

MERE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MERE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 25TH MARCH, 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)

APOLOGIES

Cllr Wright

Mr Fenton

Two members of the public

ACTION

1 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on Monday 28th January were proposed by Cllr Reynolds and seconded by Cllr Duncalf to be a true and correct record.
All Agreed.

2 **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

Cllr Norcott declared an interest regarding HS2 on the agenda.

3 **MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

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

4 **POLICE REPORT**

PCSO Emma Darroch had been invited to attend or send a report. No correspondence has been received.

5 **HS2**

Mr Stephen Cunningham had been invited to attend this meeting and a list of questions had been sent to him prior to this meeting. However, despite confirmation he would be attending he was not present. The Clerk will enquire as to why and invite him to attend the May Mere PC meeting.

KJW

6 **PARISH MAINTENANCE**

Mr Fenton had been invited to this meeting to discuss the list of areas he is to mow now that the B5569 has been completed. After discussion it was agreed only a couple of changes are necessary to the maintenance schedule. This was proposed by Cllr Norcott and seconded by Cllr Duncalf. All agreed

The Clerk will send a revised maintenance schedule to Mr Fenton.

Mr Fenton then left the meeting.

KJW

7 **B5569**

An e-mail has been received from Esther McVey MP's secretary, attached to which the latest response from Cheshire East Council, signed by Chris Hindle, Head of Infrastructure, on the specific issues we raised. Although it does commit to resolving them it continues to be without timetable despite Esther making a specific request for dates.

The Clerk wrote to **Paul Hampson, Highways England** and received a reply dated 18th February in which he makes the following points:

- There is no guarantee for Highways England works to the detrunking of the B5569.
- The service road flooding problem has been for some time with historic flooding events reported before the de-trunking work started. It is understood that Highways England was not the Highways Authority for the service road and it did not form part of the de-trunking works. It is considered unlikely that the recent flooding is as a result of Highways England contractor works and would not be considered a defect under the contract.
- The B5569 has been handed over to Cheshire East Council by the Secretary of State. They are responsible for maintenance.

Meeting with the Head of Cheshire East Council – 25th March – A meeting took place today with Cllr Bailey and Simon Skates at Yew Tree Farm, Mere. Representatives from neighbouring councils also attended. Representing Mere Parish Council were Cllr Walker and Cllr Wright. Cllr Walker reported the following from the meeting:

- Regarding the issue of the broken kerbs along the B5569 and especially around the roundabouts, the Cheshire East Council is going back to the supplier as there may be a fault with them. Otherwise the reason for the broken kerbs was directed at bad driving. Mr Skates commented that the roundabouts had passed all the necessary test to ensure HGVs can get round.
- The bunds – Costains will maintain them up until November. Mr Skates is going to have a word with Costains about the bad state they are in.
- Two-way Signs - This is in hand.
- Lack of response from Cheshire East Council – Cllr Bailey stated this is being looked into and measures are to be introduced to help resolve the problem. It appears to be an issue of an unmanageable work load. Cllr Bailey will be meeting with Mr Skates in two to three weeks to see how he is progressing with his huge e-mail list.
- Speed Limit on B5569 – Mr Skates confirmed that the speed limit is to be reviewed.

8 A50

Road camber on the roundabout – Mere PC have written twice to Mr Skates asking for an update as to whether the designers have identified a safety issue with the road camber. He has not replied however, at the meeting earlier today he did state no safety issue has been recognised.

Speed Limit – A reply from the Knutsford councillor Cllr Gardiner dated the 17th February has been received stating he is trying to get the speed limit on the A50 reduced but so far has not had support from the police. He states he is happy to bring this issue up again at the local Cheshire East Council member's biannual meeting with the highways officers on the 14th March. Mere PC is currently waiting for an update from Cllr Gardiner.

KJW

9 M56 AND M6 SMART MOTORWAY

An e-mail from Hannah Chaplin dated 21st February informing Mere PC that the Secretary of State for Transport has proposed to make an order under Section 10 of the Highways Act 1980 relating to J19. The order will authorise Highway England to construct two new link roads running through the centre of the A556 roundabout over the M6 on a new bridge. This is part of the process of developing the preferred option for improving the junction that was announced in 2017. If there are no objections to the draft order then the scheme is proposed to start in March 2020.

E-mail from Gaynor Wainwright stating due to the delay of the M56 Junction 6 to 8 Smart Motorway she will not be forwarding us updates until the project re-commences.

10 WINTERBOTTOM LANE

A reply e-mail dated 28th February has been received from Cllr Bailey, Head of CEC. However, the council agreed to carry this item over to the next meeting when Cllr Wright will be present.

11 DERELICT/UNOCCUPIED HOUSES IN MERE

An e-mail dated 18th February referring to the property Malber has been received from Cheshire East Council. It states no site inspection has been carried out and it is not a Building Control matter. The gas supplier Cadence has been advised of the situation and they have confirmed that the gas supply has been capped and they will be attending the site to cut off the supply if they deem it necessary. It has also been confirmed by SP Energy networks that there is no electrical connection to the network.

Referring to the list of properties supplied to Cheshire East Council asking if council tax is being paid, an e-mail has been received from Stephen Griffiths, Council Tax Assistant dated 4th March. In it he states that all the properties we listed, except for Malber, are currently banded in the list as a council tax charge. Malber is removed from banding by the valuation officer. He also states that if a property is empty, it is subject to a 100% council tax. If a property is empty and unfurnished for over two years, it is subject to a 150% council tax charge. From 1st April 2019 this is increasing from 150% to 200% to encourage derelict properties to be brought back into use.

12 REMEMBERING A PAST MERE PARISH COUNCILLOR

Having established that the area around the cenotaph is not registered on the land registry it was agreed to plant a tree in remembrance of Cllr Wright behind the flag pole.

Cllr Duncalf has spoken with Mellor Speakman and Jason Costello and both give permission. The council agreed to leave it up to Cllr Duncalf and Jason Costello to decide which variety of tree.

13 MANCHESTER AIRPORT

An e-mail from Jonathan Challis, stating the six monthly council meetings for Trafford/ Stockport/Cheshire East Borough and Parish/Town Councils have now finished. He also provided some post-meeting information.

Cllr Walker gave a report from the meeting she had attended at the airport. The money from the fines given to aircraft still goes into the Community Fund.

14 PLANNING APPLICATION DETAILS

There have been two new planning applications and one Decision notice since the last Mere PC meeting. The details are recorded in the Planning Book.

15 RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICERS REPORT

- i The sum total in the cheque account at the beginning of this meeting is £1621.84 of which £170.43 belongs to the Archive Fund.
- ii The internal auditor for Mere PC accounts will be JDH Business Services. The accounts will be forwarded to them after the May meeting.
- iii The National Association of Local Councils have announced the new pay scales for Clerks to be implemented on the 1st April 2019. This means Mere PC Clerk is on SCP 20. The Clerks contract of Employment has been amended to show the new pay scale.
Cllr Reynolds proposed agreement for the salary change to be recognised in the Clerks contract of employment. Seconded by Cllr Duncalf. All agreed.
- iv Pay Roll Service for 2019/20 – An e-mail from Shire Pay Service stating the prices for the year coming and the payroll contract term and conditions. The only change is that due to the GDPR Legislation Shires Pay Services have had to employ further security and checks to their payroll procedures which have resulted in cost implications. Therefore from the 1st April 2019 Mere PC will have to pay £3 which is the fee for one employee.

16 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

- i Invoice from Andy Blackburn for mowing Tabley Church graveyard twice a year (this is a long standing agreement). £116.00 Agreed
Cheque made payable to
"A&G Blackburn"
Cheque No: 100780

- ii Invoice from Shires Pay Roll Services for the payroll service cost for the fourth quarter 2018/19 £25.50 Agreed
Cheque made payable to
"Shires Pay Services Limited"
Cheque No: 100781

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

17 NEW BUSINESS

- i **Pedestrian/Horse Crossing At Mere Corner** – There had been an issue with these lights reported at the last Mere PC meeting. Cllr Duncalf reported that they are now working fine.

- ii **Flooding In Front Of The Lodge** – The issue was reported to have been sorted out by United Utilities.

- iii **The RHS Flower Show 17th-21st July** – The annual liaison meeting will take place on Wednesday 29th May, 2pm in the Lord Egerton Apartment. Cllr Duncalf will represent Mere PC at this meeting.
The complaint made by Wendy Walsh last year about the traffic congestion along Mereside Road will be raised. JD

- iv **Tatton Park – Town and Parish Council Liaison Meeting 6th February** – Cllr Duncalf attended the meeting and has since forwarded a report to all the Mere Parish Councillors.

- v **Spatial Planning Update – February 2019** – A copy has been forwarded to all Mere Parish Councillors for their information.

18 The date of the next Mere PC meeting is Monday 13th May at The Mere starting at 7:30pm

19 ITEMS INTRODUCED BY COUNCILLORS

- i Cllr Norcott referred back to the A5569 and stated that there is a manhole in the road which is breaking up. He will report it himself to Mr Skates.

- ii Cllr Newness reported fencing at the end of the Mere which is looking dangerous. This item to be added to next meetings agenda.

- iii Cllr Duncalf reported several advertisements signs have appeared within the parish without permission. Cllr Norcott will remove them.

- iv Cllr Paterson announced that he will not be standing for re-election on to the councils at the May Election.
Cllr Walker on behalf of the council thanked John for all his hard work during the past 5 years. The council was sorry to see him leave.

The Closed the meeting at approximately 8:40pm.

Sign:

Date: