

## **MERE PARISH COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON**

**MONDAY 20<sup>th</sup> MARCH, 2023, at 7.45PM**

**VENUE: THE MERE GOLF RESORT AND SPA**

1 **PRESENT**

*Cllr Duncalf, Cllr N Ineson, Cllr R Nassab, Cllr A Newnes, Cllr L Reynolds, Cllr A Richards  
And Cllr J Wright (In The Chair)  
Six members of the public*

2 **APOLOGIES**

*None*

3 **MINUTES**

*The minutes of the Mere Parish Council meeting held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January were **proposed by**  
Cllr Duncalf and **seconded by** Cllr Newnes 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**.  
Cllr Ineson declared a **Personal Interest** regarding **HS2 and Winterbottom Lane**.  
Cllr Richards declared a **Personal Interest** regarding **HS2 and Winterbottom Lane**.*

5 **MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

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

6 **THE ORCHARD**

*This item was originally under Planning, No: 17 on the agenda but was brought forward.  
**The meeting was closed** at approximately 8:10pm to allow a member of the public to explain his intentions for the area known as the Orchard next to the Barley Fields development off the A50. His intention being to build a house.  
**The meeting was re-opened** at approximately 8:20pm*

7 **POLICE REPORT**

*PC Milman had forwarded a report to the Clerk covering the month of February.  
Cllr Duncalf **proposed** that the Clerk write to the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cheshire, John Dwyer asking can we have a more detailed list of activities? **Seconded by** Cllr Newnes. **All agreed.**  
**Action: KJ Whitlow (Clerk)***

*12<sup>th</sup> February a photograph of a car which had driven across the bridle/cycle way and parked was forwarded to PC Milman. He replied stating he will pop down that day to see if there are any issues. Nothing more has been heard about this. Cllr Newnes stated that the car was there for a couple of days and then went.*

8 **MANCHESTER AIRPORT**

*The Clerk has received an agenda and Teams link for the Manchester Airport Parish Council forum to be held on the 19<sup>th</sup> April.*

*Cllr Newnes will represent Mere Parish Council at this meeting.*

*Cllr Reynolds will be attending an airport meeting to be held on the 28<sup>th</sup> April. After she will write up a report and send to the Clerk to be forwarded to all Mere Parish Councillors.*

*Cllr Newnes gave a report from the recent meeting he had attended at Manchester Airport. He stated that the flight routes have been decided hopefully resulting in fewer flights over Mere.*

9 **HS2**

*An e-mail received on the 8<sup>th</sup> February from Nathaniel Fuller introducing himself as the current, Phase 2B Stakeholder Engagement Advisor for MA03/MA06. He is replacing Ahmed Nawaz. The Community Engagement Manager for the area remains as Jayne Willets.*

*An e-mail received on the 9<sup>th</sup> February containing a letter from Huw Merriman MP, Minister of State for Transport, updating us on progress of HS2 (Crewe to Manchester) Bill through Parliament and the impact on the residents of Mere.*

*An e-mail received on the 9<sup>th</sup> February from Beth Goodwin, Committee Operations Manager, Private Bill office bringing to our attention the website as it is where they will publish petitions, evidence, news and guidance.*

*An e-mail received on the 13<sup>th</sup> March from Lorraine O'Donnell informing us that as of the 13<sup>th</sup> March Cheshire East Council formally withdrew its petition against HS2.*

*The Chairman **closed the meeting at approximately 8:40pm and reopened it at 8.55pm** to allow members of the public to speak.*

*Cllr Ineson **proposed** Mr Chris Hough to act as Mere Parish Councils representative at the petition meeting to be held in London. **Seconded** by Cllr Richards. **All agreed.***

*The Chairman thanked Mr Hough.*

*Once the Clerk receives the response to the Mere Parish Council petition it is to be forwarded to all the Mere Parish Councillors as well as Mr Hough.*

10 **B5569**

*Cllr Parkinson (Cheshire East Ward Councillor) had been invited to attend this meeting in order to respond to issues previously she said she would look into. However, Cllr Parkinson was not in attendance.*

*Cllr Reynolds, after attending a meeting with a Cheshire East Councillor, obtained an e-mail address for our local Highways representative, Andy Simpson. When the Clerk tried to correspond with Andy using the e-mail address it appeared the e-mail address was incorrect.*

***A50 Warrington Road/Chester Road – Upcoming Improvements** – E-mail from Ana Maria Zait, Highways Agency informing us of improvement works to be carried out. The scheme was to have started on the 19<sup>th</sup> March but this does not appear to have happened.*

*Cllr Newnes reported that the B5569 has been swept from the AA box at Mere lights to what was the Swan Inn.*

11 **WINTERBOTTOM LANE AND HOO GREEN LANE**

*Nothing to report.*

12 **SPEEDING**

*With regards the question of a speed gun and training an e-mail has been received from PCSO Chloe Shore dated the 1<sup>st</sup> February stating the following:*

- *We need to be trained before using the gun.*
- *A minimum of 10 volunteers is needed for a group to be trained.*
- *The speed gun must be purchased by the parish council – it will not be provided by Cheshire Police or one individual.*
- *The road that the members wish to use the speed gun on needs to be assessed by Highways Traffic staff from Cheshire Police as safe for the members to be using the gun on.*
- *We need a co-ordinator who is responsible for the speed watch e.g.; organising the watches, purchasing high vis safety coats.*
- *We will be trained by a PCSO who is signed off in training of speed guns and Tru Cam.*

*With regards the actual speed limit on the B5569 between Mere lights and The Swan, the Clerk will enquire with PC Milman. **Action: KJ Whitlow (Clerk).***

13 **DOBB LANE**

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

*Cllr Duncalf proposed this item be carried over to the next meeting.*

14 **FIREWORKS EVENT – 4<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER**

*Mr Norcott has agreed to store the large advertising signs and car parking signs plus any sparklers which were left over from last years' event.*

*Cllr Newnes and Cllr Duncalf attended a meeting with Tabley Parish Council where the idea of holding a joint event with Tabley Parish Council was discussed. The idea of a Halloween theme was suggested.*

*Cllr Newnes **proposed** that Mere Parish Council join with Tabley Parish Council to hold a joint Fireworks event at Mere and Tabley Community Club on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> November. **Seconded by** Cllr Reynolds. **All agreed.***

*The Clerk to write to Tabley Parish Council asking for confirmation that they are happy to pay half the fireworks fee. **Action: KJ Whitlow (Clerk)***

*Cllr Newnes reported that at the last meeting with Tabley Parish Council it was agreed to have tickets printed and sold prior to the event. However, anyone arriving at the gate on the night will be allowed to enter.*

*The Clerk will contact Lightech Sound and Light to confirm that we wish to book them for the 4<sup>th</sup> November. **Action: KJ Whitlow (Clerk)***

*An e-mail from the Mere Cricket Club stating that if we wish to use the Cricket field this year then they must see a copy of our insurance policy to check we are fully covered for public liability cover and third party injury and property damage.*

*Also payment for the hire of the cricket ground will only be accepted by direct bank transfer.*

*The Clerk will ask Tabley Parish Council to confirm that they have the above insurance cover.*

***Action: KJ Whitlow (Clerk)***

15 **PARISH MAINTENANCE**

*This item has been carried over from the previous meeting in order to give the new councillors the opportunity to study the current maintenance schedule.*

*As there were no suggested amendments Cllr Duncalf **proposed** that the schedule be agreed without any amendments. **Seconded by** Cllr Reynolds. **All agreed.***

*The Clerk will contact Mr Fenton asking him to provide parish maintenance for 2023 and that the work schedule remains the same. Also that we will leave it up to him to decide if five or six cuts are required*

## 16 MERE PARISH COUNCIL WEB SITE AND FACEBOOK

The Clerk had forwarded to all the councillors prior to the meeting a draft Social Media Policy. Cllr Nassab suggested a few amendments. The Clerk will confirm with ChALC that the amendments are acceptable and also obtain more clarification on what we can and cannot put on Facebook.

**Action: KJ Whitlow (Clerk)**

## 17 TATTON PARK

Cllr Richards and Cllr Ineson attended a meeting at Tatton Park on the 15<sup>th</sup> February. Cllr Ineson commented that at the meeting it was agreed a group e-mail would be set up with parish councillors in relation to HS2. As nothing more has been heard about this he will follow it up with Tatton Park.

**Action: Cllr Ineson**

## 18 ELECTION 4<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2023

The Clerk attended a meeting briefing for candidates at the election of the 4<sup>th</sup> May at Macclesfield Town Hall on the 6th March. Information gained from the meeting and conveyed to the councillors is as follows:

- The deadline for personally delivering nomination paper is the 4<sup>th</sup> April at 4pm.
- Forms must be delivered to Westfields, Middlewich Road, Sandbach between 9:30am and 5pm. Nomination papers **only to be handed to Elections Staff**.
- If you need help with anything contact the Elections Team (Dr Lorraine O'Donnell, Returning Officer, Brian Reed, Deputy Returning Officer or David Brown, Monitoring Officer)
- Expenses form found within the pack must be filled in even if you are claiming nothing.

## 19 PLANNING APPLICATION DETAILS

- i. There have been **four new planning applications** and **one decision notice** received since the previous meeting. Details are recorded in the Planning Book.
- ii. **Land at the rear of 23/0255M** – An e-mail has been received from a resident stating he has been notified that a plot of land has recently been purchased to the rear of Barely Fields. He states he has witnessed chainsaws working to clear the land. He also comments that the group of three sparrow hawks which nested on the site are no longer visible and the owl is missing. The Clerk had advised him to contact Cheshire East Council

## 20 RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICERS REPORT

- i. The total in the cheque account at the beginning of this meeting is £8907.50 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. **Dominic M Fenton** £354.00  
Cutting tree branches along the A50 as requested - £220.00  
Spraying docks by Mere lights in Spring 2022 - £75  
Cheque made payable to  
"Dominic M Fenton"  
Cheque No: 100886
- ii. **Dominic M Fenton** £1802.40  
5 grass cuts at £230 = £1150.00  
16 grass cuts at the Cenotaph at £22 each time = £352.00  
Cheque made payable to  
"Dominic M Fenton"  
Cheque No: 100887

- iii. Linda Reynolds £45.00  
 Taxi fare to and from Manchester Airport where she represented Mere  
 Parish Council at a meeting.  
 Cheque made payable to  
 "Linda Reynolds"  
 Cheque No: 100888

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

## 22 **BUDGET**

- i. Once the above payments have been made it will leave **£6706.10** in the cheque account.
- ii. The invoices for DM Fenton to be paid out of the CIL money. This reduces the total of CIL money available from £6067.77 to £3911.37.
- iii. Expected payments to be made at the next meeting in May are as follows:
- |  |                        |
|--|------------------------|
| Clerk  | £0900.00               |
| PAYE   | £0230.00               |
| Clerk end of year expenses                           | £0550.00               |
| ChALC affiliation fee                                | £0200.00               |
| Council Insurance                                    | £0400.00               |
| A and G Blackburn (grass mowing at<br>Tabley Church) | £0120.00               |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   | <b><u>£2400.00</u></b> |

**INCOME** – 1<sup>st</sup> April – precept £4500.00

*This means we will have approximately **£8851.10** in the cheque account by mid May 2023.*

## 23 **NEW BUSINESS**

- i. **Retiring Councillors** – Cllr Duncalf (Councillor for 15 years) and Cllr Reynolds (Councillor for 19 years) will not be standing for re-election in May meaning this is their last council meeting. The Chairman thanked them both for their hard work and dedication to the role of councillor of Mere which also included them acting as Chairperson and Planning Officers. Cllr Reynolds has also acted as the Manchester Airport representative and Cllr Duncalf put together the council's newsletter for many years. Cllr Reynolds and Cllr Duncalf thanked the council for giving them the opportunity to represent the parish of Mere and wished the council well for the future. Cllr Duncalf stated that she and her husband will continue to look after the flower tubs around the cenotaph.
- ii. **RHS Flower Show** – Notification from Cheshire East Council regarding the road closures during this year's event.
- iii. **Strategic Planning Update** - noted
- iv. **Post Man in Mere – Retiring** – A resident has brought it to the council attention that a postman in Mere will be retiring on the 24<sup>th</sup> March.

24 **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May, 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 10<sup>th</sup> July*

*Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September*

*Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October*

*Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December*

25 **ITEMS INTRODUCED BY COUNCILLORS**

- i. *Cllr Richards commented it would be useful to discuss the agenda items via e-mail before the council meeting. The Clerk enforced the fact that all decisions have to be made at a council meeting but if councillors wished to talk amongst themselves before attending the meeting they can do so. Discussion is encouraged to take place at meetings though.*
  
- ii. *Cllr Newnes stated that Mere and Tabley Community Club will be holding a Coronation Party on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May. Tickets £12 and children under the age of 12 years go free. There will be a competition for the best crown. Food to be provided by a local butcher.  
Cllr Duncalf **proposed** Mere Parish Council donate a raffle prize to the value of £50, **seconded** by Cllr Wright. **All agreed.** The event will be supporting the Air Ambulance Charity.*
  
- iii. *Cllr Reynolds suggested the council purchase a wooden bench and dedicate it with a plaque to commemorate the coronation. Suggested venue for the bench being by the AA Box next to Mere light.*

*The meeting closed at approximately 9:50pm*

*Signed: ..... Date: .....*