meller Speakman) dated the 14th January agreeing to organise for their groundsman to cut the overgrowth back.*
- 18 **PARISH MAINTENANCE CONTRACT**
An invoice has been received from Dominic Fenton for last year's ground maintenance within Mere. It included five verge cuttings and sixteen cuts of the cenotaph.
Cllr Walker proposed that the contract be renewed for 2021 with Dominic Fenton. Seconded by Cllr Duncalf. All agreed.
Action: Kathryn J Whitlow (Clerk)

19 **PLANNING APPLICATION DETAILS**

There have been three new planning applications and no decision notices received since the last Mere Parish Council meeting.

i. ***Brook Cottage, Chapel Lane***

Application No: 20/5231M

Proposal: Removal of Condition 4 on application 20/1369M proposed conversion of existing Two storey outbuilding to a separate domestic dwelling.

Mere Parish Council reviewed the above application but commented to Cheshire East Council Planning that we considered it beyond the remit of the parish council to comment.

Cllr Parkinson stated that on the 15th January she visited the adjoining property and viewed the planning application. As a result she has requested with Cheshire East Council Planning that it be "called-in" on the basis that she feels the application is contravening planning procedure and the removal of Condition 4 is not justified.

20 **RESPONSIBLE FINANCLAI OFFICERS REPORT**

i. *The total in the cheque account at the beginning of this meeting is £4073.51, of which £170.43 belongs to the Archive Fund.*

ii. ***Cheque signatures*** – *The completed Mandate form has been sent to Matt Lewis, Barclays. However, the Clerk received a call from Matt on the 14th January stating that the Mandate Team have rejected the forms for three reasons. Therefore Matt will return the forms to the Clerk who will then forward the form to the specific councillor to amend. Once all amendments have been completed the Clerk will forward it to the Matt Lewis once more.*

21 **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

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|------|--|-----------------|
| i. | <i>The Clerk for hours worked during October, November and December 2020</i> | <i>£940.69</i> |
| | <i>Cheque made payable to</i> | |
| | <i>"Kathryn J Whitlow"</i> | |
| | <i>Cheque No: 100829</i> | |
| ii. | <i>PAYE</i> | <i>£373.36</i> |
| | <i>Cheque made payable to</i> | |
| | <i>"H M Revenue & Customs Only 120PD00337552"</i> | |
| | <i>Cheque No: 100830</i> | |
| iii. | <i>Invoice from ChALC for the Budgeting course attended by the Clerk</i> | <i>£30.00</i> |
| | <i>on the 3rd November 2020</i> | |
| | <i>Cheque made payable to</i> | |
| | <i>"Cheshire Association Of Local Councils"</i> | |
| | <i>Cheque No: 100831</i> | |
| iv. | <i>Invoice from Dominic Fenton for Parish Maintenance</i> | <i>£1368.00</i> |
| | <i>Cheque made payable to</i> | |
| | <i>"Dominic Fenton"</i> | |
| | <i>Cheque No: 100832</i> | |

Cllr Wright proposed that the above invoice be paid and a cheque written out. Seconded by Cllr Newnes. All agreed.

22 **BUDGET UPDATE**

- i. *After the cheques have been paid this evening there will be £1361.46 in the account.*
- ii. *Payments to be made between now and March 2021 are estimated as follows:*
 - *Training course £030.00*
 - *A Blackburn (Tabley Church) £116.00*
 - £0146.00***
- iii. *Once this has been paid it will leave approximately £1215.47 in the account by the end of March 2021.*

23 **NEW BUSINESS**

- i. ***Speeding Questionnaire*** – *Cheshire Association Of Local Councils have asked us to complete a questionnaire about how high we rate the importance/danger of speeding within the parish. It was agreed that the Clerk will respond stating it is within the top three of the councils main issues.*
Action: Kathryn J Whitlow (Clerk)
- ii. ***Holocaust Memorial Day 2021*** – *Notification from Cheshire East Council inviting anyone who wishes to participate in the service to be held on Wednesday 27th January. The service will be held using Microsoft Teams and starts at 11am.*
- iii. ***Mere Hall Farm*** – *An e-mail has been received from a local resident voicing concerns about late night activity. Cllr Wright volunteered to have a word with the farm owner.*

24 **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

*The next Mere Parish Council meeting will take place on **Monday 22nd March** starting at 7:45pm. As to whether it will be held at The Mere Golf Resort and Spa or will be a virtual meeting is to be decided nearer the time.*

25 **ITEMS INTRODUCED BY COUNCILLORS**

- i. *Cllr Walker will be attending a Town and Parish Engagement meeting after which she will forward a report to all the Mere Parish Councillors.*
- ii. *Cllr Newnes commented there are some pot holes in the road surface near Mere Golf Resort and Spa entrance. He will report them to Cheshire East Council using their reporting application.*

The meeting closed at approximately 9.06pm

Signed:

Date: 22nd March 2021