**Backford Parish Council**

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

**11TH JULY 2023**

**7.45PM – THE FIVE VILLAGES HALL**

**In Attendance**

Cllr Mike Cheers

Cllr Clive Morgan

Cllr Dave Ruscoe

Borough Cllr Simon Eardley

Cllr Ade Deary

Cllr Anita Dodd

**Apologies for Absence**

All Present

**Declarations of Interest**

**HYNET**

**PART 1**

Councillors to be recruited and SE agreed to advertise on the internet.

**Open Forum**

No members of the community present.

**PART 2**

**29/23 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

No minutes had been circulated and DJ apologised for the error.

**30/23 Planning**

 [**Change of use to a dog walking field including access track and parking.**](https://pa.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?keyVal=RRM42GTEMJC00&activeTab=summary)

Lot 1 Liverpool Road Backford Chester

Ref. No: 23/00887/FUL | Received: Thu 16 Mar 2023 | Validated: Thu 16 Mar 2023 | Status: Awaiting decision

All councillors commented on the innapropriate location of this field. Issues with the lanes and visibility onto the A41 from this access that has been made. No way a slip road for this to be put in . SE intends to ensure this is not located here.

Comments that this has already been commenced.

Discussion re commencing of cutting of trees. SE to develop a newsletter item on the right time for hedge cutting.

 [**Vehicular access onto Whitby Lane**](https://pa.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?keyVal=RMW59NTE0U700&activeTab=summary)

Land At Whitby Lane Backford Chester CH1 6PH

Ref. No: 22/04621/FUL | Received: Wed 14 Dec 2022 | Validated: Thu 16 Feb 2023 | Status: Awaiting decision

1. all discussed and expectations are for a longer wait with regards to the councils time to finish on all of the enforcements.

**Ongoing Enforcements:-**

1. Poplar lane – all discussed and expectations are for a longer wait with regards to the councils time to finish on all of the enforcements.

**31/23 Reports by Representatives**

To receive reports from the following representatives:

* The Consolidated Charities, (Backford, Charities) - Cllr’s MC and ML

Discussion re the foundations of the charity and DR suggested that rules were that they should have been giving out £30K per year.

* War Memorial Trust - Councillor MC

£100 per person for a book token in the second year – still waiting for nominations.

* Other Rural Local Issues

CM has looked at the website and found that the issues were broadly ones that we are affected by. SE updated that BT will not be here for Broadband until 2025. 5G masts are controversial and has been refused in this area.

Other issues were COVID affecting working opportunities for younger people. Also the transport issues.

* Village Hall

Discussed future projects for the village hall.

**32/23 Finance**

* Bank Balance

£4478.27 at year end (total balance in reserve)

Owe £13013 to the Public Works Loan Board

£65.49 CHALC

Zurich £174.41

£20 for village hall hire

* Payments for staff - litter picking – Parish Clerk
* AGAR

All submitted with PKF Littlejohn.

* Bob Hadfield

**33/23 HYNET**

DR would like to acknowledge the extra work that has been done by Cllr SE. Additional submission is currently allowed and SE is currently working on this. Submission will be done after the Mollington PC meeting. Backford issues are highlighted as:-

* Why is the main road not still an option
* ? are the zoo interested and Mike will be meeting with them tomorrow on other issues.
* Biggest problem using small lanes as entrances.
* TRS16 – 18 on the map is there a more direct route. (Stay on the side of the Zoo and then deal with the MOD).
* Difficult time for residents.
* Cllr DR - Two access routes on Station Road alongside railway line.
* Lack of communication with the landowners – justification to the land owners for their chosen route.
* Cllr Ade Deary - Block valve noise information and where would this happen on the pipeline map. Will there be venting and where is the venting impact assessment.

**34/23 Highways Update**

* Verges are now mown and the centre of the road on the A41.
* Parkgate road major cracking on the footpaths.
* The channel also has a large crack in the tarmac.
* Chorlton lane - is also severe issues.

Cllr SE has tried to add £2 million pounds into the budget for this year but this was over ruled. Additional funding has been put into the pot hole budget. CM - Sunken grids are now a huge problem which never used to be the case.

Inflation has undermined the budget and several big urgent cases have also had an impact on the budget.

**35/23 New Projects**

Third planter to be found a home by Cllr Ade Deary. Discussions re outside the hospice and in view for Backford Park.

Autumn planting to be considered.

**36/23 Newsletter**

Parish council and members and HYNET

**37/23 Police Report**

Wendy Leason provided reports. CM - Chorlton community group for Whats App. Speed of driving through the Backford Village.

**38/23 Co-option of Councillors**

Cllr MC agreed to speak with possible persons locally.

**Any Other Business**

Parish Council would like to pass on our condolences on the loss of Sarah.

**DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

**Tuesday 12th September 2023 – 7.45hrs**

**Tuesday 14th November 2023**