

MERE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MERE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 23rd JANUARY, 2017
AT 7.30PM, THE MERE

PRESENT

*Cllr J Duncalf
Cllr J McGuire
Cllr D Norcott
Cllr J Patterson (In The Chair)
Cllr D Walker
Cllr J Wright*

APOLOGIES

*Cllr O Hunter, Cheshire East Council
Cllr B Reynolds
Cllr L Reynolds*

*Mr Chris Burrows, Costain
Three members of the public*

ACTIONS

1 MINUTES

*The minutes of the Mere Parish Council meeting held on the 5th December 2016 were proposed by Cllr Norcott and seconded by Cllr McGuire to be a true and correct record.
All Agreed.*

2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Cllr Norcott declared an interest with regards item 12 (HS2) on the agenda.

3 MATTERS ARISING

It was agreed that all issues arising from the previous meeting are covered under the agenda headings.

4 POLICE REPORT

No representative from the police were present. The previous months crime report had been circulated to all the councillors.

5 OPERATION SHIELD –Select DNA Kits

*PCSO Lindsey Whitehead (now moved to another job within the police force) has confirmed that she has contacted all the people who have not yet collected their Select DNA kit, instructing them to contact Knutsford Police Station to arrange collection.
No further action required from the council.*

6 KNUTSFORD TO BOWDEN BY PASS

The Traffic Management meeting to be held on the 24th January at the Costain base will be attended by Cllr Walker, Cllr Norcott and Cllr McGuire.

Mr Burrows gave an update on the progress of the by-pass which included the following:

- Chapel Lane opening has been delayed but it is hoped it will be open by the end of this week.*
- The new by-pass will be opened on the 6th March, however will have to be closed the weekend after for necessary work.*
- There will be a few weekends when certain sections of the A556 will be closed in February. Notification will be sent to everyone.*
- Costains will be doing work on the drainage along the A556.*

The Chairman thanked Mr Burrows for attending the meeting.

Mr Burrows then left the meeting.

7 DE TRUNKING – A556 (B5569)

An e-mail has been received from Simon Skates, Principal Development Engineer, Cheshire East Council in response to Mere Parish Council's letter dated the 1st December 2016.

The Chairman read the e-mail which included the following points:

- *There are no proposals for installation of parking restrictions as part of the de-trunking other than at the turning heads where side roads have been stopped up and at the termination point of the current A556 at the Tabley end of the scheme.*
- *The view is to wait and see if any issues arise and then target the specific area with a reactive response.*
- *The residents on the service roads off Chester Road have been provided with a variety of parking restriction proposals that would alleviate existing parking problems that have already been realised.*
- *We will be monitoring the parking situation through the de-trunking and beyond and have funding available to react to problems as they may arise.*
- *The maintenance of the de-trunked road will automatically transfer over to the Council's term contractor at the end of the defect correction period for routine safety inspections, gully emptying, verge cutting, lighting, etc. and will be to the standards set out for a 'B' Class road which is:*
 - i *Inspection regime for Section 58 (defect inspections) every three months and one walked inspection per year dependant on assessment to be completed prior to de-trunk.*
 - ii *Verge cutting will be classed as 'urban' and so should be every two to three weeks through the growing season.*
 - iii *Gully emptying will be done as and when required based on data collection.*
- *Landscape Maintenance – The Authority would look to cut the grass as mentioned above but we are also interested in exploring The Mere maintaining the area to the front of their access. Also as briefly discussed with the parish some time ago whether there is merit in further discussions on the parish taking responsibility of some areas which they would like to have a more manicured level applied. This may be best discussed once we can see the overall changes taking place through the spring and summer.*

The Council's response to Simon Skates reply is that the policy to wait and see what happens is too passive. Something needs to be done now before issues arise. Concern was raised that if there is an issue how long will it take to have something implemented to rectify the issue?

General opinion of the council is that we need something done now. Cllr Norcott proposed a letter in response to Simon Skates e-mail be written stating the council's concerns. Seconded by Cllr Duncalf. Cllr Patterson will draft a response which the Clerk will send.

JP/KJW

8 POLLUTION MONITORING – A556

An e-mail has been received from Cllr L Reynolds stating she has spoken with Phil Mason at Cheshire East Council regarding the pollution monitoring unit on the A556 and the Air Quality Management Area Order regarding the opening of the new road. The unit will be moved to another site, (possibly Junction 19, M6 end of the road) when the de trunking is started and should be completed before the end of the year. Pollution monitoring along the existing road via the diffusion tubes will continue for another year to check the effect before the AQM order designated on May 1st, 2008 can be lifted. New diffusion tubes are already in place along the new road to monitor the effect.

The meeting agreed to review this subject at the May council meeting.

9 **WINTERBOTTOM LANE/HOOGREEN LANE**

Cllr Hunter has received a response from Simon Wallace regarding Mere Parish Councils request that the three passing places identified at the site visit last year be included in the priority of capital expenditure.

Quote from Simon Wallace's reply is as follows: "The chippings will be placed down as part of a community scheme that I need to get confirmation. The next time we are doing any resurfacing works in the area we will look to use the chippings produced. As we have not done any resurfacing works over the winter period we have been unable to do this since the meeting but we will programme this in for the next time we are in the area."

Mere Parish Council's response to the above was that Swinyard Lane in High Legh is currently closed for what appears to be road works. Therefore contrary to Simon Wallace's statement resurfacing work has taken place in the area and yet no chippings have been placed in Winterbottom Lane! The Clerk was requested to reply to Cllr Hunter with this information and copy Simon Wallace in too.

KJW

10 **BONFIRE EVENT – 4TH NOVEMBER 2017**

The Mere and Tabley Community Centre has now been booked.

*Lightech Sound and Light have also been booked and they have forwarded an initial estimate of £2350 **excluding** VAT. This is £460 more than we paid last year and considered by the council to be a large increase.*

The Clerk was asked to speak with Mr Stott and asking if he will contact Lightech on the Council's behalf to try and negotiate a lower fee.

KJW

11 **TATTON PARK TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT**

An e-mail dated the 29th December had been sent to Graham Jones stating that Mere Parish Council and the residents of Clamhunger Lane wish to have "Road Closed" signs placed at both ends of the Clamhunger Lane when events are being held at Tatton Park. No response has been received yet. It was agreed that if no response had been received by March then the Clerk will e-mail Graham Jones again asking for a response.

KJW

12 **HS2**

Message received from John Atkinson (Engagement Manager, Northwest Region) stating yes he does wish to meet the council.

The Clerk will ask him to attend the next Mere Parish Council meeting on the 20th March.

KJW

13 **MANCHESTER AIRPORT**

Wendy Sinfield had been invited to attend this evenings council meeting to explain the data sheets we received in December. However, she has replied stating there is very little to explain and instead suggested she attend a council meeting later in the year when the data for 2016 will be available.

Another e-mail has been received from Wendy Sinfield dated the 16th January 2017 stating that they are now working on the new data for 2016 and she will circulate it probably the end of February when she will look at a new date to visit Mere Parish Council.

If no correspondence has been received by the end of February the Clerk will send a reminder message to Wendy.

KJW

14 **KNUTSFORD CITIZEN ADVICE BUREAU**

It was agreed at the December Mere Parish Council meeting to donate £150 to the Knutsford Citizen Advice Bureau. A cheque will be made out this evening payable to Knutsford Town Council.

15 **ARCHIVE**

Mr Neil Stott has had framed the old map of Mere parish. The council agreed that the cost of framing should come out of the Archive Fund. The Clerk will request a copy of the invoice and arrange for a cheque to be made out to Mr Stott at the next Mere Parish Council meeting.

KJW

16 PLANNING APPLICATION DETAILS

There have been four new planning applications and two decision notices received since the last Mere Parish Council meeting. Details are recorded in the Planning Book.

17 RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICERS REPORT

- i The sum total in the cheque account at the beginning of this meeting is £4078.80
Of which £287.69 belongs to the Archive Fund.*
- ii The Clerk has asked Barclays Bank if they know who deposited £50 cash into the Mere Parish Council cheque account at the Hale branch. They replied stating that as it was a cash deposit there is no way of telling who deposited it.*

18 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

- i The Clerk for 79 hours worked during October, November and December 2016 £776.35 **Agreed**
Cheque made payable to
"Kathryn J Whitlow"
Cheque No: 100707*
- ii PAYE to be paid is £194.00 **Agreed**
Cheque made payable to
"HM Revenue and Customs Only 120PD003375"
Cheque No: 100708.*
- iii Invoice from Dominic Fenton for grass cutting during 2016 £1296.00 **Agreed**
Five verge cuttings and twelve cenotaph cuts.
Cheque made payable to
"Dominic Fenton"
Cheque No: 100709*
- iv Donation to the Knutsford Citizen Advice Bureau £150.00 **Agreed**
Cheque made payable to
"Knutsford Town Council"
Cheque No: 100710.*

*Cllr Patterson proposed that the above be paid. Seconded by Cllr Norcott.
All agreed.*

19 NEW BUSINESS

- i **Parish Maintenance** – The council agreed to ask Dominic Fenton to look after the grasscutting in Mere during 2017. However once the A556 has been de trunked we may need to review the areas which Dominic cuts. The Clerk will write to Dominic informing him the council wishes that he provides the grass cutting service for Mere in 2017.*

KJW

- ii **Northwest Air Ambulance Charity** – An e-mail has been received from Deb Millican asking for a donation towards the running cost of providing an Air Ambulance service in the North West.
The council decided not to give as it has already given money to the charity Knutsford Citizen Advice Bureau.*

- iii **Local Highways Service** – An e-mail has been received from Cllr David Brown, Deputy Leader of the Cheshire East Council asking for a questionnaire to be completed. The aim is to capture our views regarding the Highways Service. The decision was taken not to participate.

- iv **Buckingham Palace Garden Party 2017**
ChALC have been invited to send four representatives to the Royal Garden Party to be held on Tuesday 23rd May. Mere Parish Council agreed to nominate the Chairman, Cllr John Patterson.
The Clerk will forward the nomination before the closing date of the 30th January. **KJW**

- v **One You** – A new health and well-being initiative has been launched across Cheshire East called “One You Cheshire East”. It was agreed to place a poster on the notice board.

20 The date of the next Mere Parish Council meeting is Monday 20th March, 2017 starting at 7:30pm. Venue is The Mere, Chester Road, Mere.

21 **ITEMS INTRODUCED BY COUNILLORS**

- i Cllr Wright voiced concern about the drainage in Chapel Lane. He will let the Clerk know when he wishes it to be placed on the agenda.

The meeting closed at approximately 9:10pm.

Signed: Date: