

MERE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MERE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 14TH MAY, 2018
AT 7.45PM, THE MERE

PRESENT

*Cllr J Duncalf
Cllr J McGuire
Cllr D Norcott
Cllr J Patterson
Cllr L Reynolds
Cllr D Walker (In the chair)
Cllr J Wright*

APOLOGIES

Cllr O Hunter (CEC)

*Mr S Skates, Cheshire East Council
Mr G Bessant, Gauntlet and Vulture Park
One member of the public*

ACTION

1 MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 26th March were proposed by Cllr Norcott and seconded by Cllr Reynolds to be a true and correct record. All agreed.

2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Cllr Wright and Cllr Norcott declared an interest with regards to item 9 on the agenda which is HS2.

3 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

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

**4 GAUNTLET BIRD OF PREY EAGLE AND VULTURE PARK, MANCHESTER ROAD
PLANNING APPLICATION NO: 18/0184M**

**Proposal: Rural Workers Dwelling Associated with the Gauntlet Birds of Prey Eagle
And Vulture Park**

Mr Graham Bessant, owner of the Gauntlet Bird of Prey Eagle and Vulture Park gave a presentation to the council about the work carried out at the park. He opened the park fourteen years ago and looks after and rare breeds. He also goes to schools with the aim of making the children aware of endangered species. The nature of his work sometimes means that he has to be on the premises twenty four hours a day to look after sick birds which is why he has submitted a planning application for a dwelling on the site.

The reason for Mr Bessant's visit this evening is to ask if the council will write to Cheshire East Planning supporting his application.

Once Mr Bessant had left the meeting the council agreed that in addition to our letter to Cheshire East Council stating we have no objection to the planning application we will submit another letter stating that we fully support the planning application and that we believe it will help Mr Bessant to carry out the excellent work in looking after the endangered birds.

KJW

5 CASUAL VACANCY – MERE PARISH COUNCIL

A vacancy has been created on Mere Parish Council as a result of Mr Reynolds resigning. The Clerk has informed Cheshire East Council and is currently waiting a reply confirming the correct form to be displayed on the notice boards and our web site.

6 **POLICE REPORT**

Although PCSO Emma Darroch has been invited to attend this meeting she was not present.

The Clerk has received an e-mail from PC Mike Dawber dated the 13th April stating he will no longer be working for Cheshire Constabulary as he has accepted a job offer of a two year secondment investigating national Freight/Cargo crime. He wishes to thank the parish councillors for all their support over the last fourteen years.

Mere PC was sorry to hear he was leaving the area and requested that the Clerk write a letter to Cheshire Constabulary stating what an excellent job PC Dawber had done and that he was an asset to Cheshire Constabulary.

KJW

7 **B5569**

Mr Simon Skates apologised for not responding to Mere PC letter dated the 11th February. He then proceeded to go through the snagging list put together by Mere Parish Council and Gave the following update.

ITEM ONE – Tree/hedge trimming, pathway clearing and road sweeping.

Simon stated that the problems of hedge trimmings being left in situ have been caused by the adjacent landowners who are responsible for the maintenance of the hedges and removal of the trimmings. They clearly failed in their duty for which Cheshire East Council have responded and now cleared their debris.

Cllr Reynolds asked about the hedge on her service road?

Mr Skates replied it is the responsibility of Highways England but that they are being “funny about it”. Mr Skates will look into this.

ITEM TWO – Hedgerow taken out between MereCorner and Mere Estate

This was to be replaced and to be acted upon by Costain and/or Cheshire East Council. Mr Skates commented that saplings have been planted along this length of road although there are now concerns that some of the plants are too close to the gas line buried beneath and may need to be removed.

Cllr Norcott commented that he does not consider the hedge to be planted thick enough.

Mr Skates stated he will have it looked into.

ITEM THREE – B5569 Traffic Calming Measurers

Mr Skates stated that he has tried to contact Cheshire Highways with a view to having car activated speed signs put up. Cheshire Police have also been contacted.

Mr Skates reported that Highways England are trying to get the necessary documentation so as to be able to enforce a 30mph speed limit. If they are successful in this then Cheshire Police have stated they will object as they believe the speed limit should be higher than 30mph.

Cheshire Highways have suggested a 40mph limit.

When the time comes for Cheshire East Council to take ownership of the road they will be carrying out a speed review.

Mr Skates concluded that before any speed limit can be enforced an order needs to be put in place. Mr Skates said he will keep Mere PC informed on this issue.

Cllr Reynolds raised concern about traffic mistaking the bridle/cycle way as part of the B5569 and thus thinking that it is a two lane carriage way. Cllr Reynolds suggested that signs be placed along the B5569 and opposite the Mere exit stating it is a single two-way carriage.

Mr Skates noted this and will see what he can do.

ITEM FOUR – Bridleway/Cycleway

Mr Skates confirmed that Costains have now swept the path twice and the surface is much better.

ITEM FIVE – Bunds

Mr Skates stated that the landscaping maintenance programme is under Highways England/Costain for the first two years from opening after which it will be Cheshire East Council's responsibility under their rural verge maintenance programme.

Highways England and Costain will be raising the none-growing areas with their sub-contractor. Concerns have been raised since Autumn 2017 regarding the extent of bare earth along the route of the bund and verges. It has been agreed that in order to ascertain the full extent of re-seeding that may be required the situation would be monitored through the first season of growth to allow full seed germination and therefore more clearly identify those areas needing further aftercare.

Mr Skates believes it is now quite clear and he will be addressing this in a meeting with Costain on the 18th May.

ITEM SIX – Improvement Budget

Mr Skates informed the council that there is an amount of money to spend and that it is divided into three lots. Lot One is for list of works in section one agreement.

Lot Two is for minor improvements post monitoring of the network. Lot Three is for on going maintenance however, this money is not available until Cheshire East Council takes ownership of the road.

ITEM SEVEN – Mere Corner/Bucklowhill Junction

Costain are to be approached with regards to areas left bare around the junction.

Cllr Norcott asked Mr Skates to look into flooding around the AA Box and grids overflowing on the A50.

ITEM EIGHT – Bucklowhill Lane Junction With Hulse Heath Lane and Bowden View Lane

Mr Skates confirmed that this will be looked at on Friday when he meets with Costain.

Mr Skates stated that he will be having monthly meetings to go through issues and he will circulate the minutes to the Clerk who will then forward them to Mere Parish Councillors.

The Chairman thanked Mr Skates for attending the meeting before he left the room.

8 B5569 – SPEEDING ISSUES

Mrs McNulty has submitted an e-mail to the Clerk asking why solar powered speed reducing signs cannot be placed at either end of the B5569 Chester Road?

It was agreed that the Clerk will inform Mrs McNulty that Mr Skates will be trying to have car activated speed signs put up. Also once Cheshire East Council takes ownership of the road they will be conducting a speed review.

KJW

9 HS2

Cllr Wright will look up the name of a parish council already affected by the high speed railway and pass it to the Clerk who will then write asking for any advice they can give.

ChALC have sent notice of the CPRE (Cheshire Campaign To Protect Rural England) AGM meeting to be held on Thursday 31st May at 7:30pm.

Cllr R Bailey will be talking about how HS2 will affect Cheshire.

JW/KJW

10 WINTERBOTTOM LANE

A letter has been sent to the Leader Of Cheshire East Council stating that Mere PC is not happy with the lack of response to our requests to improve the safety of Winterbottom Lane. In particular our request for chippings to be delivered and used to create passing places. No response has been received however, we have received an e-mail from Chris Hodgson, Senior Technician, Design Team stating that chippings are due shortly to be delivered to Winterbottom Lane. He states that he could arrange for them to be dropped off if we have a suitable site for them to be stored, so if necessary a local farmer can make use of the chippings. Alternatively if we prefer that they dig out the existing passing places before laying and compacting the chippings, to ensure the areas do not degrade quickly, then it will need to be programmed into a work schedule during the coming months.

Cllr Norcott informed the council that the chippings have now arrived and he has already started to level them out in the necessary areas.

11 Moss Lane

Meller Speakman have replied stating that works have been carried out on Moss Lane and they have a contractor to look at the issue of overhanging trees at Mere Hall. Apparently some of the trees are covered by preservation orders and so the contractor has put forward an application to Cheshire East Council. Once the work has been granted work will commence.

12 MERE PARISH COUNCIL WEB SITE

The facility to see how many people have visited the web site is now working. As of the 13th May the number was 837.

Cllr McGuire suggested that as the council does not have a newsletter anymore perhaps the Clerk could write an article for the website giving an update on what is happening in Mere?

13 METAL GATES TO BE REMOVED AT MERECORNER JUNCTION

An e-mail has been received dated 3rd May from Meller Speakman asking for confirmation that the gates in the photograph they provided are the gates which Mere PC wish to be removed? This has now been confirmed so hopefully the gates will be removed soon.

14 CHESHIRE BLACK AND WHITE RAILINGS

Cllr Reynolds has found a company called Sale Decorators M33 Services and will ask them for a written quote to paint the railings behind the cenotaph.

LR

We need at least two more quotes between now and the next Mere PC meeting in July.

15 MANCHESTER AIRPORT

Approximately thirty copies of Manchester Airport Departure Routes Information booklet have been sent to Mere PC. The document explains how the airport operates and provides some information about the number of aircraft and passengers currently flying from Manchester Airport.

16 PLANNING APPLICATION DETAILS

There have been three new planning applications and two Decision notices received since the last Mere PC meeting. The details are recorded in the planning book.

17 RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICERS REPORT

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|-----|---|----------|
| i | <i>The sum total in the cheque account at the beginning of this meeting is
Of which £170.43 belongs to the Archive Fund.</i> | £4744.01 |
| ii | <i>Paid into the account on the 1st April the sum of
Which is the half yearly precept.</i> | £3850.00 |
| iii | <i>Now that Cllr Deborah Walker is the new Chairman the cheque signatures
need to be changed. The Clerk will send the necessary forms to Cllr Walker
who is to be added as a cheque signature and also to Cllr Duncalf whose name
needs to be taken off the list of signatures.</i> | |
| iv | <i>The Mere PC accounts will be sent to the Internal Auditor (JDH Business Services)
after this meeting.</i> | |

18 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

- | | | | |
|-----|--|---------|---------------|
| i | <i>The Clerk for hours worked during January, February and March 2018
Cheque made payable to
"Kathryn J Whitlow"
Cheque No: 100753</i> | £737.21 | Agreed |
| ii | <i>PAYE payment
Cheque made payable to
"HM Revenue and Customs Only 120PD00337552
Cheque No: 100754</i> | £266.09 | Agreed |
| iii | <i>Invoice from Andy Blackburn for the agreed two grass cuts a year at
Tabley Church
Cheque made payable to
"A&G Blackburn"
Cheque No: 100755</i> | £116.00 | Agreed |
| iv | <i>Invoice from Shires Pay Services Limited for the first quarter pay roll service
2018-19 and also the yearly fee to act as Pensions Delegate.
Cheque made payable to
"Shires Pay Services Limited"
Cheque No: 100756</i> | £045.50 | Agreed |
| v | <i>The Clerk for the end of year expenses for year ending 31st March 2018
Cheque made payable to
"Kathryn J Whitlow"
Cheque No: 100757</i> | £437.99 | Agreed |
| vi | <i>Mere Parish Council insurance renewal
Cheque made payable to
"BHIB Ltd"
Cheque No: 100759</i> | £346.06 | Agreed |

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

19 **NEW BUSINESS**

- i **Air Quality**
The Clerk to write to Cheshire East Council asking for an update on the diffusion tube readings sited in the Air Quality Management Area in Mere. Also an update on the Air Quality Management Area now that the old A556 has been detrunked. **KJW**
- ii **Hulse Heath Lane**
The issue of a bad road surface had been discussed with Simon Skates earlier in the meeting when he stated that the issue will be looked into. **SK**
- iii **Flooding on the A50**
This also was discussed with Simon Skates earlier in the meeting and he agreed to look in to it. **SK**
- iv **RHS Flower Show 2018**
*Cllr Duncalf attended a meeting on the 11th May held at Tatton Park with the organisers of the RHS show.
The traffic control will be slightly different than in previous years.
Clamhunger Lane will not be shut but there will be signs directing traffic away from the lane.*
- v **M6 Junction 19 Improvements**
*Notification of two public information events which will take place on Thursday 3rd May and Wednesday 16th May at Mere and Over Tabley Community Club.
Cllr Patterson stated he had attended the meeting on the 3rd May and that Everything he heard sounded positive.*
- vi **GDPR and Data Protection Bill**
*Due to the new Data Protection Bill Mere PC will have to ask everyone on its e-mail list for their consent to allow Mere PC to contact them.
The Clerk is currently in correspondence with ChALC discussing on the best way to do this.*
- vii **Tatton Park**
An invitation has been received from Tatton Park inviting us to attend the Field To Fork Launch event on the 4th July. If anyone wishes to attend please let the Clerk know.
- viii **Mental Health Redesign**
An e-mail from Helen Davies, Scrutiny Officer, Cheshire East Council stating that the update event for Cheshire East Councillors and Town and Parish Councillors will take place on the 21st May, 2pm to 4pm in the Assembly Room, Macclesfield Town Hall.

20 The **date of the next** Pere PC meeting is the 2nd July at 7:30pm in The Mere, Chester Road.

21 ITEMS INTRODUCED BY COUNCILLORS

- i Cllr Norcott reported that the Mere PC noticeboard currently situated where the Mere Post Office was, needs to be taken down before work commences to build new houses there.
It was agreed that Cllr Norcott and Cllr Wright will sort this out.*

- ii Cllr Duncalf reported that the plant pots situated around the cenotaph have been stolen. The contents of the pots were left on the floor!
Cllr Duncalf stated that she may replace them with plastic ones.*

- iii Cllr Norcott commented that the flag pole could do with a wash.*

- iv Cllr Patterson stated that Jason Costello who lives at the house behind the Cenotaph regularly parks his car on the pavement. This means that a push chair or wheel chair cannot get past without getting onto the road.*

The meeting closed at approximately 9:55pm.

Signed:

Date: