**Backford Parish Council**

**Minutes of Meeting**

**Tuesday 17th January 2022**

**at**

**The Five Villages Hall**

**Present**

Councillor Anita Dodd

Councillor Clive Morgan

Councillor Mark Littler

Councillor Andrew Harkness

Councillor Ade Deary

Councillor Mike Cheers (Chair)

**Apologies**

Dave Ruscoe

**Part 1**

Declarations of Interest – Mike Cheers,

**Open Forum**

No attendance but B4RN was discussed by Councillors – 3 vouchers away from the trigger of the duct installation phase. Route to be sorted as per land owners permissions. Principle of what represents the cheapest route remains an issue. Proposed discussion document to look at the equipment to be used. DJ highlighted information recently submitted to councillors for discussion. Newsletter has also been forwarded. B4RN aim to give dividend on the shares at 5% it was thought. A Deary explained the voucher process. AH explained that the cost was £30 per month.

**Part 2**

**01/22 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

Minutes were agreed as a true record.

**02/22 Planning**

* Double detached garage – The Beeches – it was noted that this was discussed at the last meeting.
* Farm workers mobile home – SE reports that the trees are needing to be substantially cut back prior to the planning going ahead as the lighting will be impacted and around the area of the bus stop.

Simon Eardley attended and will escalate.

Planning enforcement – no further updates. SE stated that the volume of applications have increased significantly.

The group highlighted the ongoing enforcement issues again.

A Dodd disappointed that the council is not undertaking the enforcement but SE said that the team are making some progress and evidence of this is that a house in Saughall is now to be pulled down.

Pretty Bridge development area now increasing in size and is calling itself Pretty Bridge Lodge and Pretty Bridge Equestrian Centre.

**Simon Eardley to escalate**

The zoo application was discussed and SE explained that the application had been called in by Councillor Holbrook from Upton and the PC’s

Need to ask that fireworks are not allowed on the new venue.

**03/22 Village Hall Update**

* Interactive Board
* Rails on windows – going to be organised.
* Acoustics issues need to apply to the recommendations – 3 estimates already received.
* Reduction in beer prices.
* Socialising lost atmosphere.
* A Dodd fed back that it feels clinical and like a ‘posh dentist’.
* Wall pictures
* Let the community know about the price of alcohol.

ML explained that it was a community setting and prices should reflect it as a social place.

Banning of dogs – A Deary explained that someone was refused entry on this basis. Discussion was had with regards to allowing dogs in and it was felt this may be as they were unable to allocate a bar area.

**Mike Cheers to highlight with the Trustees**

**04/22 Discussed all on Going Enforcement Issues**

All of the applications are being looked at but are already up and built. SE to escalate as previously discussed.

**05/22 Reports by Representatives**

**The consolidated Charities** – still up in the air no further information on this.

**War Memorial** **Trust** – ML should have been invited but had not been invited Maurice Cottle. Suggested also that the vicar could be a suggested contact. John Hess is a good one to contact.

**06/22 Finance**

A Deary explained the current accounts – poppy wreath still needs to be paid to DJ.

Precept Band D equivalent’s explained. Some of the new houses are single occupancy. Increase is fairly significant means that £900 can be found in the budget without increasing the precept. There was also an explanation of the increase in wage in line with inflation.

**Issues for consideration**

Outside school and parking signage – DJ write to highways to suggest signage outside school.

Planters – all would like to do this in the coming financial year.

MC Proposal Litter Picker to be employed and to put precept up by 5% to pay for this

ML proposed and CM seconded - all in favour.

ML asked AD about the precept house numbers will stay the same in the future. AD felt it would probably remain the same and all the houses were now filled.

**Precept Form will be filled in by A Deary**

**07/22 Police Report**

All noted the contents – thankyou to Tony Icke for this report.

**08/22 Highways Update**

Chorlton Lane has been cleared. Gulley’s not been cleared. MC keeps clearing the gulley onto Chorlton Lane. It was noted that following clearance Farmer Mike Cowley - Bridge Trafford left a mess on the road with tractor which highlights the difficulty in maintaining the roads once they have been cleared.

School – ML explained things should get better as the end house has been sold.

**SE to Escalate**

Tree damage removal – SE explained its landowner’s responsibility.

The one near the channel is particularly big and SE will contact the council about that one.

**Any Other Business**

Crisis Resilience plan – Village Hall should be available for part of the resilience plan. Generator not available at the hall and there is no link up point. Question is would the parish councils contribute to the cost. Councillors felt that it was essential to have a resilience plan and that parish councils supported this where possible.

**Date and time of next meeting**

**8th March 2022**

**7.45hrs at The Five Villages Hall**