

MERE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON

MONDAY 16TH OCTOBER, 2023, at 7.45PM

VENUE: THE MERE AND TABLEY COMMUNITY CLUB

1 **PRESENT**

Cllr V Bennett, Cllr C Hough, Cllr N Ineson, Cllr R Nassab, Cllr A Newnes, Cllr A Richards and Cllr J Wright (In The Chair)

2 **APOLOGIES**

None

3 **MINUTES**

- i. *The minutes of the Mere Parish Council meeting held on the 11th September were **proposed by** Cllr Nassab and **seconded by** Cllr Bennett 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 **Disclosable Pecuniary interest** regarding **HS2**.*

*Cllr Richards declared a **Personal Interest** regarding **HS2***

*Cllr Bennett declared a **Personal Interest** regarding **HS2***

*Cllr Ineson declared a **Personal Interest** regarding **HS2***

*Cllr Hough declared a **Personal Interest** regarding **HS2***

5 **CASUAL VACANCIES**

There is one place still available on the council.

6 **POLICE REPORT**

A report has been received from PC Milman containing the following:

- There is still no PCSO for our area but support is received from PCSO Paulo when he is available.*
- Speed enforcement measures continue to be conducted on Chester Road and Mereside Road with the result being a drop in speeding motorists.*
- The main source of calls for the police has been the A556. A total of 22 incidents including breakdowns, crashes, police pursuits, vehicles without insurance and reports of dangerous driving.*
- Suspicious vehicle reported on Mereside Road. No offences were identified but the vehicle has been added to the intelligence database.*
- Police have attended three property alarms in the area and all was in order on all occasions.*

The Clerk has received a reply from the Crime Commissioner Office regarding our concern that Mere residents are paying for a PCSO and yet we do not have one! Response from Liz Corfield on behalf of John Dwyer as follows: "The post should be filled by a PCSO but unfortunately we don't have one in post at the moment. The post is going to be filled by PC Adam Morse. We are awaiting a release date for Adam to join Beat."

7 **MANCHESTER AIRPORT**

Cllr Newnes attended a meeting on the 13th October at the airport. His report included the following points:

- *A small amount of RAAC concrete has been found in very low risk areas. There is an on going investigation.*
- *Signage has been improved after receiving complaints. Walkways to be opened soon. The long walk to gates has caused problems.*
- *The airport Managing Director has commented that this last summer has been the best ever for the airport.*
- *Queuing has been reduced and most people are getting through the airport with little delay.*
- *93% of people using the airport rated it very good.*
- *Noise complaints are increasing and the airport is looking into this.*
- *56% of energy used is from renewable sources.*
- *33% of supplies were from local suppliers with a 25 mile range.*
- *Singapore Airlines have expanded routes and frequency.*
- *Net zero fuel is being looked into.*
- *Better connections to the airport is being looked into.*
- *The cancellation of HS2 was disappointing news to the airport.*
- *A fast response team has been formed to react to any problems with baggage handling, security etc.*

8 **HS2**

Reply received from Esther McVey MP asking now that HS2 has been cancelled does Mere Parish Council still request her to attend a council meeting?

The council's response is yes we do as we have other issues within the parish to discuss with her.

ACTION: KJ Whitlow (Clerk).

Mr Nigel Hennerley has offered to provide a final report at a future Mere Parish Council meeting.

The council agreed to ask him to attend the December meeting. ACTION: KJ Whitlow (Clerk).

9 **B5569**

The Clerk has again asked Esther McVey MP for an update with regards to her contacting Cheshire East Council asking them to give us an update on the mitigation works. The reply received is that Esther is still awaiting a response from Cheshire East Council.

10 **SPEEDING IN MERE**

Ms Manning has e-mailed the Clerk asking what is the logic behind Mere Parish Council not supporting a reduced speed on the A50? The Clerk has replied stating to reduce the speed limit it is something she will have to take up with the police and Cheshire East Council.

11 **DOBB LANE**

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

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

12 FIREWORKS EVENT – 4TH NOVEMBER

- The music man has been booked at a cost of £350.
- Lightech Sound and Light have requested a deposit of £1755.
- The Glow sticks have arrived and will be sold at £4 each on the night. It was agreed that one pack of 24 would be sufficient.
- The Clerk has contacted Tony Warm to request permission to use the Mere Cricket ground and pavilion. However he is away on holiday until the 16th October when he said he will be in touch. He has requested proof to show that Mere Parish Council's insurance cover does include third party injury and property damage. The Clerk has forward the requested proof to Mr Warm and has also confirmed with our insurance company that yes we are covered. They have replied yes.
- The council gave authorisation to the Clerk to spend approx. £50 on raffle prizes which are to include items for the children.
- Cllr Newnes and the Clerk will be attending a meeting at Mere and Tabley Community Club on the 22nd October to discuss final details with Tabley Parish Council.
- Cllr Newnes volunteered to sell the glow sticks on the 4th November.
- The Clerk with help from Cllr Bennet will be selling the raffle tickets on the 4th November.

13 KINGS CORONATION

The Clerk will ask Mere and Tabley Community Club if they will allow Mere Parish Council to site a commemorative bench overlooking the bowling green. **ACTION: KJ Whitlow (Clerk)**
The Clerk informed the meeting that the bench can be bought using the CIL money.
The decision to buy a bench has still to be made by the council.

14 GDPR/DATA PROTECTION

This has been renewed until the 2nd October 2024 and the certificate received.

15 PLANNING APPLICATION DETAILS

- i. There have been three **new planning applications** and one notice that an application has been withdrawn since the last Mere Parish Council meeting. Details are recorded in the Planning Book.

16 RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICERS REPORT

- i. The total in the cheque account at the beginning of this meeting is £12587.41
of which **£170.43** belongs to the **Archive Fund** and **£3911.37** is the **CIL money** (has to be spent within 5 years – starting from 2021).

17 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

- i. Clerk for hours worked in July, August and September £0952.72
Cheque made payable to
"Kathryn J Whitlow"
Cheque No: 100902
- ii. PAYE/HMRC £0238.20
Cheque made payable to
"HM Revenue & Customs only – 120PD00337552"
Cheque No: 100903
- iii. Lightech Sound and Light Ltd £1755.00
Cheque made payable to
"Lightech Sound & Light Ltd"
Cheque No: 100904

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|------|---|----------|
| iv. | <i>Glowsticks.co.uk</i>
<i>For glow sticks to be sold at Fireworks event</i>
<i>The Clerk has already paid the invoice therefore</i>
<i>Cheque made payable to</i>
<i>“Kathryn J Whitlow”</i>
<i>Cheque No: 100905</i> | £0073.77 |
| v. | <i>Rapasound</i>
<i>Music at the Fireworks event</i>
<i>Cheque made payable to</i>
<i>“rapasound”</i>
<i>Cheque No: 100906</i> | £0350.00 |
| vi. | <i>Shire Accountants</i>
<i>For payslips up to April 2024, p35 and submission of 2023/24 P35 Year End</i>
<i>and supplying of P60’s</i>
<i>Cheque made payable to</i>
<i>“PQR Limited”</i>
<i>Cheque No: 100907</i> | £0124.20 |
| vii. | <i>Town and Parish Council Websites</i>
<i>Annual website hosting and maintenance 1/11/23 to 1/11/24</i>
<i>Cheque made payable to</i>
<i>“Parish Council Websites”</i>
<i>Cheque No: 100908</i> | £0420.00 |

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

18 **BUDGET**

*i. Once the above payments have been made it will leave **£8673.52** in the cheque account.*

ii. Expected payments to be made at the next meeting in December are as follows:

<i>Lightech Sound & Light</i>	<i>£1755.00</i>
<i>Cricket Club</i>	<i>£0070.00</i>
<i>Raffle Prizes</i>	<i>£0050.00</i>
<i>Remembrance Day Poppy wreath</i>	<i>£0025.00</i>

TOTAL £1900.00

*This means we will have approximately **£6773.52** in the cheque account.
Minus the CIL and the Archive money leaves £2691.72 available to spend by
the beginning of January 2024.*

- iii. We will be receiving money in from the Fireworks Event but it is impossible to say how much.*
- iv. At the December council meeting the Clerk will produce a budget to allow the council to decide upon a precept figure to be requested from Cheshire East Council for 2024.*

19 **NEW BUSINESS**

i. ***The Kilton Inn and Casa Mere Hotel*** – *The meeting was closed at approximately 8:30pm to allow Mr Nick Bone, Director of AG Hotel (who own and operate the Kilton and Casa Mere Hotel) plus Mr Graham Baldwin from Design Consulting to give a presentation regarding the future of the Kilton. They commented that the only way to make the historic pub and hotel viable is to put a significant amount of investment into it which will increase the footfall and trading volume.*

The proposed scheme includes adding forty five holiday lodges to the site, convenience store/post office, adding new hotel bedrooms and completely refurbishing the hotel. Mr Bone and Mr Baldwin left the meeting at approximately 9pm and the meeting re-opened. Concerns were raised about the lack of parking, light pollution, the number of lodges and confirmation that only local produce would be sold in the shop.

The council at this stage reserves judgement on the proposed plans until the response from local residents is known.

The council advice that a public consultation exercise is carried out by AG Hotels.

ii. ***Cheshire East Council Parking Service*** – *Information noted. No comment to be made.*

iii. ***Re Procurement of Local Bus Contract*** – *Information noted. No comment to be made.*

iv. ***Remembrance Day*** – *The Clerk will collect the poppy wreath from the British Legion. The Chairman will lay the wreath at the Mere Cenotaph on Sunday 12th November. Councillors to meet at 10:45am*

20 **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

Monday 4th December, 2023 starting at 7:45pm. Venue *The Mere and Tabley Community Club.*
The proposed dates for 2024 are as follows: January 15th, March 18th, May 13th, July 22nd, September 16th, October 21st and December 2nd. As no one had any issues with the proposed dates the Clerk will book them with The Mere and Tabley Community Club

21 **ITEMS INTRODUCED BY COUNCILLORS**

None

The meeting closed at approximately 9.45pm

Signed: Date: