

MERE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON

MONDAY 17TH OCTOBER, 2022, at 7.45PM

VENUE: THE MERE GOLF RESORT AND SPA

1 **PRESENT**

Cllr Duncalf, Cllr R Nassab, Cllr A Newnes, Cllr L Reynolds (left the meeting at 9:50pm) and Cllr J Wright (In the Chair)

Three representatives from HS2

2 **APOLOGIES**

Cllr P Sands

Cllr K Parkinson (Cheshire East Councillor)

3 **MINUTES**

*The minutes of the Mere Parish Council meeting held on Monday 12th September were **proposed** by Cllr Newnes 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**.*

5 **HS2**

Mr Ben Draper, Senior Engagement Advisor plus two other representatives from HS2 gave the council an hour of their time to discuss our petition issues and answer any queries.

After which the Chairman thanked them for attending and they then left the meeting at approximately 9:20pm.

6 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT COUNCIL MEETINGS - RULES**

The Chairman stated that the Standing Orders for Mere Parish Council clearly state how both the public and the parish councillors are to conduct themselves during a meeting.

7 **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES**

It was agreed all matters arising from the previous meetings minutes are covered under this meetings agenda headings.

8 **CASUAL VACANCY**

Cheshire East Council will inform the Clerk after the 21st October if we can co-opt someone on to the council.

The Chairman announced that Cllr Finch has also handed in his resignation. The Clerk to notify Cheshire East Council of another casual vacancy.

*The Chairman **proposed** that Mere Parish Council respond to Mr Finch accepting his resignation and at the same time thanking him for his work as a councillor and Deputy Chairman plus all his hard work in trying to keep the Swan operating as a pub and local meeting place. **Seconded** by Cllr Nassab. **All agreed.***

ACTION: K J Whitlow (Clerk).

9 **DEPUTY CHAIRMAN'S POSITION**

The Chairman asked if anyone was willing to fill this vacancy?

No one came forward meaning we still have no Deputy Chairman.

10 **POLICE REPORT**

Sergeant Brickhill has informed the Clerk that he asked PC John Milman, The Beat Manager to attend this evenings meeting. He has also spoken with PC Cosgrove from the Roads and Crime Unit about the B5569. PC Cosgrove has agreed to give the B5569 his attention.

Today PC Milman contacted the Clerk offering his apologies for this meeting as he has been detained longer than he anticipated in court. He is to telephone the Clerk tomorrow.

Cllr Newnes asked for the Clerk to raise the issue of people parking on the bridle/cycle/footpath along the B5569 and also ask as to why residents are not being informed when any incidents occur within the parish.

ACTION: K J Whitlow (Clerk)

11 **B5569**

An e-mail has been sent to Simon Skates and copied to the Executive Office Correspondence at Cheshire East Council, Cath Law and Samuel Jones on the 22nd September asking for an update on Phase 3 Mitigation work. No reply received.

Cllr Newnes commented that the grass has not been cut for a while and is very long between the BP Garage and the first service road off the B5569. The Clerk will enquire with the parish maintenance provider (Mr Fenton) how many times this area has been cut and can it be cut again soon.

12 **MANCHESTER AIRPORT**

Jonathan Challis has been asked if he is available to attend the next Mere Parish Council meeting on the 5th December in order to explain about Future Airspace? No response received.

Cllr Reynolds gave a report from a recent meeting she attended at the airport.

Cllr Newnes will be attending a virtual meeting with the airport (Bi annual Parish Council Forum) on Friday 21st October 2pm to 4pm.

13 **WINTERBOTTOM LANE AND HOO GREEN LANE**

*Cllr Newnes **proposed** that Mere Parish Council write to the occupier of 11 Hoo Green Lane stating we have received complaints about cars parked on the bend. It is the council's understanding that the cars belong to the residents at this property. **Seconded by Cllr Duncalf. All agreed.***

ACTION: KJ Whitlow (Clerk)

14 **SPEEDING**

Cllr Parkinson was not present to update the council upon what she has found out about the possibility of us obtaining a speed gun free of charge from the police.

This item to be carried over to the next meeting.

Cllr Newnes asked where are the speed signs and is it 30mph or 40mph limit on the B5569?

15 **FIREWORKS EVENT – 4TH NOVEMBER**

Cllr Sands was not present to confirm if he has or has not collected the five boxes containing various toys, novelties and sparklers currently stored at the home of Mr Stott.

There are also two wooden framed signs measuring 2.5m x 1.5m and car parking signs to be collected from Mr Stott's home.

The Chairman said he and David Norcott will collect the signs and erect the banners outside Mere and Tabley Community Club.

- ***The music man** has been booked at a fee of £250 cash on the night.*
- ***Hog Roast** – is booked with Sam Jackson. He has asked if we wish to have a desert option? It was agreed no. The Clerk to ask if he will provide hot dogs for the children.*
- ***The fairy lights** to the field have been provided by Mr Greenway in the past. Cllr Duncalf will ask if he will do so again.*
- ***Raffle** – We have the raffle books which are in the tin with the float. The raffle will be charged as £1 per strip or six strips for £5. Cllr Duncalf and the Clerk will sell the raffle tickets.*
- ***Wands** – To be charged at £1 each. Cllr Reynolds will be selling the wands.*
- ***Floats** – have been provided by the Clerk and given out for the gate, raffle and wands. The float money £300 in total to be returned to the Clerk at the end of the event.*
- ***Gate** – Cllr Nassab and Cllr Sands will be on the gate at 6:15pm*
- ***Car Parking** – The Chairman to ask Mr Norcott to look after car parking.*

The council agreed that the Clerk invite Mr Stott to attend and also to ask if will MC the event.

16 **DOBB LANE**

Application for the lane to be made a restricted by-way.

*Cllr Duncalf **proposed** this item be carried over to the next council meeting. **Seconded** by Cllr Newnes. **All agreed.***

17 **THE SWAN**

Cllr Reynolds reported that all efforts to keep the Swan as a going concern have failed and that the application to turn the property and adjacent land into housing will be going ahead.

18 **WEB SITE**

The web site provider is to provide us with an editor account.

Cllr Nassab has now created a Facebook account for Mere Parish Council.

*Cllr Wright **proposed** Cllr Nassab be the Facebook Officer. **Seconded** by Cllr Newnes. **All agreed.***

19 **PLANNING APPLICATION DETAILS**

*There have been **three new planning applications** and no **decision notices** received since the previous meeting. Details are recorded in the Planning Book.*

20 **RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICERS REPORT**

- The total in the cheque account at the beginning of this meeting is **£14087.06** 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).*

21 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

- i. **Kathryn J Whitlow (Clerk)** £0939.00
For hours worked in July, August and September
Cheque made payable to
“Kathryn J Whitlow”
Cheque No: 100874
- ii. **PAYE** £0234.60
Cheque made payable to
“HM Revenue & Customs Only – 120PD00337552”
Cheque No: 100875
- iii. **Town and Parish Council Websites** £0390.00
Annual websites hosting and maintenance (01/11/22 to 01/11/23)
Cheque made payable to
“Parish Council Websites”
Cheque No: 100876
- iv. **Shires Accountants** £0041.40
Payslips for July to October
Cheque made payable to
“PDR Limited”
Cheque No: 100877
- v. **Lightech Sound and Light** £1692.00
Deposit for the firework display to take place on the 4th November
Cheque made payable to
“Lightech Sound and Light Ltd”
Cheque No: 100878
- vi. **Poppy Wreath for Remembrance Sunday** £0025.00
Cheque made payable to
“RBL Poppy Appeal”
Cheque No: 100879

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

22 BUDGET UPDATE

- *Once the above payments have been made it will leave **£10765.06** in the cheque account.*
- *Expected payments to be made at the next meeting in December are as follows:*

Lightech Sound and Light Ltd £1692.00

TOTAL £1692.00

*Once the above has been taken out of the account it will leave approximately **£9073.06** in the cheque account by the **end of December.***

- *The precept for 2023/24 will be discussed and decided at the next meeting in December.*

23 NEW BUSINESS

- i. **Remembrance Sunday – 13th November** – *The Chairman will collect the poppy wreath from Mr Parker. The Chairman will lay the wreath at the cenotaph on Sunday 13th November.*
- ii. **Sustainable and Inclusive Growth Commission Final Report** - *Noted*

24 **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

Monday 5th December, 2022 starting at 7:45pm. Venue The Mere Golf Resort and Spa, Mere. The proposed dates for 2023 are as follows:

Monday 16th January

Monday 20th March

Monday 15th May

Monday 10th July

Monday 11th September

Monday 16th October

Monday 4th December

Everyone agreed that the above dates are acceptable. The Clerk will book them with Mere Golf Resort and Spa

25 **ITEMS INTRODUCED BY COUNCILLORS**

- i. The Clerk has been asked if anyone remembers riding stables called Straitons? It use to exist in or near Mere in the 1940's. Cllr Duncalf will ask her husband if he knows anything and report back to the clerk.*

The meeting closed at approximately 10.10pm

Signed: Date: