

Mere Town Council

CLERKS REPORT for meeting 14th March 2022

Agenda Item:

5b) Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

- I. Do we accept recommendations including conditions made by Historic England to be included in their advice that consent should be granted for Scheduled Ancient Monument Consent for the beacon on Castle Hill to be made to the Secretary of State?**

Scheduled Monument No. SM 26870, HA 1017018 [Case No. S00242351]

Further to the above application for Scheduled Monument Consent, we have now drafted our advice to the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport with the recommendation that scheduled monument consent be granted subject to the conditions set out below. This means that when the works granted consent are carried out all of the conditions set out below must be complied with. If you accept the recommendation including the conditions, you should notify us by telephone or email as soon as possible so that we can send you written Scheduled Monument Consent on behalf of the Secretary of State.

The conditions are as follows:

- (i) The works to which this consent relates shall be carried out to the satisfaction of the Secretary of State, who will be advised by Historic England. At least 2 weeks' notice (or such shorter period as may be mutually agreed) in writing of the commencement of work shall be given to Dan Bashford (daniel.bashford@HistoricEngland.org.uk <<mailto:daniel.bashford@HistoricEngland.org.uk>>) in order that a Historic England representative can inspect and advise on the works and their effect in compliance with this consent.
- (ii) The specification of work for which consent is granted shall be executed in full.
- (iii) Photographs shall be prepared of the monument before the start and after completion of the works and a digital set of images be sent to Historic England (Dan Bashford) within seven days of the completion of the works (or such other period as may be mutually agreed).
- (iv) This consent may only be implemented by Mere Town Council.
- (v) All those involved in the implementation of the works granted by this consent must be informed by the owner, occupier and/or developer that the land is designated as a scheduled monument under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (as amended); the extent of the scheduled monument as set out in both the scheduled monument description and map; and that the implications of this designation include the requirement to obtain Scheduled Monument Consent for any works to a scheduled monument from the Secretary of State prior to them being undertaken.
- (vi) Equipment and machinery shall not be used or operated in the scheduled area in conditions or in a manner likely to result in damage to the monument/ ground disturbance other than that which is expressly authorised in this consent.
- (vii) The beacon will be temporarily mounted on a large ash tray which itself will be on a layer of wet sandbags on top of a layer of geotextile membrane and not on the ground surface.
- (viii) Ashes and other residues will be removed from the scheduled monument and disposed of safely elsewhere.

(ix) Appropriate arrangements will be made to deal with deal with extinguishing the fire after use and to cope with flying sparks.

(x) No works shall be executed other than in compliance with European Protected Species licensing and the Conservation of Habitats & Species Regulations 2010 and the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

You do have the opportunity of appearing before and being heard by a person appointed by the Secretary of State at a public local inquiry if you do not agree with this recommendation. By accepting the recommendation including compliance with the conditions you are accepting that you do not want this case to go to a Public Inquiry.

Please note that this email does not constitute Scheduled Monument Consent and it would hence be unlawful to commence works until such time as the application has been decided. The consent is issued by Historic England on behalf of the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport.

5b) Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

I. Purchase of flags & bunting

As you are aware, Cllr. Mitchell donated £200 towards the purchase of flags and bunting for the Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebrations. There are various purchase options online from companies but I thought that the following option would be a good buy:

<https://www.flagsandflagpoles.co.uk/collections/street-party-packs-for-the-queens-platinum-jubilee/products/large-street-party-pack>

This would provide us with:

- 12 x 100% Polyester 5'x3' flags with eyelets for hanging
- 30 x Lengths of 8.5 m polythene Union bunting.
- 240 x Union polythene hand waving flags. 300 x 160 mm on a white plastic stick.

If we want the Union Flags to fly from broomsticks on properties then we may also want to purchase some of the 3ft X 2ft flags at £6.75 each.

The total cost for the street party pack and 20 X budget flags would be £204 + £135 so we would be over budget on Cllr. Mitchell's donation but I wonder if there is an opportunity to claw back some of the costs from local businesses by selling flags, bunting and hand wavers???

5b) Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

iii. Suggestion by Town Clerk on gifting wild flower seeds to Mere School pupils.

I recall that back in the 2002 the Town Council purchased mugs to give to all those under 16s in the town for the Golden Jubilee. This wasn't a particularly successful exercise for various reasons that I would be happy to explain. Anyhow, in my Clerking Network Group I came across a Town Council that were, this year, giving away packets of bee friendly seeds to their local school children as part of the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations and I thought that this was a really nice idea. There are 200 children at Mere School and so we would need two boxes of these seeds – the total cost would be £49.98

<https://justbeehoney.co.uk/collections/just-bee-raw-vitamin-honey/products/box-of-bee-saving-seeds-x-100>

9. Buildings, Open Spaces, Play Areas, Sports Grounds, Car Parks, Allotments & Cemeteries

***e) Tree planting in Mere for Queens Platinum Jubilee**

I recently sent an email to the Duchy of Cornwall asking them if they could clarify whether or not it is true that the Duchy of Cornwall had planted 970 trees in hedgerows in Mere recently. The answer is: 'Yes, this is correct, we are currently in the process of planting 970 hedgerow trees on 5 farms at Mere. 900 trees are part of our Hedgerow Tree Planting Campaign and 70 trees are being planted at Hinkes Mill as a commemorative wood for the Queens Jubilee; this is one of many - we are going to plant 70 copies of 70 trees in total across the whole of the Duchy.' Sarah Bird from the Duchy of Cornwall agreed that the Town Council was very limited on what we could do on Town Council land given that we have no suitable land to plant them and she said that if they could help at all or come up with some joint projects that the Duchy would be happy to work with us. She has identified another few possible Jubilee Wood sites at Mere, so Mere will definitely not be behind the curve on the tree planting carbon offset work. Sarah has also offered to meet with Council members to talk about their Natural Capital and Carbon work if it would be helpful.

Also, under the Queen's Green Canopy programme – we could apply for a tree pack that would be delivered in November 2022 – these trees could be planted as copses, groves, avenues, shelter belts, hedgerows and other ways. They will supply a 30 sapling pack, a 105 sapling pack or a 420 sapling pack. I did think that the Town Council could apply for the large pack and use the saplings to plant the new hedge in the cemetery (although it would not be a beach hedge) or to plant a hedge anywhere else that might need a hedge.... Or, we could give them out to parishioners to plant in their gardens/land.

Information Items:

I have received an email from Janet Way to say that there are plans to hold a second Creative Mere Event now that restrictions are lifted and it will be held over the weekend of November 26/27th.
