**Backford Parish Council**

**Minutes of Meeting**

**Tuesday 9th March 2022**

**at**

**The Five Villages Hall**

**Present**

Councillor Clive Morgan

Councillor Mark Littler

Councillor Andrew Harkness

Councillor Ade Deary

Councillor Mike Cheers (Chair)

Chris D Jones B4RN Representative

Councillor Simon Eardley

**Apologies**

Councillor Dave Ruscoe

Councillor Anita Dodd

**Part 1**

Declarations of Interest – Mike Cheers

**Open Forum**

B4RN – Chris D jones reported there had been difficulty in the build project and had interest is discontinued. Capenhurst and Puddington are in build and are now connected. There are some other reasons, these may become known in the future. CDJ suggested that other ideas are being considered. Currently working with CWAC and are providing other company names who may be of interest. Need parish councillors to continue with support. AH stated that you can’t move once signed up between providers. DJ reported that Openreach had been contacted and the date for connection is 2025. Telnet is working in Upton.

**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.

No objections with a proviso that this relates to the Bat preservation in the past. The owners propose now to knock this down and build a double garage. CM suggested it looks like a living accommodation. This building is now double gated and not on view from the road.

The group digressed to discuss church farm mobile home for farm worker. Most of the cases are overturned on appeal and the applicants are advised to make more of a case to support the application in relation to the need for this to be granted. Sustainability of farming should be included in the application. AD stated that this was refused because it was not clear that the applicant could not live in the original house.

2103928/f73

This is a new application and is a conversion of garage for the beeches into a residential annexe. We don’t disapprove but this is for the planning department to decide. There was a feeling that there was a lack of consistency with decisions on planning.

**03/22 Village Hall Update**

Acoustic now in place with more to be put in. Councillors noticed a difference in the main hall.

ML asked where the monies came from and this was from the contingency fund. AH explained a number of things had been taken out of the original build. Gas bills are very expensive and could prove problematic going forward.

**04/22 Discussed Going Enforcement Issues**

SE explained that with regards to enforcement issues there are only two officers part time and they struggle to get to these in a timely way. AD explained that on one of the enforcement cases a lot more hard standing had been put down than was originally granted planning for.

Whitby lane – SE has sent report through with photograph last week.

**05/22 Reports by Representatives**

**The Consolidated Charities** – ML reported no further action - DJ to speak with Richard jones for an update from his perspective.

**Action DJ**

**War Memorial** **Trust - - no meetings at the moment**

**06/22 Finance**

Bank balance - £3801 in the account

The group discussed in brief that there were more outgoings than income by the year end.

Annual Governance statement needs to be completed after year end which demonstrates effective financial management, Internal control these are both find and bank statements and cheque book in place to support this.

AD ran through the other audit isssues those being:-

* Compliance
* Elective rights
* Assessment of risks and managed them.
* Full 12 months reserve which will always pay the loan
* Adequate audit
* Appropriate action taken
* Considered litigation – NA

**Annual Governance and Accountability Return Forms finalised at next meeting.**

**07/22 Police Report**

Report sent out to all Parish Councillors. CM reported an incident that happened outside of the report timescales. Gentleman on his wall who was saying that he was being chased by a group with knives. He was filthy and cold. Police informed. Apparently he had been acting suspiciously at Thomas Farm and then fell in a pond whilst being chased.

**08/22 Highways**

Chorlton lane is dreadful and the surfaces are a danger to cars.

Tree removal has been done by local farmers – thanks to them for doing this.

**09/22 Parish Plan**

DJ to send round key headings for the strategic vision thinking to all parish councillors.

**Queen Celebrations**

MC reported that there is a plan which has been agreed by joint working party across the Five Villages Hall and the three local parish council representatives.

Christine Jones is pulling together a newsletter for distribution on the celebrations calendar.

Crisis resilience – defib – generator – discussion about the obligations that Scottish power – AD to speak to Head of Operations Scottish power re this.

**Date and time of next meeting**

**10th May 2022**

**7.45hrs at The Five Villages Hall**