**Backford Parish Council Minutes**

**on**

**Tuesday 12th January 2021 - 19.45hrs**

**In Attendance**

Andrew Harkness

Debbie Jones

Ade Deary

Anita Dodd

Mark Littler

Clive Morgan

Mike Cheers

Simon Eardley

**Apologies**

All in attendance

**Part 1**

**Declarations of Interest**

Nil to declare

No members of the public present

**Part 2**

**93/21 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

Minutes agreed as a true record.

Matters arising – Access onto A5117, MH reported that having discussed this at the last meeting there is now a 16ft gate there. DR pointed out that where there is 40 mph speed limit or above responsibility is with highways England – if it is 30mph section of road it is a local authority issue. Dropped kerb is required. Visibility is poor.

DJ to inform CWAC planning department.

**Action DJ**

DJ to look at closing down old Backford Outlook e mail address as some issues were still being directed to that email and could be missed.

**Action DJ**

DJ to send outstanding highways concerns to SE.

**Speeding in Backford Village**

AD commented that the 20 mph speed limit is not being adhered to and concerns raised by parents of small children about this issue. Little in the way of prosecutions has been made and councillors are keen for Wendy Leason to organise some sort of speed limit observation. SE commented that Wendy does this work in Saughall and SE will contact her.

**Action SE**

AH school hazard strip being parked on in the middle of this area by a black Skoda. AH felt that the Parish council should write to the owner to suggest that this might be something that should be refrained from as visibility is impaired on the bend. AD suggested that the owners of houses between school and church farm should use the car park. DR asked if the parking is currently legal because no signage is present therefore signage should be in place. Opportunity to be given to the owner to use appropriate parking prior to pursual of legal action.

Also raised issues re hospice traffic speeding.

**Letter to be done DJ.**

**SE to write to Wendy Leason**

**Write to the hospice to raise concerns DJ**

**MC Chairman requested that all undertook a minutes silence for Councillor and Ex Mayor of Chester Brian Crowe and Anthony Mcintyre Mollington resident who had sadly left us this week. Both were well known within the community and will be sadly missed.**

**94/21 Village Hall Update**

* Public Works Loan

AH reported the village hall website shows pictures and work is going really well. ML said that it looks good to see the work coming up. Official e mail to the MBDVH to say what good work has been done to get us to this point.

**Action DJ**

MC asked about the PWL – documentation has been submitted and based on recommendation the money should be submitted between the 8th and the 15th January 2021. Paperwork accepted. £14850 expected which will need to be sent to the village hall committee. All agreed for AD to expedite this on its arrival into the account.

**95/21 Planning**

* Planning applications

20/04266/full Councillors discussed this and were happy for this to proceed.

29 same no objections.

**96/21 Reports by Representatives**

To receive reports from the following representatives:

* Backford Charities

ML stated that Brian Crowe asked for him to sit on the group and start using the funds locally. ML gave a historical background to the funds that being it was set up 1850 small parcel of land and was for farm workers who were suffering with hardship. Brian Crowe was keen to meet up with ML. Investments should be taken out and used on local members of the community. This year £2000 was given to the hospice. **Numbers of people who use the hospice in the year to be established**. Additional cash contributions have added to this. Sections of the community could be helped.

**Action DJ**

The charity aims are different work now due to demographic needs and the charity could have different criteria. Elderly internet access could be another idea. The fund is very large around £80,000.

Rev Stephen Mansfield could have some ideas along with commissioning services.

MHLto be the representative and take forward.

**War Memorial Trust**

MC - Money to get book voucher for students – Carl Stagg to be contacted by MC.

Rural Sounding Board nil to report

.

**97/21 Finance**

E mail to be sent to Zurich to be contacted to chase refund suggest that we will have to have a free year.

**Action DJ**

Need to approve the MBDVH standard address that gets the cheque and as soon as confirmation money in the bank the cheque can be issued.

* Bank Balance – to end December 3477.71 current account 1512.12 in the reserves. Within this is £1134 the outlay for the loan, although this is now coming in as £1080 auditors have asked that we can’t keep more than a year’s worth in reserve.
* Payments for staff £156.80
* Precept – letter received from David Sconce and number of houses appear to be 167 in total. Electoral roll might help as of last September

**SE to send DJ the e mail address for Penny Houseley for up to date electoral roll information**

**AD to check if we can go with what we had last year.**

AD requested running cost for the website for 21/22

**Action DJ**

Alex malthouse continues to pay his monthly amount

CHALC membership - £63.72

**Action AD**

AH asked if we had ever considered going on line to allow for all to look at the accounts. AD will look into this as soon as COVID allows as an ongoing action.

**Action AD**

**98/21 Future Projects**

Consider litter picker for next meeting agenda

**99/21 Police Report**

Nil of received and SE to support DJ in ensuring these are received regularly.

**100/2 COVID AND Future Meetings**

Happy with the Zoom meetings for now.

**Telephone box**

Correspondent with Cheshire West and she was contacting BT and we were to get a steer from them on the 16th December 2020 re electrical supply.

**101/21 Highways update**

The fisheries letter has gone to all of the senior CWAC official AD to send a copy of the letter which suggested a T junction to SE.

Rake lane is in a bad state with pot holes and Chorlton has never been down and brushed. Highways have been through the village now has been swept twice, need to push to do things and general road maintenance is not done automatically. CM stated that on his lane rubbish is being dumped and it has had to be removed from the middle of the road. Rubbish also at the bend by the fisheries. Signage is not right for the bends. The bend is a sharp bend. The sign should say right angle.

**Action SE to pursue them and pursue a site visit.**

AH asked what is the weight limit for pretty bridge MC stated there isn’t one.

Road surface and drains from the A41 past MC entrance remain an issue. MH - Fly tipping is still really bad and we have to think outside the box.

A41 gulley’s have been swept but they still don’t seem to work effectively. Highways contract currently up and CWAC are looking at better more scientific ways of dealing with them 88,000 gulley’s in the borough. SE makes the point regularly that the work is not effective. SE drove to Mollington today puddle been there for months near to the bridge into the canal.

MC – traffic lights on to Whitby Road need re setting.

**Action SE to deal with.**

CM how long is the temporary traffic lights on Whitby road are causing more traffic along Rake Lane.

**103/21 Any Other Business**

B4RN progress report received – voucher scheme is coming to an end at the end of march. AH asked if parish councils are prepared to help in any way. AH felt speeds around Mollington are high and there is a complacency by these areas to the detriment of slower speed areas.

DR felt that 5G is possibly more future proof not requiring fixed lines. AH suggested that range is less and can be affected by weather conditions. Densely populated areas are getting fibre. AH felt that 5G will never replace fibre. The more people work from home the more 5G will struggle.

CM stated an article in the Telegraph re spread out villages and outlying houses and in the current climate it is difficult to get the number of voucher applications to support the project locally.

DR asked – Backford Charity – could money be invested in B4RN – community will benefit could have broadband for free. 5% interest rate is enticing.

Can we ask Open Reach what the future plans are for our area as the parish council and ask when theyare planning to roll it out.

**Action DJ**

**Nuisance Firework Noise**

Number 1 The Nook set off fireworks which caused difficulties with the local pet’s i.e. horses had to be sedated, dogs were very unsettled - largely loud bangs – could a message go to him to say this is inappropriate. Advance notice not received.

**Action AD to draft a letter. DJ to send.**

Mollington have similar difficulties. ? could there be a joint code re animals. MH suggested that Facebook being used.

**Action DJ to speak with Roger Jones**

Covenants are in place for some areas.

CM asked for it to be on the Home watch.

**DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

**Tuesday 9th March 2021 at 7.45 p.m.**

**Action Log**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Agenda Item No** | **Action** | **By Whom** | **Date Completed** |
| **AOB** | Firework nuisance noise draft a letter DJ to send.  Mollington Backford and Lea Joint Code of use of fireworks discussion | **AD and DJ**  **DJ** |  |
|  | Open Reach Letter | **DJ** |  |
| **101/21** | Traffic lights re set whitby road and rake lane highways visit | **SE** |  |
| **97/21** | * Zurich * Chalc * Bank Account view for all * Electoral information * Precept checking | * **DJ** * **AD** * **AD** * **SE/DJ** * **AD** |  |
| **97/21** | Hospice traffic speeding letter  Ask hospice for local user numbers | **DJ** |  |
| **94/21** | MBDVH e mail confirming congrats | **DJ** |  |
| **AOB** | Letter to illegal parker | **AD and DJ** |  |
|  | Close down Backford Outlook E mail address | **DJ** |  |
| **95/21** | Report to planning gate on Whitby Road | **DJ** |  |