

MERE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON

MONDAY 15TH JANUARY, 2024, at 7.45PM

VENUE: THE MERE AND TABLEY COMMUNITY CLUB

1 **PRESENT**

Cllr V Bennett, Cllr N Ineson, Cllr R Nassab, Cllr A Newbold, 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 4th December were **proposed** by Cllr Newnes and **seconded** by Cllr Wright 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***

5 **CASUAL VACANCIES**

There is one vacancy on the council which is currently going through the process of being advertised with Cheshire East Council. We will know by the next council meeting in March if we can co-opt someone on to the council.

6 **HS2**

This item was taken out of sequence on the agenda.

Mr Nigel Hennerley gave a report to the council about the current situation as to how HS2 affects the Mere Parish.

Whilst the HS2 project which was to cut across Mere has now been stopped, there is an issue as to when the safeguarding policy will be released and how it will be released.

Mr Hennerley agreed to keep the council updated.

Mr Hennerley left the meeting at approximately 8:30pm

7 **FIREWORKS EVENT**

This item on the agenda was taken out of sequence.

Mr A Greenway (Tabley Parish Councillor and Mere and Tabley Community Club member) and Mrs Charlotte Morley (Mere and Tabley Community Club member) joined the meeting.

With regards to the damaged on the cricket ground Cllr Wright has regularly corresponded with Mr Warm but unfortunately a plan to rectify the ground has not yet been agreed.

In the meantime Mr Warm has informed Mere Parish Council that if we wish to hire the cricket ground again then it will be at a fee of £250 to £300. If damage is caused again then a fee of £500 to £600 will be requested.

The Clerk will ask the fireworks company (Lightech Sound and Light who caused the ground damage, even though they were asked on the night not to drive across the cricket ground), to repair the damage.

ACTION: KJ Whitlow (Clerk).

With regards to holding a Fireworks Event again this year it was agreed **no**. For the last few years the event has been running at a loss. Mainly due to the cost of the fireworks.

Mr Greenway suggested holding a Halloween Party at Mere and Tabley Community Club and to include competitions for the children. Cllr Newbold **proposed** Mere Parish Council support Mere and Tabley Community Club to arrange the event. **Seconded by Cllr Newnes. All agreed.**

Mr Greenway and Mrs Morley were thanked for all the effort put into the Fireworks event in 2023. Mere Parish Council is very grateful.

Mr Greenway handed a cheque to the Clerk for the value of £642.85 from Tabley Parish Council. This is half of the total loss figure for the event as agreed in 2023.

Mr Greenway and Mrs Morley left the meeting at approximately 9pm.

8 **POLICE REPORT**

PC Milman was not available to attend this evenings meeting but had forwarded a report for December.

Cllr Newnes requested that he be reminded about the B5569 with regards to speed monitoring.

ACTION: KJ Whitlow (Clerk).

In response to the Clerk's e-mail to the Office of Police and Crime Commissioner a reply has been received. It states that the Police Constable they had hoped to join the beat at Knutsford had changed their mind due to personal reasons. However, PC Caitlin Clarke is expected to join the Knutsford beat on the 2nd January and she will be working alongside PC Milman covering our area.

9 **MANCHESTER AIRPORT**

Cllr Newnes had nothing to report but will be attending a meeting at the airport this Friday, 19th January.

10 **B5569**

Nothing further has been heard from Cheshire East Council regarding the mitigation works planned to be completed by the end of the financial year (March 2024).

Cllr Newnes to keep an eye on any progress of works and report to the council.

11 **DOBB LANE**

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

Cllr Newnes **proposed** this item to be carried over to the next Mere Parish Council meeting. **Seconded by Cllr Nassab. All agreed.**

12 **KINGS CORONATION**

The Clerk is in the process of purchasing the bench but needs to know which delivery address to use. The Chairman agreed for the bench to be delivered to his home.

13 **THE KILTON INN**

A response has been received from Nick Bone to our request that he correct a statement stating Mere Parish Council supports their plans.

Mr Bone says he is sorry but that for our information the e-mail responses to the public consultation were exclusively and unanimously supportive. He implies that Esther McVey MP also supports their plans.

Cllr Newnes will be seeing Esther McVey and will ask her if she does actually support the plans for holiday pods. **ACTION: Cllr Newnes**

14 **THE SWAN DEVELOPMENT**

A response has been received from PNH Holdings stating that it was agreed in the planning application for the site that the milestone would be retained and condition 4 placed on the approval (21/2975M) to ensure this.

15 MERE PARISH COUNCIL WEB SITE

Cllr Newbold, having looked at ways to improve the council's website, suggested that a new website be created with images of the area and any assets it has such as the Mere Golf Club and the Mere and Tabley Community Club. It needs to look professional and reflect the area.

The Clerk reminded the council that there are certain guide lines to follow with regards a parish council website.

Cllr Newbold to present to the council at the next meeting examples of ideas.

16 PLANNING APPLICATION DETAILS

i. *There have been three **new planning applications** and **two approval notices** since the last Mere Parish Council meeting. Details are recorded in the Planning Book.*

ii. ***White Cottage, Moss Lane, Mere** –The Clerk reported a suspected breach of planning regulations to Cheshire East Council. An acknowledgement has been received on the 17th December stating the case reference number is EFRM12983.*

17 RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICERS REPORT

i. *The total in the cheque account at the beginning of this meeting is £17955.17
Of which £170.43 is the Archive Fund and £12922.26 is the CIL money.*

ii. *Barclays Bank has confirmed that Cllr Alan Newnes is now authorised to sign council cheques.*

iii. *Cllr Wright and Cllr Newnes performed an audit of the council accounts.
No issues were highlighted*

18 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

i. *Clerk for hours worked during October, November and December 2023 £1206.84
Cheque made payable to
"Kathryn J Whitlow"
Cheque No: 100914*

ii. *PAYE £0301.80
Cheque made payable to
"HM Revenue and Customs only – 120PD00337552"
Cheque No: 100915*

iii. *Ground Maintenance £1802.40
Cheque made payable to
"Dominic M Fenton"
Cheque No: 100916*

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

19 **BUDGET**

- i. *Once the above payments have been made it will leave **£14644.13** in the cheque account.*
- ii. *Expected payments to be made by the end of March 2024 are as follows:
None*

*This means we will have approximately **£14644.13** in the cheque account by the 31st March 24. Of which £11119.86 is CIL money and £170.43 is archive money. Therefore leaving £3353.84 to spend on other items*

20 **NEW BUSINESS**

- i. ***Cheshire East Council Holocaust Memorial Day Service – Friday 26th January 11am, Macclesfield Town Hall. Noted***
- ii. ***Strategic Planning Update – December 23rd. - Noted***
- iii. ***D-Day 80 – Information about how to commemorate this event. - Ideas to be discussed at the next council meeting.***
- iv. ***Cheshire East Tree Conference, Congleton Town Hall 17th January, 7pm to 9:30pm – Since David Norcott left the council we do not have a tree officer.***
- v. ***Street Trading Policy Consultation – Noted.***

21 **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

***Monday 18th March, 2024** starting at 7:45pm. Venue The Mere and Tabley Community Club. The proposed dates for the remainder of 2024 are as follows: May 13th, July 22nd, September 16th, October 21st and December 2nd.*

22 **ITEMS INTRODUCED BY COUNCILLORS**

None.

The meeting closed at approximately 9.28pm

Signed: Date: