

MERE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MERE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 26TH MARCH, 2018
AT 7.30PM, THE MERE

PRESENT

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

APOLOGIES

Cllr O Hunter (CEC)

INVITED QUESTS

Mrs H Shaul
PCSO Emma Darroch

Two member of the public

ACTIONS

1 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 29th January were proposed by Cllr Duncalf and seconded by Cllr Walker to be a true and correct record. All agreed.

2 **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

Cllr Wright and Cllr Norcott declared an interest with regards to item 7 on the agenda HS2.

3 **MATTERS ARISING**

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

4 **POLICE REPORT**

PCSO Emma Darroch introduced herself to the council as the PCSO for Mere. She informed the council that there has been very little criminal activity in the parish. However, there had been a road traffic accident involving a cyclist and today there had been a burglary reported in Moss Lane.

***Speeding issue on Chester Road** – complaints have been received from residents about the excessive speed which cars are travelling along this stretch of road. PCSO Darroch has applied for a site code for this road. Once she has the code it will allow her to use the speed gun and enforce the speed limit.*

*Cllr McGuire asked that Emma's e-mail address be recorded in the minutes. See below:
Emma.Darroch@cheshire.pnn.police.uk*

The Chairman thanked PCSO Darroch for attending the meeting before she left to continue her shift.

5 **CREATING AN ANTI-PLASTIC CULTURE IN MERE**

The Chairman introduced Mrs Helen Shaul to the council who spoke about the importance of making people aware of the disastrous effect plastic is having upon our environment. Recycling is not enough. Currently 30% of plastics placed in recycling bins are recycled compared to 45% of other waste. The remainder goes into landfill or is incinerated.

Pickmere Parish Council is going to have a campaign to reduce the use of plastic and she asks Mere PC to support them.

Pickmere PC will set up a facebook page on which people can state their ideas to reduce the use of plastic. Pickmere PC target is for people to reduce the amount of plastic by at least one item per day.

Helen answered several questions and agreed to forward the clerk any literature she has to help promote the anti-plastic culture.

The Chairman thanked Helen for giving up her time to attend the meeting after which she then left the room.

The decision was taken that Mere PC could place items on its website as a way of supporting Pickmere Parish Council's campaign.

6 **B5569**

Mr Simon Skates and Paul Hampson had been invited to attend this meeting. However no response has been received to confirm their attendance or give their apologies.

BP Garage, Buckowhill - A letter was sent to Paul Hampson and Simon Skates dated the 11th February referring to the untidy land behind the garage. A reply has been received from Paul Hampson in which he states in the last paragraph as follows:

“As the land is in private ownership and I am unable to provide any assistance in regards to your complaint. We have no powers to compel a land owner to tidy their land for aesthetic reasons. The condition of the land is not presenting a safety risk to road users.”

The council was disappointed in the above response especially as it had been Costains who had promised that something would be done. It was agreed not to pursue this matter any further.

Snagging List – List of items in need of attention on the B5569.

A letter was sent to Simon Skates and Paul Hampson on the 11th February but despite several reminders no response has been received from either.

Cllr Norcott proposed that Mere PC write to Cllr Rachel Bailey the Leader of Cheshire East Council, and send a copy to Simon Skates and Paul Hampson, stating how disappointed Mere PC is with the lack of response from Simon Skates and Paul Hampson.

Seconded by Cllr Reynolds.

KJW

7 **HS2**

Cllr Norcott suggested that sometime in the future Mere PC could organise for a number of Councillors and residents to visit a town/village which has already been effected by the new Rail line to see how it has affected the area. In the meantime we could write to a town/village currently affected by the railway and ask for any advice they can give from the experiences they have encountered. Cllr Wright will provide a place name for the Clerk to contact.

An e-mail has been received from Christopher Triffitt, Treasurer of Mid Cheshire Against HS2 asking for a donation to Mid Cheshire Against HS2.

The decision was made not to contribute.

JW/KJW

8 **WINTERBOTTOM LANE/HOO GREEN LANE**

Still no response has been received from Simon Wallace as to when the chippings will be delivered to Winterbottom Lane. Cllr Hunter has also been chasing the issue up and in her last conversation with Simon Wallace he stated that it was the contractor and not Highways who are holding the job up. He will however push the contractor to have the chippings delivered. The meeting agreed that this is not acceptable as the chippings have now been promised since the beginning of 2017. Cllr Wright proposed that a letter be sent to the leader of Cheshire East Council informing her that Mere PC is very unsatisfied with the whole situation and especially the lack of response from Cheshire East Council to our letters. Seconded by Cllr Patterson. All agreed.

KJW

9 **MOSS LANE**

Carried over from the previous Mere PC meeting. We are still waiting further response from Meller Speakman as to how they will be approaching the issue of overhanging branches along Moss Lane. However, it has been noticed that some branches have recently been cut back. Cllr Norcott commented that he spoke to someone who is employed by Mere Estate to inspect the trees and was told that they will be writing a report on the condition of all the trees on the estate.

10 **MERE PARISH COUNCIL WEB SITE**

There has been an issue with the website in that when you clicked on the title headings the drop down list could not be accessed. The Clerk reported it on the 14th March and it was fixed by the following day.

The facility to see how many people visit the web site has been requested but is not available yet. The Clerk will follow this up.

KJW

11 **PARISH MAINTENANCE**

The list of areas for Dominic Fenton to mow was discussed and revised.

The Clerk will forward the revised version to Dominic.

KJW

12 **METAL GATES TO BE REMOVED AT MERECORNER JUNCTION**

A letter was sent to Meller Speakman on the 17th February asking for the two metal gates either side of the AA box at Mercorner junction to be removed. A reply has been received dated 16th March from Meller Speakman stating that they will be arranging for a contractor to look into the issue of the gates and will report back to us.

As no further response has been received it was agreed to carry this issue over to the next meeting.

13 **AA BOX 372**

An e-mail was sent to Ian Crowder reminding him that in June 2017 he stated the AA Box refurbishment work would begin shortly. It is now March 2018 and nothing has happened! No reply has been received however Cllr Duncalf reported that it has now been painted and looks much better. Cllr Duncalf with the help of a friend volunteered to tidy the area around the AA Box and plant bulbs. The Chairman thanked Cllr Duncalf.

JD

14 **MANCHESTER AIRPORT**

Meeting at the airport held on the 6th March. This was attended by Cllr Duncalf who has sent a report out to the Mere Parish Councillors.

Manchester Airport Consultative Committee

A letter from Michael Flynn, Secretary of the Airport Consultative Committee asking if Mere PC would be interested in taking a place on the Committee?

Although the deadline to respond is the 23rd March Mere PC has been given extra time.

No volunteers came forward so the Clerk will let Mr Flynn know.

KJW

15 CHESHIRE BLACK AND WHITE RAILINGS BEHIND THE CENOTAPH

It was agreed to paint the railings behind the cenotaph. The councillors to look for company names/contact numbers who can then be requested to provide a quote. Carry this over to the next Mere PC meeting.

16 PLANNING APPLICATION DETAILS

There have been four new planning applications and five Decision Notices received since the last Mere Parish Council meeting. The 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 £791.69
Of which £170.43 belongs to the Archive Fund.*
- ii The Clerk presented to the council a copy of the Mere PC Financial Regulations. Cllr Patterson proposed they be accepted by the council. Seconded by Cllr Duncalf. All agreed.*
- iii Notification has been received from Shire Pay Service (Pay Roll Provider) notifying the Council of their service charges for the coming year and have also included a copy of their standard payroll terms and conditions.
The payroll charges will remain unchanged for the 2018/19 Financial Year.*

18 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

- i Invoice from Shire Pay Service for the fourth quarter 2017-18 £25.50 Agreed
Cheque made payable to
"Shires Pay Services Limited"
Cheque No: 100750*
- ii The CHALC Affiliation fee for 2018-19 £179.64 Agreed
Cheque made payable to
"Cheshire Association Of Local Councils"
Cheque No: 100751*
- iii The Clerk for stamps used to post the letter out to Mere residents informing them £150.80 Agreed
of the new web site address.
Cheque made payable to
"Kathryn J Whitlow"
Cheque No: 100752*

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

19 NEW BUSINESS

- i **Air Monitoring In Mere**
The air monitoring equipment on Chester Road has now been removed.
Cheshire East Quality Workshop - an e-mail from Cheshire East Council and information bulletin relating to air quality workshops. Anyone may attend.
Cllr Linda Reynolds has the Air Quality certificate for Mere which she will forward to the Clerk. **LR***

- ii **North West Air Ambulance Charity**
An e-mail from Debra Millican asking for a donation. After discussion Mere PC agreed no action be taken on this occasion. The Clerk will inform Debra Millican. **KJW***

- iii **Cheshire East's Sustainable Modes Of Travel To School Strategy** – The consultation is open until 5pm Thursday 29th March. Mere PC agreed no action be taken.
- iv **Changes to Bus Services – Cheshire East as of 1st April 2018** – A notice will be displayed on the notice board.
- v **Cheshire East Council – Proposal To Charge For Bins** – An e-mail stating that residents can have an opportunity to comment on the proposal to bring in charges for new or replacement bins.

20 The date of the next Mere PC meeting is the 14th May starting at 7:30pm with the AGM to be followed by the parish council meeting.

21 ITEMS INTRODUCED BY COUNCILLORS

- i Cllr Norcott stated that the grids on the A50 are blocked which is resulting in flooding.
- ii Cllr Norcott stated that the condition of Hulse Heath Lane needs looking into as holes are appearing in the surface.
- iii Cllr Wright commented that the junction of Hulse Heath Lane with Barn View Lane, requires the white lines to be painted. It was agreed that this issue is covered within the letter about the outstanding issued in the B5569 snagging list letter.
- iv Cllr Duncalf informed the council that she and a friend will be litter picking on the B5569 from MereCorner junction towards Tabley.

The Chairman closed the meeting at approximately 10pm.

Chairman: Signed: