

MERE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MERE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 29TH JANUARY, 2018
AT 7.30PM, THE MERE

PRESENT

Cllr J Duncalf
Cllr J McGuire
Cllr J Patterson (In The Chair)
Cllr B Reynolds
Cllr D Walker
Cllr J Wright

APOLOGIES

Cllr D Norcott
Cllr L Reynolds

One member of the public

ACTIONS

1 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 4th December were proposed by Cllr Duncalf and seconded by Cllr B Reynolds to be a true and correct record.
All agreed.

2 **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

Cllr Wright declared an interest regarding item 4, HS2.

3 **MATTERS ARISING**

It was agreed that all matters arising from the previous meetings minutes are covered on the agenda.

4 **POLICE REPORT**

An e-mail from PCSO Emma Darroch stating that due to her shift she is unable to attend this evenings meeting. However she has asked her colleague to attend if he is not committed with other operational duties.

There were no police present but the meeting was informed that there has been a recent burglary at a house on Warrington Road, Mere on the 10th January and also a theft from a motor vehicle on Chester Road.

5 **KNUTSFORD TO BOWDEN BY-PASS**

As promised at the previous Mere PC meeting Chris Burrows has forwarded a contact e-mail address and telephone number if we wish to contact Highways England Customer Contact Centre which is as follows:

Tel: 0300 123 5000

E-mail: info@highwaysengland.co.uk

He also forwarded a contact number and web site address for Cheshire East Council if we wish to report anything concerning roads they are responsible for.

Tel: 03000 123 5020

Website: <https://www.cheshireeasthighways.org/report-it-general.aspx>

The council agreed it was not necessary to include the new by-pass on future Mere Parish Council agendas unless of course there is a specific request.

6 **B5569**

At the previous meeting Chris Burrows agreed to ask the BP Garage at Bucklowhill to clear the area behind the garage of litter etc. He also stated that if the garage were unwilling to do so then he would sort an alternative method to clear the area.

CB

Cllr McGuire reported that the area has not been cleared. He also listed other areas needing attention.

It was proposed by Cllr Patterson that the council write to Paul Hampson asking why this has not been done. Seconded by Cllr McGuire. All agreed

KJW

Traffic Calming – A letter has been sent to Rob Welch, Design Team Leader, Cheshire East Highways, as agreed at the December council meeting and a reply received dated the 9th January. The general message was if we have concerns relating to speeding then it should be directed to Cheshire Constabulary as it is their responsibility to ensure current speed restrictions are being adhered to. Mere PC agreed to wait a while and see how the situation progresses before any action is taken.

Both the Clerk and Cllr McGuire had sent an e-mail to Simon Skates asking him to attend this evenings meeting to give an update on the actions he agreed to at the December council meeting. No reply has been received.

It was agreed that Cllr McGuire and the Clerk together will complete a check list of work to be completed and forward it to Simon Skates and copy to Paul Hampson (Highways England) and at the same time ask for a time scale as to when the work will be done.

KJW/JM

Cllr Duncalf proposed that Mr Simon Skates be invited to attend future Mere Parish Council meetings until the council is happy with the B5569. Seconded by Cllr Patterson.

KJW

Cllr Duncalf mentioned on behalf of Cllr Norcott that there is a barrier on the A50 in need of repair and also that rats have been reported on the roundabout by the Kilton Inn. The council agreed that this is something which David himself can report on the Cheshire East web site.

7 **HS2**

At the previous meeting Cllr Norcott asked that the idea of hiring a coach to take councillors and residents to see HS2 at Birmingham be discussed this evening.

As Cllr Norcott has sent his apologies this evening it was agreed to carry this over to the next meeting.

8 **WINTERBOTTOM LANE/HOO GREEN LANE**

Three e-mails have been sent to Simon Wallace dated the 16th November 2017, 19th December 2017 and the 20th January 2018 asking when the chippings will be delivered and also requesting the following signs be placed at the start of Winterbottom Lane.

“No Through Road” and “ No Passing Places”.

There has been no response.

Cllr Wright proposed that the Clerk write again and also copy in Cllr Olivia Hunter the Cheshire East Councillor. Seconded by Cllr Duncalf.

KJW

9 **MOSS LANE**

A reply has been received from Sarah Carden, Director at Meller Speakman stating as follows:

“**Mere Estate – Overhanding Trees.** I write with regards to your letter dated 20th December and wish to inform you that we are currently in the process of arranging to visit the site with one of the estates contractors. Once we know the outcome of the visit we will be in touch to confirm how we intend to proceed with the issue.”

The council agreed to carry this over to the next Mere PC meeting.

10 **MERE PARISH COUNCIL WEB SITE**

The site is now live. A letter informing all residents in Mere of the web site will be sent out soon. The Clerk will ask the web site provider for stats as to how many people visit the site.

KJW

11 PLANNING APPLICATION DETAILS

There have been four new planning applications since the last Mere PC meeting. The details are recorded in the Planning Book.

12 RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICERS REPORT

- i The sum total in the cheque account at the beginning of this meeting is £2978.07 of which £170.43 belongs to the Archive Fund.*
- ii The Clerk is progressing with the Standing Orders.*
- iii To comply with the current Financial Standing Order the accounts need to be checked this evening. This will be carried out by Cllr Duncalf and Cllr Walker.*

13 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

- i The Clerk for 78 hours worked during October, November and December 2017 £741.48 Agreed
Cheque made payable to
"Kathryn J Whitlow"
Cheque No: 100747*
- ii PAYE to be paid in relation to the Clerks wage is £268.90 Agreed
Cheque made payable to
"HM Revenue and Customs Only – 120PD00337552"
Cheque No: 100748*
- iii Invoice from Dominic Fenton for 5 verge cuts and 12 cuts around the £1176.00 Agreed
Cenotaph. This last year there has been a reduced area at Mere lights and the
Buklowhill lights but more cuts between Hulseheath Lane and Mere light
Cheque made payable to
"Dominic M Fenton"
Cheque No: 100749*

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

Ground Maintenance - *The council agreed to ask Dominic Fenton to carry out the parish maintenance in Mere this year. However now that the by-pass and the B5569 work has been completed we need to review the areas which Dominic looks after. The Clerk will inform Dominic that the council wishes him to carry out the parish maintenance but not to commence work this year until the council has reviewed the job list.*

KJW

The Mere Parish Councillors between now and the next meeting in March to have a think about areas to be maintained in Mere and a final list will be put together at the next meeting.

14 NEW BUSINESS

- i **Citizens Advice Bureaux** – A letter from Knutsford Town Clerk asking if Mere PC will contribute towards the cost of the Citizens Advice Bureaux service in Knutsford?
A contribution was made last year as a one off. Therefore it was agreed not to give a donation this year.
The Clerk will respond.*

KJW

- ii **Best Kept Village Competition** – The decision was made not to enter.
- iii **Two Metal Gates** – Cllr Duncalf stated that there are two metal gates either side of the AA box at Mere Corner. They were originally put up by Mere Estate to stop traffic cutting through. The gates are no longer necessary so the Clerk will write to Mere Estate asking for them to be removed KJW
- iv **The AA Box** – Cllr Duncalf commented that the AA Box has still not been refurbished as originally promised by the AA. The Clerk will follow this up. KJW
- v **Brain Tumours** – An e-mail from Wendy O'Brian, Communications Officer at Brain Tumour Research asking Mere PC to make people aware of brain tumours and to help raise funds for research into funding a cure. Noted by the council. No Action.
- vi **Manchester Airport** – An e-mail from Wendy Sinfield stating that they will be extending the use of Runway 2 by increasing opening hours for dual runway operations. There will be no new flight paths and this is not part of the airspace project.
Noted by the council. No action.

Manchester Airport Town/Parish Council meeting March 2018

An e-mail from Wendy Sinfield inviting two councillor to attend a meeting on the 6th March at the airport.

Cllr Patterson and Cllr Duncalf will attend. The Clerk will inform Wendy Sinfield. JP/JD/KJW

- vii **Royal Garden Party** – Cllr Duncalf's name has been put forward to be entered into the draw to attend the Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace on the 5th June 2018.
ChALC will notify the Clerk whose name was drawn in February.
- viii **Knutsford Neighbourhood Area Modification Consultation** – This will be available to view and comment on between the 17th January and the 28th February.
Notes by the council. No action.
- ix **Cheshire Back and White Railings, Chester Road** – An e-mail and photographs have been received from Mr Andrew Meehan, Gia Logis, Chester Road stating he has had to take a section of the Cheshire Railings down as it collapsed creating a serious safety concern. He has been informed that the railings belong to Mere PC and so asks the question what should be done to make them safe or have them replaced?
The council agreed that as the railings do not belong to Mere PC then Mr Meehan should negotiate with his neighbours as the railings continue on to the properties either side of him.
Cllr McGuire stated that the railings by the cenotaph are in need of repainting so who is responsible for this work?
Cllr B Reynolds suggested that although Mere PC does not own them and Cheshire East Council does wish to take responsibility for them, rather than let them deteriorate and become unsightly in such a prominent part of the parish Mere PC can paint them.
The council agreed

15 The date of the **next meeting** will be **Monday 26th March**, 7:30pm at The Mere.

16 ITEMS INTRODUCED BY COUNCILLORS

- i Cllr Wright wished it to be confirmed that his concerns referring to Bucklowhill Lane are to be included in the letter to Simon Skates as discussed earlier in the meeting. The Chairman confirmed yes his concerns will be included in the letter.*
- ii Cllr Wright on behalf of the council acknowledged that it had been a difficult time for the Clerk leading up to her Mother's death in December but despite which she has maintained the level of work as Clerk to the council.*
- iii Cllr Duncalf asked for the councillors to have a think between now and the next council meeting of ideas to make people aware of plastic pollution.*

The Chairman closed the meeting at approximately 8:55pm.

Signed: Date: