

MERE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MERE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 9TH DECEMBER, 2019
AT 7:45PM, THE MERE

PRESENT

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

APOLOGIES

Cllr R Finch

Cllr Parkinson, High Legh Ward
Mr Simon Skates, Cheshire East Council
One member of the public

ACTIONS

1 MINUTES

The minutes of the previous Mere Parish Council meeting held on Monday 21st October were proposed by Cllr Duncalf and seconded by Cllr Reynolds to be a true and correct record. All agreed.

2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

- i Cllr Wright and Cllr Norcott declared an interest regarding HS2 listed on the agenda.*
- ii Cllr Walker 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 forwarded the following report:

“There have been no burglaries, no theft from motor vehicles and no theft of motor vehicles within Mere.”

***Rural Watch Meeting – 17th September** – Cllr Norcott reported that there was a lady talking about cybercrime and it was very interesting.*

Mr Skates commented that he will look to see if Cheshire East Council has any information about cybercrime and if so he will forward it to the Clerk.

SS

5 HS2

The next IAG meeting should have been held on the 5th December but had been cancelled due to the pre-election period. It will be re-arranged in January 2020.

6 B5569

Mr Skates reported as follows:

- 1 Hedges** – *Having looked at the hedges he confirmed the majority are the adjacent land owners responsibility. The section which is Cheshire East Council’s responsibility has now been cut.*
- 2 Flooding In Service Road Off The B5569** – *Mr Skates has visited the site and spoken to a local resident about the issue. He agrees there is a drain which keeps filling with leaves. Highways England will be carrying out more surveys. Mr Skates will look at the results and try to resolve the issue with the possible aid of cameras.*

- 3 **Single Lane Carriageway Signs** – Mr Skates stated that he was not aware Mere PC wanted two signs (One each end of the B5569). He agreed to look into having them put up. Also a third one at the exit of The Mere but he will get back to us about this one.
- 4 **Kerbs** – The broken kerbs have now all been repaired.
Cllr Norcott stated that there are still some which have not been repaired.
Cllr Duncalf commented that the day after the kerb in front of the cenotaph was repaired it was broken again by a lorry.
Mr Skates said he will check that all have been repaired.
- 5 **The Bunds** – Mr Skates stated that Ansa have swept or at least are due to any day. He will contact them again about road sweeping.
The area by the Swan is to be redone by Highways England.

Cllr Wright asked about replacing the missing “Welcome to Mere” sign on the B5569 as you enter Mere from Tabley? Mr Skates agreed to look into this.

Cllr Newnes reported that the road surface is already wearing. Mr Skates agreed to look into this.

Cllr Norcott raised the point that Northbound traffic on the B5569 seeing the sign indicating that for Northwich (A556 (S)) to turn right at MereCorner is incorrect.

Mr Skates said he will look at this when he leaves this evening.

Mr Skates stated that Cheshire east Council have about another £30,000 to spend in the next Six months on issues relating to the B5569/A556.

SPEED LIMIT

Mr Skates reported that a speed review has been conducted and the result is they advise a 50mph speed limit on the B5569. However, Simon Skates is trying to get a 40mph speed limit.

The Clerk has spoken with Matt Wallton but he only confirmed that the current speed limit on the B5569 is 30mph. Also, as mentioned by Mr Skates he informed us that Cheshire East Council is trying to have the speed limit increased to 40mph. This is an on-going situation.

The Clerk asked if the police spot a driver travelling over 30mph would they be prosecuted at this current time? To which he replied he will need to speak with the Chief Inspector and then get back to the Clerk.

Cllr Reynolds asked about flashing signs which are activated when motorists travel above the speed limit, to be positioned along the B5569.

Mr Skates asked the council to think about where on the road we wish them to be located and to inform him accordingly.

The Chairman thanked Mr Skates for attending the meeting. Mr Skates then left the meeting at approximately 9pm.

7 **A556, BY-PASS**

Cllr Norcott confirmed that the fencing previously reported damaged by a car has now been repaired.

8 **FENCING AT THE END OF THE MERE**

The Forestry Commission have confirmed that they do not manage any land in our area.

Cllr Parkinson asked for the reply from the Forestry Commission to be forwarded to her and she will look into this for us.

KJW
KP

9 MANCHESTER AIRPORT

Wendy Sinfield has confirmed that she will be attending the next Mere PC meeting on January 20th and has requested to be one of the first items on the agenda.

Two complimentary tickets from the airport have been sent. They are to see the Emma Johnson And Friends, introduced by John Suchet at the Bridgewater Hall on the 20th March 2020.

The council agreed they be given to Mr John Hockenull who was a Mere Parish Councillor for twenty years. When he retired he continued to look after the Union Jack, ensuring it is flown on all the necessary days throughout the year. This he has now done for another seventeen years.

KJW

10 CHAPEL LANE – FLOODING

Whilst Mr Skates was in attendance he had reported that the work had now been completed and it appears to have solved the flooding issue. However it will be closely monitored.

11 BONFIRE EVENT – 2ND NOVEMBER 2019

The balance sheet shows a deficit of £1201.37. However once the VAT has been claimed back the deficit will reduce to £717.76.

The Clerk confirmed that thank you letters have been sent to the following who had kindly donated raffle prizes:

- Cottons Hotel
- The Mere Golf Resort and Spa
- The Perfumery
- Gauntlet Birds of Prey Eagle and Vulture Park.

It was agreed that the Mere Parish Council bonfire event will for 2020 will be held on Saturday 7th November.

Cllr Reynolds proposed and Cllr Norcott seconded that Lightech Sound and Light Ltd be booked to provide the firework display.

The Chairman asked the councillors to have a think between now and the next meeting in January about ways we can promote this event more.

KJW

12 CLAMHUNGER LANE

Cllr Walker and Cllr Newnes have met with Mr Chris Hodgson, Cheshire East Council to discuss the issue of cars travelling at speed and residents trying to exit their properties. Unfortunately this was not a very positive site meeting. Mr Hodgson gave no hope for anything to be done to improve the situation. However he did say he would try to get a speed review carried out.

13 FIBRE OPTIC BROADBAND

The Chairman requested this item be carried over to the next Mere PC meeting in January.

14 MERE PARISH COUNCIL WEB SITE

The Chairman asked everyone how can the web site be improved?

The Chairman will write an end of year report to be placed on the web site.

DW

15 VACANCY ON THE COUNCIL

A resignation letter has been received from Cllr John McGuire, effective from the end of this meeting. Unfortunately he is moving out of the area to live in Chelford. The Chairman on behalf of the council thanked him for the four years he has served on the council.

The Clerk will inform the Returning Officer at Cheshire East Council that we have a vacancy.

KJW

16 RISK ASSESSMENT

Cllr Wright proposed that the Mere Parish Council Risk Assessment is adequate and be signed as correct. Seconded by Cllr Norcott. All agreed. The Chairman signed the Risk Assessment.

17 PLANNING APPLICATION DETAILS

- i There have been two new planning applications and five Decision Notices since the last meeting. The details are recorded in the Planning Book.
- ii 1, Police Cottage, Chester Road. Application No: 19/4740M
The Clerk enquired as to why Mere PC had not been notified of this application. A reply has been received stating the application is not for planning permission but rather prior approval related to a specific section of the General Permitted Development Order.

18 RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICERS REPORT

- i The sum total in the cheque account at the beginning of this meeting is £4457.85
of which £170.43 belongs to the Archive Fund.
- ii Included in the above figure and paid into the account on the 2nd December
The Bonfire event raffle and toy money £634.00
- iii Cheque Signatures – The Clerk reported that she is having difficulty contacting the Mandate Team at Barclays. She has tried ringing, going on-line and has even been into the local branch but is unable to speak with the Mandate Team.
As a result the Clerk has used the forms the council used in 2018 to inform the bank that John Pattersons name is to be taken off the list of signatures and replaced with John Wrights name. Once Cllr Wright and Cllr Walker have completed the forms they will then submit them to the bank. JW/DW
- iv **Budget and Precept 2020/21**

MERE PARISH COUNCIL - BUDGET FOR 2020/21
PRECEPT

Precept is paid in two parts, half in April and half in September

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>COST IN PREVIOUS</u>		<u>BUDGET FOR FINANCE YEAR</u>		<u>NOTES</u>
	<u>FINANCE YEAR</u>		<u>April 2020 - APRIL 2021</u>		
Clerk		£3,688.00		£3,750.00	
HMRC		£1,316.00		£1,400.00	
Clerk Expenses		£551.00		£550.00	
Insurance cover		£526.46		£530.00	
External/Internal Audits		£206.00		£210.00	
Parish Maintenance		£1,300.00		£1,400.00	
Tabley Church		£116.00		£116.00	
Wreaths		£20.00		£20.00	
Seminars training		£70.00		£70.00	
CATPC Subs		£192.00		£195.00	
Website		£330.00		£330.00	
CVS - Pay Roll		£158.00		£160.00	
TOTAL REQUIRED		£8,473.46		£8,731.00	
				2020-2021	
PRECEPT as it is				7700.00	
ESTIMATED IN BANK 31st March 2020				£764.44	
VAT TO CLAIM BACK in April 2020				£700.00	
TOTAL FOR YEAR				£9,164.44	
PROPOSE PRECEPT				£8,000.00	

NOTES

After Cheques paid tonight	£1,562
	.94
Bonfire gate money to be paid in	£1,567
	.50
Total in account tonight	£3,130
	.44

Money to be paid out at Jan and Mar 2020 meeting

Clerk	£700.00
HMRC	£250.00
Parish Maintenance	£1,300.00
Tabley Church	£116.00
TOTAL	£2,366.00

£3,130.44**£2,366.00****In account at end of
Mar 2020****£764.44**

Having discussed the budget the Responsible Financial Officers suggested that the precept be increased from £7700 to £8000 a year.

Cllr Newnes proposed and Cllr Norcott seconded this. All agreed.

19 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

- i Invoice from Lighthouse Sound and Light for the remaining balance owed for the Fireworks display. £1803.44 Agreed*
Cheque to be made payable to "Lighthouse Sound and Light Ltd"
Cheque No: 100800
- ii Invoice from Chain and Conveyor for printing the A3 and A4 laminated Bonfire Event posters. £98.21 Agreed*
Cheque made payable to "Chain and Conveyor Ltd"
Cheque No: 100801
- iii Receipt from Jean Duncalf for payment of the raffle prizes she bought to go In the Bonfire Event raffle. £53.29 Agreed*
Cheque made payable to "Jean Duncalf"
Cheque No: 100802
- iv Invoice from Shires Pay Services Ltd for payroll service. £54.50 Agreed*
Payroll service cost for the 3rd Quarter
Cheque made payable to "Shires Pay Service Limited"
Cheque No: 100803
- v Invoice from Shires Pay Services Ltd for the payroll service. £34.50 Agreed*
Payroll service for the 4th quarter
Cheque made payable to "Shires Pay Service Limited"
Cheque No: 100804

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

20 NEW BUSINESS

- i Council to Consult on Pre-Budget Consultation Report 2020-2024. Noted by Mere PC*
- ii E-mail from Chrissy Jeffrey, Regional Sales Advisor at Helping Hand Environmental Offering equipment to help litter picking. Noted by Mere PC.*
- iii E-mail from Cheshire East Council seeing views on governance of town and parish councils. Noted by the Mere PC*

21 The date of the next Mere PC meeting is Monday 20th January, 2020, starting at 7:45pm at the Mere Golf Resort and Spa.

22 ITEMS INTRODUCED BY COUNCILLORS

- i **Community Event** - The Chairman asked the Mere Parish Councillors to have a think about a community event which the council could organise in 2020 for the people of Mere.*

The Chairman wished everyone a Happy Christmas and closed the meeting at approximately 10pm.

Signed: Date: 20th January 2020