



## Committee and Date

Mere Advisory Board

Wednesday 26 July 2023

## Item

### **The Mere Advisory Board**

### **Minutes of the Meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2023 at the Warden's Bungalow at 10.00 am**

#### **PRESENT**

##### **Members of the Committee:**

Geoff Elner – Shropshire Council (Chairman)  
Steve Davenport – Shropshire Council  
Paul Goulbourne - Ellesmere Town Council  
Joan Mowl - Ellesmere Town Council  
Anne Wignall – Shropshire Wildlife Trust  
Julie Edwards – Ellesmere Chamber of Commerce

##### **Also present:**

Shaun Burkey – Country Parks & Sites Officer (North)  
Shelley Davies - Committee Officer

#### **1. Apologies for Absence**

An apology for absence was received from Brian Williams (Shropshire Council).

#### **2. Minutes of the Last Meeting**

##### **AGREED:**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2023 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

#### **3. Matters Arising**

##### Swan Hill Depot Yard

Shaun Burkey updated the Board in relation to the meeting with Property Services and noted that there had been no progress in relation to the water sports tender. He explained that it would be too late now for this year, but he was hopeful for everything to be in place for next year. All agreed that work to clear the yard should still go ahead.

##### Mere Charitable Trust Update

Cllr Steve Davenport reported that a meeting had taken place to discuss the possibility of including the Board Members as trustees on the Mere Charitable Trust. He explained that he had been informed that it was not possible change the original trust and therefore he was looking into setting up a separate charitable trust.

##### Play Area

**Chairman to inform Paddle Bros of the current situation**

Shaun Burkey noted that work had started to install the equipment and it was due for completion by Easter. Shaun agreed to liaise with Jo Butterworth in relation to involving the School Council with official opening of the play area.

**SB to liaise  
with JB**

#### **4. Site Report: The Mere at Ellesmere**

Shaun Burkey provided an update. The following points were raised:

##### Public Toilets

Shaun Burkey reported that the refurbishment of the toilets had been completed and the toilets now have automatic doors.

##### Play Area Kiosk

It was noted that the lease had been amended to ensure that the lease holder carries out water testing.

##### Events

Shaun Burkey reported that an Army Cadets Brass Band were due to play at the Mere on 21st May. He added that he would a list of all events for 2023. Julie Edwards offered to help with any marketing requirements.

**SB to  
circulate list  
of events**

##### Grounds Maintenance

Shaun Burkey reported that the grounds maintenance costs had risen from £2500 per year to £6000 per year to reflect the enhanced work carried out on site and the rise in the costs of living. He added that he had queried this with Countryside Maintenance Manager, Richard Knight.

##### The Promenade

It was reported that Men in Sheds had now repaired around half of the benches and had agreed for this to be publicised on social media once the job had been finished.

##### Rowing Boats

Shaun Burkey noted that as previously advised the current operator's nephew was due to take over the lease. The Chairman agreed to make contact with the Lady Katherine's operator to ask if had any plans in relation to the electric boat he had previously mentioned.

**Chairman to  
contact boat  
operator**

##### Management Plan

Shaun Burkey explained that he had not been able to progress this, but he could share the plan he modified in 2017.

**SB to  
circulate  
current  
management  
plan**

*Update since the meeting: An updated management plan which runs from 2021 to 2026 has been circulated to all Board Members.*

## 5. Dog Concerns

The Chairman explained that he had been contacted by a member of the public who was concerned about the number of dogs off their lead at the Mere. It was noted that existing By Laws were in place which state that dogs must be kept on a lead but this was difficult to enforce. Following discussion, it was agreed that the wooded area would be an appropriate location for dogs to be let off lead.

**Chairman to  
reply to  
concerned  
member of  
the public**

## 6. Any Other Business

### Tricia's Pavilion

Shaun Burkey explained that the Development Manager, Paul Gossage had been in touch with Cap Gemini in regard to their volunteering scheme and they had agreed to send a team to the Mere to refurbish Tricia's Pavilion. It was agreed that a bright colour scheme to match the new play equipment would be suitable.

### Tesco Funding

Shaun Burkey explained that he had applied for funding for community greenhouses to be located by the Warden's bungalow which would allow volunteers to grow plants to plant out in the park.

### Green Flag Award

It was noted that judging would take place on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

## 7. 2023/24 Meeting Dates

It was agreed that meetings will be held on the following dates:

- Wednesday 26 July 2023
- Wednesday 23 November 2023
- Wednesday 27 March 2024

All meeting to be held at 2pm at the Warden's Bungalow.

The meeting ended at 11:40 am

Chairman: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_