

MERE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MERE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER, 2019
AT 7:45PM, THE MERE

PRESENT

Cllr J Duncalf
Cllr R Finch
Cllr J McGuire
Cllr A Newnes
Cllr D Norcott
Cllr D Walker (In The Chair)
Cllr J Wright

APOLOGIES

Cllr L Reynolds
Mr S Skates CEC
PCSO E Darroch

Cllr Parkinson, High Legh Ward
Cllr D Bailey, Tabley Parish Council
Cllr H Gurney-Smith, Tabley Parish Council

ACTIONS

1 MINUTES

- i The minutes of the previous meeting held on Monday 8th July were proposed by Cllr Duncalf and seconded by Cllr Newnes to be a true and correct record. All agreed.
- ii The minutes of the Mere Parish Council Extra Ordinary meeting held on the 16th August were proposed by Cllr Newnes and seconded by Cllr Duncalf to be a true and correct record. All agreed.

2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

- i Cllr Norcott and Cllr Wright declared an interest regarding HS2 listed on the agenda.
- ii Cllr Walker and Cllr Finch declared an interest regarding Clamhunger Lane 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

PCSO Emma Darroch has informed the Clerk that her shift finishes at 4pm today and so will not be able to attend this meeting. Although requested a written report has not been submitted by PCSO Darroch.

Cllr Norcott will attend the Rural Watch meeting tomorrow evening at Mere and Tabley Community Club and will mention to the officers attending that Mere PC has not had a Police representative attend a council meeting for over a year.

DN

5 HS2

The Mere PC response to the HS2 Phase 2b_Design Refinement Consultation has been submitted and an acknowledgement receipt received dated 27th July.

The next IAG North meeting is to take place on Thursday 26th September, 10am to 11:30am at Mere and Tabley Community Club. Mere PC will be represented by Cllr Walker and Cllr Norcott.

DW/DN

6 **B5569**

In response to Mere PC's letter dated 12th June addressed to Cllr Corcoran, Cheshire East Council Leader, a reply has been received dated 9th July from Emily White in which she reports Simon Skates is no longer involved with the A556 project. Responsibility for the project has been passed onto Cheshire East Highways Team. If we wish to discuss this further or wish to arrange a meeting, to contact Matt Rodway, a Senior Engineer for Cheshire East Highways.

Cllr Walker did contact Mr Rodway with a list of issues only to be told he only deals with the A556 mitigation issues but, that Simon Skates still has responsibility for the B5569.

The list has been forwarded to Simon Skates who replied on the 14th August to Cllr Walker as follows:

Issue One – *The new road surface is wearing in areas.*

S Skates reply – *This will be investigated during the snagging inspection.*

Issue Two – *The speed limit and flashing signs which Mere PC were promised by Simon Skates have not materialised.*

S Skates reply - *The section of road between Bucklowhill and Mere junction is currently under a speed review as requested by the Parish. Once the findings are made available we will be in a better position to understand if Vehicle Activated signs are still required and for what they need to illustrate. Matt Rodway is managing this element of work and confirmed in a recent conversation that the report should be available shortly.*

Issue Three - *Pavement and hedges not cut making it impossible to walk in some areas along the footpaths.*

S Skates reply - *Hedges are generally the responsibility of the adjacent land owners.*

The hedges separating the service road are Cheshire Easts to maintain and I understand that these have been cut earlier in the year. I will check and make sure they are on the maintenance programme.

Issue Four - *Cycle way/Bridleway is in a terrible state.*

S Skates reply - *We will get the cycleway swept, verges cut and weed sprayed.*

Issue Five - *The bund looks dreadful and not what we were promised, also who is to maintain this?*

S Skates reply - *Costains are still under contract to maintain the bund and much of the landscaped areas around Bucklowhill and Mere and I raised serious concerns over this with them on Monday just. I have requested further landscape works to bring these areas up to standard.*

Issue Six - *Flooding issue in service area 2. Costains dug the drain and we were advised it was repaired, unfortunately this is not so.*

S Skates reply - *This was again raised on Monday and I understand Cheshire East Highways attended recently. Costain did complete extensive repairs to the existing drainage system and they currently believe that while coincidental in location, the issue is possibly something new. We, Costains and Cheshire East Council are investigating with a view to resolving as soon as possible.*

Issue Seven - *Mere PC was informed that monies were available to carry out repairs and maintenance etc.*

S Skates reply - *Highways England did provide a sum of money for additional maintenance requirements which will be used to fund some of the above mentioned work.*

The meeting requested the Clerk to contact Simon Skates and ask where we are with the above issues?

The most recent e-mail from S Skates received 9th September giving his apologies as he will not be able to attend this evenings meeting. He also states that Costains are due to start kerb remedial work from next week and that he has again mentioned to them about the condition of some of the verges.

The meeting agreed that the Clerk to question S Skates as to whether the kerbs are fit for purpose.

KJW

Matthew Walton, Senior Governance and Performance Officer at the Police and Crime Commissioner's Officer has responded on the 16th September to our enquiry as to what is the legal speed limit on the B5569.

He states that once the by-pass was completed the old A556 was de trunked and became the B5569 and the responsibility of the road passed to the local authority with a 30mph speed limit. He understands there was disagreement between Highways England and Cheshire East Council as the 30mph speed limit does not comply with the DFT Circular 1/13 or Cheshire East Councils Speed Management Strategy. That said, there is a Traffic Regulation Order in place that confirms a 30mph speed limit between Mere Lights to the Swan Inn, so this would be enforceable by Cheshire Constabulary. Mr Walton also states that he understands Cheshire East Council has committed to reviewing the speed limit on the B5569 and discussions with colleagues in the Constabulary suggest additional traffic calming measures that could be implemented by Cheshire East Council may be beneficial.

The Council requested the Clerk to ask Matt Walton why then have speeding tickets for travelling over 30mph been rescinded. Also CC in Jez Taylor, Chief Inspector for Macclesfield LPU.

KJW

7 A50

Cllr Parkinson sent a message to all neighbouring councils stating she has received a large number of complaints about the speed limit on roads around the local area of High Legh, Little Bollington, Agden, Mere, Tabley and the A50 leading into Knutsford. She feels it would be worth trying to push the speed issue forward again and campaign for a reassessment of the speed limit, with cameras installed in the worst areas.

A50/A5034 Junction – An e-mail from Barry Smith, Road Safety Engineer, Cheshire East Highways stating that if the proposed junction improvement is postponed then the funding will be allocated to another project.

Cllr Parkinson, Cllr Finch and Cllr Duncalf attended a site meeting on the 4th September. Mere Parish Council received an e-mail dated the 2nd September from Barry Smith in response to Mere PC e-mail dated 17th August in which Mere PC requested the junction improvement be put on hold. He states he has requested Cllr Parkinson's comments but if she agrees to put the current road safety proposals at the junction on hold the funding that has been allocated will be reallocated to the next high ranked site on the cluster list.

The A50/A5034 junction will then be reviewed again in the next financial year. With regards Mere PC request for a mini roundabout, highway engineering schemes are designed in accordance with the "Design Manual for Roads and Bridges" (DMRB) to ensure consistency throughout the country. The DMRB states "Mini-roundabouts must only be used on roads with a speed limit of 30mph or less." This being so a mini roundabout cannot be considered at this location.

Cllr Duncalf proposed that in view of the above information Mere PC should approve the junction improvement as originally put forward by Barry Smith. It is better than nothing.

Cllr Wright seconded and all present agreed.

KJW

Cllr Finch will speak to residents at Steadings Rise asking what they feel about the junction.

RF

8 **A556 By-Pass**

A response from Dianne Bate, Highways England dated 5th August offering apologies that the fence has not been repaired since February. They have recently moved to a new system, of dealing with such reports with the aim to improve their performance. They will inspect the fence within the next seven days and then programme a repair. Cllr Norcott reported that as of the 16th September the fence had not been repaired. The Clerk will write to Dianne Bate asking when it will be repaired and also is there a link we can use to contact Asset Delivery (their new system) direct?

KJW

9 **FENCING AT THE END OF THE MERE**

The Clerk has e-mailed Mr Johnson (Manager at The Mere) a second time to enquire if he has been successful in finding out who owns the land/fence at the end of the mere. However, no reply has been received. Cllr Parkinson volunteered to ask her partner for a contact name as he has been working in that area. She will then forward any information to the Clerk.

KP

10 **BOAT HOUSE – REF 19/00707E**

A response has been received from Mr Derek Ward, Enforcement Officer, Cheshire East Council stating that a retrospective planning application has been requested for the new boathouse by no later than the 6th October 2019.

11 **MANCHESTER AIRPORT**

Cllr Walker gave a report from the Focus Group meeting she attended at the airport on the 12th September which included the following points. The airport plans to modernise airspace around Manchester Airport. A process which will take more than two years. The first stage involves asking those affected by the airport to give views on the principles which the airport should consider when designing new flight paths. Cllr Walker encouraged everyone to go onto the Manchester Airport website and complete a questionnaire by the 6th October.

The Clerk to inform Mere Residents about the questionnaire by putting it on the Mere Parish Council website.

KJW

Cllr Wright proposed that Mere PC write to Wendy Sinfield at the airport informing her of the councils disappointment at the short notice given to respond to the questionnaire and also to stress that Mere PC requests that when they consider the design it is evenly Spread. Mere PC would be happy with a fair share but not 90% of the flight paths over Mere.

KJW

An e-mail has been received from Anika Begum, Research Administrator at YouGov thanking Mere PC for attending the meeting on the 12th September and taking part in the research of UK airspace. As a thank you they will donate £70 to a charity of our Choice. The council agreed that the charity be Cheshire East Hospice.

KJW

Manchester Airport Town/Parish Council meeting on the 17th September at 6pm. Cllr Duncalf and Cllr Newnes will represent Mere PC at this meeting.

Data sheets for 2018 – Wendy Sinfield has sent copies of the Data Sheets which were handed out to the councillors.

12 REMEMBERING A PAST COUNCILLOR

It was agreed that a small memorial stone with an inscribed plaque on the front be placed with the cherry tree planted in memory of Cllr Wright. The agreed inscription to be as follows:

*A Cherry Tree planted
In Memory Of
Cllr George Walter Wright
Died 27.08.2018
Mere Parish Councillor 21.06.1979 to 28.03.2001*

The Clerk to arrange this.

KJW

13 CHAPEL LANE FLOODING

Cllr Wright having seen how Costain's are trying to resolve the flooding issue does not believe it will be successful.

Cllr Parkinson said she will arrange a meeting with Andy Wilson, Cheshire East Highways, to discuss the new pipe system and convey our and residents' concerns.

KP

14 BONFIRE NIGHT – 2ND NOVEMBER 2019

The Clerk has written to Mere and Tabley Community Club to book the club for the 2nd November. As the Clerk has not been able to contact the club for confirmation that the booking is accepted Cllr Norcott will speak with Mr Long at the Club when he is next in.

DN

Mr Stott although unable to attend this evenings meeting has sent word stating he will print the posters and display the advertising banners once the council has agreed on the entry fee. He also confirms that he will be attending the next Mere PC meeting on the 21st October to finalise arrangements.

- *It was agreed that the entry fee stay the same as last year at £7 and children five years and under free.*
- *Bonfire to be lit at 6:30pm and the firework display at 7:15pm*
- *Esther McVey to be invited to light the fire.*
- *We need to check with Neil Stott how many of the LED toys are left over from last year and if another order has to be submitted for more.*
- *Cllr Norcott to build the bonfire.*
- *The Clerk to ask Cllr Reynolds if she can obtain raffle prizes from local companies as she did last year.*

15 AIR QUALITY IN MERE

The last correspondence the council had received from Cheshire East Council was on the 20th June 2018. It was from Martin Brown, Environmental Protection Officer. He concludes by saying; "With regards to the overall AQMA boundary, this may well reduce once we have assessed a full twelve months of data with the current tubes where they are now."

The Clerk was asked to contact Cheshire East Council asking for an update.

KJW

16 ADVERTISING POSTERS AROUND MERE

Cllr Finch reported that the number of event advertising posters is currently not as bad as it had been. Cllr Duncalf will raise the issue at the next Tatton meeting she attends as a lot of the posters refer to past events held at the park.

JD

17 AREA AROUND THE AA BOX

The area has now been tidied by Dominic Fenton.

18 FOOTPATH ACCESSIBILITY

Footpaths are very overgrown and hedges in need of cutting back with in Mere. Cllr Walker reported it is impossible for a push chair or wheel chair to use the footpath on the A50 between Clamhunger Lane and Mereside Road.

The Clerk will write to the owners of properties known as Saddle Barn, Millers Stone And Mere View Farm asking them to cut back any overgrowth coming from their property onto the footpaths.

KJW

19 PLANNING APPLICATION DETAILS

There have been six new planning applications since the last Mere PC meeting. Details are recorded in the Planning Book.

20 RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICERS REPORT

- i The sum total in the cheque account at the beginning of this meeting is £6528.70 of which £170.43 belongs to the Archive Fund.*

- ii Cheque No: 100785 which had been made payable to Cheshire Association Of Local Councils for the sum of £191.52 at the May Mere PC meeting has been stopped by the bank at the Clerk's request. The reason being Cheshire Association Of Local Councils has not received it. Another cheque to be written this evening.
The bank has charged £12.50 to stop the cheque.*

- iii The half yearly precept has been paid into Mere PC account on the 30th August. £3850.00*

- iv The Chairman is booked to attend the Chairmanship 1 course on the 18th September at Tarvin. The fee is £35 but as we have a credit note issued on the 5th July 2018 for £35, we do not have to pay anything.*

21 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

- i ChALC affiliation fee (to replace the stopped cheque mentioned earlier in the meeting, No: 100785). £191.52 Agreed
Cheque made payable to
"Cheshire Association Of Local Councils"
Cheque No: 100791*

- ii Payroll service cost for the second quarter. £34.50 Agreed
Cheque made payable to
"Shires Pay Service Limited"
Cheque No: 100792*

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

22 NEW BUSINESS

- i Clamhunger Lane – Speed Bumps**
Cllr Parkinson has spoken to Cheshire East Highways about the possibility of speed bumps to help reduce traffic speed. However she was told that there is no funding for speed bumps. Cllr Parkinson will contact Barry Smith, Cheshire East Council Road Safety Officer to enquire about speed bumps or any other way to reduce speed on Clamhunger Lane. **KP**
- ii M56 Junction 6-8 Upgrade Notice**
A letter from Claire Bond, Project Manager, Smart Motorways Programme informing Mere PC about advanced work which will be carried out from the 9th September to the 30th November between 9pm and 5am. They are removing bushes, grass and brambles in a number of areas between the junctions.
- iii Publication Draft Site Allocations and Development Policies Document**
A letter from Cheshire East Council stating they have published the Site Allocations And Development Policies Document for consultation.
- iv Strategic Planning Update from Cheshire East Council**
The latest edition of their strategic Planning update.

23The date of the next Mere PC meeting will be Monday 21st October, 7:45pm at The Mere Chester Road, Mere.

24 ITEMS INTRODUCED BY COUNCILLORS

- i** *Cllr Newnes wished to thank Cllr Parkinson for all her hard work trying to get something done about the dangerous state in which the property called Malber on Chester Road is in. Progress is finally being made.*

The meeting closed at approximately 9:40pm.

Signed: Date: