

## **MERE PARISH COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON**

**MONDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2024, at 7.45PM**

**VENUE: THE MERE AND TABLEY COMMUNITY CLUB**

1 **PRESENT**

*Cllr V Bennett, Cllr N Ineson, Cllr R Nassab, Cllr A Newnes, and Cllr J Wright (In The Chair)*

2 **APOLOGIES**

*Cllr A Richards*

3 **MINUTES**

- i. *The minutes of the Mere Parish Council meeting held on the 15th January were **proposed by** Cllr Newnes and **seconded by** Cllr Nassab to be a true record. **All Agreed.***

4 **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

*Cllr Wright declared a **Disclosable Pecuniary Interest** regarding **Dobb Lane**.*

*Cllr Wright declared a **Disclosable Pecuniary Interest** regarding **HS2**.*

*Cllr Bennett declared a **Personal Interest** regarding **HS2***

*Cllr Ineson declared a **Personal Interest** regarding **HS2***

5 **CASUAL VACANCIES**

*A resignation letter received from Cllr Andy Newbold stating due to unforeseen circumstances he tenders his resignation. He will be leaving the area to return to the south of England. Cllr Wright **proposed** the council respond by accepting his resignation and wishing him all the best with his return to the south. **Seconded by** Cllr Newnes. **All agreed. ACTION: KJ Whitlow (Clerk).***

*The Clerk will notify Cheshire East Council and submit a notice of Casual Vacancy for approval by Cheshire East Council. **ACTION: KJ Whitlow (Clerk).***

*The Casual vacancy currently advertised may, according to Cheshire East Council, be filled by co-option as they have not received a claim by ten electors in writing. No names have been put forward.*

6 **POLICE REPORT**

*PC Milman had forwarded a report to the Clerk prior to the meeting in which he states he is still the only PC covering the area. However, he has been joined on the ward for the last few weeks by a PCSO. Unfortunately she will be leaving next month to become a PC.*

*Cllr Newnes **proposed** the council write to the Police and Crime Commissioner again stating the residents of Mere are paying over a hundred thousand pounds a year via council tax to the police but yet we still have no PCSO. **ACTION: KJ Whitlow (Clerk).***

7 **MANCHESTER AIRPORT**

*Cllr Newnes gave a report from the airport meetings he had recently attended which included the following points:*

- *The airport managing director states that the summer 2023 has been the best ever. Over 28.5 million passengers had been through the airport.*
- *Customer satisfaction for Terminal 2 was excellent with only four complaints per 10000 passengers.*
- *Terminal 2 is still on track to be fully open for spring 2025.*
- *Plans for T1 to be decommissioned are still not fully decided.*
- *Night flights were down and the night flights that did occur were mostly due to late flight take off.*
- *Overall noise complaints were down and there were very few in the Knutsford and High Legh areas.*
- *The future airspace review is expected to be completed by 2028.*
- *Ryanair is now the biggest carrier.*
- *A new Tribe Hotel will open this summer.*
- *There is to be a change to the road set up on Thornley Lane. This is being done to ease the traffic congestion when Terminal 2 is completed.*

8 **HS2**

*Nothing to report.*

9 **B5569**

*The Clerk received an e-mail from Esther McVey's office dated the 5<sup>th</sup> March stating they have reached out to Cheshire East Council (as we requested) for a completion date on the mitigation list of work. Unfortunately nothing more has been heard from Cheshire East Council.*

***ACTION: KJ Whitlow (Clerk) to follow up with Esther McVey's office.***

10 **FIREWORK EVENT 2023**

*The Clerk has asked Lighthouse Sound and Light if they will take responsibility to repair the damaged Mere Cricket ground which their driver caused on the 4<sup>th</sup> November 2023. An e-mail has been received from them dated the 24<sup>th</sup> January 2024 in which they apologise for the damage. They also state that having received our e-mail they have since been back to the cricket ground and filled in the ruts. Cllr Wright has inspected their work and commented that a further amount of soil is needed plus rolling. This work will be carried out by the Mere Cricket Grounds man and the invoice will be forwarded to Lighthouse Sound and Light who have been informed and agree to pay.*

***Chairman closed the meeting at 8:10pm***

***Chairman re-opened the meeting at 8:12pm***

11 **DOBB LANE**

*E-mail has been received from a High Legh resident and also copied to Cheshire East Council Definitive Map Officer. He asks for his enquiry to be addressed to Mere Parish Council.*

***Cllr Wright left the meeting at 8:15pm.***

*Having discussed the issue of Dobb Lane Cllr Newnes **proposed** Mere Parish Council respond to the High Legh resident stating it is a Cheshire East Council issue and not a Parish Council issue.*

***Seconded by Cllr Nassab. All agreed. ACTION: KJ Whitlow (Clerk).***

*Adele Mayer from Cheshire East Council Public Rights of Way Team has already responded to the High Legh resident in which the last sentence states; "As the route is currently an alleged public right of way, not showing on the Definitive Map, The Public Rights of way team are not able to expand the resources and take the enforcement action you ask for in your letter."*

***Cllr Wright returned to the meeting at 8:25pm.***

12 **KINGS CORONATION**

The following inscription to be placed on the bench **proposed** by Cllr Wright and **seconded** by all present as follows:

*This bench provided by Mere Parish Council  
To Commemorate  
HM King Charles III Coronation  
6th May 2023*

13 **THE KILTON INN**

Cllr Newnes has spoken to Esther McVey MP, who has confirmed she told Nick Bone that the residents would have to be consulted before any decision about plans for holiday lodges on the site are commented on.

14 **D-DAY 80**

Mere Parish Council will place flowers at the Cenotaph on the 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024 to commemorate the anniversary of D-Day 80. **ACTION: KJ Whitlow (Clerk).**

15 **MERE PARISH COUNCIL WEB SITE**

Although Andy Newbold has now resigned from the council he has offered to continue to help with the upgrade of the Mere Parish Council website.

The Clerk to reply to Andy Newbold stating the council is very grateful for his offer to help.

**ACTION: KJ Whitlow (Clerk).**

16 **UNOCCUPIED PROPERTY – MALBER**

This property has been an issue for over twelve years. The overgrowth from the garden is currently intruding into neighbours gardens on both sides and the rear of the property. Also nitrous oxide canisters have been seen in the garden and candle light within the property at night. Cllr Nassab **proposed** and Cllr Wright **seconded** that the Clerk use a previously acquired contact e-mail address for the property asking if something can be done to tidy and board the building up to prevent illegal access plus vegetation to be cut back. It is a health and safety risk to neighbours.

**ACTION: KJ Whitlow (Clerk).**

17 **PLANNING APPLICATION DETAILS**

- i. There have been two **new planning applications** and **one Decision notice** plus **two withdrawal notices** received since the last Mere Parish Council meeting. Details are recorded in the Planning Book.

18 **RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICERS REPORT**

- i. The total in the cheque account at the beginning of this meeting is £15286.98  
of which £170.43 is the Archive Fund and £11119.86 is the CIL money.
- ii. Paid into the account on the 22<sup>nd</sup> January the sum of £00642.85  
from Tabley Parish Council. Their agreed half of the Fireworks Event loss.
- iii. Notification from Cheshire Accountants asking us to sign documents agreeing for them to continue creating the Clerk's payslips etc. Cllr Newnes **proposed** and Cllr Nassab **seconded** that the council continue to use the services of Cheshire Accountants. **All agreed.**

19 **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

No invoices put forward.

20 **BUDGET**

- i. On the 1<sup>st</sup> April the precept payment of £4500 will be paid into the account which will bring the total in the cheque account up to £19786.98. Of this figure £170.43 is the **Archive Fund** and £11119.86 is the **CIL** money. Therefore leaving the sum of £8496.69 to spend on other items.
- ii. Expected estimated payments to be made at the May council meeting are as follows:
 

Clerk	£1000.00
PAYE	£0300.00
Wooden Bench	£0500.00
ChALC subscription renewal	£0210.00
Clerk end of year expenses	<u>£0500.00</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>£2950.00</u></b>

*This means minus the Archive Fund and the CIL money we will have approximately **£6046.69** to spend on other items by the **end of May 2024**.*

21 **NEW BUSINESS**

- i. **Working Together For A Wilder Cheshire and Warrington** – an e-mail from ChALC. Consultation on the future of wildlife in Cheshire. **Noted.**
- ii. **Have Your Say On A New Political Map For Cheshire East** – 10 week consultation until 1<sup>st</sup> April and Cheshire East Electoral Review – Update – **Noted.**
- iii. **Petition for Cheshire East Council Leader to Stand Down** - e-mail received from ex deputy Mayor of Middlewich. **Noted**

22 **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May, 2024** starting at 7:45pm with the Annual General Meeting and followed by the council meeting at 8pm. Venue The Mere and Tabley Community Club.  
The proposed dates for the remainder of 2024 are as follows: July 22<sup>nd</sup>, September 16<sup>th</sup>, October 21<sup>st</sup> and December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

23 **ITEMS INTRODUCED BY COUNCILLORS**

The Clerk reported that the Mere Parish Council notice board originally situated at the entrance to Mere and Tabley Community Club has been removed. All that is left is a broken post. No one knew anything about what had happened to it. The Clerk will look into the cost of a replacement and report back at the next meeting.

The meeting closed at approximately 8.45pm

Signed: ..... Date: .....