

MERE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON

MONDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER, 2021, at 7:45PM

VENUE: THE MERE GOLF RESORT AND SPA

1 **PRESENT**

Cllr J Duncalf, Cllr R Finch, Cllr A Newnes, Cllr D Norcott, Cllr P Sands, Cllr D Walker and Cllr J Wright (In the Chair)

Cllr K Parkinson (Ward Councillor) attended 8:15pm to 8:40pm.

2 **APOLOGIES**

Cllr L Reynolds

3 **MINUTES**

*i The minutes of the Mere Parish Council meeting held on Monday 12th July, 2021 were **proposed** by Cllr Wright and **seconded** by Cllr Norcott to be a true record. **All agreed.***

4 **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

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

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

*Cllr Norcott declared a **Personal Interest** regarding **Winterbottom Lane** and **Hoo Green Lane**.*

*Cllr Norcott 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**

Both PCSO Emma Darroch and PC Lawrence Price had been invited to attend this meeting or, if not able to attend to forward a report. No response has been received from either.

7 **HS2**

Nothing to report.

8 **B5569**

A reply has been received from Esther McVey MP which included a letter she received from Cheshire East Council containing their response to Mere Parish Council's questions. It states that Cheshire East Council plan to mow the highways verges on the B5569 four times per year. The first cut has taken place this month and further cuts are scheduled to go ahead during August, September and October. Cheshire East Council also state that Ansa currently operate road sweeping on a zonal basis. The sweeper driver has the responsibility and local knowledge to ensure roads in their area are cleansed when required. However, as they continue to receive regular reports from this area the street cleansing team leader has added a diary reminder to review the area every three months. Hedge cutting is to begin in October.

Broken Kerbs- As requested at the previous Mere Parish Council meeting the Clerk contacted Tabley Parish Council Clerk to ask for the name of the person they are in contact with in order to try and get the kerbs replaced. They replied stating it is Laura Nelson from AMEY RSM.

*Cllr Norcott proposed Cllr Newnes to be the Mere Parish Council representative for issues relating to the B5569. Seconded by Cllr Walker. **All agreed.***

Cllr Newnes will be meeting Esther McVey MP to discuss our issues about the B5569. After the meeting Cllr Newnes will write up a report and forward it to all Mere Parish Council.

ACTION: Cllr Newnes

9 **MANCHESTER AIRPORT**

An e-mail has been received from Jonathan Challis, Future Airspace Consultation Manager. It asks if Mere Parish Council is aware of any plans containing fifty plus housing units within our parish? Mere Parish Council is not aware of any such plans.

Cllr Walker and Cllr Reynolds attended a guided tour of the new T2 building on the 25th August. A report has been forwarded to all Mere Parish Councillors.

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

Cllr Wright and Cllr Sands met at the site and tidied the area. Special thanks were expressed to Mrs Sands for collecting the rubbish.

Cllr Sands now has the details of the person who actually owns the land which has been forwarded to the Clerk.

*Cllr Wright **proposed** and Cllr Norcott **seconded** that this item be removed from future agendas. **All agreed.***

11 **WINTERBOTTOM LANE AND HOO GREEN LANE**

Cllr Wright asked Cllr Parkinson to chase up the issue of jetting at Goodiers Green Farm.

ACTION: Cllr Parkinson

12 **FLOODING – CHAPEL LANE**

A response has now been received, dated 29th July, from Cheshire East Council to our first query (ref: 3426147) and to our second query (Ref: 3434492).

A Mr J Holden, from Cheshire East Council Highways apologies for the time it has taken to respond but he states he has only just taken over the position of our Local Highways Officer.

Regarding our enquiry submitted on-line (Ref: 3426147) he has now read the notes and the area was inspected by an inspector and no issues were found with the drainage. The gullies are due to be cleansed under routine maintenance and the target date for this is October 2021.

Mr Holden states no further action is to be taken.

13 **LITTER BINS**

At the previous Mere Parish Council meeting Cllr Parkinson stated Cheshire East Council has funding to provide bins and she will look into it further.

Cllr Parkinson asked where within the parish we wish to locate the bins?

14 **LITTLE MERE SLUICE GATE**

Cllr Reynolds was contacted by a resident regarding flooding on Mereside Road. The Clerk reported it on the Cheshire East Council web site (ref: 3426571). No information was received and so it was reported by the Clerk again (Ref: 3434490).

On July 29th a response was received from Cheshire East Council stating they are not responsible for dealing with the flooding issues we have reported and that the adjacent landowners are usually responsible.

The question is who owns the water known as the Little Mere? This has been raised before but no answer provided. The Clerk will look into this again. Contact to be made with Meller Speakman.

ACTION: KJ Whitlow (Clerk)

15 **SPEEDING**

The purchasing of a speed gun to be carried over to the next meeting.

In the meantime Cllr Walker and Cllr Newnes will follow this issue up with PCSO Darroch.

Cllr Walker has received an e-mail from a resident voicing concern about excessive and dangerous speeding on Mereside Road. Clerk to respond stating that this is a police matter however, Mere Parish Council is in discussion with the police regarding speed gun training.

ACTION: KJ Whitlow (Clerk)

16 **THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE BEACONS – 2ND JUNE 2022**

Decision upon how Mere Parish Council wishes to take part to be carried over to the next council meeting.

17 **PLANNING APPLICATION DETAILS**

*Cllr Sands read out the details for the **two new planning applications, three decision notices and one notification of an Appeal** received since the previous meeting.*

Details are recorded in the Planning Book.

18 **RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICERS REPORT**

i. *The total in the cheque account at the beginning of this meeting is £6951.52 of which **£170.43** belongs to the **Archive Fund** and **£220.86** is the **Neighbourhood portion CIL** from the development at Highfield, Mereside Road.*

ii. *At the last meeting it was agreed to pay an invoice for the sum of £65.40 received from Shire Pay Services. This was paid with cheque No: 100844. However, they have since informed the Clerk that they overcharged us and the invoice should only have been for £41.40. The original cheque for £65.40 has been returned and destroyed. A new cheque for £41.40 (Cheque No: 100846) has since been sent to Shire Pay Services*

iii. *Paid into the account on the 2nd September the precept. £4500.00*

iv. **Standing Orders and Financial Regulations** – *The Standing Orders have been amended so that any contracts over £2000 will require tenders from three firms. Both the Financial Standing Orders and the Standing Orders are now consistent.*

v. **Registering with ICO** – *The Clerk has looked at the ICO website and carried out an assessment to decide whether Mere Parish Council needs to register with them. The result came back stating that we do not need to register but in the same sentence stated that we may wish to do so anyway. The Clerk has spoken with Jackie Weaver at ChALC who commented that many councils have registered anyway just to be on the safe side.
Cllr Duncalf **proposed** that Mere Parish Council register with the ICO. **Seconded by Cllr Walker. All agreed.**
ACTION: KJ Whitlow (Clerk)*

19 **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

i *Invoice from Shire Accounts for processing the Clerk's salary and ensuring PAYE is paid. This is for the months June, July and August. £41.40
Cheque made payable to
"Shires Accountants Limited"
Cheque No: 100847*

*Cllr Wright **proposed** that the above invoice be paid. **Seconded** by Cllr Norcott.
All agreed.*

20 **BUDGET UPDATE**

- *After the cheque has been paid this evening there will be £6910.12 in the cheque account.*
- *Expected payments to be made at the next Mere Parish Council meeting are:*

<i>Clerk Hours (Jul, Aug, Sep)</i>	<i>£860.00</i>
<i>PAYE</i>	<i>£320.00</i>
<i>Website</i>	<i><u>£360.00</u></i>

TOTAL ***£1540.00***

*This would leave approximately **£5370.12** in the account by mid-October.*

21 **NEW BUSINESS**

- i. ***The Swan*** – *Correspondence received from a local resident asking for Mere Parish Council's support to prevent the Swan being demolished.*
Mrs Beech has put together a proposal to purchase the Swan and refurbish the historic part of the buildings, extend sympathetically to those original buildings to the extent required to make the site commercially viable. Also to place a restaurant, café and small shop/delicatessens on the site.
*Cllr Duncalf proposed that Mere Parish Council write to Mrs Beech supporting the retention of the Swan. **Secinded by Cllr Newnes. All agreed.***
ACTION: KJ Whitlow (Clerk)
- ii. ***Neighbourhood Plan*** – *Cllr Finch asked the council to consider having a Neighbourhood Plan for Mere. It was agreed to carry this over to the next meeting and in the meantime councillors can research what it entails.*
ACTION: All Councillors
- iii. ***ChALC – Annual Meeting*** – *To be held on Wednesday 20th October, 7pm at Canalside Conference Centre, Middlewich.*
Noted.
- iv. ***Cheshire East Council – Draft Sub stainable Urban Drainage Systems Supplementary Planning Document Consultation*** – *Noted.*
- v. ***Cheshire East Council Bus Service Improvement Plan*** – *Noted.*
- vi. ***Cheshire East Council – Asset Transfer Policy Consultation.*** *Noted.*
- vii. ***Highways England – A556 Knutsford To Bowden. The Highways England (A556 Trunk Road Knutsford To Bowden)(Side Roads) Order 2021*** – *The Side Roads Order is to facilitate works that Highways England considered are needed to deliver access to an adjacent landowner to the realigned and improved A50. Noted.*
- viii. ***Cheshire East Council To Launch Consultation on Community Governance.*** *Noted*
- ix. ***Cheshire East Council – New Local Highways Team Contact*** – *Josh Holden has e-mailed us introducing himself as the new Highways Team Contact.*
- x. ***M56, Junction 6 to 8 Summer Newsletter*** – *Noted.*

xi. **NALC Policy Consultation Briefing: Local Nature Recovery Strategies** – An e-mail from ChALC stating that they have been asked by NALC to circulate the briefing for our consideration and response. Cllr Wright **proposed** that the council replied yes to the question “Do local Landowners need to be consulted?”. **Seconded by Cllr Norcott. All agreed.**
ACTION: KJ Whitlow (Clerk)

xii. **Training** – Cllr Reynolds and Cllr Finch have been booked on the following training session run by ChALC. **Role and Responsibilities on 30th September at 6pm.**

22 **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

Monday 18th October starting at 7:45pm. Venue The Mere Golf Resort and Spa, Mere.

23 **ITEMS INTRODUCED BY COUNCILLORS**

- i. Cllr Finch stated Dominic Fenton has asked if overhanging branches can be cut back so that he can mow the grass beneath. The exact location is unclear.
- ii. Cllr Finch voiced his disappointment regarding fellow councillors support over the issue of retaining the Swan and supporting a local residents proposal to retain and develop the surrounding buildings.
- iii. Cllr Duncalf has received complaints from local residents about the level of noise coming from The Mere.
- iv. Cllr Norcott has been approached by Neil Stott asking if we can collect and store the novelty toys left over from the last bonfire event we had?
- v. Cllr Norcott has been approached by Mr Stott asking if Mere Parish Council will consider moving the council meeting venue from The Mere to The Mere and Tabley Community Club.
- vi. Cllr Newnes asked if the councillors have heard anything about the services on the M56 in connection with Henry Brooks? Response was no.

The meeting closed at approximately 9:55pm

Signed: Date: