

## **MERE PARISH COUNCIL**

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

**MONDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2022, at 8.00PM**

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

1 **PRESENT**

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

*One member of the public*

2 **APOLOGIES**

*Cllr R Finch and Cllr K Parkinson (Cheshire East Councillor)*

3 **MINUTES**

*i The minutes of the Mere Parish Council meeting held on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2022 were proposed by Cllr Norcott and seconded by Cllr Wright 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**

*Response received from PCSO Darroch stating she is due to leave her current position and pursue a career elsewhere within the force. As of the 11<sup>th</sup> April invites to attend Mere Parish Council meetings need to be sent to PC Lawrence Price.*

*As requested at the previous Mere Parish Council meeting the Clerk contacted Sargent Brickhill. A response has been received dated the 3<sup>rd</sup> May stating Emma Darroch has now left the Knutsford Beat Team. Once she has been replaced we will be notified. Sargent Brickhill states he cannot attend our meeting this evening as he is on a rest day but to inform him of any concerns Mere Parish Council has. The Clerk has since replied stating that Mere Parish Council is concerned about vehicles parking on the bridle/cycle/footpath on the B5569. We await a reply.*

*Notification has been received of a Town and Parish Council meeting with the Police Chief Commissioner on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm, Alsager Civic. No one from Mere Parish Council is available to attend.*

7 **HS2**

*A reply has been received from Ahmed Nawaz stating he can attend a closed meeting with members of the Parish Council after the election period. It was agreed to invite Ahmed Nawaz to the next Mere Parish Council meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup> July.*

*Action: KJ Whitlow (Clerk).*

*Cllr Wright proposed that Mere Parish Council petition and if the deadline for petitioning is before the next council meeting then an extra ordinary meeting will be called. **Seconded by Cllr Newnes. All agreed.***

8 **B5569**

*E-mail received from Chris Hindle, Head of Infrastructure stating National Highways provided the council with sums of money for three different elements of works. These identified mitigation works, funding for local works to address concerns that may be raised by the council members, local parishes and the Highways Department and on-going maintenance funding following the opening of the new road which also lists completed work along with those initially requested from members of the parish council.*

**Cllr Duncalf proposed** *Mere Parish Council reply to Chris Hindle listing the items which Mere Parish Council were promised but have not yet materialised and to also invite him to attend the next council meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup> July. **Seconded by Cllr Newnes. All agreed.***

**Action: KJ Whitlow (Clerk)**

*Items to be included in the letter are:*

- *A sign to say you are entering the parish of Mere on the B5569 Tabley end.*
- *On the A50 parking sign to be removed between Mere Hall and Doublewoods.*
- *Two way traffic signs on the B5569 between the Swan and Mere Lights.*
- *A speed revision.*
- *Flashing speed warning signs between the Swan and Mere Lights.*
- *The Mere Parish Gateway Signs.*

*On a positive note Cllr Newnes reported that the cycle/bridle/footpath and the road and side roads have all been swept.*

9 **MANCHESTER AIRPORT**

*Cllr Reynolds attended a meeting at the airport on the 29<sup>th</sup> April. A report has been forwarded to all Mere Parish Councillors.*

*An e-mail has been received from the airport stating that Manchester Airport Future Airspace team are working through stage two of the seven stage, four gateway Airspace Change process outlined on the Civil Aviation Authority CAP1616 document. At this stage a comprehensive list of route options will be produced and developed through reference to the design principles that were agreed through stakeholder engagement at stage one.*

*Mere Parish Council has been invited to attend a phase two engagement session where they will explain the changes they have made because of stakeholder feedback received in phase one and present specific route options that align with the design principles and take account of stakeholder views. Cllr Reynolds will attend the session to be held on the 19<sup>th</sup> May, 6pm to 8:30pm.*

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**The Chairman closed the meeting** at 8:50pm to allow Charlotte Peters Rock to speak to the council about the Knutsford and District War Memorial.

*The meeting was re-opened at 9:20pm*  
.....

10 **KNUTSFORD AND DISTRICT WAR MEMORIAL**

*An e-mail from Charlotte Peters Rock explaining that the war memorial is under threat to be demolished to make way for houses. Her aim is to gain support from the eighteen local parishes in an attempt to safeguard the war memorial into a Community Trust.*

**Cllr Reynolds proposed** *Mere Parish Council write to the following four people and send a copy to Charlott Peters Rock stating Mere Parish Council supports that it be fully returned to the community under a Community Trust. **Seconded by Cllr Newnes. All agreed***

- *Elizabeth J Podmore, Chairman of Trustees, British Red Cross*
- *Sajid Javid, Secretary of state for Health.*
- *Robin Budenberg, CBE, Chair, Independent Non-Executive Board Member and First Commissioner, Crown Estate.*
- *Esther McVey, Tatton MP.*

11 **WINTERBOTTOM LANE AND HOO GREEN LANE**

*Cllr Wright reported that the lane has been dug up. The result being the lane is better than it was.*

12 **SPEEDING**

*To be carried over to the next meeting.*

13 **THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE - 5<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2022**

*The Mere and Tabley Community Club are holding an event on the 5<sup>th</sup> June starting at 2pm with a children's Fancy Dress. There will also be a cake baking competition followed by a hog roast and entertainment by the Canute Male Voice Choir. So far eighty tickets have been sold.*

*Cllr Duncalf proposed Mere Parish Council donates a raffle price to the value of £25. **Seconded by Cllr Norcott. All agreed***

14 **BONFIRE EVENT**

*Cllr Norcott and Cllr Sands have still to arrange collection of the bonfire event items currently in storage at the home of Neil Stott.*

*Lightech Sound and Light have confirmed that they are available to provide a fireworks display on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November. The Mere and Table Community Club has been booked.*

***Action: Cllr Wright is to speak with Mark Earl about the possibility of having a bonfire.***

15 **DOBB LANE** – Application for the lane to be made a restricted byway.

*It was agreed for this item to be carried over to the next council meeting.*

16 **ULTRA FAST FIBRE BROADBAND**

*Gigacher Ltd have been invited to attend a council meeting to which they replied as follows:*

*“I would be more than happy to attend a meeting. As we are still in the early design phase of the network the May date would be a little early and I am on annual leave for the July date.”*

*The Clerk has since suggested the 12<sup>th</sup> September to which Kristian Jenkins has replied he will pencil the date in his diary and will keep us updated as the design progresses.*

17 **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING VENUE**

*The suggestion has been made that we consider moving our meeting venue to Mere and Tabley Community Club. This had been discussed less than twelve months ago and the decision then and now is to remain at The Mere Golf Resort and Spa.*

18 **PLANNING APPLICATION DETAILS**

*There have been **three planning applications** and **one decision notices** received since the previous meeting. Details are recorded in the Planning Book.*

19 **RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICERS REPORT**

- i. *The total in the cheque account at the beginning of this meeting is £7578.17 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. *The half yearly precept has been paid into the account on the 6<sup>th</sup> April. £4500.00*
- iii. *The Mere Parish Council accounts will be sent to the **Internal Auditor, JDH Business Services Ltd** after this meeting.*

- iv. **Shires Accountants** have contacted the Clerk stating that after having checked our payroll they have discovered that the first three payments in the last financial year there were deductions made for employee's NIC (which reduced the Clerk's net pay) and which are not applicable as for the overall year the Clerk did not receive pay over the thresholds set out by HMRC. Therefore there is the total of £113.50 to be paid to the Clerk this evening. A copy of the e-mail received from Shires Accountants explaining this has been forwarded to all the Mere Parish Councillors prior to this meeting. Also it seems Mere Parish Council has been charged too much under PAYE. It has been agreed to credit this meaning that no PAYE is to be paid this evening in relation to the Clerks salary for January, February and March and also a further £66.47 will be deduced from the next Clerks salary PAYE.
- v. Shires Accountants have been instructed to continue as our payroll service provider for the coming financial year.
- vi. **Clerks Salary** – The Chairman has performed the yearly appraisal for the Clerk and agrees for the Clerk's salary to be raised to the next grade as stated in the Clerk's Contract of Employment. This means the Clerk is now on grade level SCP 23 as of the 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2022.

## 20 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

- |   |         |
|---|---------|
| i. Clerk for hours worked in January, February and March 2022.<br>Cheque made payable to<br>"Kathryn J Whitlow"<br>Cheque No: 100858                        | £809.20 |
| ii. Clerk for payment owed as discussed in 19 vi of the minutes.<br>Cheque made payable to<br>"Kathryn J Whitlow"<br>Cheque No: 100859                      | £113.50 |
| iii. ChALC Affiliation Fee for 2022-23<br>Cheque made payable to<br>"Cheshire Association of Local Councils"<br>Cheque No: 100860                           | £200.52 |
| iv. Council Insurance Renewal<br>Cheque made payable to<br>"BHIB Ltd"<br>Cheque No: 100861  | £402.71 |
| v. ChALC Invoice for training sessions attended by Cllr Sands<br>Cheque made payable to<br>"Cheshire Association Of Local Council"<br>Cheque No: 100862     | £090.00 |
| vi. Invoice from Andy Blackburn for mowing the grass at Tabley Churchyard twice a year.<br>Cheque made payable to<br>"A & G Blackburn"<br>Cheque No: 100863 | £120.00 |

- vii. Clerk for the end of year expenses for the year ending March 2022 £440.02  
 Cheque made payable to  
 "Kathryn J Whitlow"  
 Cheque No: 100864

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

## 21 **BUDGET UPDATE**

- Once the above payments have been made it will leave £5402.22 in the cheque account.
- Expected payments to be made at the next meeting in July are as follows:
 

|                                |                        |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| Clerk (April, May, June hours) | £870.00 approx.        |
| HMRC                           | £300.00 approx.        |
| Internal Auditor               | £240.00 approx.        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                   | <b><u>£1410.00</u></b> |

*Once the above has been taken out of the account it will leave approximately £3992.22 in the cheque account by the end of July.*

## 22 **NEW BUSINESS**

- i. **Cheshire East Council – Highways work Programme 2022/23** – Each month the full works programme will be updated and re-issued to reflect progress to date or any changes to the delivery of the programme.
- ii. **Cheshire East Council – Highways Winter Maintenance Top up Scheme Survey Launch.**  
*Noted.*
- iii. **Cheshire East Council – Highways Launch of Town and Parish Council Satisfaction Survey** –  
*Cllr Norcott proposed Mere Parish Council complete the survey and comment that we are very dissatisfied with the lack of response and no action we receive from Cheshire East Highways.  
 Seconded by Cllr Reynolds. All agreed  
 Action: KJ Whitlow (Clerk)*

## 23 **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

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

## 24 **ITEMS INTRODUCED BY COUNCILLORS**

- i. *Cllr Norcott commented that he has received complaints about the filter lane at Mere Traffic light. It is the filter lane as you approach the lights from the Warrington side and wish to turn right along the B5569 towards Tabley.*
- ii. *The council was very sorry to hear that Cllr Walker has decided to stand down. She had been in the Chair for three years instead of the usual two due to the Covid pandemic for which the council is very grateful. During her years on the council she contributed to discussions and represented the council at meetings connected with the B5569, HS2 and the airport. As a result of Cllr Walkers resignation a casual vacancy will be advertised.*

*The meeting closed at approximately 9.55pm*

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