

## **MERE PARISH COUNCIL**

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

**MONDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 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 L Reynolds, Cllr P Sands, Cllr Walker and Cllr J Wright (In the Chair)*

2 **APOLOGIES**

*Cllr K Parkinson, Cheshire East Councillor*

3 **MINUTES**

*i The minutes of the Mere Parish Council meeting held on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> October, 2021 were proposed by Cllr Duncalf and seconded by Cllr Reynolds to be a true record. All agreed.*

4 **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

*Cllr Wright declared a **Disclosable Pecuniary Interest** regarding **Dobb Lane**.*

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

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

*Cllr D Norcott declared a **Disclosable Pecuniary Interest** regarding **HS2**.*

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

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 and PC Lawrence Price had been invited to attend this meeting or, if unable to attend to forward a report. No response has been received from either.*

*A copy of the Police and Crime Commissioners Police and Crime Plan for 2021-2024 has been received.*

7 **HS2**

*Cllr Norcott stated there were no updates. He does feel we need to start looking at the Hybrid Bill which is going to parliament.*

8 **B5569**

*Cllr Newnes reported he had received a letter from Esther McVey MP in which she states she has written to Cheshire East Council on the 15<sup>th</sup> October. No reply has been received.*

*Cllr Parkinson had forwarded to the Clerk an e-mail she received from Stephanie Fox, Depot Manager, Cheshire East Council Highways. Within the e-mail it states that the B5569 is scheduled to receive four cuts every year. Cllr Newnes commented this has not happened and **proposed** Mere Parish Council write to Cllr Parkinson stating this. Also to request a timetable for the next year when road sweeping, weed spraying and hedge cutting will take place. **Seconded** by Cllr Reynolds. **All agreed**.*

**ACTION: KJ Whitlow (Clerk).**

9 **MANCHESTER AIRPORT**

*Cllr Walker attended the Technical Advisory Committee meeting and will be forwarding the slides to Mere Parish Councillors after this evenings meeting*

*Cllr Walker also reported that she took part in a forum over three nights.*

10 **WINTERBOTTOM LANE AND HOO GREEN LANE**

*Nothing to report.*

11 **LITTER BINS**

*Cllr Parkinson has confirmed that the two bins which have appeared within the parish are the ones she requested. As to our request for a third bin at the Toll Bar, she is unsure but will try to have one placed there.*

12 **LITTLE MERE**

*At the previous council meeting Cllr Sands volunteered to speak with someone living in the circle to find out who is responsible for the Little Mere. Item to be carried over to the next meeting.*

**ACTION: Cllr P Sands**

13 **SPEEDING**

*Cllr Newnes had the opportunity to speak with PCSO Emma Darroch who stated it was a waste of time monitoring vehicle speeds on the B5569 Chester Road as the speed limit is 50mph. Cllr Newnes stated it was in fact 30mph. PCSO Darroch has since confirmed that yes the speed limit is 30mph.*

*Cllr Newnes to purchase a speed gun.*

*The Clerk was asked to inform Cllr Parkinson that Mere Parish Council wishes to have the 'SID' slow down signs on the B5569, Chester Road.*

**ACTION: KJ Whitlow (Clerk)**

14 **THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE BEACONS – 2<sup>ND</sup> JUNE 2022**

*Cllr Wright has spoken to the Mere resident about possible siting a beacon on his land but the answer is he does not have anywhere suitable.*

*Cllr Wright has spoken with Mere and Tabley Community Club to see if they are arranging any events which we could join in with. They are to get in touch with us once they have decided what they will be doing.*

15 **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

*The Clerk has asked Jackie Weaver at ChALC if a Neighbourhood Plan is to be made compulsory? She replied stating she is not aware of any legislative change and there is certainly no compulsion about Neighbourhood Plans.*

*Jackie Weaver sent information about what a Neighbourhood Plan is and how to go about setting one up. It was agreed that the councillors will read the document and have a think ready to decide at the next council meeting if Mere Parish Council should apply for a Neighbourhood Plan.*

16 **PARISH MAINTENANCE**

*Cllr Duncalf has spoken with Mr Fenton who has confirmed the location of the branches needing to be cut back on the A50. Cllr Duncalf has spoken with the Mere Estate Office who has given permission for Dominic to cut the branches down. The Clerk will inform Mr Fenton that permission has now been granted and also ask for a quote stating how much it will cost before he commences.*

**Proposed by Cllr Wright and seconded by Cllr Duncalf. All agreed.**

**ACTION: KJ Whitlow (Clerk)**

17 **NOISE POLLUTION**

A reply has been received from the Manager of the Mere Golf Resort and Spa in which he states he is aware of the residents' complaints about fireworks being set off during unsociable hours. However he also states that the fireworks in question were not set off at The Mere Golf Resort and Spa. They were in fact set off at neighbouring residents homes. The Environmental Health Department is also involved.

The Clerk responded stating if the council receive any further complaints we will obtain details of the time and date so as to establish if an event was being held at The Mere Golf Resort and Spa involving fireworks.

18 **NOVELTY TOYS – FROM PREVIOUS BONFIRE EVENTS**

It was agreed that Cllr Norcott will collect from Mr Stott the two wooden framed signs measuring 2.5m x 1.5m plus, the car parking signs and store them at his home on behalf of Mere Parish Council. Cllr Sands will collect the five boxes containing various toys, novelties and sparklers and store on behalf of Mere Parish Council.

The Clerk will let Mr Stott know.

**ACTION: KJ Whitlow (Clerk), Cllr Norcott and Cllr Sands**

19 **PLANNING APPLICATION DETAILS**

Cllr Sands read out the details for the **three new planning applications**, and **two decision notices** received since the previous meeting. Details are recorded in the Planning Book.

20 **RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICERS REPORT**

i. The total in the cheque account at the beginning of this meeting is £5715.95 of which **£170.43** belongs to the **Archive Fund**.

ii. **CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy)** – a further payment of £0354.29 has been received which means we now have the total of £575.15. This money has to be spent within five years or it will be claimed back by Cheshire East Council. Cllr Wright **proposed** that the money be spent on Parish Maintenance. **Seconded** by Cllr Norcott. **All agreed**. The Clerk will check with Cheshire East Council that this is an acceptable project to spend the money on. Once this has been confirmed an annual report will be submitted to Cheshire East Council.

21 **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

i. Remembrance Day Wreath – The Clerk gave £020.00 to The Royal British Legion for a poppy wreath. Therefore the Clerk to be paid this amount this evening Cheque made payable to “Kathryn J Whitlow”. Cheque No: 100853

Cllr Duncalf **proposed** that the above invoices be paid. **Seconded** by Cllr Reynolds. **All agreed**.

22 **BUDGET UPDATE**

- After the cheque has been paid this evening there will be £5696.95 in the cheque account.
- Expected payments to be made at the next Mere Parish Council meeting in January 2022:

Clerk hours	£0830.00
HMRC	£0300.00
Pay Roll	£0041.40
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£2571.40</b>

This would leave approximately **£3125.55** in the account after the January meeting.

23 **PRECEPT 2022-23**

The Clerk presented to the council the budget as shown below:

**MERE PARISH COUNCIL - BUDGET FOR 2022/23****PRECEPT**

Precept is paid in two parts, half in April and half in September

<u>ITEM PAID OUT</u>	<u>COST IN PREVIOUS</u>	<u>BUDGET FOR FINANCE YEAR</u>
	<u>FINANCE YEAR</u>	<u>April 2022 - APRIL 2023</u>
Clerk	£4,180.00	£4,200.00
HMRC	£1,513.31	£1,600.00
Clerk Expenses	£593.30	£600.00
Insurance cover	£365.09	£370.00
External/Internal Audits	£232.20	£230.00
Parish Maintenance	£1,500.00	£1,500.00
Tabley Church	£116.00	£116.00
Wreaths	£20.00	£20.00
Seminars training	£75.00	£100.00
CHALC Subs	£191.52	£195.00
Website	£360.00	£360.00
Zoom	£0.00	£0.00
Pay Roll	£248.00	£250.00
ICO	£40.00	£40.00
<b>TOTAL REQUIRED</b>	<b>£9,434.42</b>	<b>£9,581.00</b>

<u>MONEY TO BE RECEIVED</u>	<u>2022-2023</u>
<b>PRECEPT as it is</b>	£9,000.00
<b>ESTIMATED IN BANK 31st March 2022</b>	£3,125.59
<b>VAT TO CLAIM BACK (2021-22)</b>	£73.20
<b>TOTAL FOR YEAR</b>	<b>£12,198.55</b>
<b>PROPOSE PRECEPT for 2022-23</b>	<b>£9,000.00</b>

**NOTES**

After Cheques paid **tonight**  
will have this sum in account £5,696.95

**Money to be paid out at Jan and Mar 2022 meeting**

Clerk	£830.00
HMRC	£300.00
Ground Maintenance	£1,400.00
Pay Roll	£41.40
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£2,571.40</b>

£5,696.95

£2,571.40

In account at end of Mar 2022

£3,125.55

It shows that on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 the estimated figure of £3125.55 will be in the cheque account. The Clerk explained that the reason as to why we will have £3125.55 in the account at the end of the year as because:

- We have received a total of £575.15 CIL money.
- We have not re-newed our subscription to Zoom (£150)
- We have not had to subsidize a bonfire event.
- We have spent nothing other than the necessary

Using the budget figures Cllr Duncalf **proposed** that the precept of £9000.00 remain the same for 2022/23. **Seconded** by Cllr Newnes. **All agreed.**

**ACTION: KJ Whitlow (Clerk)**

24 **RISK ASSESSMENT – REVIEW**

The Clerk has added one item to the council's risk assessment and that is in relation to GDPR. Cllr Duncalf **proposed** that the Risk Assessment be agreed and accepted. **Seconded** by Cllr Newnes. **All agreed.**

25 **NEW BUSINESS**

i. **Cheshire Fire Authority Draft 2022-23 Annual Action Plan Consultation** - Noted

ii. **Cheshire East Council Budget Consultation** – An e-mail from the Director of Finance and Customer Services, Cheshire East Council inviting opinions and views from residents, businesses, councillors etc. on the councils budget for the next financial year. The budget consultation runs until the 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

Cllr Newnes commented that he feels we are not getting value for money. Too much is being spent on social care and not enough on highways, waste collection etc.

Cllr Duncalf **proposed** Mere Parish Council respond stating this. **Seconded** by Cllr Newnes. **All agreed.**

**ACTION: KJ Whitlow (Clerk)**

iii. **Knutsford Rex Probus Club** – The Knutsford Rex Probus Club asks if an advertisement poster for the club can be displayed on our notice board. All agreed. **ACTION: KJ Whitlow (Clerk).**

iv. **Unoccupied Premises – Warrington Road** – A resident has expressed concern about Fir Tree Cottage, Warrington Road which has been vacant for several years. Not only is it very overgrown but it is suspected there may be squatters living there too. It was agreed that the Clerk will advise the concerned resident to contact the Cheshire East Council Empty Homes/Empty Properties Department. **ACTION: KJ Whitlow (Clerk).**

v. **Knutsford Citizens Advice Service** – Knutsford Town Council is asking for a contribution of £350.00 towards the running costs of the Knutsford Citizens Advice Service. Apparently during the last twelve months two per cent of users were from Mere. The meeting agreed not to contribute on this occasion. **ACTION: KJ Whitlow (Clerk).**

vi. **Afghan Refugees** – Cllr Duncalf requested this item to be on the agenda due to concerns as to what will happen with the refugees currently staying at The Kilton? However according to the Knutsford Guardian Esther McVey MP is looking into this.

**Cllr Wright closed the meeting at 9:20pm and re-opened it again at 9:25pm**

**Cllr Wright left the meeting room at 9:25pm**

**Cllr Finch took over as Chairman of the meeting**

- vii. **Addition of Restricted Byway – Dobb Lane, Mere** – After discussion it was agreed unanimously that the farm track should remain a farm track and not a public footpath. If it were to be used as a footpath then the fact that cattle use it would create a health and safety issue. Also the farmer regularly drives tractors along Dobb Lane. If a tractor were to meet walkers there would be nowhere for the walkers to get out of the way of the tractor.  
Cllr Norcott **proposed** and Cllr Duncalf **seconded** that Mere Parish Council reply to the Definitive Map Officer stating Mere Parish Council does not agree to make Dobb Lane a restricted by-way. **All agreed.**  
**ACTION: KJ Whitlow (Clerk).**

*Cllr Wright returned to the meeting and took over the Chair at 9:30pm*

26 **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2022 starting at 7:45pm. Venue The Mere Golf Resort and Spa, Mere. The remaining dates for 2022 are as follows: 21<sup>st</sup> March, 16<sup>th</sup> May, 11<sup>th</sup> July, 12<sup>th</sup> September, 17<sup>th</sup> October and 5<sup>th</sup> December.

27 **ITEMS INTRODUCED BY COUNCILLORS**

None

The meeting closed at approximately 9:35pm

Signed: ..... Date: .....