

MERE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON

MONDAY 11TH JULY, 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)
Three members of the public*

2 APOLOGIES

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

3 MINUTES

- i. The minutes of the Mere Parish Council Annual General meeting held on Monday 16th May, 2022 were **proposed by Cllr Reynolds and seconded by Cllr Norcott to be a true record. All agreed.***
- ii. The minutes of the Mere Parish Council meeting following the annual general meeting held on the 16th May were **proposed by Cllr Duncalf and seconded by Cllr Newnes to be a true and correct 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

Cllr Finch has informed the Clerk he does not wish to continue as Deputy Chairman for a second year. The Chairman asked for nominations for the position of Deputy Chairman but none were forthcoming. This issue will be carried over to the next Mere Parish Council meeting when hopefully all Mere Parish Councillors will be in attendance.

6 CASUAL VACANCY

*The Electoral Services Officer (Cheshire East Council) has informed the Clerk that they have not received a claim by ten electors in writing for an election to be held in order to fill our casual vacancy. Therefore we are free to co-opt someone on to the council this evening.
Mr Reza Nassab, present at the meeting expressed his wish to be considered. He gave a short report about himself and what he thinks he can bring to the council.
Cllr Reynolds proposed Mr Reza Nassab to be co-opted onto Mere Parish Council. Seconded by Cllr Newnes. **All agreed.***

7 **POLICE REPORT**

Sargent Brickhill had informed the Clerk that he will not be available to attend this evenings meeting. He asks us to let him know of any issues we wish to raise.

*Cllr Newnes **proposed** and Cllr Duncalf **seconded** that we highlight to him the problem of people parking on the bridle/cycle/footpath along the B5569 plus the problem of speeding vehicles. All agreed.*

ACTION: Kathryn J Whitlow (Clerk)

A message has been received from Neighbourhood Alert stating the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cheshire, John Dwyer, has launched a new £90,000 'Community Cash Back Fund'. It will mean money taken from criminals under the proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) will be spent on projects to improve local communities.

8 **HS2**

Mr Ahmed Nawaz had been invited to attend this evenings meeting but has replied stating as follows:

- *The additional provision submission is expected imminently and once we have the maps he will be able to share these with us.*
- *There is no additional update at this moment apart from the additional provisions.*
- *If we feel as a parish we would like a closed meeting with HS2 and the parish councillors then this can be arranged.*

The Clerk will ask him again to attend a council meeting. The next meeting being the 12th September.

ACTION: Kathryn J Whitlow (Clerk).

An e-mail has been received on the 22nd June stating the Secretary of State for Transport intends depositing the Crewe-Manchester Additional Provision 1 (AP1) in Parliament on Wednesday 6th July. The material to be delivered to the Clerk 7/8th July. However it has not arrived as they keep trying to deliver it to the wrong address!!

An invite from Nigel Hennerley for a representative from Mere Parish Council to attend an information event on the 27th June at High Legh Village Hall. This was attended by Cllr Wright.

Another message from Mr Ahmed Nawaz dated the 6th July stating the Government has introduced an Additional Provision to make changes to the High Speed Rail (Crewe-Manchester) Bill. The Bill, which was introduced on the 24th January 2022 seeks the powers to build the next stage of HS2 network between Crewe and Manchester. A public consultation is being held between the 7th July and the 1st September.

Bill petitioning period: *Open from 21st June until 5pm, 4th August 2022.*

Cllr Wright and Cllr Norcott left the meeting at 8:10pm.

Cllr Duncalf Chaired the meeting whilst Cllr Wright was out of the room.

*Cllr Newnes **proposed** that Mere Parish Council submit a petition. **Seconded** by Cllr Reynolds. All agreed. The Clerk will submit the petition on line stating the Clerk as the main contact.*

Cllr Wright and Cllr Norcott returned to the meeting at 8:15pm. Cllr Wright in the Chair.

9 **B5569**

In response to Mere Parish Council asking Mr Chris Hindle to attend this evenings meeting, we have been informed that Mr Simon Skates will be attending. Unfortunately earlier today Mr Skates sent his apologies as he suspects he may be coming down with Covid. He also attached a list of A556 mitigation measures to be evaluated and where possible to be implemented. Items he listed included the following:

- Advance warning sign for roundabout on the northbound approach to Millington roundabout.*
- New Bucklowhill village sign – to be incorporated into a gateway feature on southbound approach to the village. Location to be agreed with parish.*
- Two-way traffic warning sign on southbound carriageway off Millington roundabout.*
- New sign assembly at Cicely Mill Lane to update and amalgamate existing signs.*

- e. *New 30 national miles per hour signs back to back on Cicely Mill Lane to complement the existing one and address the matter raised in the speed limit review.*
- f. *30mph repeater sign between terminal sign on Chapel Lane and Hulseheath Lane and Chapel Lane Bridge.*
- g. *Two way traffic sign on exit from Mere Resort.*
- h. *Speed limit sign on exit from Mere resort.*
- i. *New Mere Village sign to be incorporated into gateway feature on northbound approach on B5569 – Location to be agreed with Parish. Due to the narrowness of the bend on the approach to the B5569/A50 junction the assembly may be best situated on the right-hand side just prior to the end of the southbound footpath.*
- j. *Two-way traffic warning sign on B5569 exit from Tabley little roundabout.*
- k. *Advance roundabout sign on southbound approach to Tabley little roundabout from Mere junction.*
- l. *Removal of parking one quarter mile sign on westbound A50 leaving Mere towards High Legh.*

The Clerk will invite Mr Simon Skates to attend the next council meeting on the 12th September.

ACTION: Kathryn J Whitlow (Clerk)

*Cllr Newnes commented that although the grass is supposed to be mowed four times a year, so far it has only been cut once. The weeds are very high at the moment too. Cllr Newnes **proposed** that if the grass is not cut within a few weeks he will let the clerk know, who in turn will write to the address given to her by Cllr Newnes. **Seconded** by Cllr Wright. **All agreed.***

10 MANCHESTER AIRPORT

As Deborah Walker resigned from the council in May we need someone to take her place as Deputy Consultative Committee and Technical Advisory representative for Mere Parish Council.

*Cllr Wright **proposed** Cllr Newnes **seconded** by Cllr Norcott. **All agreed.** The Clerk will notify the airport.*

Cllr Newnes attended a meeting at the airport on the 10th June. He reported that noise complaints have increased. Two new hotels have been built on what was the petrol station and more car parks are being built.

Cllr Reynolds will be attending a meeting at the airport on Friday 15th July. After which she will produce a report to be forwarded to the councillors by the Clerk.

11 KNUTSFORD AND DISTRICT WAR MEMORIAL

Response received from Mike Adamson, British Red Cross to our letter He confirm the sale of the Memorial House to McCarthy and Stone was legally completed on the 20th May 2022 and it was in accordance with the legally binding contract which has been in place with McCarthy and Stone for the last few years.

12 WINTERBOTTOM LANE AND HOO GREEN LANE

Nothing to report.

13 SPEEDING

Issue of speeding has been covered under the B5569.

14 THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE - 5TH JUNE, 2022

The event went very well and was enjoyed by all who attended. A report has been placed on our website.

15 BONFIRE EVENT

Cllr Wright has spoken with Mark Earl but it would seem there is nowhere to build a bonfire next to Mere and Tabley Community Club. Therefore we will just be having the fireworks display.

The Clerk to contact Jacksons the butchers at Over Tabley and ask if they will provide a hog roast.

ACTION: Kathryn J Whitlow (Clerk).

16 **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.

17 **ULTRA FAST FIBRE BROADBAND**

Nothing further to report at this stage. It is still planned for Gigacher Ltd to attend our 12th September council meeting.

18 **PLANNING APPLICATION DETAILS**

There has been one new planning application and one decision notice 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 £11162.73 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). The sum of £11162.73 also includes an additional £5492.62 CIL money which was paid in to the account on the 9th June.*

ii. *VAT claimed back for the financial year ending March 2022 of £0309.29 was paid into our account on the 27th May.*

iii. *The accounts have been audited by the Internal Auditor JDH Business Services Ltd and their conclusion is as follows:*

“On the basis of the internal audit work carried out,, in our view the council’s system of internal controls is in place adequate for the purpose intended and effective, subject to the recommendations reported in the action plan...”.

ISSUE ONE

Internal control objective N in the AGAR internal audit certificate required us to conclude whether the authority has complied with the publication requirements below for the 2020/21 AGAR. Internal control objective L in the AGAR internal audit certificate requires us to conclude whether the authority publishes information on a website/webpage up to date at the time of the internal audit, in accordance with the Transparency Code for smaller authorities.

We could not identify a 2020/21 analysis of variances on the council website.

RECOMMENDATION

The council must comply with the publication requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015 and the Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities.

CLERK’S RESPONSE

The analysis of variances has now been placed on the web site for 2020/21

20 **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

- | | | |
|------|---|----------------|
| i. | <i>Shires Accountants for payslips relating to tax month 10-12 of the year ending 2021/22. This had already been paid before this meeting</i>
<i>Cheque made payable to</i>
<i>“PQR Limited”</i>
<i>Cheque No: 100865</i> | <i>£041.40</i> |
| ii. | <i>Clerk for hours worked in April, May and June 2022.</i>
<i>Cheque made payable to</i>
<i>“Kathryn J Whitlow”</i>
<i>Cheque No: 100866</i> | <i>£950.67</i> |
| iii. | <i>PAYE in relation to the Clerk’s salary</i>
<i>Cheque made payable to</i>
<i>“HM Revenue and Custom Only – 120PD00337552”</i>
<i>Cheque No: 100867</i> | <i>£237.60</i> |
| iv. | <i>Internal Audit</i>
<i>Cheque made payable to</i>
<i>“JDH Business Services Ltd”</i>
<i>Cheque No: 100868</i> | <i>£261.00</i> |
| v. | <i>Shires Accountants for payslips relating to tax month 1, 2 and 3 of tax Year 2022/23</i>
<i>Cheque made payable to</i>
<i>“PQR Limited”</i>
<i>Cheque No: 100869</i> | <i>£041.40</i> |
| vi. | <i>Receipt produced by Cllr Duncalf for the sum of</i>
<i>This was for an item bought for the raffle to be held at the Platinum Jubilee Event.</i>
<i>Cheque made payable to</i>
<i>“Jean Duncalf”</i>
<i>Cheque No: 100870</i> | <i>£025.00</i> |

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

21 **BUDGET UPDATE**

- *Once the above payments have been made it will leave £9647.06 in the cheque account.*
- *Expected payments to be made at the next meeting in September are as follows:*

<i>Shires Accountants</i>	<i>£041.40 approx.</i>
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>£041.00</i>

Once the above has been taken out of the account it will leave approximately £9605.66 in the cheque account by the end of September.

22 **NEW BUSINESS**

i. **Kilton Inn** – Mr Adam Bowden whose family once owned the Kilton Inn and whose parents have now both passed away, is asking if we would like any of the cutlery, china, paintings etc. from the Kilton Inn?
The decision was no but to suggest he contact Mere and Tabley Community Club.
ACTION: Kathryn J Whitlow (Clerk).

ii. **Briefing Notes on Biodiversity Net Gain and The Levelling Up Bill**
Noted.

iii. **Daffodils At The Cenotaph** – A resident has commented on the fact the daffodils were mowed off at the cenotaph. Cllr Duncalf responded stating that the bulb leaves had been left after flowering as we requested to Dominic Fenton and were only cut off this time as they were finished and looked a mess. Also there were no daffodils which flowered this year due to the leaves having been cut off before they flowered last year. Hopefully they will appear again next year.
ACTION; Kathryn J Whitlow (Clerk) to relay this information to the resident.

iv. **NALC Smaller Councils Survey Report** – Message from Lillian Burns thanking everyone who either facilitated or responded to the recent NALC Smaller Council’s Survey.

v. **RHS Flower Show at Tatton Park** – Invite from the RHS Committee to attend a “Teams” meeting on the 5th July. However, no one was available from Mere Parish Council to do so.

vi. **Filter Lane At Mere Traffic Lights** – At the previous Mere Parish Council meeting it was reported that there may be an issue with the filter lane lights to turn right onto the B5569 as you approach from Warrington. Cllr Norcott stated all appears to be ok now.

vii. **The Swan** – Cllr Newnes **proposed** we write to Cheshire East Council stating how disappointed we are that the Swan was unsuccessful in its Asset Nomination under the Community Right To Bid. **Seconded** by Cllr Reynolds. All agreed. Copy our response to be sent to Cllr Parkinson too. **ACTION: Kathryn J Whitlow (Clerk).**

23 **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

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

24 **ITEMS INTRODUCED BY COUNCILLORS**

i. Cllr Nassab suggested a leaflet drop to all Mere residents about our website...

The meeting closed at approximately 9.35pm

Signed: Date: