

MERE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON

MONDAY 5TH DECEMBER, 2022, at 7.45PM

VENUE: THE MERE GOLF RESORT AND SPA

1 **PRESENT**

*Cllr Duncalf, Cllr A Newnes, Cllr L Reynolds and Cllr J Wright (In the Chair)
Jonathan Challis and Daniella Howarth – Manchester Airport
Twenty members of the public*

2 **APOLOGIES**

Cllr R Nassab

3 **MINUTES**

*The minutes of the Mere Parish Council meeting held on Monday 17th October were **proposed by** Cllr Newnes and **seconded by** Cllr Duncalf 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 **CASUAL VACANCY**

*This evening the Chairman received a letter of resignation from Cllr Paul Sands.
Cllr Wright **proposed** a letter to be sent from the council to Paul Sands thanking him for all his work as a Mere Parish Councillor and in particular for his work as Planning Officer. **Seconded by** Cllr Duncalf. **All agreed.**
The casual vacancy created by Paul Sands resignation will be advertised in the usual way.
With regards the other two casual vacancies, Cheshire East Council have informed the Clerk that Mere Parish Council can now co-opt people to fill these vacancies this evening.
Unfortunately no one came forward so this item will be carried over to the January meeting.*

6 **DEPUTY CHAIRMAN'S POSITION**

No one was proposed for this position. As there will be an election in May 2023 it was agreed to remove this item from the agenda and wait until a new council has been elected in May.

7 **MANCHESTER AIRPORT**

Jonathan Challis and Daniella Howarth gave a presentation in which they explained about the Future Airspace. They answered questions put to them by the council and then left the meeting at 8:35pm.

8 **CLAMHUNGER LANE – (Under New Business on Agenda but brought forward)**

A number of Clamhunger Lane residents (present at the meeting) wish to lobby Cheshire East Council about the possibility of closing one end of Clamhunger Lane. However, before doing so they wish to ask for support from Mere Parish Council.

The meeting was closed at 8:40pm to allow members of the public to speak.

The meeting was re-opened at 9pm.

*Cllr Duncalf **proposed** Mere Parish Council support the residents request to close one end of Clamhunger Lane. **Seconded** by Cllr Reynolds and supported by Cllr Newnes.*

Cllr Wright did not support the proposal believing the money to close one end of Clamhunger Lane could be put to better use. For example make roads safer within the whole of the parish by having them gritted in winter and safety measures implemented.

At 9:10pm seventeen members of the public left the meeting.

9 **HS2**

Esther McVey MP talked about the progress of HS2.

At 9:40pm Esther McVey MP left the meeting.

10 **POLICE REPORT**

A message has been received from PCSO Chloe Shore dated the 24th October. She stated she will add the B5569 to her list of roads to operate the Trucam. As to regards cars parking along the B5569 she will carry out patrols and speak with individuals she sees parking.

On the 4th December an e-mail was received from PC John Milman giving a report of police events in Mere during the month of November.

11 **B5569**

As requested at the last Mere Parish Council meeting the Clerk asked Dominic Fenton how many times he actually cuts the grass in Mere. Mr Fenton replied that it depends on growth and weather but it is usually five times a year.

The Clerk pointed out to the council that the work schedule we gave Mr Fenton does in fact state six cuts a year are required. The issue of Parish Maintenance will be on the agenda at the January meeting when the work schedule can be reviewed.

The Clerk stated she wrote to Mr Simon Skates again on the 21st October stating we are still waiting his comments with regards to the Phase 3 mitigation works. No reply has been received.

12 **WINTERBOTTOM LANE AND HOO GREEN LANE**

As requested at the previous meeting the Clerk has written to the occupants of 11 Hoo Green Lane and spoken with them. They have taken note of our request for vehicles not to be parked on the lane near the bend.

13 **SPEEDING**

At a previous council meeting Cllr Parkinson agreed to look into the possibility that we may be able to apply for a free speed gun. Cllr Parkinson was not present to give an update and so this item will be carried over to the January 2023 council meeting.

14 **DOBB LANE**

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

*Cllr Reynolds **proposed** that this item be carried over to the January 2023 council meeting. **Seconded** by Cllr Newnes. **All agreed.***

15 **FIREWORKS EVENT – 4TH NOVEMBER**

*Still to be paid is the Mere Cricket Club for allowing us to use their ground for the fireworks display. Cllr Wright **proposed** a fee of £70. **Seconded** by Cllr Duncalf. **All agreed.***

With regards to any novelty toys and sparklers left over, Cllr Wright will ask David Norcott if he has them.

The large advertising signs are currently in David Norcott's possession.

Attendance at the event was very poor this year resulting in a deficit of £1220.97.

The question was asked is the council to hold the event again next year? If yes then we need to agree a date as soon as possible in order to ensure we can book the firework display for our chosen date.

Due to the deficit figure Cllr Duncalf will ask Mr Alan Greenway, Tabley Parish Councillor if Tabley Parish Council will consider holding a joint event with Mere.

Decision to be made at the next council meeting as to whether we hold the event in 2023.

16 **MERE PARISH COUNCIL WEB SITE**

Cllr Nassab was not present to ask if he has been contacted by our web site provider with details of an editor account. This item to be carried over to the January 2023 meeting.

17 **PLANNING APPLICATION DETAILS**

- i. *There have been **two new planning applications** and two **decision notices** received since the previous meeting. Details are recorded in the Planning Book.*
- ii. *As Cllr Sands is no longer the Planning Officer, Cllr Duncalf the Assistant Planning Officer will deal with any future planning applications.*
- iii. *The Clerk has granted a four year **Dispensation** under Section 33 of the Localism Act 2011 to allow Mere Parish Councillors to comment upon planning applications referring to The Mere Golf Resort and Spa.*

18 **RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICERS REPORT**

- i. *The total in the cheque account at the beginning of this meeting is £11936.06 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 into the account on the 7th November a total of £1171.00 from the Fireworks Event (Gate: £825, Wands: £39, Raffle: £307)*
- iii. *We have been notified that our appointed External Auditor will be **PKF Little John LLP**. This is the same company as previous years. All councillors present stated they did not have any potential conflict of interest relating to the company PKF Little John LLP.*

19 **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

- i. **Shires Accountants** £0081.00
*Payslips etc. for October 2022 to April 2023
Cheque made payable to
“PQR Ltd”
Cheque No: 100880*
- ii. **Jean Duncalf** £0055.97
*Purchased raffle prizes for the Fireworks Event
Cheque made payable to
“Jean Duncalf”
Cheque No: 100881*
- iii. **Lightech Sound and Light** £1692.00
*The balance owing for the firework display on the 4th November
Cheque made payable to
“Lightech Sound and Light Ltd”
Cheque No: 100882*

- iv. **Mere Cricket Club** £0070.00
 For the use of the Cricket ground (Fireworks Event)
 Cheque made payable to
 "Mere Cricket Club"
 Cheque No: 100883

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

20 BUDGET AND PRECEPT FOR 2023/24

- i. Once the above payments have been made it will leave **£10037.09** in the cheque account.
 ii. Expected payments to be made at the next meeting in December are as follows:
- | | |
|--------------------|----------|
| Clerk Hours | £0900.00 |
| Paye | £0235.00 |
| Parish Maintenance | £1500.00 |

TOTAL £2635.00

Once the above has been taken out of the account it will leave approximately **£7402.09** in the cheque account by the **end of January 2023**.

- iii. **The precept for 2023/24** – The precept for the previous year was £9000. When deciding the precept for 2023/24 we need to consider that £6067.77 of the current money in the account is the CIL money which is ring fenced to be spent on parish maintenance. Also £170.43 is to be spent on Archive items only. On the basis that it is estimated we will have £7402.09 in the cheque account by the 31st March the Responsible Financial Officer suggested that the precept be kept the same as last year at £9000.
 Cllr Wright **proposed** that the precept remain at £9000. **Seconded** by Cllr Duncalf. **All agreed.**

21 NEW BUSINESS

- i. **CLAMHUNGER LANE** – this was discussed earlier in the meeting.
- ii. **HEDGEHOG HIGHWAY PROJECT** – Message from Linda Cook, Hedgehog RUs asking if the council wish to sign up and buy a box of hedgehog highway surrounds. Each box of 50 is £150.00. Noted by the council.
- iii. **CHESHIRE EAST MINERALS AND WASTE PLAN – CONSULTATION ON DRAFT MINERALS AND WASTE PLAN (MWP) AND CALL FOR SITES.** Noted by the council.
- iv. **DRAFT CHESHIRE EAST PARTNERSHIP DIGITAL INCLUSION STRATEGY CONSULTATION NOW LIVE.** Noted by the council.
- v. **ChALC 2023 VIRTUAL TRAINING SCHEDULE** – anyone wishing to attend the training courses to inform the Clerk.

22 **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

Monday 16th January, 2023 starting at 7:45pm. Venue The Mere Golf Resort and Spa, Mere. Owing to work being carried out at the venue it is to be closed for a period. However the dates of closure have not been confirmed. The Mere will keep us updated as our meeting dates approach. The meeting dates for the remainder of 2023 have been booked as follows:

Monday 20th March

Monday 15th May

Monday 10th July

Monday 11th September

Monday 16th October

Monday 4th December

23 **ITEMS INTRODUCED BY COUNCILLORS**

None.

The meeting closed at approximately 10.20pm

Signed: Date: