

MERE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MERE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 28TH JANUARY, 2019
AT 7.30PM, THE MERE

PRESENT

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

APOLOGIES

Gaynor Wainwright, Stakeholder and Communication Manager, Smart Motorways Programme
Dave West, Construction Manager, Smart Motorways Programme
Rachel Wilbraham, Planner, Tatton Properties
Paul Hennerley

ACTION

1 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on Monday 10th December were proposed by Cllr Newnes and seconded by Cllr Duncalf to be a true and correct record. All agreed.

2 **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

Cllr Wright and Cllr Norcott declared an interest regarding HS2 on the agenda.
Cllr Wright also declared an interest regarding the item to remember a past councillor.

3 **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES**

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

4 **POLICE REPORT**

PCSO Emma Darroch is not able to attend this evenings meeting as her shift finished at 4pm. However she will attend a Mere PC meeting in future when her shifts allow.

5 **M56 SMART MOTORWAY**

Gaynor Wainwright and Dave West gave an update on the M56 Smart Motorway.

- The main purpose of the scheme is to reduce traffic congestion. Whilst work is being carried out the aim is for as little disruption as possible.
- Three lanes will be maintained operational in both directions.
- Diversion routes will be sign posted via the motorway.
- Smart motorway will be between junctions 6 and 8 only.
- At present time it is not known when the work will start.
- Once it does commence it will last about 12 months.
- Gaynor Wainwright will be the councils main point of contact and she will keep us updated on progress.
- Mere PC will be given approximately 3 months' notice before the start date.

Having answered the councils questions Gaynor and Dave left the meeting.

6 **B5569**

Although PCSO Emma Darroch was not able to attend this meeting she is willing to discuss any issues we have on the two way signs another time.

A reply has been received from the Rt. Hon Esther McVey's secretary in response to Mere PC's letter sent to her and copied to Mr Simon Skates and Cllr Hunter as follows:

"Just to confirm Esther has gone back to Cheshire East Council on those specific issues you raised and asked for a timetable for them to be addressed. I will let you know once we have a response."

Cllr Norcott proposed that Mere write to Paul Hampson, Project Manager, Highways England asking how long does the Highways England guarantee last on the B5569? Seconded by Cllr Reynolds. All agreed.

Also mention to him that the flooding issue on the second service road off the B556 has not been resolved.

KJW

7 **A50**

Road Camber On Roundabout

We are still waiting a response from Mr Simon Skates, Cheshire East Council for an update on the safety issues raised relating to the road camber on the roundabout.

The Clerk will follow this up.

KJW

Speed Limit

Knutsford Town Council have replied no, they are not currently dealing with the issue of speeding motorists on the A50 out of Knutsford. However, Knutsford Councillor Stewart Gardiner does have concerns.

The Clerk has written to Cllr Gardiner (13th January 2019) and is currently waiting a reply. The Clerk to follow this up.

KJW

8 **MANCHESTER AIRPORT**

Mere PC has received three complimentary tickets from Manchester Airport to attend a concert at Bridgewater Hall on the 1st February. As agreed at a previous Mere PC meeting they were given to Mr Neil Stott as a thank you for all the work he puts into the Mere PC Bonfire event each year. Mr Stott has since responded thanking the council.

9 **HS2**

Mr Stephen Cunningham has agreed to attend the March Mere PC meeting on the 25th March. In preparation he has asked for a list of concerns Mere PC have to be sent to him beforehand.

They are:

- *Site compounds.*
- *The issues Mere PC raised in the HS2 response letter in December 2018.*
- *Local traffic issues during the construction.*

KJW

10 **WINTERBOTTOM LANE**

Carried over from the previous Mere PC meeting. Cllr Wright to draught a response to Cllr Bailey's letter dated the 6th August 2019.

JW/KJW

11 **DERELICT/UNOCCUPIED HOUSES IN MERE**

Mere PC is still waiting for a response to a letter dated the 28th December sent to Cheshire East Council, which also included a copy of a structural survey referring to the property called Malber, Chester Road. The Clerk will follow this up.

With regards to the other unoccupied properties in Mere a response has been received dated 31st December stating that our original enquiry was sent to Cheshire East Council Tax Department. However it has been forwarded to them again. The result being they have now replied, dated 23rd January stating it is Cheshire East Council policy to fully charge Council Tax for empty properties.

KJW

12 REMEMBERING A PAST MERE PARISH COUNCILLOR

Ideas were discussed. It was agreed that Cllr Duncalf will ask Mere Estate if we can plant a tree in the garden of the house behind the cenotaph.

JD

13 UNITED UTILITIES, MERESIDE ROAD

It was reported that the United Utilities work on Mereside Road was completed on the 11th December.

14 PARISH MAINTENANCE

The council agreed that Dominic Fenton be asked to carry out the parish maintenance work again in the parish for 2019.

In response to Dominic's request for the list of areas maintained to be updated, it was agreed to ask Domini to attend the next Mere PC meeting on the 25th March.

KJW

15 PLANNING APPLICATION DETAILS

There has been one new planning application and two Decision Notices received since the last Mere PC meeting. The details are recorded in the Planning Book.

16 RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICERS REPORT

i *The sum total in the cheque account at the beginning of this meeting is £3995.97
Of which £170.43 belongs to the Archive Fund.*

ii *The income from the Bonfire Event was paid into the Mere Parish Council cheque account on the 19th December. £2717.00*

iii *The accounts will be checked this evening by Cllr Walker and Cllr Patterson.*

17 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

i *The Clerk for 83 hours worked during October, November and December £786.26 **Agreed**
Cheque made payable to
"Kathryn J Whitlow"
Cheque No: 100777*

ii *PAYE £291.87 **Agreed**
Cheque made payable to
"HM Revenue and Customs Only – 120PD00337552"
Cheque No: 100778*

iii *Invoice from Dominic Fenton for verge cutting in 2018 £1296.00 **Agreed**
Includes 5 cuts at £180 each and 14 cuts at the cenotaph, £15 each
Cheque made payable to
"Dominic M Fenton"
Cheque No: 100779*

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

18 NEW BUSINESS

i **Knutsford Town Council** – *an email from Knutsford Town Council asking for a contribution towards the cost of funding a Citizens Advice Service in Knutsford. The decision was made that as Mere PC have not budgeted for this we will not be contributing. However we may consider it another year.*

KJW

19 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Monday 25th March, 7:30pm at The Mere Golf Resort and Spa.

20 ITEMS INTRODUCED BY COUNCILLORS

- i Cllr Duncalf raised an issue with the pedestrian/horse crossing at the entrance to Mere Hall. It is turning red at random times when no pedestrians/horses are crossing forcing traffic to stop for nothing

- ii Cllr Duncalf reported flooding in front of the lodge. It is thought that United Utilities have it in hand but not sure.

The meeting closed at approximately 8:55pm.

Signed: Date: