

MERE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON

MONDAY 13TH MAY, 2024, at 8:30PM

VENUE: THE MERE AND TABLEY COMMUNITY CLUB

1 **PRESENT**

*Cllr V Bennett, Cllr R Nassab, Cllr A Newnes, Cllr Richards and Cllr J Wright (In The Chair)
In Attendance: KJ Whitlow (Clerk) and one parishioner*

2 **APOLOGIES**

Cllr A Ineson

3 **MINUTES**

- i. *The minutes of the Mere Parish Council meeting held on the 18th March were **proposed by** Cllr Newnes and **seconded by** Cllr Wright 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 Richards declared a **Personal Interest** regarding **HS2***

*Cllr Nassab declared a **Personal Interest** regarding the property **Malber***

*Cllr Newnes declared a **Personal Interest** regarding the property **Malber***

5 **CASUAL VACANCIES**

Cheshire East Council has informed us regarding the casual vacancy we notified them about after the 18th March meeting, they have not received a claim by 10 electors for an election to be called.

Therefore we may co-opt someone to fill the vacancy. This means we now have two positions vacant on the council to which we can co-opt people into.

6 **POLICE REPORT**

A report received from PC Milman.

The Clerk has received a response from the Crime Commissioners Office to the council's concern about having no PCSO covering our area. It states our enquiry was reverted to the Constabulary as it is an operational policy issue and they advise that Sergeant Dan Clarke is currently covering the PCSO vacancy.

7 **MANCHESTER AIRPORT**

Nothing to report.

8 **HS2**

An e-mail received on the 28th March from Lucy Lagerweij, Director, Hybrid Bill Delivery, HS2 Ltd stating they will write to us to confirm the status of our petition in relation to the adopted Bill in due course.

9 **B5569**

Letter received from the Rt. Hon Esther McVey to which she attached a letter addressed to herself from the Cheshire East Highways Team referring to the Mere Mitigation works. In summary Cheshire East Council apologies for the delay in providing a response and for any inconvenience this may have caused. They state the mitigation works are part of a larger package of works that have been identified as required. The letter also states that work will not be completed by the end of March 2024 as stated in previous correspondence.

*Cllr Newnes **proposed** Mere Parish Council write to the Chief Executive of Cheshire East Council Rob Polkinghorne stating how very disappointed Mere Parish Council is with this response. **Seconded by Cllr Wright. ACTION: KJ Whitlow (Clerk).***

10 **MERE CRICKET GROUND REPAIR**

This item to be carried over to the next meeting.

11 **DOBB LANE**

*Cllr Nassab **proposed** this item to be carried over to the next meeting. **Seconded by Cllr Nassab. All agreed.***

12 **KINGS CORONATION**

*The bench has been delivered to the Chairman's home. Cllr Wright will liaise with Mere and Tabley Community Club in order to arrange a convenient time to deliver the bench and position it on the outskirts of the bowling green. **ACTION: Cllr Wright***

13 **MERE PARISH COUNCIL WEB SITE**

Mr Newbold has responded stating he is planning for photographs to be taken of Mere early June. They will then be used to update our website.

14 **UNOCCUPIED PROPERTY - MALBER**

The Clerk wrote to the e-mail address we have for this property but no response has been received. Residents are concerned that it is a fire hazard which could seriously damage neighbouring properties if it were to be set on fire.

15 **PARISH COUNCIL NOTICEBOARD**

The Clerk is currently looking into obtaining quotes for a new noticeboard. Cheshire East Council has been asked if we can use CIL Money to fund the noticeboard. We are currently awaiting a response?

The question was raised – do we need a noticeboard?

The Clerk responded yes we do but will check this and report back at the next meeting.

ACTION: KJ Whitlow (Clerk)

*The Chairman will make enquiries as to what happened to the notice board we had at what use to be the Mere Post Office. **ACTION: Cllr J Wright***

16 **PARISH MAINTENANCE**

*Cllr Wright **proposed** that Dominic Fenton be instructed to carry out the grass cutting within Mere for the 2024. **Seconded by Cllr Newnes. All agreed.***

*It was also agreed that the Clerk ask Dominic Fenton to spray weeds on the footpath along the A50 from Mere lights up to Wrenshot Lane. **ACTION: KJ Whitlow (Clerk)***

*Cllr Newnes **proposed** and Cllr Wright **seconded** that the Clerk write to PH Property Holdings Ltd who are carrying out the work at The Swan to ask that their staff to be more careful regarding letter as we have received complaints from residents in an increase in letter behind the BP garage opposite The Swan site. **All agreed. ACTION: KJ Whitlow (Clerk).***

17 HOO GREEN LANE – SPEED REDUCING MEASURES

A message has been received from Cheshire East Council Highways updating us on our request in July 2023 for speed management measures. They state they will not be adding Hoo Green Lane to their list for prioritisation for speed management measures.

18 PLANNING APPLICATION DETAILS

- i. There have been five **new planning applications** received since the last Mere Parish Council meeting. Details are recorded in the Planning Book.

19 RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICERS REPORT

- i. Paid into the account on the 2nd April the sum of £4500.00
This is the first of two precept payments from Cheshire East Council.
- ii. Paid into the account on the 1st May by Cheshire East Council the sum of £11171.47
which is CIL money. The table below shows all the CIL money the council has received and the deadline when it has to have been spent.

DATE PAID	AMOUNT PAID	AMOUNT SPENT	OUTSTANDING	SPENDING DEADLINE
10/07/2021	220.86	220.86	0	09/06/2026
14/10/2021	354.29	354.29	0	13/10/2026
09/06/2022	5492.62	1581.25	3911.37	08/06/2027
17/11/2023	9010.89	0	9010.89	16/11/2028
01/05/2024	11171.47	0	11171.47	30/04/2029
TOTALS	26250.13	2156.4	24093.73	

- iii. The total in the cheque account at the beginning of this meeting is £30695.05
- iv. The accounts are to be submitted to the internal auditor (JDH Financial Services Ltd) after this meeting.

20 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

- i. Clerk for hours worked during January, February and March 2024 £1053.53
Cheque made payable to
"Kathryn J Whitlow". Cheque No: 100918
- ii. HMRC – PAYE £0263.40
This cheque has already been paid as it needed to be with HMRC before the 19th April. Cheque made payable to
"HM Revenue & Customs Only 120PD00337552". Cheque No: 100917.
- iii. Clerk's End Of Year expenses for the year ending 31st March 2024 £0527.74
This includes paper, ink cartridges, use of internet, travel expenses.
Cheque made payable to
"Kathryn J Whitlow". Cheque No: 100919
- iv. Shires Accountants for the pay roll service covering payslips 6th April to 5th October £0090.00
Cheque made payable to
"PQR Limited". Cheque No: 100920

- v. *Memorialbenches UK – for the Coronation bench. **CIL money used** £0669.95*
Invoice has already been paid by the Clerk when the bench was ordered therefore the cheque to be made payable to:
“Kathryn J Whitlow”. Cheque No: 100921
- vi. *ChALC Affiliation Fee £0207.86*
Cheque to be made payable to
“Cheshire Association Of Local Councils”. Cheque No: 100922
- vii. *Council Insurance Renewal £0546.76*
For a long term undertaking of three years. Cheque made payable to
“Clear Insurance Management Ltd”. Cheque No: 100923

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

21 BUDGET

- i. *Once the cheques have all be paid and cleared we will have £27599.21 in the cheque account. Minus the Archive Fund (£170.40) and the CIL (money £21621.38) it will leave £5807.43.*
- ii. *Expected payments at the July meeting are as follows:*

<i>Clerk</i>	<i>£1000.00</i>
<i>HMRC</i>	<i>£0250.00</i>
<i>Internal Audit</i>	<i>£0270.00</i>
TOTAL	£1520.00

This means that in July we will have approximately £4287.43 in the cheque account that we can spend. If you include the Archive fund and the CIL money it brings the total in the cheque account to approximately £26079.21.

- iii. *A VAT claim has been submitted for the financial year ending 31st March 2024 which totals the sum of £1015.52. This should be paid into the account within the next couple of months.*

22 NEW BUSINESS

- i. *A New Local Plan For Cheshire East Consultation on the issues - Noted.*
- ii. *Revised Statement Of Licensing Policy. Noted*
- iii. *Cheshire East HWRC Review – Public Consultation Launch. Noted*

23 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Monday 22nd July, 2024 starting at 7:45pm. Venue The Mere and Tabley Community Club.
The dates for the remainder of 2024 are as follows: 16th September, 21st October and 2nd December:

24 ITEMS INTRODUCED BY COUNCILLORS

- i. *Cllr Newnes asked if we can use the CIL money to pay for flowers displayed at the cenotaph by a resident?*

The meeting closed at approximately 9:30pm

Signed: Date: