

**MERE PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE MERE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**HELD ON MONDAY 4<sup>th</sup> JULY, 2016**  
**AT 7.30PM, THE MERE**

**PRESENT**

*Cllr J Duncalf (In The Chair)*  
*Cllr D Norcott*  
*Cllr B Reynolds*  
*Cllr L Reynolds*  
*Cllr J McGuire*  
*Cllr J Wright*

**APOLOGIES**

*Cllr J Patterson*

*PC M Dawber*

*Mr C Burrows, Costain*

*One Member of the Public*

**ACTION**

**1 MINUTES**

*The minutes of the Mere PC meeting held on the 9<sup>th</sup> May 2016 were proposed by Cllr Norcott and seconded by Cllr Duncalf to be a true and correct record. All agreed.*

**2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

*None declared.*

**3 POLICE REPORT**

*PC Mike Dawber reported that there had been very little crime in Mere to report.*

*The council asked what can be done to prevent cars parking on the A50 near the*

*MereCorner junction when there is an event being held at The Mere? One resident had*

*On the 18<sup>th</sup> June had counted thirty cars parked on the A50. PC Dawber stated it is not a*

*police issue unless the cars are parked in a manner which is dangerous to other motorists.*

*In other words if they are parked within thirty two feet of the junction.*

*The Chairman thanked PC Dawber for attending the meeting. PC Dawber then left.*

**4 KNUTSFORD TO BOWDEN BY-PASS**

*Mr Burrows gave an update on the road development as follows:*

- *There are still flooding issues at Kennel Wood.*
- *On the 11<sup>th</sup> July Junction 7, M56 will be closed.*
- *The welly walk has been postponed to Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> October due to the recent wet weather.*
- *As a result of the recent accident on Chapel Road when a horse was hit by a car*  
*Costains are helping the British Horse Society with their campaign to make drivers*  
*aware of how to pass horses safely by handing out posters.*
- *The Costain Open Day will take place on the 18<sup>th</sup> November.*

*Cllr Norcott commented that a horse rider had voiced concern about the under pass at Tabley in respect to the height. Mr Burrows replied that they had built the underpass with advice from the British Horse Society. There will be a mounting block at each end to help riders re mount if they wish to walk their horse through.*

*Cllr Duncalf thanked Mr Burrows for attending the meeting. Mr Burrow then left the room.*

**5 MATTERS ARISING**

*All issues are listed in the agenda.*

6 **WINTERBOTTOM LANE/HOO GREEN LANE**

*The last response received from Simon Skates was dated the 27<sup>th</sup> June stating as follows:  
"I am sorry that you have still not been contacted by Cheshire East Highways and I have raised the matter to Paul Traynor, Head of Service with the hope that pressure can be put on the responding team to get in touch.*

*Paul has instigated an investigation into why a response has not yet been provided and I am hoping you will have at least an acknowledgement from those responsible in the next day or two. I will of course continue to chase this up for you. Once again apologies for the lack of response."*

*It was agreed that the Clerk will continue to follow this up.*

**KJW**

7 **KILTON INN – HEDGE OVER HANGING THE FOOTPATH**

*This item has been carried over from the previous meeting. Cllr Wright stated he thought the hedge had been cut back but was not certain. It was agreed to carry this issue over to the September council meeting.*

8 **MANCHESTER AIRPORT**

*As Cllr Patterson was not present it was agreed to carry this over to the next Mere PC meeting in September.*

9 **OPERATION SHIELD**

*Eleven cheques out of the seventeen expected have been received as payment for the SelectDNA kits. The Clerk is still waiting to receive a cheque from the following:  
A Al-Halali, Alan Butler, Ann Fitzgerald, David Kennerley, John McGuire and Mark Sewells.*

*It was agreed that the Clerk will send a reminder out to the above stating the 1<sup>st</sup> September is the deadline to send a cheque.*

*The Clerk will update the police with the information that we are still gathering payment.*

**KJW**

**KJW**

10 **MERECORNER JUNCTION – POT HOLE**

*It was reported that the pot hole has now been repaired.*

11 **CHESHIRE GATEWAY DEVELOPMENT**

*The Clerk has received an e-mail from Tatton Estate Management dated the 14<sup>th</sup> June asking for names of those attending the meeting that evening to discuss the Cheshire Gateway.*

*The Clerk replied to Tatton Estate stating that Mere Parish Council had never received an invite to attend a meeting! It would seem that not all the invites had been sent out which was an administration error on Tatton Estates behalf.*

*It has since been arranged that Cllr Patterson will attend a meeting on the 6<sup>th</sup> July, 6:30pm at the Knutsford Office.*

*Cllr Patterson to report back to the council at the September meeting.*

**JP**

12 **CASUAL VACANCY ON THE COUNCIL**

*A letter has been received from Rose Hignett, Electoral Services Officer stating she has not received in writing from ten electors requesting an election. This means Mere PC can now co-opt someone onto the council.*

*Cllr Duncalf welcomed Mrs Walker to the meeting who would like to be considered for co-opting on to the council. She lives in Clamhunger Lane.*

*Cllr Duncalf proposed that Mrs Walker be co-opted onto Mere Parish Council.*

*Cllr L Reynolds seconded. Everyone agreed.*

**13 RHS FLOWER SHOW. 20<sup>TH</sup> – 24<sup>TH</sup> JULY**

*Cllr Duncalf attended a meeting at Tatton Park on the 2<sup>nd</sup> June with the RHS Manager. Cllr Duncalf reported that everything sounded to be straight forward. They have a professional company to direct traffic in and out of the event so hopefully very little disruption will occur along the roads in Mere.*

**14 BONFIRE EVENT 2016**

*Cllr Duncalf reported she has spoken with Mr Greenway who has confirmed that Mere and Tabley Community Centre extension work will not affect our bonfire event.*

**15 FIELD OFF HULSE HEATH LANE**

*Cllr Wright commented that the owner of the field does have the right to put a shed up. He also commented that the shed is not suitable to house livestock and so it is assumed it will be used to store machinery or feed.*

**16 DE-TRUNKING A556**

*Mr Newness had forwarded an e-mail to Cllr Patterson which had originally been sent from Simon Skates. As a result Cllr Patterson has e-mailed Simon Skates asking that Mere PC be notified when Cheshire East Council is in a position to update Mere PC directly with developments so that the council have the chance to understand and scrutinise what is being proposed. Mr Skates replied as follows:*

*“I am hoping to have plans drawn up within the next couple of weeks and would like to have circulated them to parishes very soon thereafter. If you feel it would be of benefit I would be happy to attend a future parish meeting to go through the plans with explanations of the extent of provisions/restrictions we envisage necessary once the road is de-trunked”.*

*Cllr Norcott proposed that Mr Skates be asked to attend the next Mere PC meeting. Cllr L Reynolds seconded. Everyone agreed.*

**KJW**

**17 PLANNING APPLICATION DETAILS**

*There have been five new planning applications and one decision notice received since the last meeting plus one application has been withdrawn. Details are recorded in the Planning Book.*

**18 RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICERS REPORT**

*i The sum total in the cheque account at the beginning of this meeting is £3806.14  
Of which £530.20 belongs to the Archive Fund.*

*ii Paid into the account on the 7<sup>th</sup> June, VAT claimed back for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016 £0486.76*

*iii The accounts have been returned by the Internal Auditor. Their conclusion on the accounts are as follows:*

*“On the basis of the internal audit work carried out which was limited to the tests indicated above, in our view the council’s system of internal control is in place, adequate for the purpose intended and effective, subject to the recommendations reported in the action plan and they are as follows:*

**A) ISSUE** – *There is no evidence in the minutes that budgetary control information is provided to council during the year.*

**RECOMMENDATION** – *Actual expenditure as measured against the individual annual budget headings established at the start of the financial year should be reported regularly to council.*

**B) ISSUE** – The minutes note that a part of the year end bank balance relates to an Archive Fund. No earmarked reserves are identified in the supporting notes to the accounts.

**RECOMMENDATION** – Council should disclose the level of reserves earmarked as an archive fund in the supporting notes to the accounts.

- iv A message has been sent to all residents for whom we have an e-mail address for and a notice has been placed on the notice boards stating that the accounts may be inspected between the 13<sup>th</sup> June to the 22<sup>nd</sup> July.

**19 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

- i The Clerk for 85 hours worked in April, May and June 2016. £1020.64 Agreed  
This includes 29 hours back pay owing from the previous year.  
Cheque made payable to  
“Kathryn J Whitlow”  
Cheque No: 100685
  
- ii PAYE to be paid is £0255.00 Agreed  
Cheque made payable to  
“HM Revenue & Customs Only 120PD003375521612”  
Cheque No: 100686
  
- iii Invoice No: 9119 from Andy Blackburn for grass cutting at Tabley Church in April and May. This is an agreement which Mere PC have made with Tabley PC to occur annually £0116.00 Agreed  
Cheque made payable to  
“A & G Blackburn”  
Cheque No: 100687
  
- iv Invoice from JDH Business Services Ltd for carrying out the Internal Audit for the financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016. £0190.80 Agreed  
Cheque made payable to  
“JDH Business Services Ltd”  
Cheque No: 100688

The above invoices were proposed by Cllr Wright to be paid. Seconded by Cllr Duncalf. All agreed

**20 NEW BUSINESS**

- i **Mere Parish Council Website**  
At the Mere PC meeting held on the 25<sup>th</sup> January 2016 Cllr Patterson agreed to take over the responsibility of looking after the council website.  
The Clerk pointed out to the council that there is an urgency to get the web site updated due to the Transparency Code.  
The Clerk has spoken with Cllr Patterson suggesting we look into how much it will cost to pay a company to update the web site for us. To which he is in agreement provided the council also agrees.  
When this was put to the council it was agreed unanimously.  
The Clerk will make further enquiries and report back at the September meeting.  
The Clerk stated that she has now received working instructions from the people who currently provide the web site on how to update it. The Clerk will read through the instructions and work out if we can update the website ourselves and also if it will be cost effective for the Clerk to do it as opposed to a company.

**KJW**

ii **Town Ranger Services**

A letter from Knutsford Town Clerk asking if we wish to use the services of the Knutsford Town Ranger for such things as repainting gates, bins, clean road signs, remove weeds and trim trees etc.

It was agreed that the Clerk will enquire how much per hour we would be charged.

KJW

iii **Town and Parish Council Conference**

The next Town and Parish Council Conference takes place on the 19<sup>th</sup> July, 6 for 6:30pm at Sandbach Town Hall. No interest was shown.

iv **Tatton Park – Traffic Management** – Concern has been raised by residents about the amount of traffic entering Tatton Park on the weekend of the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> June. Traffic became grid locked on these two days along the roads in Mere and the surrounding area. Cllr Duncalf proposed a letter be sent to Tatton Park expressing our concern. It was also suggested that No Parking notices be placed along Clamhunger Lane. Seconded by Cllr Norcott. All agreed.

v **Advertising Hoarding For Cheshire Steam Fair**

We have received a copy of an e-mail sent from Howard Ormesher to Heather Clawson, Tatton Estate, voicing concern about the large sign at the end of Mereheath Lane advertising Cheshire Steam Fair. Heather Clawson has replied stating that she has contacted Richard Ashworth, Outdoor Events with Mr Ormesher's concerns and has asked for the sign at the end of Mereheath Lane to be removed.

vi **Bloodhound SSC Supersonic Car**

An email from Manchester Airport inviting Mere PC to attend an educational session. There is a choice of dates which are the 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> July. If anyone wishes to attend please let the clerk know.

vii **Scams Awareness Month**

Citizen's Advice and Trading Standards are running a National Scams Awareness Month starting Friday 1<sup>st</sup> July for the whole of the month. A notice will be placed on the Mere PC notice board.

21 The date of the next Mere PC meeting is Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September, 7:30pm at The Mere, Chester Road, Mere.

22 **ITEMS INTRODUCED BY COUNCILLORS**

i Cllr L Reynolds informed the council that the occupants of Malber, Chester Road have moved out. However, the hedge is overhanging onto the footpath. Mr Bidar Almozaffar will be asked to cut it back.

ii Cllr Norcott enquired when the next Mere PC newsletter is due to be published? Cllr Duncalf confirmed that it will be published in autumn. Cllr Norcott suggested putting something in the newsletter about raising money for Tabley And Mere Community Centre to help them complete the extension work. Cllr Duncalf will speak with Mr Alan Greenway the Club Chairman about it.

iii Cllr Wright commented that now there is no water stored at the High Legh Water tower, when the water pumps are off there is no water supply to his farm and surrounding properties. This will be placed on the next Mere PC meeting's agenda for discussion

iv The Clerk commented that the Cheshire Black and White railings surrounding the field belong to Mr Harlow at the end of Clamhunger Lane, is very overgrown with shrubs which have been planted on the inside of the railings. Mr Harlow is to be made aware of this and asked to trim the shrubs back.

The meeting closed at approximately 9pm.

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