

MERE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON

MONDAY 16TH JANUARY, 2023, at 7.45PM

VENUE: THE MERE GOLF RESORT AND SPA

1 PRESENT

Cllr Duncalf (In The Chair), Cllr N Ineson, Cllr R Nassab, Cllr A Newnes, Cllr L Reynolds and Cllr A Richards

Two members of the public

2 APOLOGIES

Cllr J Wright

3 MINUTES

*The minutes of the Mere Parish Council meeting held on Monday 5th October were **proposed by** Cllr Newnes and **seconded by** Cllr Reynolds to be a true record. **All agreed.***

4 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None.

5 CASUAL VACANCY

We currently have three casual vacancies to fill.

*Mr Adrian Richards was **proposed to** be co-opted onto the council by Cllr Nassab and **seconded by** Cllr Newnes. **All agreed.***

*Mr Nick Ineson was **proposed to** be co-opted onto the council by Cllr Nassab and **seconded by** Cllr Newnes. **All agreed.***

Both Mr Richards and Mr Ineson accepted the position as councillor and signed the declaration of acceptance of office form.

Cllr Duncalf welcomed Cllr Richards and Cllr Ineson to Mere Parish Council.

There will be an election this year on the 4th May when all councillors stand down and are re-elected. Cllr Reynolds and Cllr Duncalf stated that they will not be standing for re-election.

6 POLICE REPORT

PC Milman and PCSO Shore were not able to attend this evening's meeting. However, PCSO Shore has forwarded the following report based on information taken from the local system for the month of December:

- *One dog attack*
- *One violence/harassment*
- *Four road traffic offences*

Today another message has been received from PCSO Shore stating she will be leaving her position of PCSO to join the Police Constable intake at the start of March. She also states that at the present time it does not look like there will be a replacement PCSO.

3rd January – An e-mail received from the Police and Crime Commissioner which also included a survey for people to take part in. The Clerk will forward the survey to the new councillors.

ACTION: KJ Whitlow (Clerk)

7 **MANCHESTER AIRPORT**

Cllr Reynolds will be attending a meeting at the airport on the 20th January and will forward a report to all the councillors after the meeting.

Cllr Newnes stated he will also be attending a meeting at the airport on the 3rd March.

8 **HS2**

An e-mail received from a Hoo Green Lane resident referring to a local geology paper has been forwarded to all the councillors for their information.

The Clerk will also forward it to the two new councillors. ACTION: KJ Whitlow (Clerk)

Prior to this evenings meeting Cllr Wright voiced concern to the Clerk as to who will represent Mere Parish Council at the petition meeting to be held in London.

9 **B5569**

Still no reply has been received from Simon Skates to our e-mail dated the 23rd September 2022 asking for an update on the Phase 3 Mitigation works.

Cllr Reynolds asked for a copy of our e-mail to be forwarded to her so she can raise the issue of no response from Simon Skates with a Cheshire East Council member. ACTION: KJ Whitlow (Clerk).

Cllr Newnes has tried to contact Cllr Parkinson regarding issues on the B5569 but unsuccessfully.

Cllr Reynolds proposed that Mere Parish Council ask Cllr Parkinson to attend our next meeting.

Seconded by Cllr Newnes. All agreed ACTION: KJ Whitlow (Clerk).

10 **WINTERBOTTOM LANE AND HOO GREEN LANE**

Nothing to report.

11 **SPEEDING**

The last time Cllr Parkinson attended a Mere Parish Council (12th September 2022) she stated she would look into the possibility that the council can apply for a free speed gun. The Clerk to ask for an update. ACTION: KJ Whitlow (Clerk).

12 **DOBB LANE**

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

To be carried over to the next council meeting in March.

13 **FIREWORKS EVENT – 4TH NOVEMBER**

Cllr Duncalf will ask Mr Norcott if he has the remaining novelty toys/sparklers left over from the 2022 event and if so is he happy to store them for the council until needed again? ACTION: Cllr Duncalf.

Cllr Duncalf to also ask him about the large advertising signs. Does Mr Norcott have them and if so is he willing to store them for the council? ACTION: Cllr Duncalf.

Cllr Duncalf has spoken with Cllr Greenway (Deputy Chairman, Tabley Parish Council) about whether Tabley Parish Council will be interested in having a joint Fireworks event in 2023. They have replied yes, but do not really agree to spending as much on the fireworks as we have done so in previous years. They also suggest having a theme to the event such as Halloween. Cllr Greenway has suggested that Mere and Tabley Community Club also be invited to help organise it. Cllr Greenway is to arrange a meeting with representatives from Tabley Parish Council, Mere and Tabley Community Club and Mere Parish Council. Cllr Newnes will be our representative at this meeting.

Cllr Duncalf to ask Cllr Greenway to let Cllr Newnes know when the meeting will be held.

Cllr Nassab put the suggestion forward to obtain sponsorship for the event.

14 **MERE PARISH COUNCIL WEB SITE**

Cllr Nassab has received details for an editor account from our website provider.

Cllr Nassab wishes to use Facebook more in order to advertise Mere Parish Council activities.

The Clerk raised concern over the legality of this and will ask for advice from ChALC.

ACTION: KJ Whitlow (Clerk)

15 **MERE PARISH COUNCIL RISK ASSESSMENT**

The risk assessment was reviewed and **proposed by** Cllr Reynolds and **seconded by** Cllr Newnes to be adopted by the council with no amendments. **All agreed**

16 **PARISH MAINTENANCE**

Cllr Newnes **proposed** that Mr Fenton carry out the parish maintenance (grass cutting) within Mere parish for 2023. **Seconded by** Cllr Nassab. **All agreed.**

The review of the maintenance schedule to be carried over to the March council meeting in order to give the new councillors time to look at it.

17 **PLANNING APPLICATION DETAILS**

- i. There have been **four new planning applications** and **no decision notices** received since the previous meeting. Details are recorded in the Planning Book.
- ii. A map of the parish of Mere to be forwarded to all Mere Parish Councillors for their information. **ACTION: KJ Whitlow (Clerk).**

18 **RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICERS REPORT**

- i. The total in the cheque account at the beginning of this meeting is £10037.09
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. The cheque sent to Mere Cricket Club for the sum of £70 has not been cashed yet.
Cheque No: 100883
- iii. Cllr Duncalf and Cllr Reynolds carried out an audit of the accounts.
- iv. **Pension Regulator** – Mere Parish Council has received notification from the Pensions Regulator stating that every three years it is the council's legal duty to enrol staff back into our pension scheme. We must then submit it a re-declaration of compliance stating what we have done, even if we have no staff to put back into a pension scheme. The Clerk has completed the re-declaration and has received a letter dated 9th January stating Mere Parish Council has completed a re-declaration of compliance with the Pension Regulator indicating we have not re-enrolled staff.

19 **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

- i. **Clerk** – Hours worked during October, November and December 2022 £903.59
Cheque made payable to
"Kathryn J Whitlow"
Cheque No: 100884
- ii. **PAYE** £226.00
Cheque made payable to
"HM Revenue & Customs only – 120PD00337552"
Cheque No: 100885

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

20 **BUDGET**

- i. *Once the above payments have been made it will leave **£8907.50** in the cheque account.*
- ii. *Expected payments to be made at the next meeting in March are as follows:*

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|
| <i>Parish Maintenance</i> | <i>£1500.00</i> |
|---------------------------|-----------------|

| | |
|--------------|------------------------|
| TOTAL | <u>£1500.00</u> |
|--------------|------------------------|

*Once the above has been taken out of the account it will leave approximately **£7407.50** in the cheque account by the **end of March 2023**.*

- iii. **The precept for 2023/24** – *The precept request for 2023/24 has been confirmed as accepted by Cheshire East Council. This means we will receive the first payment of £4500.00 on the 1st April 2023. Resulting in the estimated sum of £11907.50 in the cheque account on the 1st April.*

21 **NEW BUSINESS**

- i. **TATTON PARK – LOCAL PARSIH COUNCIL MEETING** – *E-mail from Ian Barlow, Business Support Manager stating at a recent Tatton Park Board meeting a request was made by Cllr Charlotte Leach of Mobberley, for a local Parish Council meeting to be held at Tatton Park. Items to be discussed at this meeting are current park operations and future plans. The meeting will take place in the Board Room at Tatton Park. Cllr Richards and Cllr Ineson voiced interest to attend. The Clerk will reply to Tatton Park giving their names and then wait to be informed as to when the meeting will be held.*
- ii. **ENCOURAGING PEOPLE TO STAND AS A COUNCILLOR** – *A message from ChALC offering encouragement to members of the public interested in standing as a local councillor. A copy of the poster has been placed on the notice board.*
- iii. **CHESHIRE EAST RESIDENTS NEED PHOTO ID TO VOTE AT ELECTIONS IN MAY** – *Message sent from Cheshire East Council containing information about photo ID required at this year’s elections.*

22 **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

Monday 20th March, 2023 starting at 7:45pm. Venue The Mere Golf Resort and Spa, Mere.
The meeting dates for the remainder of 2023 have been booked as follows:

- 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 9pm

Signed: Date: