

MERE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON

MONDAY 17TH MAY, 2021, at 8:10PM

VENUE: THE MERE GOLF RESORT AND SPA

1 **PRESENT**

Cllr J Duncalf, Cllr R Finch, Cllr A Newnes, Cllr L Reynolds, Cllr P Sands, Cllr D Walker, Cllr J Wright and Cllr K Parkinson (Ward Councillor)

2 **APOLOGIES**

Cllr D Norcott

3 **MINUTES**

*The minutes of the Mere Parish Council meeting held on the 22nd March were **proposed by** Cllr Duncalf and **seconded by** Cllr Reynolds. **All agreed.***

4 **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

*Cllr Wright declared a **Personal Interest** for **Hoo Green Lane and Mere Hall Farm.**
Cllr Wright declared a **Disclosable Pecuniary** interest regarding **HS2.***

5 **MATTERS ARISING**

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

6 **POLICE REPORT**

PCSO Emma Darroch had been invited to attend this evenings meeting or if unable to attend to forward a report. No response has been received.

Cllr Walker is to arrange with PCSO Darroch speed camera training.

Action: Cllr Walker

7 **HS2**

- i. *An e-mail has been received from Adrian Richard, representing properties at the end of Winterbottom Lane. He states he is writing to a number of local parish councils to gauge the strength of feeling against HS2.*

The Clerk has replied stating Mere Parish Council is against HS2 and whenever possible ensures that a Mere Parish Council representative attends HS2 meetings.

- ii. ***Consultation Under Clause 60 Of The High Speed Rail (West Midlands-Crewe) Act 2021.**
An e-mail from HS2 Enquiries stating the Government has published a consultation report, prepared by the independent research company Ipos MORI, summarising the response to the HS2 Phase 2a consultation held between 1st February and the 26th February 2021.*

8 **B5569**

Mere Parish Council wrote to Esther McVey MP on the 28th March and copied in Sam Corcoran (Cheshire East Council) asking for help in trying to obtain a response from Cheshire East Council to our questions about the B5569. On the 30th April Esther McVey MP received a response from Cheshire East Highways Team as follows (response is highlighted in red): The four questions are ones which Mere Parish Council has asked Simon Skates at Cheshire East Council in previous months.

- 1) Are you able to give a time scale when the village gateways, signs and replacement bollard will be in situ?

The signs and replacement bollard works are commissioned and scheduled to start in May 2021. Particular focus has been given to rectifying those signs which have been damaged and pose the most serious risk to highway users. The gateway features have been commissioned and while a delivery programme has not yet been finalised they will be installed this year. Cheshire East Highways will be in contact with the Parish Council shortly to ascertain their views on the most suitable location for the features.

- 2) In your e-mail dated 24th July 2020 you talked about the new signage package. When will this be installed?

The additional signage package of works will be delivered later in the year and will include a two way sign on the exit from the Mere Resort, replacement signage at Bucklowhill to rationalise and update the numerous signs at the junction of Cicely Mill Lane and Mereside Road and a 30mph repeater sign on Chapel Lane. The Bucklowhill village sign on the southbound approach of the B5569 has now been reinstalled. A request has been made to the delivery team to inform the Parish Council once a start date for this works is confirmed.

- 3) Bund – you stated in your e-mail dated the 24th July 2020 that you were going to check if the weed killer had been applied. Has it?

Yes, there were two applications of weed killer applied to the thistles and broad leaved plants. This was primarily focused around the Bucklowhill to Mere section of the bund but may not have removed all the unwanted weeds. The bund has also been cut and will now be included in the routine grass cutting regime undertaken by the Highways Team.

- 4) Road sweeping – Can you confirm that you have contacted ANSA asking if they are now sweeping the road and if so what regime is being applied?

Yes, ANSA were initially engaged in December 2019 and commenced sweeping in Spring 2020.

Cllr Sands proposed and Cllr Finch seconded that Mere Parish Council reply to Esther McVey asking if we can have a copy of the schedule of works for grass mowing and also ask how often the road is swept? Plus when will we find out about the Cheshire East Council Speed Management Strategy review?

Action: KJ Whitlow

9 **MANCHESTER AIRPORT**

Cllr Reynolds attended a zoom meeting on the 23rd April. She reported to the council as follows:

- In February the Prime Minister outlined the Governments roadmap out of Lockdown. As part of step 3 of the road map it was announced that International travel could resume at the earliest on the 17th May.
- The air Traffic Management Bill was passed in the House of Commons. The Government also announced a funding commitment of £5.5m to support the airspace modernisation programme.
- The Department For Transport is currently consulting on night flight restrictions and a national night flights policy is being developed for 2024.
- Terminal Two – The opening date has been revised to no earlier than June 21st to balance the operating costs with the passenger demand.
- Two hotels are progressing well on the site of the former T2 petrol filling station and are looking to commence on site shortly.

- *When the hotel quarantine policy eventually came into effect in February, Manchester airport was missing from the list of approved ports of entry for those arriving from red listed countries. This resulted in enquiries from both regional and national outlets. A statement was prepared saying that talks were on going with the government, managing the situation to reassure passengers whilst also maintaining a positive relationship with the government. Any passengers arriving from the red list via another country are sent down to Birmingham, the nearest quarantine hotel.*
- *Air Lingus announced its first UK base with routes to the USA and Barbados.*

10 **FENCING AT THE END OF THE MERE**

This item to be carried over to the next council meeting as Cllr Norcott was not present to state if a working party had been arranged to clear/tidy the area.

Action: Cllr D Norcott

11 **MERE HALL FARM**

A response to our latest letter has been received from a resident living on Chester Road.

Cllr Wright proposed that this item be removed from the agenda. Seconded by Cllr Walker. All agreed.

12 **WINTERBOTTOM LANE AND HOO GREEN LANE**

Notification was received on the 4th May from Cheshire East Council that jet washing will be carried out. During which the road will be closed.

There is issue with a weeping willow tree roots in the drain. Cllr Parkinson is to follow this up.

The Chairman requested the meeting be closed at approximately 8:40pm.

The meeting was reopened at 8:45pm.

13 **FLOODING – CHAPEL LANE**

The Clerk contacted Cheshire East Council requesting the culverts under Chapel Lane be checked and cleared if found to be blocked. Enquiry reference 3426147.

Cllr Wright commented he has looked himself and says the culverts are clear but very small.

Item to be kept on agenda for the next meeting.

14 **MAP OF MERE**

Cllr Duncalf has collected the original map of Mere and District dating back to 1897 plus other items, mainly large maps of the HS2 from Mr Stott. The Clerk will ensure their safe keeping.

15 **PLANNING APPLICATION DETAILS**

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

16 **RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICERS REPORT**

- The total in the cheque account at the beginning of this meeting is £5487.53 of which **£170.43** belongs to the **Archive Fund**.*
- Paid into the cheque account on the 6th April the half yearly **precept** of £4500.00.*

- iii. **Cheque Signatures** – A letter dated the 29th March 2021 has been received from Barclays Bank confirming that the mandate changes we requested back in 2019 have now been completed. However, after this evening’s Annual General Meeting, a new Deputy Chairman has been elected. This means that we will have to remove the retiring Chairman and add the new Deputy Chairman’s name to the mandate.
- iv. The accounts will be submitted to JDH Business Services for the internal audit to be carried out in the next few weeks.
- v. Audit of accounts this evening – The Chairman (Cllr Wright) and Deputy Chairman (Cllr Finch) checked through the cheque book and bank statements this evening to ensure all was in order.
- vi. **Community Infrastructure Levy** – The Clerk received an e-mail from Julie Cooper, Planning Assistant at Cheshire East Council asking for Mere Parish Council bank account details. The Clerk telephoned Julia to ensure it was a legit e-mail to which it was confirmed yes. It seems Mere Parish Council is due a sum of the neighbourhood portion of Community Infrastructure Levy. This is monies collected in relation to development that has commenced within our parish between the 1st October 2020 and the 31st March 2021.
- The money is collected on a monthly basis and for the last six months it totals £220.86. This figure will be forwarded to us shortly.
 - It refers to the development at Highfield, Mereside Road, Mere, Planning Application No: 20/0169M.
 - There will be future payments up until February 1st, 2023. The next meeting of Cheshire East Council when this money is allocated is to take place in October.
 - As Mere Parish Council does not have a Neighbourhood Plan we will receive only 15%. If we did have a Neighbourhood Plan then we would have received 25%.
 - Once we have received the money Mere Parish Council has five years in which to spend it. Cheshire East Council has to be notified how the money has been spent.

17 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

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| i. | Clerk for the hours worked during January, February and March 2021
Cheque made payable to
“Kathryn J Whitlow”
Cheque No: 100836 | £842.34 |
| ii. | PAYE – this has already been paid in order to avoid interest costs
Cheque made payable to
“HM Revenue & Customs Only – 120PD00337552”
Cheque No: 100835 | £307.53 |
| iii. | Clerk’s end of year expenses for the financial year ending 31 st March 2021
Cheque made payable to
“Kathryn J Whitlow”
Cheque No: 100837 | £593.30 |
| iv. | Cheshire Association Of Local Councils Affiliation fee for 2021-22
Cheque made payable to
“Cheshire Association Of Local Councils”
Cheque No: 100838 | £191.52 |

- v. Invoice from Andy Blackburn for the grass mowing at Tabley Church £116.00
Cheque made payable to
"A & G Blackburn"
Cheque No: 100839
- vi. Council Insurance – Renewal date is the 1st June 2021 £325.97
Cheque made payable to
"BHIB Ltd"
Cheque No: 10840

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

18 **BUDGET UPDATE**

- i. After the cheques have been paid this evening there will be **£3418.40** in the account.
- ii. Payments to be made between now and the next meeting in July are **estimated** as follows:
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| • Shires Pay Roll | £045.00 |
| • Clerk for hours in April, May and June | £800.00 |
| • PAYE | £300.00 |
| • Internal Audit | <u>£250.00</u> |
| | £1395.00 |
- iii. This will leave approximately £2023.40 in the account at the end of July
- iv. The second precept instalment is due on the 1st September (£4500.00) which would bring the total in the cheque account up to £6523.40

19 **NEW BUSINESS**

- i. **Litter Bins** – Cllr Finch commented that during lockdown there have been more walkers in the area. At the same time the amount of litter within the parish appears to have increased. Currently there are no litter bins in Mere. What does the council think to providing bins? Concern was voiced as to who would empty the bins. Cllr Parkinson offered to enquire with Cheshire East Council if they would empty the bins if Mere Parish Council provided them?
Action: Cllr K Parkinson, Cheshire East Council
- ii. **Little Mere Sluice Gate** – Cllr Reynolds on behalf of The Mere Golf Resort and Spa has asked the Clerk if it can be arranged for the sluice gate to be cleared? The Clerk has reported it to Cheshire East Council and the enquiry reference number is 3426571.
- iii. **A50 – Speeding** – A letter has been received from a resident living on the A50 stating how dangerous it is to enter/exit their property due to motorists not sticking to the speed limit. Cllr Parkinson will chase up with PCSO Darroch to arrange the speed gun training.
Action: Cllr Parkinson.
The Clerk will reply to the resident stating the council is working with the Ward Councillor on this issue. **Action: Kathryn J Whitlow.**
- iv. **Publication Of The High Legh Neighbourhood Plan** – Noted.
- v. **Cheshire East Planning Policy Document Consultation** – Noted.

- vi. **Tatton Park – Unauthorised Access Over The Wall** – Local residents have asked Mere Parish Council to enquire with Tatton Park as to why metal fencing has been placed at the wall stopping people from getting into the park? The wall in question is between Ashley Road and Mereheath Lane. A similar issue about pedestrian access into Tatton Park off Ashley Road was raised in 2018 by residents. Mere Parish Council took the decision at the time not to support such a pedestrian access. The council's decision remains the same today.
- vii. **Flag Pole** – The Chairman asked for the council's thanks to be conveyed to Mr Hockenhill for ensuing the Union Jack was flying after the death of the Duke Of Edinburgh.
Action: Kathryn J Whitlow
- viii. **Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2021-2025 Consultation** – Noted.
- ix. **MHCLG Electronic Communications Infrastructure Consultation** – Noted
- x. **DCMS Rural Broadband Consultation – NASC Briefing PC3-21** – The Clerk to respond stating some areas in Mere have a very slow connection. We wish to see this improved, especially within the rural area. **Action: Kathryn J Whitlow**
- xi. **Town and Parish Council Engagement Session – April 2021** – Noted.
- xii. **Presentation To Town and Parish Councils Re: Top Up Service For Highways and Transport** – Message from Craig Browne and Cllr Laura Crane inviting Mere Parish Council to attend a further more detailed session on the specific proposition relating to top-up services for Highway. Cllr Sands and Cllr Walker will attend the session on the 27th May at 5pm.
Action: Kathryn J Whitlow
- xiii. **Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 – Section 20. Submission of Cheshire East Site Allocations and Development Policies Document** – Noted.
- xiv. **Strategic Planning Update May 2021** – Noted.
- xv. **Bonfire Event 2021** – The supplier of the fireworks display has asked if Mere Parish Council will be holding a bonfire event this year? The Clerk to reply asking if a deposit would be refunded if the government announced a lockdown in November? The council will decide at the next meeting if it will be holding a bonfire event this year. **Action: Kathryn J Whitlow**

20 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next Mere Parish Council meeting will take place on **Monday 12th July** starting at 7:45pm. The meeting will take place at The Mere Golf Resort and Spa.

21 ITEMS INTRODUCED BY COUNCILLORS

- i. Cllr Newnes commented there are a lot of cars parked at the end of Mereside Road near to the Swan.

The meeting closed at approximately 10.20pm

Signed:

Date: 12th July 2021