

MERE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MERE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER, 2018
AT 7.30PM, THE MERE

PRESENT

Cllr J Duncalf
Cllr J McGuire
Cllr A Newnes
Cllr D Norcott
Cllr J Patterson
Cllr D Walker (In the chair)
Cllr J Wright

APOLOGIES

Cllr L Reynolds

Rt Hon Ester McVey
Ms Angela McPake
Mr Neil Stott
Four members of the public

ACTION

The meeting started with a minutes silence in remembrance of Walter Wright who had been a Mere Parish Councillor for thirty-two years before retiring in May 2011.

1 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 2nd July were proposed by Cllr Patterson and seconded by Cllr Norcott to be a true and correct record. All agreed.

2 **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

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

3 **MATTERS ARISING**

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

4 **POLICE REPORT**

There was no representative from the police and no report had been forwarded to the Clerk informing us of any incidents in Mere.

5 **B5569**

Mr Simon Skates was absent from the meeting even though two e-mails had been sent inviting him to attend this evening's meeting.

Since the last Mere PC meeting held on the 2nd July two e-mails have been received from Simon Skates. The details are as follows:

28th August – he gives apologies for the delay in providing an update on the signage work and states that the signage package will begin to be developed week commencing 3rd September. The following works are scheduled to be installed.

- No HGV signs at Reddy Lane and Millington roundabout heading north.
- Additional directional signage for 'lost' vehicles directing them to Altrincham placed at Millington roundabout directing south, Bucklowhill directing south and Mereheath junction directing onto the A50.
- Tatton Park signs at: B5569 approach to Mereside Road.

Further signage package will include the requested street names plates and other signage. Gateway feature works are on-going and will require final input from the parishes on agreed design and location. Mr Skates concludes by stating he will e-mail the mock-ups and indicative location plan for Mere PC to review by 7th September.

10th September – the e-mail offers apologies for not providing the information by the 7th September. Reason being he has been waiting for the designer to provide location plans and proposals for any additional road markings that may be included to compliment and reinforce the village gateway. Unfortunately the designer is on leave until the 18th September. Within the e-mail Mr Skates states the 30mph speed limit on the B5569 is now legal but he has held off instructing further work on the vehicle activated signs until such time as a decision is made on reviewing the speed limit with the intention of possibly raising it to 40mph.

Cllr Reynolds reported to Mr Skates on the 11th September a near head on collision along the B5569 and reminded him that Mere PC requested for 2-way signs to be installed along the road as it would seem many motorists are confusing the bridle/cycleway to be car lanes!

Mr Skates has not replied to the e-mail.

The Rt Hon Ester McVey was informed of Mere PC frustration with regards to the lack of response we receive from Mr Skates. The council has even written to Cllr Bailey, Head of Cheshire East Council voicing its frustration but even Cllr Bailey has not responded! The Rt Hon McVey asked for all recent correspondence from Mere PC to Simon Skates and Rachel Bailey to be forwarded to her.

KJW

It was agreed that the Clerk will reply to Mr Skates stating Mere PC has not changed its views on the speed limit to be enforced on the B5569 since we last spoke with him on the 2nd July, and that we support a 40mph speed limit. Also to be mentioned is the idea of making the road narrower at certain points to allow only one vehicle through. This would be a speed calming feature whereby one way only has priority.

KJW

With regards the 'gateway' feature the Clerk will reply to Mr Skates asking him to attend the October council meeting when the councillors can discuss the proposal with him. The Clerk is also to point out to Mr Skates that Bucklowhill does not exist and so there is no need for a gateway feature for Bucklowhill as illustrated in his e-mail.

KJW

6 HS2

Cllr Patterson and Cllr Norcott represented Mere PC at a meeting held on the 27th July at High Legh Village Hall. The meeting had been arranged by Stephen Cunningham who has since sent out the notes and presentation slides from the North Cheshire Implementation Advisory Group (IAG).

Cllr Norcott gave a brief report from the meeting.

An e-mail has been received from a resident of Mere expressing his concern that the threat of HS2 to the parish does not appear to be a main concern to the Mere Councillors. It was agreed that the council is waiting for the draft environment statement to be published. Once the council has a copy then a series of meetings or a forum will be arranged providing the opportunity for residents to exchange views, opinions and information etc.

As requested at a previous council meeting the Clerk wrote to two parish councils already effected by HS2. A reply has been received from Julie Barnes, Clerk for Hampton-in-Arden Parish Council.

7 MANCHESTER AIRPORT

A message has been received via the council web site from Gerard McLaughlin voicing concern about the increased aircraft noise over Mere. It was agreed that the Clerk will reply stating that Mere PC now has a representative on the airport consultative committee and that his concerns will be raised at the next consultative committee meeting.

Cllr Newnes will represent Mere PC at the Manchester Airport Update meeting tomorrow, September 6th – VIP reception and afternoon tea followed by a keynote presentation at 6.45pm until 7:45pm at Tabley Hall. This was arranged by Wendy Sinfield and attended by Cllr Walker.

AN

8 CHESHIRE BLACK AND WHITE RAILINGS – behind the cenotaph

The railings have been painted and look great. A thank you will be placed on the Mere PC website to the Residents Of Mere for organising and paying for the work.

KJW

9 BONFIRE EVENT – Sat 3rd November, 2018

Mr Stott confirmed that the Hog Roast and music man have been booked.

There will be no tickets printed. Entry on the night £7 and free for children under 5 years.

Mr Stott will place the advertising banner at the Mere and Tabley Community Centre entrance towards the end of September.

NS

Mr Stott will arrange for 12 x A4 advertising posters and 4 x A5 posters to be printed.

The extra insurance requested by Mere and Tabley Community Club to be taken out will be arranged by Mr Stott who will then invoice the council.

NS

Mr Stott stated that there are approximately 44 wands and 12 packs of sparklers left over from last year. The council gave Mr Stott permission to buy more if he felt it necessary. Details about who will be doing what on the night can be discussed and decided at the next council meeting in October.

The Clerk confirmed that Lightech Sound and Light have been booked to provide the firework display.

The Rt Hon McVey was invited to attend. Possibly open the event.

The Chairman thanked Mr Stott for organising the event.

10 TATTON PARK – FIELD TO FORK EVENT ON 4TH JULY

Mere Parish Council was not represented at this event.

11 WINTERBOTTOM LANE

Mere PC wrote to Cllr Bailey on the 23rd April expressing the councils disappointment and frustration over the fact that the chippings promised by Cheshire East Council late 2016, have still not arrived. Also the fact that the council is finding it difficult to make contact With Simon Wallace (The chippings have since arrived).

A reply has been received dated 6th August however, Mere PC does not accept the contents of the letter. Cllr Wright volunteered to draft a letter to Cllr Bailey which the Clerk will then type and send.

JW/KJW

12 PLANNING APPLICATION DETAILS

There have been six new planning applications and ten decision notices received since the last Mere PC meeting. The details are recorded in the Planning Book.

13 RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICERS REPORT

- i The sum total in the cheque account at the beginning of this meeting is £5844.14 of which £170.43 belongs to the Archive Fund.*
- ii The VAT has been claimed back from invoices paid in the financial year ending 31st March 2018 and paid into the councils account on the 15th June. £732.33*
- iii The half yearly precept was paid into the councils account on the 4th September £3850.00*
- iv A credit note for the value of £35 has been received from ChALC. It has been issued for the cancellation of a workshop invoice number 003664 dated 27th April.*
- v The Clerk has spoken with Barclays Bank and can now confirm that as of today the three authorised cheque signatures are Cllr Walker, Cllr Patterson and the Clerk, Kathryn Whitlow.*

14 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

- i Invoice from Shires Pay Services Limited for the second quarter of 2018-19
Pay roll service. £25.50 **Agreed**
Cheque made payable to
"Shires Pay Services Limited"
Cheque No: 100762

*Cllr Patterson proposed that the above invoice be paid. Seconded by
Cllr Duncalf*

15 NEW BUSINESS

- i **M56 SMART MOTORWAYS**
*Notification received from Tatton Estates Management about Highways Smart
Motorways Project on the M56.
A letter from Mike Bull, Regional Sponsor, North West, Smart Motorways Programme.
A letter from Highways England inviting a representative from Mere PC to attend
a stakeholder preview a head of the public events on Friday 21st September at
Manchester Airport Marriott, Hale Road, Hale Barnes, 11am to 12:30pm.
Cllr McGuire will represent Mere PC at this event.*

JM

- ii **BROKEN BARRIER ON THE A50 ROUNDABOUT**
*A resident has asked when will the barrier be mended? The resident also
comments that he thinks the diameter of the roundabout is too small and
suspects the camber is incorrect making the possibility of further incidents more
likely. The council agreed for the Clerk to write to Simon Skates at Cheshire East
Council and also to copy the letter to the Rt Hon McVey.
The Chairman also volunteered to meet up with Simon Skates to discuss the issue.*

KJW

- iii **TATTON PARK, ASHLEY ROAD ENTRANCE**
*Cllr Reynolds has forwarded an enquiry from a Mere resident asking if Mere PC will
support the idea of installing a pedestrian entrance to Tatton Park next to the
already existing Ashley Road car entrance?
After discussion it was agreed that as the gate would only benefit a small percentage
of Mere residents plus the added problem of people parking their car on
Mereside Road and then walking into the park, the council will not support the
idea of a pedestrian gateway. The Clerk will inform the resident of the councils
decision.*

KJW

- iv **DERELICT HOUSES IN MERE**
*Cllr Reynolds is concerned about derelict/unoccupied houses in Mere. In particular
The following:
Malber, Chester Road
Pin High, Chester Road
Fir Tree Cottage, Warrington Road
Moss View, Warrington Road
Melilia, Mereside Road
There is also another property next to Bow Cottage, Mereside Road which does not
appear to have a name and was built without planning permission. At the end of the
drive there are several cars, some of which are in a bad state of repair and it looks
as though someone is living in a converted garage.
The Clerk will contact Cheshire East Council and ask if they have a legal obligation to
do anything?*

KJW

- v **CHESHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS – ANNUAL MEETING**
*To be held on 25th October at Middlewich, Civic Hall, 7-9pm and refreshments at 6pm.
Cllr Walker will represent Mere PC.*

DW

- vi **CHESHIRE EAST PLANNING DOCUMENTS CONSULTATION 11TH SEP
TO 22ND OCT**

*Following the adoption of the Local Plan Strategy last year, Cheshire East Council is preparing a number of additional planning policy documents. They are being consulted on between 11th September and 22nd October.
If anyone wishes to attend let the Clerk know by the 21st October.*

16 The date of the next Mere PC meeting is **Monday 22nd October**, 7:30pm at The Mere, Chester Road, Mere.

17 ITEMS INTRODUCED BY COUNCILLORS

- i Cllr Newnes raised the issue of fireworks being let off within Mere at unsociable hours.
It was agreed that residents should report any such disturbances to the Environmental Health Department.
- ii Cllr Wright raised the point with the Rt Hon McVey that he feels Mere should remain in the Macclesfield Constituency as opposed to Altrincham.
The Rt Hon McVey replied that she more than anyone does not wish the boundary to Change.
- iii Cllr Norcott suggested a memorial of some description be dedicated to the late Walter Wright for all the work he did for the parish of Mere.
This item to be discussed at the next meeting.

The meeting closed at approximately 9:15pm.

Signed:

Date: