

MERE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MERE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 21ST OCTOBER 2019
AT 7:45PM, THE MERE

PRESENT

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

APOLOGIES

Cllr D Norcott

Cllr Parkinson, High Legh Ward
Mr N Stott

ACTIONS

1 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the previous Mere Parish Council meeting held on Monday 16th September were proposed by Cllr Duncalf and seconded by Cllr Finch to be a true and correct record. All agreed.

2 **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

- i 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 replied to the council's invite to attend this evenings meeting stating she cannot attend as she is not on a late shift today. She did however, promise to send a report the Saturday before this meeting to the Clerk. The Clerk reported no report had been received. As Cllr Norcott was not present to speak about the Rural Watch meeting he had attended on the 17th September this will be carried over to the next Mere PC meeting.

KJW

5 **HS2**

Cllr Walker gave a report from the IAG meeting which Cllr Norcott and herself had attended on the 26th September including the following points:

- The first thing people will see is deep ground surveys being carried out. It will look very like fracking.
- We the council are to be informed when this work will begin.
- Planning permission for the depot in Northwich has still not been granted yet.

Cllr Norcott was not present to comment and so this item will be carried over to the next meeting.

The next IAG meeting will be held on Monday 5th December, 7pm at Mere and Tabley Community Club. Cllr Walker will represent Mere PC.

DW

6 **B5569**

An e-mail from Simon Skates dated the 4th October giving an update on the issues of concern we have raised. As follows:

ISSUE ONE – The new road surface is wearing in areas.

Simon Skates reply - On going. Snagging inspection to take place the first week of November.

ISSUE TWO – Speed limit and flashing signs which were promised by Simon Skates.

Simon Skates reply – Speed limit review has now been received and is under consideration.

Further meeting to discuss the findings of the review will take place next week and I am hopeful we can share our considered view with the parish very soon thereafter.

ISSUE THREE – Pavement and hedges not cut making it impossible to walk in some areas.

Simon Skates reply – The hedges on the service road are now on the council's cyclical maintenance programme and should be attended to in line with the council's hedge and maintenance programme.

ISSUE FOUR – Cycle way in a terrible state.

Simon Skates reply – a request has been sent for these to be done prior to the snagging inspection as outlined above.

ISSUE FIVE - The bund looks dreadful and not what we were promised, also who is to maintain the bund?

Simon Skates reply – On going with repairs, reinstatement etc. to form part of the snagging works.

ISSUE SIX – Flooding in service area. Costains dug the drain and we were advised it was repaired. Unfortunately this is not so.

Simon Skates reply – Cheshire East Council confirmed that the issue was a blocked gully which has been cleansed and the issue should now be resolved. Please let me know if this is not the case.

It was agreed that the Clerk write to Simon Skates inviting him to our next council meeting or if more convenient suggest he meet with the Chairman at a convenient time and place. In the same letter the following points/questions to be raised:

KJW

- Mere Parish Council wish to know what the Cheshire East Council maintenance includes as the hedge on the B5569 has not been cut for at least four years?
- When will the single lane carriage way signs be put up at either end of the B5569 and opposite The Mere exit?
- The kerbs along the B5569 are full of weeds. Those that have not already crumbled and collapsed that is. This will hinder surface water draining off the road.
- With regards to the 'pot of money' set aside for the B5569, Mere Parish Council would not agree to it being used to correct errors made by Highways England.

Cllr Parkinson wrote to Simon Skates about the three 'pots' of money and received a reply dated the 24th September stating the amount in each pot and what the money is to be used for as follows:

Pot One = £255,00. For works identified within the second schedule of Section 1 Agreement. This involves the installation of gateway features, speed and weight limit reviews and minor lining works.

Pot Two = £170,000. For highway monitoring and minor improvement works in association with the opening of the new road. This includes additional road signage, Bucklowhill Lane/Hulseheath Lane minor localised road widening and a pedestrian crossing at High Legh.

Pot Three = £247,057. For the sole purpose of de-trunking maintenance purposes. This element has been secured so as to mitigate the councils on going budget pressure where we are taking on a new section of highway previously maintained by Highways England. Work areas to include verge maintenance, traffic signal maintenance at Mere Crossroads, non-motorised user route maintenance, street lighting, drainage maintenance etc.

Simon Skates states that Highways England have transferred the highway liability over to Cheshire East Council but are still responsible for the landscape maintenance until this November, whereby it will transfer over to Cheshire East Council. **Pots One and Two** are closely linked and some funding from **Pot One** will go into the other where there is crossover of works so we are able to complete as many requests by the parishes and local members as possible.

SPEED LIMIT - The Clerk has received a response from Chief Inspector Jez Taylor dated the 1st October in response to our question of why were speeding tickets rescinded. The response is as follows:

"I am assuming this will have been because this speed limit on this stretch of road appears not to comply with DFT Circular 1/13 or Cheshire East Council's speed Management Strategy"

The Clerk also received an e-mail from Matthew Walton stating he will ring to explain what the Chief Inspector's message means. However this has not happened so the Clerk will follow this up with Matthew Walton.

KJW

7 **A50/A5034 JUNCTION**

An e-mail has been received from Barry Smith, Road Safety Engineer, Cheshire East Highways dated 24th September thanking Mere PC for confirming its support for the proposed junction improvement. He confirms that he will now put together and obtain all the information required by the Construction Team and as soon as they provide a proposed date for the works he will update us.

Cllr Finch confirmed he has spoken with the residents at Steadings Rise and asked for the shrubs on the outside of the perimeter wall to be cut back as much as possible.

This they agreed to do.

8 **A556 BY-PASS**

The Clerk has contacted Highways England again about the broken fence as it has still not been mended. Highways England replied that they have on two occasions tried to locate the broken fence but were unsuccessful. The Clerk has forwarded Cllr Norcotts telephone number to them so they can speak to him directly as to the location of the broken fence.

As Cllr Norcott was not present to give an update as to whether the fence has now been mended, this item to be carried over to the next meeting.

With regards to reporting future incidents to Highways England their preferred method is for any issues to be reported to the 24 hour Customer Contact Centre by e-mail at info@highwaysengland.co.uk or telephone 0300 123 5000. We can also e-mail Dianne Bate on Area10ccc@highwaysengland.co.uk and she will ensure we receive a reply.

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

Cllr Parkinson informed the council that the Forestry Commission owns the land.

The Clerk to write to the Forestry Commission reporting that the state of the fence is in a dangerous state of repair.

KJW

10 **BOAT HOUSE – WATERWAYS**

A planning application has now been submitted. However, the council believes it should be a retrospective planning application as the boat house is already built!

11 MANCHESTER AIRPORT

Cllr Reynolds attended the recent Manchester Airport Consultation meeting and gave a report.

Cllr Newnes attend the Manchester Airport Town/Parish Council meeting held on the 17th September and gave a report.

The Clerk to invite Wendy Sinfield to the first Mere Parish Council meeting in the New Year to speak about the Airspace Change Project.

KJW

12 REMEMBERING A PAST COUNCILLOR

The arranging of a stone inscribed in memory of George Walter Wright to be placed in front of the cherry tree planted at MereCorner is progressing.

The Clerk will report to the council once it has been completed.

KJW

13 CHAPEL LANE – FLOODING

Cllr Wright suggested we wait until the current work is completed and then reassess to see if the problem has been resolved.

14 BONFIRE – NOVEMBER 2ND, 2019

The Rt Honourable Esther McVey has agreed to light the bonfire.

Mr Neil Stott confirmed that the food on the night will be hamburgers and hot dogs.

The music will be provided by the same person as last year and at the same price (£230).

LED Toys for the children – Neil has a few left over from last year’s bonfire event but he will need to purchase more for this year.

Neil Stott said he will ask the Knutsford Guardian to place an advert in the paper.

The Clerk confirmed that local councils have been informed and that the event is advertised on the Mere PC web site.

Raffle – the councillors to approach local business for raffle prizes and Cllr Duncalf will buy raffle prizes to the approximate value of £50.

Cllr Walker and Cllr Reynolds will decorate the Mere and Tabley Community Club in a Halloween theme.

Allocated jobs on the night are as follows:

<i>Car parking</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>Cllr John McGuire</i>
<i>Selling raffle tickets</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>Cllr Duncalf and the Clerk</i>
<i>Selling LED Toys</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>Cllr Newnes</i>
<i>Gate</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>Cllr Reynolds and Mr Reynolds</i>
<i>Building the bonfire</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>Cllr Norcott</i>

Mr Stott made the comment that this event is the only event held for the residents of Mere Through out the year. Perhaps the council should consider organising another event during 2020 as a way of bringing the residents together?

This item will be placed on the agenda to be discussed at the next meeting in December.

KJW

15 AIR QUALITY IN MERE

A reply has been received from Martin Brown, Environmental Protection Officer (Air Quality) dated the 30th September stating as follows:

“Since we last corresponded the results within the Mere AQMA have continued to be below the annual average objective. We are waiting to see if this year’s results follows the same trend with a view to potentially revoking the whole AQMA next year. This is also a suggestion Defra have made based on their comments on our most recent Annual Status Report.”

16 FOOTPATH ACCESSIBILITY

A response has been received from Ms Edwards who lives at Saddle Barn, Mereside Road confirming she has cleared her boundaries of surplus vegetation and branches.

No response has been received from Moss View Farm or Millers Stone.

17 CLAMHUNGER LANE – TRAFFIC CALMING

Cllr Parkinson has made enquiries with Cheshire East Council about the possibility of traffic calming measures on Clamhunger Lane. A response has been received stating Cheshire East Council's policy with regards to traffic calming measures, such as speed humps is that they are no longer introduced on the highway and existing schemes are considered for removal if road surface work is being undertaken. The engineer for our area however, will be happy to meet with members of Mere Parish Council to discuss any traffic related concerns and determine if there are any appropriate measures that could be taken by the Area Highway Group.

The Clerk to ask if he will meet up with the Chairman for a site meeting.

KJW

18 PLANNING APPLICATION DETAILS

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

19 RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICERS REPORT

i The sum total in the cheque account at the beginning of this meeting is £6302.68
of which £170.43 belongs to the Archive Fund.

20 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

- | | | |
|-----|--|------------------------|
| i | The Clerk for hours worked during July, August and September
Cheque made payable to
"Kathryn J Whitlow"
Cheque No: 100794 | £689.80 Agreed |
| ii | PAYE
In relation to the Clerks payment
Cheque made payable to
"HM Revenue & Customs Only – 120PD00337552"
Cheque No: 100793 | £221.10 Agreed |
| iii | Payment for the use of the Mere Cricket ground on 2 nd November
for the Bonfire Event.
Cheque made payable to
"Mere Cricket Club"
Cheque No: 100795 | £50.00 Agreed |
| iv | Invoice from Town and Parish Websites for hosting and maintenance
of the Mere Parish Council website.
Cheque made payable to
"Parish Council Websites"
Cheque No: 100796 | £330.00 Agreed |
| v | Deposit for the firework display on 2 nd November
Cheque made payable to
"Ligtech Sound and Light Ltd"
Cheque No: 100797 | £1000.00 Agreed |
| vi | Remembrance Day Wreath
Cheque to be made payable to the Clerk as she has already paid the
British Legion.
"Kathryn J Whitlow"
Cheque No: 100798 | £20.00 Agreed |

- vii *Extra insurance cover for the bonfire event requested as necessary by Mere and Tabley Community Club. £167.93 Agreed*
Cheque made payable to
“Barnett Jones and Cooke Ltd
Cheque No: 100799

Cllr Wright proposed that the above be paid. Seconded by Cllr Finch. All agreed.

21 NEW BUSINESS

- i ***Remembrance Day*** – *A poppy wreath will be laid at the Cenotaph Sunday 10th November by the Chairman.*
- ii ***Cheshire East Council Waste Strategy 5 Year Review*** - *Noted.*

22 *The date of the next Mere PC meeting is Monday 9th December, 7:45pm at The Mere.*

The proposed meeting dates for 2020 are as follows:

Monday 20th January

Monday 23rd March

Monday 18th May

Monday 13th July

Monday 14th September

Monday 19th October

Monday 7th December

They have yet to be confirmed with The Mere.

23 ITEMS INTRODUCED BY COUNCILLORS

- i *Cllr Wright asked that Simon Skates be informed there is no “Mere” sign on the B5569 as you enter Mere from Tabley. Cllr Parkinson said she will follow this up with Simon Skates.*

The meeting closed at approximately 9:50pm.

Signed:

Date: 9th December 2019