

BACKFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council

January 8th 2019 at 7:45pm

Mollington, Backford and District Village Hall

PRESENT: Mike Cheers (Chairman); Ade Deary (Vice-Chairman); Andrew Harkness; Clive Gordon (the Parish Council); Alex Malthouse (the Clerk)

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Chris Jones (Mollington Consultants)

APOLOGIES:

267) Apologies of absence: Councillors Mark Littler, Collette Littler and Anita Dodd

268) Declarations of Interest – no interests declared

269) Chris Jones gave the Parish Council an update on BRN – the 1st route plan should be live in mid-January; there is a 90% success rate of business interest and that any businesses signing up will receive a £2500 business connection reduction

270) Reports and actions of matters arising re minutes of November 13th 2018

262.3 the Clerk reported that he has a conflict of interest on this matter in relation to the day job and was unable to proceed

262.4 the Clerk submitted the Parish Councils overwhelming approval and comments in relation to Cheshire West and Chester Borough Council (the Council) in relation to the Village Hall application (18/03928/FUL)

266.1 the Clerk submitted the Parish Council comments in relation to the Little Stanney Parish Council boundary review

271) Acceptance of minutes from meeting of November 13th 2018

272) Update of the Backford Hall Development 14/00595/FUL & 14/005961/LBC

272.1 Councillor Deary advised that all properties are now complete (with the possible exception of The Lodge which still has some internal structural works) and notes that the estate roads are still un-adopted

272.2 it was noted that there has been an increase on the estate in relation to dog walkers not cleaning up their pets mess and correctly disposing of it

ACTION: the Clerk to liaise with Jones Homes to discuss the possibility of a leaflet drop on the estate to raise the issue

273) Correspondence

273.1 the Clerk advised that all electronic correspondence has been forwarded to the Parish Council

273.2 the Clerk reported to the Parish Council that there was no hard copy correspondence except the usual leaflets relating to open space play areas, and bus shelters

273.3 the Clerk advised the Parish Council that after the recent (and previous) issues relating to the Clerks email account, a new Outlook account will be set up and the Gmail account phased out.

ACTION: the Clerk to action the above and notify all relevant parties

274) Planning

274.1 planning reference 18/04285/FUL –Whitby Lane (grid reference 339544/372767) proposed change of use from agricultural land to equestrian. construction of stables and store, addition of hard standing and school for exercising horses – the Parish Council had no objection to the application but would like to maintain the openness of the green belt by limiting the height of the structure to preclude future change of use to residential (and expects reference to this to be made in any future applications of any of the other lots); it would also like to see, due to the increase in traffic, a maintenance regime in respect of the visibility splay

ACTION: the Clerk to contact the Councils Planning department with comments

275) Highways

275.1 Councillor Harkness has requested that the Parish Council look to address the speeding issues on Rake Lane – queried whether or not there could be flashing 20mph sign placed

ACTION: the Clerk to contact the Councils Highways department regarding placing of the signs/sourcing costs for the signs

276) Finance

276.1 cheque for the Clerks fees to the sum of £139.51 (September – November 2018 – January 2019) – approved (cheque no. 651)

276.2 cheque for the village hall meeting to the sum of £17 – approved (cheque no. 652)

276.3 replacement cheque for the BDO Auditors (replacement to cheque number 642) to the sum of £78 – approved (cheque no. 652)

276.4 the Clerk advised the Parish Council that the precept for 2019-2020 needed to be set and approved and all documentation returned to the Council by 1st February 2019 based on the expenditure as set out below:

INSURANCE	£155.00
CHALC FEES	£55.00
VILLAGE HALL (£17 X 6)	£102
POPPY APPEAL	£25.00
CLERKS WAGES	£1242.72
VILLAGE HALL BURSARY	£250
CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETIONARY FUND	£100
	£1929.72

276.5 the Parish Council voted unanimously to increase the precept from £1969 in 2018-2019 to £3770 in 2019-2020 which represents a 43% increase per dwelling from £16.27 to £23 based on a Band D charge (the £23 per dwelling breaks down as 6p per day/44p per week). The rationale for this increase was based on the forecast expenditure tabled at 276.4 and also in relation to the £50,000 shortfall of the proposed village hall development (18/03928/FUL). At an extraordinary meeting held on 3rd January 2019 and attended by members of Backford Parish Council, Lea by Backford Parish Council and Mollington Parish Council (the Three Parish Councils), it was unanimously voted that the Three Parish Councils would make a joint application to the Public Works Loans Board in respect of the £50,000 shortfall. The repayments of this sum, which would be split between the Three Parish Councils, would be covered by the approved precept increase over a period to be decided upon (depending on the amount borrowed, but a minimum of 10 years at least) in respect of the Parish Council repayments. However the loan application will only proceed subject to consultation with all electors of the Three Parish Councils. For avoidance of doubt and as per the s.12 Local Government Act 1972 the quorum was met as more than one third of the whole number of members of the Parish Council were present at the meeting of 8th January 2019.

276.5 the Parish Council has always felt that the development of a new village hall would be of undoubted benefit as a Parish facility as there is no other infrastructure, and that as the Council have withdrawn the new homes bonus and failed to secure any contribution money via s106 and the 69 new dwellings on the Backford Park estate, it needed to act and use best endeavours in order to attempt to secure whatever funds were required for the project to proceed for the benefit of the public in the Parish.

276.6 Councillor Deary advised the Parish Council that after speaking to CHALC it was confirmed that the Parish Council as a whole would be liable

for their part of the loan as opposed to individuals, and that the Parish Council cannot be dissolved while there is a debt.

277) Homewatch

277.1 Councillor Deary advised the Parish Council that there has been a complaint from a Parish resident in relation to the potential ongoing parking issues in the village and it was highlighted that there were still issues relating to the Hospice and the use/non-use of their car parks.

ACTION: Councillor Deary to write to the Hospice outlining the parking issues, and the Clerk to look at how restrictions can be placed by Cheshire Police and or the Councils Highways department

278) Village Hall – discussed at 276.5

279) Other Parish Matters

279.1 it was noted that there is an increasing number of motorists speeding through the village while using their mobile phones

ACTION: the Clerk to liaise with the local PCSO to discuss patrols/presence in the village

280) Close of Business

280.1 the Chair calls the meeting to a close at 10.15pm.