

MERE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON

MONDAY 22ND MARCH, 2021, at 7:45PM

VIRTUAL MEETING

1 **PRESENT**

*Cllr J Duncalf, Cllr R Finch, Cllr A Newnes, Cllr D Norcott, Cllr L Reynolds, Cllr D Walker and Cllr J Wright
PCSO Emma Darroch*

2 **APOLOGIES**

None

3 **MINUTES**

*The minutes of the Mere Parish Council meeting held on the 18th January were **proposed by** Cllr Newnes and **seconded by** Cllr Reynolds. **All agreed.***

4 **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

*Cllr Norcott declared a **Personal Interest** regarding **Winterbottom Lane and Hoo Green Lane**.
Cllr Norcott declared a **Disclosable Pecuniary** interest for **HS2**. He has been granted a 4 year dispensation which allows him to participate in discussions and attend meetings.*

*Cllr Wright declared a **Personal Interest** for **Hoo Green Lane and Mere Hall Farm**.*

*Cllr Wright declared a **Disclosable Pecuniary** interest regarding **HS2**. He has been granted a 4 year dispensation which allows him to participate in discussions and attend meetings.*

5 **MATTERS ARISING**

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

6 **POLICE REPORT**

A report has been received from PC Price. PCSO Emma Darroch dialled into the meeting. Speed enforcement has been carried out on the Chester Road. 55mph being the highest recorded. PCSO Darroch stated until Cheshire East Council imposes a Traffic Regulation Order on the B5569 the police cannot do any speed enforcement. Having given a report and there being no questions PCSO Darroch left the meeting.

***Trial 20mph area** – A response has been received from Bryan Kennedy (Operational Support Team Leader) to Mere Parish Council's offer to use Mere as a trial 20mph area. He emphasises that road safety is very important and setting speeds involves Cheshire East Council. The matter continues to be a priority for the Police Commissioner. Specific issues relating to on-going road safety work with partners including local authorities will be discussed within the coming weeks and months.*

***Speed Camera Training** – To be arranged between Cllr Walker and PCSO Darroch once Covid regulations allow.*

7 **HS2**

An acknowledgement letter has been received from Hayley Kirkham (Head of High Growth City). She writes thanking Mere Parish Council for our feedback to the recent design refinements consultation for the Western leg of HS2 Phase 2b.

Mr John Atkins has now retired and has been replaced by Carol Evans.

Cllr Walker and Cllr Norcott attended a virtual meeting today. Cllr Norcott gave a report. He was pleased to hear that they are trying to keep all HS2 construction traffic off the by-roads.

- 8 **B5569**
Still no response has been received from Simon Skates to the council's e-mail dated the 6th October 2020, despite several reminders.
Cllr Newnes voiced concern that we need to know what has happened to the "pot of money" that was to be used for items on the B5569.
Cllr Finch proposed Mere Parish Council write to Esther McVey's secretary and copy in the Head of Cheshire East Council and Cllr Kate Parkinson, stating we are not receiving any response to our letters to Simon Skates about issues relating to the B5569. Seconded by Cllr Reynolds. All agreed.
Action: Kathryn J Whitlow (Clerk)
- 9 **MANCHESTER AIRPORT**
Cllr Reynolds attended a zoom meeting with Manchester Airport and has since forwarded the slides to all Mere Parish councillors.
The next meeting with the airport is to take place on the 23rd April. Cllr Reynolds will send out a report to all Mere Parish Councillors after the meeting.
Action: Cllr Reynolds.
- 10 **M6, J19**
An update from Laura Nelson dated 25th January, providing an update on the closures.
- 11 **FENCING AT THE END OF THE MERE**
A work party has not been arranged due to the Covid pandemic.
Cllr Norcott said he will e-mail the Mere Parish councillors towards the end of April/beginning of May with a date to meet up and clear/tidy the area.
Action: Cllr Norcott
- 12 **CHALC – SPEED QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS**
Mere Parish Council responded to the Cheshire Association Of Local Councils questionnaire by stating that the issue of speeding is within the top three our main issues.
Of all one hundred councils that responded, one third said it was their top issue and nearly four fifths said it was one of their top three issues. Cllr Walker attended a virtual meeting arranged by Cheshire Association Of Local Councils on the 16th March.
Cheshire Association Of Local Councils asked if the councils wish them to engage with Cheshire East Council about the issue of speed? The outcome was yes the council do.
Due to the elections in May Cheshire Association Of Local Councils cannot do anything until after May but once they do they will report back to us.
- 13 **MERE HALL FARM**
Cllr Wright has spoken with the owners of Mere Hall Farm and established that the chicken shed had not been demolished and the industrial unit had not been built however, they said the foundations had been started. Therefore there was no warehouse activity. Any noise from these premises is related to those of a working farm.
Cllr Wright proposed and Cllr Norcott seconded the Clerk to reply to Mr Steve Bamber stating the above.
Action: Kathryn J Whitlow (Clerk)
- 14 **AIR QUALITY MANAGMENT**
Notification from Sarah Allwood, Senior Environmental Health Officer at Cheshire East Council.
Following the consultation from the 26th January 2021, seven Air Quality Management Areas have been revoked across the borough. One of which is the former A556, Chester Road, Mere now known as the B5569. Some monitoring will still be undertaken and the monthly raw data can be accessed on line.

15 **WINTERBOTTOM LANE AND HOO GREEN LANE**

Concern has been voiced from a resident living in Winterbottom Lane about how the council has dealt with the issue of HGV's using these two lanes.

After discussion the council agreed that the issue had been dealt with fairly.

Cllr Wright proposed that this item be placed on the next council meetings agenda. Seconded by Cllr Finch.

The Clerk will write and inform the resident of the councils' decision.

Action: Kathryn J Whitlow (Clerk)

16 **PLANNING APPLICATION DETAILS**

i. *There have been three **new planning applications** and three **decision notices** received since the last Mere Parish Council meeting. Details are recorded in the Planning Book.*

ii. **Planning Application No: 21/1230M**

Location: *The Coppins, Warrington Road, Mere*

Proposal: *Demolition of existing glazed structure to be replaced with single storey extension to the rear.*

The Clerk has been notified of this planning application but there are no details on the Cheshire East Council planning page. After questioning Cheshire East Council the reply received is that due to a large amount of planning applications, a number of applications will go beyond their normal determination time frames.

iii. **Planning Application No: 20/0086M**

Location: *Meadow Lodge, Clamhunger Lane, Mere*

*Notification has been received from Cheshire East Council that following refusal of planning permission an **appeal** has been made to the Secretary of State. The appeal is to be dealt with by means of written evidence and a site visit by an inspector from The Planning Inspectorate.*

17 **RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICERS REPORT**

i. *The total in the cheque account at the beginning of this meeting is £1361.46 of which £170.43 belongs to the **Archive Fund**.*

ii. **Cheque signatures** – *This is still on going. The latest hurdle being that as it has been going on for over nearly two years, one of the documents submitted is now out of date. An updated document has now been sent and we wait to hear from Matt Lewis at Barclays as to when the cheque mandate amendment has been accepted by the bank.*

iii. **Shires Accountants** – *Mere Parish Council agrees that Shires Accountants continue as the Payroll Partner for the forthcoming Financial Year 2021/22.*

iv. **Clerk's Salary** – *The Chairman has agreed that the Clerk's salary be raised to the next grade as stated in the Clerk's Contract of Employment. This means the Clerk will be SCP level 22 as of the 1st April 2021.*

18 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

- i. Invoice from **Shires Accountants** – Invoice No: 05868 £41.40
This is for the fourth quarter pay roll service.
Cheque made payable to “Shires Pay Services Limited”
Cheque No: 100833
- ii. Invoice from **Cheshire Association Of Local Council** – Invoice No: 2020/697 £25.00
For the Meetings and Procedures training attended by the Clerk.
Cheque made payable to “Cheshire Association Of Local Councils”
Cheque No: 100834

Cllr Wright proposed that the above invoices be paid. Seconded by Cllr Finch. All agreed.

19 BUDGET UPDATE

- i. After the cheques have been paid this evening there will be £1295.06 in the account.
- ii. Payments to be made between now and 31st March 2021 are estimated as follows:
 - HMRC £307.53
 - A Blackburn (Tabley Church) £116.00
 - £423.53**
- iii. Once these has been paid it will leave approximately £871.53 in the account at the end of March 2021. On the 1st April the half year precept is paid into the account (£4500) which will then bring the total in the cheque account up to £5371.53

20 GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION (GDPR)

To comply with the GDPR regulations the Clerk has produced two Privacy Notices. One for councillors, role holders and staff and a General Privacy Notice which will be placed on the web site. Each councillor has been given a privacy consent form which needs to be completed and returned to the clerk.

21 NEW BUSINESS

- i. **Local Council Award Scheme** – Cllr Reynolds attended a zoom meeting on the 19th January organised by Cheshire Association of Local Councils. Cllr Reynolds reported that her first impression is that it involves a lot of work. The council agreed not to pursue this further.
- ii. **Brook Cottage, Chapel Lane – Flooding** – The property owner of Brook Cottage and also Willow Bank on Hulse Heath Lane have written asking for support to try and resolve the flooding issue in their gardens.
Cllr Norcott proposed that we contact Cheshire East Council requesting for the culverts under Chapel Lane be checked and cleared if required. Seconded by Cllr Reynolds.
Action: Kathryn J Whitlow (Clerk)
- iii. **Cheshire East Contaminated Land Strategy Consultation** – An e-mail from Cheshire East Council stating that the current strategy was adopted in 2015 and, in the latest review the strategy has been streamlined to append a lot of the background information and to reflect changes in the Councils approach to land contamination assessment. It was agreed that Mere Parish Council did not wish to comment.
- iv. Mr Stott has given notice that he no longer feels that he wishes to safe keep on behalf of Mere Parish Council, an original map of Mere and District dated 1897. It had been sent to him as Chairman by a Monk referred to as (Hilton No: 31) from a Monastery in Peterborough.
Cllr Duncalf volunteered to collect the above from Mr Stott.
Action: Cllr J Duncalf

22 **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

*The next Mere Parish Council meeting will take place on **Monday 17th May** starting at 7:45pm with the **Annual General Meeting** and followed by the **Council meeting at 8pm**. The meeting will take place at The Mere Golf Resort and Spa.*

23 **ITEMS INTRODUCED BY COUNCILLORS**

- i. *Cllr Finch commented that recently with more people walking, the amount of litter appears to have increased. Does the council wish to consider placing litter bins around the Mere Parish? The Chairman asked Cllr Finch to pass on the council's thanks to his wife who recently litter picked along Clamhunger Lane.*

The meeting closed at approximately 9.00pm

Signed:

Date: 17th May 2021