**Backford Parish Council Minutes**

**MOLLINGTON, BACKFORD & DISTRICT VILLAGE HALL**

**Tuesday 10th November 2020 – 7.30pm**

**Part 1**

**Apologies for Absence**

All Present

**In Attendance**

Simon Eardley - Borough Councillor

Dave Roscoe - Councillor

Clive Morgan - Councillor

Mark Littler - Councillor

Ade Deary - Councillor

Anita Dodd - Councillor

Mike Cheers - Councillor

Debbie Jones - Parish Clerk

**Declarations of Interest**

Both Councillor Mike Cheers and Councillor Andrew Harkness declared their interests in the Village Hall Project, as they are Trustees.

**Open Forum**

No external participants. DJ explained opportunities to invite to next meeting if COVID restrictions remain in place by publishing the ZOOM information on website and Noticeboard.

**Part 2**

**82/20 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

All agreed minutes of the meeting held on 8th September 2020 were as a true record.

Previous Parish Clerk Issues were discussed and payments are now being made on a fairly regular basis back to the Parish Council.

**83/20 Village Hall Update**

AH gave an update to the group. A new contractor was now in place and plans to start demolition work in January and the hope is that the work will complete in July 2021. The contractor highlighted a risk being the Brexit progress, which could delay the build in accessing building materials. They had also asked for a clause in the contract allowing for time slippage if COVID restrictions are in play. AH was reassured that the plans had been through a strict due diligence process with the Big Lottery and therefore risks now had been mitigated. The funding secured in total was now just over 1 million pounds. AH went on to detail the revenue streams.

AH explained that running costs during closure are still an issue and in the main Trustees will be contributing £25 per month but if any one feels able to contribute this is gratefully accepted.

AD asked about provision spare funds between funding secured and the actual cost of the build and this would be held in a separate bank account to support the on going running of the hall and for cash flow maintenance. DR asked for clarification on the 75K, which could be left if the build cost comes in on time and budget, and AH explained potential to up the specification for the COVID securities of the building and other options, as this was a fixed price contract. DR also asked if the contaminated ground had been accounted for in the cost envelope and this was.

A Deary asked about seating capacity numbers and AH was not sure on final numbers however it was between 100 and 140.

Public Works Loan – ADeary was concerned about there being any changes to that which was originally requested and agreed – the group agreed none were noted and that the loan now needs to be drawn down that being £14850 over up to 15 years at 2.11% annuity and that this amount had already been ring fenced within the budget. The total paid back therefore after 15 years is £17577 at a fixed fee of 35 pence per thousand.

A Deary proposed this and this was seconded by MC all voted unanimously for this action.

The funds should go straight to the Village Hall on receipt.

**Chairman MC asked that a record of thanks and acknowledgement of this significant achievement should be conveyed to the key players/Trustees of the Village Hall.**

**84/20 Planning**

**Chorlton House – 20/02942 Installation of Biomass System (retrospective)**

A brief discussion on this application and no objections were raised.

MC highlighted the land sold on strawberry roundabout – trees being cut down to make an access road through. MC has examined the area and it looks like clearing ready to fence a wider access. It was decided to monitor for now however post meeting, it was felt local authority should investigate this.

**SE to progress**

ADodd also highlighted bridle path at the back of this area – CM agreed to look at this and report back.

**CM to progress**

**85/20 Reports by Representatives**

To receive reports from the following representatives:

* Village Hall - Chair Mike Cheers

As above

* Backford Charities - Councillor Mark Littler

ML agreed to discuss this with the local representative and feedback to the group on the charity functions.

The COVID situation, computer club, kit, and facilitation for this charity would be to assist in education of our older residents in the use of technology as have recently highlighted one idea.

It was felt by the group that the function of both the charities lacked clarity so MC would also assist in a fact-finding mission for the War Memorial Trust.

Nil to report

* Local Issues - Mike Cheers

Nil to report

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**86/20 Finance**

Payments and Receipts: To note/approve the payment of salaries/wages and expenses and invoices for goods received and services rendered and to note any receipts. A schedule will be presented at the meeting.

* Bank Balance – Current account = £3708.10 and Reserve Account £1512.12
* Payment for staff - £186.20 cheque paid
* Zurich Insurance – Both cheques now been presented therefore awaiting a refund **DJ to contact Zurich**
* Royal British Legion - £22.25 paid to DJ for wreath
* Zoom costs - £71.94 paid to DJ as costs paid initially by DJ
* Estimate for shelving in telephone box £120 – decision to be made at January meeting
* Annual Governance Return –more questions received from the Auditors – ADeary dealing with this. Variance report to be forwarded on the auditor.
* DJ to purchase external hard drive prior to next meeting
* Four payments received as repayments from previous clerk

**87/20 Future Projects**

Telephone Box – see above. Formal notification to be sought that the box has been released to Backford Parish council. The group formally agreed to adopt the phone box.

**Defibrillator Use – DJ to speak with Hospice**

Notice board – repaired and now back in place.

**88/20 Policies and Procedures**

DJ explained that all procedures needed to be updated and a list to be circulated of those essential and urgent. All Parish Councillors to assist in updating these once provided by DJ

**Action All**

**89/20 Police Reports**

Nil received – Borough Councillor SE to request again on behalf of the council.

AH reported an incident reported to the Homewatch where a can of paint was thrown at a car to get it to stop on Rake Lane. In addition ML reported cars had been parking on outside his house on the A41 and? and time trialling. These were notably fast Audi cars.

**90/20 – Future Meetings COVID Restrictions**

ZOOM meeting tonight went well as agreed by All. Continue with this format for the next meeting and then review.

**91/20 Highways Update**

* MC highlighted the lack of care along A41 resulting in lack of visibility this summer. This is dangerous. SE to take forward with CWAC.
* Brush sweepers required.
* Evidence of sinkage on Rake Lane
* Positive results along the bridle/cycleway he has recently reported and it is more accessible, as is the area near Pump farm, so thanks to the local authority for this work.
* North of A41 towards A5117 paths need maintaining as more people are walking.
* New bus lanes were felt by most councillors to be creating lots of driving issues and it was felt would cause traffic tailbacks long term.

**92/20 Any Other Business**

**B4RN – AH gave an update – seems that there is still some way to go in achieving resident gigabit applications and asked if the Parish Councillors could do more**. After discussion it was felt that whilst communication to the Community was a priority for the Parish Council and will be facilitated, landowners can choose to exercise their own personal rights with regards to way leaves.

This will remain a standing agenda item for future meetings.

**DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

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