

MERE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MERE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 25th JANUARY, 2016
AT 7.30PM, THE MERE

PRESENT

*Cllr J Duncalf
Cllr RBM Fawcett
Cllr J McGuire
Cllr D Norcott
Cllr J Patterson
Cllr B Reynolds
Cllr L Reynolds
Cllr J Wright*

APOLOGIES

*Mr Chris Burrows, Costain
Cllr O Hunter, Cheshire East Council*

ACTION

1 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the Mere PC meeting held on the 7th December 2015 were proposed by Cllr Norcott and seconded by Cllr Fawcett to be a true and correct record. All agreed.

2 **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

None declared.

3 **POLICE REPORT**

No police present at the meeting and no report had been forwarded to the Clerk.

4 **MATTERS ARISING**

i **Knutsford to Bowden By Pass**

Cllr Duncalf and Cllr Reynolds will represent Mere PC at the Costain Liaison Meeting to be held on the 29th February at 5:30pm.

Mr Burrows gave an update upon how the by-pass work is progressing.

The by-pass is due to open on the 31st March 2017.

ii **Mere Traffic Lights – Tidying The Area**

A reply has been received from Caroline Griffiths (Street Cleansing, Ansa Environmental Services Ltd) stating as follows;

“Please accept my apologies in the delay in getting back to you, I have been on two weeks leave. I understand that The Cleansing Team has been out and cleared the footpath by hand.”

Cllr Duncalf confirmed that the footpath has been cleared.

vi **Mere Parish Council Web Site**

*Cllr Patterson agreed to take over the responsibility of the council's web site.
The Clerk will forward relevant information to him.*

KJW

vii **HS2**

*George Osborne's secretary, Jane Robertson has responded to our letter stating that Mr Osborne has contacted HS2 and as soon as he receives a response he will send us a copy.
This item to be carried over to the next meeting.*

viii **M6**

*Cllr Norcott expressed concern regarding the work currently being carried out on the M6 between J19 and J20 and the fact that there are only two lanes currently being used. He is concerned about what plans the Highways have in place to prevent motorists getting off the motorway at J19 and gridlocking the roads in Mere.
Cllr McGuire suggested Mere PC write to the Highways and request a copy of their risk assessment.
Cllr Norcott proposed Mere PC write to the Highways England asking for details of a contingency plan for when the motorway comes to a standstill.
Seconded by Cllr L Reynolds.*

KJW

ix **Mereside Road/A50 Junction – Broken Bollard**

This was reported to Katie Henshall, Paul Millington and Cheshire East Highways and copied to Andy Wilson on the 28th December 2015. There has been no response and the bollard is still broken. The Clerk will chase this up.

KJW

5 **OPERATION SHIELD**

So far ten residents have informed the Clerk stating they wish to purchase a SelectaDNA kit. It was agreed that a reminder e-mail be sent out to everyone in the hope more residents will sign up for a kit.

KJW

6 **PLANNING APPLICATION DETAILS**

- i *There has been six new planning applications, two decision notices and one notice stating an application has been withdrawn received from Cheshire East Planning Department since the last Mere PC meeting.
Details are recorded in the Planning Book.*
- ii ***Planning Application for Mere Court Hotel*** – Cllr Wright raised concerns about the recent planning application.
- *The hotel is not on the main sewer system but has its own treatment plant which then goes into the water course. Will the present system be able to cope with the added number of people in the hotel?*
 - *Will there be adequate parking on the premises?*
- Cllr Hunter noted the above concerns.*

7 **RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICERS REPORT**

- i *The sum total in the cheque account at the beginning of this meeting is £4339.05
of which £530.20 belongs to the Archive Fund.*
- ii *The £54 outstanding bonfire ticket money has been paid into the account £0054.00*
- iii *To comply with the Financial Standing orders the Chairman and Deputy Chairman will check through the bank statements, invoices and cheque book at the end of the meeting.*

8 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

- i *The Clerk for 80 hours worked during October, November and December 2015* **£743.91 Agreed**
*Cheque made payable to
"KJ Whitlow"
Cheque No: 100674*
- ii *The PAYE amount is* **£186.00 Agreed**
*Cheque made payable to
"HM Revenue and Customs Only 120PD00337552 1609"
Cheque No: 100675*

*Cllr Wright proposed that the above invoices be paid. Seconded by Cllr Duncalf.
All agreed*

9 NEW BUSINESS

- i *Cllr Duncalf raised an issue regarding a damaged bollard at MereCrossroads. However, a fellow councillor reported it to have been repaired.*
- ii ***Buckingham Palace Garden Party** – The Chairman's name has been put forward to attend the Garden Party at Buckingham Palace on Thursday 19th May 2016. Successful nominations will be notified the week beginning 1st February.*
- iii ***Cheshire Constabulary Rural Crime Conferenced** – Monday 29th February 2016. Mere PC has been invited to send a representative to the conference which will be held at Willington Hall. Lunch will be provided. Names to be sent to the Clerk if wishing to attend.*
- iv ***Resignation** – The Chairman has received a letter of resignation from Cllr Bob Fawcett which has been accepted. It will take effect after the AGM in May. Fellow councillors expressed their regret to see Cllr Fawcett leave. The Chairman and fellow councillors thanked Cllr Fawcett for all the fourteen Years he has worked on the council and especially for representing Mere PC at the Manchester airport meetings.*

10 *The date of the next Mere Parish Council meeting is Monday 21st March 2016 starting at 7:30pm at The Mere, Chester Road, Mere*

11 ITEMS INTRODUCED BY COUNCILLORS

- i *Cllr McGuire has received an e-mail from Mr Alan Newness asking for the footpaths in areas where residents cannot clear themselves be cleared. He also wishes to enquire as to why a road sweeper has not been along Mereside Road, Clamhunger Lane, Warrington Road and The Circle? Mr Newness would also like to know how often the roads in Mere should be swept during the year? This issue will be included on the agenda for action to be taken at the March Mere PC meeting.*
- ii *Cllr McGuire has received a complaint from a resident regarding cars parked on the A50 as you approach MereCorner junction. This issue has been addressed in a previous council meeting and the police have been consulted. The result being that if anyone sees a car parked on the footpath, obstructing the path of for example a push chair or wheel chair then they are to report it to the police.*

- iii Cllr Hunter gave a brief report which included the fact that Tabley Church is trying to negotiate more parking spaces when the A556 is de trunked.
- iv Cllr Reynolds put the idea forward to ask the resident living at the house whose garden is behind the cenotaph, if he will be planting the laurel hedge all the way up to the Cenotaph? The reason being it would provide a better background for the cenotaph. Cllr Duncalf said she will send him an e-mail.
- v Cllr Patterson raised the point that the report he had sent out to councillors referring to Manchester Airport and which was to be discussed this evening had not been included on this evenings agenda.
It was agreed to include it at the next Mere PC meeting in March.
- vi Cllr Patterson raised the question does Mere PC wish to organise an event for the residents of Mere to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday this year?
After discussion it was suggested by Cllr Wright that we first enquire when the building work is likely to begin on the extension of Mere Parish Club and if it will still be possible to hold an event in the Club whilst work is being carried out? Cllr Duncalf is going to speak with Mr Greenway the Chairman of Mere Parish Club.
The idea of holding an event jointly with High Legh Parish Council was discussed.
Cllr Duncalf will mention it at the High Legh Parish Council meeting she will be attending.
- vii Mere Parish Council Notice Board – The Clerk asked if anything can be done to improve the noticeboard outside what was the Mere Post Office? It is currently overgrown with brambles which are obscuring any notices placed on the board.
Also water is getting inside and soaking the notices.
Cllr Duncalf will ask Mr Duncalf to have a look at it.
- viii Cllr McGuire raised the issue of an area of grass behind the BP garage which was raised at a meeting in 2015 and yet still has not been tidied. Cllr Duncalf will speak with Dominic Fenton.

The meeting closed at approximately 8:55pm

Signed: Date: