

MERE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON

MONDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER, 2022, at 7.45PM

VENUE: THE MERE GOLF RESORT AND SPA

MINUTES SILENCE – *In memory of Queen Elizabeth II*

1 **PRESENT**

*Cllr R Finch, Cllr R Nassab, Cllr A Newnes, Cllr D Norcott (left the meeting at 8pm),
Cllr L Reynolds, Cllr P Sands and Cllr J Wright (In the Chair)
Cllr K Parkinson, Cheshire East Councillor (left the meeting at 8:15pm)
Four members of the public*

2 **APOLOGIES**

Cllr J Duncalf

3 **RESIGNATION**

*Cllr Norcott handed his letter of resignation to the Chairman to take effect immediately.
The Chairman accepted his resignation and thanked him for the sixteen years he has served on the council. His knowledge of the countryside and the estate of Mere has proved to be most beneficial to the parish council on many an occasion.
Cllr Norcott replied it has been a pleasure serving on the council and then left the meeting.
The Clerk will notify Cheshire East Council that Mere Parish Council now has a casual vacancy.*

4 **MINUTES**

*i. The minutes of the Mere Parish Council meeting held on Monday 11th July, 2022
were **proposed by** Cllr Newnes and **seconded by** Cllr Reynolds to be a true record. **All agreed.***

5 **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**.*

6 **MATTERS ARISING**

None to report

***The Chairman closed the meeting at 8:05pm to allow members of the public to speak.
Meeting re-opened at 8:10pm***

7 **DEPUTY CHAIRMAN POSITION**

This position still remains vacant.

8 **POLICE REPORT**

Sargent Brickhill was unable to attend this meeting as he is on a day shift. He has informed us that PCSO Chloe Shore has passed her initial PCSO training and is now doing an in-company stage with one of the tutor PCSOs. If all goes well she will be independent and full time on the 10th October. With regards to the B5569 Sargent Brickhill has made PCSO Shore aware of our issues in case she gets the chance to visit the area whilst being tutored. The Roads and Crime unit have also been made aware.

With regards to crimes there has only been one and that was on the 9th August when a car was stolen from Chester Road, Over Tabley.

PC John Milan is to start as the Beat Manager for High Legh and Mobberley on the 17th September.

POLICE CRIME COMMISSIONER – message received from John Dwyer stating he has launched a public consultation on his proposed refresh of the Public and Crime Plan. There is a survey which the Clerk will complete on behalf of the council. **ACTION: Kathryn J Whitlow (Clerk)**

9 **HS2**

Response received from HS2 stating Ahmed Nawaz no longer works for them and that Jayne Willets has taken over his position.

In response to our invite for a HS2 representative to attend a meeting with Mere Parish Councillors we have been offered two dates in October (4th or 5th October at 2pm-3pm or 3pm to 4pm). It would be a Microsoft teams meeting.

**The Chairman closed the meeting at 8:20pm to allow members of the public to speak.
Meeting re-opened at 8:30pm**

Cllr Reynolds **proposed** and Cllr Newnes **seconded** that the Clerk write to Esther McVey MP expressing our concern that HS2 are not very accommodating with regards to trying to arrange a mutually convenient time to meet up. Plus the fact that they are only prepared to meet with no more than five councillors. **All agreed.**

ACTION: Kathryn J Whitlow (Clerk)

The Clerk informed the meeting that the Mere Parish Council petition against HS2 has been submitted at a fee of £20. This fee has been paid by the clerk and is to be repaid back to the Clerk tonight. At the next council meeting the issue of who will represent Mere Parish Council in parliament needs to be discussed.

10 **B5569**

Before leaving the meeting Cllr Parkinson informed the council she is still chasing up the issue of hedge cutting and when it may happen.

Mr Skates had been invited to attend this evenings meeting and had replied confirming his attendance on the 8th September. The Clerk replied stating the meeting is the 12th September but has not received any acknowledgement.

Cllr Sands **proposed** the Clerk write to Mr Skates again with reference to his e-mail dated the 11th July. Attached to the e-mail was a lists of the A556 mitigation measures to be evaluated and where possible to be implemented. **Seconded by Cllr Nassab. All agreed.**

ACTION: Kathryn J Whitlow (Clerk).

11 **MANCHESTER AIRPORT**

Cllr Reynolds will be attending a meeting at the airport on the 14th October, after which she will send a report to all the Mere Parish Councillors.

*Cllr Reynolds **proposed** that we ask Jonathan Challis if he can send someone to our council meeting on the 5th December to explain about "Future Airspace". **Seconded** by Cllr Finch. **All agreed.***

ACTION: Kathryn J Whitlow (Clerk).

Cllr Newnes had attended a Technical meeting at the airport on the 9th September and gave the following report:

- *The airport have asked for a metro link to HS2.*
- *Cllr Newnes asked why Mere is currently experiencing more air traffic especially in the mornings? The reply he received was that the traffic route only changes if winds are greater than 5 knots and even then the route is changed reluctantly as it means a lot of technical changes.*

12 **WINTERBOTTOM LANE AND HOO GREEN LANE**

Comment made that a resident in Hoo Green Lane is parking vehicles across a gateway on a bend.

13 **SPEEDING**

Cllr Parkinson reported before she left the meeting that she has learnt we may be able to obtain a speed gun free of charge from the police. She will look into this further.

ACTION: Cllr K Parkinson

14 **FIREWORKS EVENT – 4TH NOVEMBER**

Still to be collected from Mr Stott are the following:

- *2 wooden framed signs measuring 2.5m x 1.5m. and car parking signs (To be collected by David Norcott)*
- *5 boxes containing various toys, novelties and sparklers (to be collected by Pauls Sands)*

Needs to be agreed who will collect and store the items which David Norcott was originally going to. Mr Sam Jackson is booked to provide a hog roast. The Clerk to speak with him again to ensure he is aware that he will be running it as his own entity and keep any profits he makes.

ACTION: Kathryn J Whitlow (Clerk).

The firework display will start approximately 7:15pm

*Cllr Sands **proposed** the entry fee be £10 and £4 for children. Under 3 year olds free. **Seconded** by Cllr Reynolds. **All agreed.***

The Clerk to arrange for an advert to be placed in the Rostherne with Tabley Church magazine.

ACTION: Kathryn J Whitlow (Clerk)

RAFFLE – *Cllr Reynolds will approach local business to see if they will support the event by donating raffle prizes. **ACTION: Cllr Reynolds***

*The Clerk will ask Cllr Duncalf to spend about £50 on prizes. **ACTION: Kathryn J Whitlow (Clerk).***

MUSIC MAN – *It was agreed to ask the music man to provide music as he has done so previous years. **ACTION: Kathryn J Whitlow (Clerk).***

LIGHTS in the trees – *The Clerk will ask Mr Stott if he has provided these in the past and if so will he do so again this year? **ACTION: Kathryn J Whitlow (Clerk).***

*At 9:20pm the Chairman asked for a fellow councillor to chair the meeting for the next item on the agenda. **Cllr Sands chaired the meeting.***

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.

9:22pm Cllr Sands handed the charring role back to Cllr Wright for the remainder of the meeting.

16 ULTRA FAST FIBRE BROADBAND

The Clerk sent an e-mail asking Gigaclear to confirm their attendance at this evenings meeting as pre-arranged. The reply received from Kristian Jenkins, Community Engagement Manager, states he is very apologetic but it would appear they have their Mere's mixed up. They thought we were in Wiltshire not Cheshire.

Cllr Wight **proposed** that this item be removed from the next agenda. **Seconded** by Cllr Newnes. **All agreed.**

17 THE SWAN

In response to our letter expressing how disappointed we were to hear the Community Right To Bid had been unsuccessful, we have received an e-mail from Andy Kehoe, Head of Estates, Cheshire East Council.

Northern Planning Committee meeting – we have been informed that the following planning application is due to be considered at the Northern Planning Committee on the 14th September.

Application No: 21/2975M

Proposal: Part demolition of existing buildings, conversion and alteration of retained buildings for residential use (Use Class C3) and erection of residential development (Use Class C3) with associated open space, landscaping, access, car parking and infrastructure.

Cllr Newnes **proposed** that Cllr Finch and Cllr Reynolds speak on behalf of Mere Parish Council at this meeting. **Seconded** by Cllr Wright. **All agreed.**

They will represent the council by stating we object to the demolition of the Swan and that we wish the Swan to remain a pub. Perhaps use a Ramsar site as an example of what we wish the site to be like with open green space.

18 WEB SITE

Our web site provider is offering at a cost of £80 to provide us with software that we can add to our web site. It would display a black screen with text and a picture of the Queen.

It was agreed unanimously this was not necessary.

Cllr Nassab spoke about ways of making the website more accessible to residents. One suggestion being to use Facebook.

Cllr Newnes **proposed** that Cllr Nassab look into this and liaise with the Clerk. Cllr Finch **seconded**. **All agreed.**

ACTION: Cllr Nassab and Kathryn J Whitlow (Clerk).

19 PLANNING APPLICATION DETAILS

There have been two new planning application and three decision notice 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 £14147.06 of which **£170.43** belongs to the **Archive Fund** and £6067.77 is the CIL money (has to be spent within 5 years – starting from 2021).

ii. Paid in to the account on the 2nd September the sum of £4500.00 which is the second precept instalment

iii. An e-mail has been received from SAAA stating they are responsible for appointing external auditors to all applicable opted-in smaller authorities, for setting the terms of appointment for limited assurance reviews and for managing the contracts with the appointed audit firms. The next five year appointing period runs from 2022-23 until 2026-27 and SAAA has undertaken a procurement exercise to appoint auditors to each County area from the 1st April 2022.

The Clerk recommends that we remain with SAAA.

Cllr Wright **proposed** and Cllr Finch **seconded** the Clerk's recommendation. **All agreed.**

21 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

- i. *The Clerk for paying the HS2 petition registration fee* £020.00
Cheque made payable to
“Kathryn J Whitlow”
Cheque No: 100873
- ii. *GDPR/Data Protection Act 2018* £040.00
Fee renewal is due by the 2nd October 2022
Cheque made payable to
“Information Commissioner”
Cheque No: 100872

*Cllr Reynolds **proposed** that the above cheques be paid. **Seconded** by Cllr Nassab.
All agreed.*

22 BUDGET UPDATE

- *Once the above payments have been made it will leave £14087.06 in the cheque account.*
- *Expected payments to be made at the next meeting in October are as follows:*

<i>Clerk</i>	<i>£900.00 approx.</i>
<i>HMRC</i>	<i>£300.00 approx.</i>
<i>Web site host</i>	<i>£360.00</i>
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>£1560.00</i>

Once the above has been taken out of the account it will leave approximately £12527.06 in the cheque account by the end of October.

23 NEW BUSINESS

- i. *Cheshire East Council – Highways Satisfaction Survey Feedback – A short presentation pack which outlines the feedback received from the Highways Satisfaction Survey 2022.*
Noted.
- ii. *Cheshire East Council – Relaunch of Local Highways Service*
Noted.
- iii. *Run Tatton 10K and Half Marathon – Sunday 6th November.*
Noted.
- iv. *Cheshire East Council is calling out for community led project ideas as part of its crowd funding.*
Noted.

24 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Monday 17th October, 2022 starting at 7:45pm. Venue The Mere Golf Resort and Spa, Mere. The remaining date for 2022 is the 5th December.

25 ITEMS INTRODUCED BY COUNCILLORS

None

The meeting closed at approximately 10.00pm

Signed: Date: