

## **MERE PARISH COUNCIL**

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

**MONDAY 17TH JANUARY, 2022, at 7:45PM**

**VENUE: THE MERE GOLF RESORT AND SPA**

1 **PRESENT**

*Cllr J Duncalf, Cllr A Newnes, Cllr D Norcott, Cllr L Reynolds and Cllr J Wright (In the Chair)*

2 **APOLOGIES**

*Cllr R Finch, Cllr P Sands and Cllr D Walker  
Cllr K Parkinson, Cheshire East Councillor*

3 **MINUTES**

*i The minutes of the Mere Parish Council meeting held on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December, 2021 were proposed by Cllr Duncalf and seconded by Cllr Newnes 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.  
The Clerk to write to PCSO Darroch and PC Price stating how disappointed the council is that no one from Cheshire Police has actually attended a council meeting in nearly two years. The Clerk to also enquire as to who their superior is and report back at the next council meeting.  
**Action: KJ Whitlow (Clerk)***

7 **HS2**

*Notification has been received about virtual briefing sessions on the Hybrid Bill to take place on the 1<sup>st</sup> February, 12pm-1pm or 5:30pm-6:30pm. No one from Mere Parish Council registered to attend. Cllr Norcott stated that the Hybrid Bill will go to parliament at the end of this month. The following five months are open for consultation.*

8 **B5569**

*We are waiting a response from Cllr Parkinson about the fact that four grass cuts did not take place in 2021. We also requested a timetable for this year as to when the grass cutting, road sweeping, weed spraying, hedge cutting etc. will take place. We are still waiting a reply from Cllr Parkinson. The Clerk had asked Cllr Parkinson about Mere Parish Council having a SID sign on the B5569. Cllr Parkinson's response was to forward us a copy of a letter she had received from Cheshire East Council Highways. It stated that all current SIDs on the network are to be removed. There is to be a consultation after which a final version of the Speed Management Strategy should be ready for approval by the Highways and Transport Committee by summer 2022. This will be the earliest date when Cheshire East Council will be able to confirm whether additional or replacement SIDs should or could be deployed on the network.*

Cllr Newnes reported he had spoken with Esther McVey MP to see if she had anything to update us on after she had written to Cheshire East Council. Cllr Newnes has now received a letter from Esther McVey MP asking for Mere Parish Council's comments. Cllr Newnes to write a response which the Clerk will then forward to Esther McVey MP.

**Action: Cllr Newnes and KJ Whitlow (Clerk)**

9 **MANCHESTER AIRPORT**

Advance notice has been received from the airport of temporary changes to operations for Runway One works scheduled for 2022.

Cllr Reynolds stated she will be attending a zoom meeting with the airport this coming Friday. A report will be forwarded to the Clerk which will then be forwarded to all Mere Parish Councillors.

10 **WINTERBOTTOM LANE AND HOO GREEN LANE**

The Clerk to ask Cllr Parkinson what happened with regards to a sign at Goodier Green Farm saying to lane will be closed on the 14<sup>th</sup> January for five days, as the sign was taken down two days before the 14<sup>th</sup> January and nothing has happened.

**(Action: KJ Whitlow (Clerk))**

11 **LITTER BINS**

Cllr Parkinson was not present to provide any progress report about the possibility of an additional third bin.

12 **LITTLE MERE**

Cllr Sands was not present to give an update as to whether he has spoken with someone living in the Mere circle about who is responsible for the waterway Little Mere.

13 **SPEEDING**

Cllr Walker was not present to give an update about the training to use a speed gun.

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

Cllr Wright has spoken with Mr Greenway from The Mere and Tabley Community Club. There is to be a meeting tomorrow night at the club which Cllr Reynolds and Cllr Newnes will attend. They will report back to the council at the next meeting in March.

Cllr Wright to telephone Mr Greenway to confirm that Cllr Reynolds and Cllr Newnes will be attending the meeting.

**Action: Cllr Wright**

15 **PARISH MAINTENANCE**

Mr Fenton has provided a quote for cutting the tree branches on the A50 (£220). He has also provided a quote for spraying the docks at Mere Traffic lights in spring (£75). Cllr Norcott **proposed** the council accept the quotes. Cllr Newnes **seconded**. **All agreed**.

Mr Fenton has also forwarded an invoice for grass cutting with in Mere Parish during 2021 at a fee of £1368.00. Mr Fenton informs the council that his fee will increase in 2022. We usually have five grass cuts during the year at £180 each. This will increase to £230 per cut. At the cenotaph we usually have sixteen cuts at £15 each time. In 2022 this will increase to £23 per cut.

Cllr Newnes **proposed** that Mere Parish Council accept the increase and ask Mr Fenton to provide our parish maintenance for 2022. **Seconded** by Cllr Duncalf. **All agreed**.

Cllr Duncalf commented that last year the daffodil and snowdrops around the cenotaph were mown once they had finished flowering. The result being only a very poor display showed the following year. The Clerk to ask Mr Fenton not to mow over them his year.

**Action: KJ whitlow (Clerk).**

**16 BONFIRE EVENT**

*Cllr Norcott and Cllr Sands have not collected the items from Mr Stott yet to be stored at their homes. Cllr Norcott to arrange this to happen and will liaise with Mr Stott and Cllr Sands.*

**Action: Cllr D Norcott**

*The council agreed to hold a Firework Event this year on the 5<sup>th</sup> November at Mere and Tabley Community Club. However trees have been planted in the field where the bonfire is usually sited therefore it may have to be a fireworks display only.*

*The Clerk to obtain a quote from Lightech Sound and Light plus another company.*

**Action: KJ Whitlow (Clerk)**

**17 CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL'S BALANCED BUDGET CONSULTATION**

*An email has been received from Cheshire East Council thanking Mere Parish Council for responding to the consultation. They also state that they have a commitment to publish all responses received as part of the consultation and include e-mails such as ours in the appendices of the consultation paper.*

**18 DOBB LANE**

*The meeting was closed at 8:35pm and re-opened at 8.45pm*

*Mere Parish Council has responded to Cheshire East Council stating that the council did not agree to the application for Dobb Lane to be made a restricted by way. Mere Parish Council has since received a response from the Definitive Map Officer which was read out to the meeting.*

*The decision was taken to carry this item over to the next meeting in March.*

**19 PLANNING APPLICATION DETAILS**

*There has been only one **new planning application** and no **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 £5696.95 of which **£170.43** belongs to the **Archive Fund** and £575.15 is the CIL money (has to be spent within 5 years – starting from 2021)*
- ii. ***Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)** – Cheshire East Council have confirmed that we may spend the money on parish maintenance.*
- iii. ***Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Annual Report** – The annual report was submitted to Cheshire East Council before the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021 and it has been recorded that we received £575.15 in 2021 and that none of the money has been spent yet.*
- iv. ***In House AUDIT** – Cllr Wright and Cllr Duncalf carried out an audit of the cheque book, bank statements and record of payments.*

**21 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

- i. *The Clerk for hours worked in October, November and December 2021 £879.09  
Cheque made payable to  
"Kathryn J Whitlow"  
Cheque No: 100854*
- ii. *PAYE £330.29  
Cheque made payable to  
"HM Revenue and Customs Only – 120PD00337552"  
Cheque No: 100855*

- iii. Invoice from Shires Accountants for the payslip October to December 2021 £041.40  
Cheque made payable to  
"Shire Accountants Limited"  
Cheque No: 100856
- iv. Invoice from Dominic Fenton for parish maintenance during 2021 £1368.00  
Cheque made payable to  
"Dominic M Fenton"  
Cheque No: 100857

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

22 **BUDGET UPDATE**

- After the cheque has been paid this evening there will be £3077.87 in the cheque account.
- No expected payments at the next Mere Parish Council meeting in March 2022:

23 **NEW BUSINESS**

- i. **Cheshire East Planning Policy Notification** – A letter from the Neighbourhood Planning Manager. Notes
- ii. **Jodrell Bank Observatory Supplementary Planning Document** - noted.

24 **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

Monday 21st March 2022 starting at 7:45pm. Venue The Mere Golf Resort and Spa, Mere. The remaining dates for 2022 are as follows: 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.

25 **ITEMS INTRODUCED BY COUNCILLORS**

None

The meeting closed at approximately 8:55pm

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