**LEA BY BACKFORD PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES**

**Monday 10th January 2022 -7 .30pm**

**at**

**Mollington Backford and District Village Hall**

**PART 1**

**In Attendance**

Councillor Richard Jones (Chairman)

Councillor Tom Jones

Councillor Sue Pownall

Councillor John Littler

Councillor Rob Griffiths

Councillor Robin Leigh (did not attend due to e mail error)

Borough Councillor Simon Eardley

**Apologies**

None

**Declaration of interest**

B4RN for both RJ and JL

**PART 2**

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

RJ asked SE about Hynet and if there was any further information. SE informed the group that a full and proper panning consultation has not yet been embarked on.

**02/22 Planning**

No new planning applications to be reviewed

**03/22 Reports by Representatives**

**Village Hall update by RG** – there had been two Trustee meetings attended those being the Pre AGM and AGM. RG asked about sports facilities for indoors and Rosie Sedgwick , (Chair), did a good summary about what the hall was designed for – Badminton being one of the key sports indoors. No actions as yet by the Trustees on this issue. No net or equipment or markings on the floor. It was muted that Trustees are waiting for somebody from the community to initite the badminton club. RG highlighted that the Sports England should be informed that no Badminton or other sports other than dance were currently an option in the indoor hall. RG was against the design for badminton and he felt this was not a good thing for the area, but that having secured funding against this criteria it should be at least providing equipment and markings on the floor.

Second point – the fees have gone up - £50 to £60 per night for the history society for the main hall and agreement is now for £15 per hour. Cost of the hall is being outpriced in the local area. Bar prices are too high – were the Trustees trying to recover more money used in the build. Should be attracting a lot of interest in people hiring. RS stated that both these issues have recently been looked at and new pricing has been adopted to be more attractive.

The Trustees would be monitoring the situation for the next few months.

**Backford charities** - Maurice Copple is currently taking advice on how we could use the funds in a more open way. The 5 villages can’t remain the boundaries for any spend. Unfortunately Mr Copple is unable to proceed at the moment.

**War Memorial Trust**

SP e mailed Helen Fielding yesterday – busy at the moment and she would be in touch. No further information. Signatory was an issue – wait for further information.

**Rural Sounding Board.**

Nil to report as RL not available tonight.

**04/22 Finance**

DJ gave the current banking position that being £6128

* Outstanding staff payments of £334.08 and £267.30
* Stationary and ink cartridges £30
* Hall hire £40
* Election charges not cashed yet £1985

Precept therefore agreed to remain as is at £3495 and DJ to send appropriate documentation to David Sconce at CWAC.

**05/22 Police Report**

DJ sent round to the group prior to meeting and all had received this. Thanks to Tony Icke for this information.

**06/22 Highways Update**

General discussion about the state of the tree damaged areas and the leaf clearing from the roads. SE reported the staff were completely exhausted. TJ reported a member of staff from the council who did not turn out with the relevant signage during the electricity down time in November 2021. SP reported that she had to move out as it was cold without electricity.

Speeding - SE reported that no update is yet received about the speeding review undertaken around September 2021.

**SE to chase.**

School area – 3 houses having a lot of work done and there are a lot of vans parked on the road. SP also suggested she nearly had an accident – SE suggested that the PCSO could be involved.

SE to drop a not to Tony Icke (Cheshire Police).

**Action SE**

Incident number to go to Simon Eardley re the cleaning of the roads.

**Action DJ**

RG Reminded that the signage for the public footpath is still missing.

SE stated that the members budget for the current year needs to be spent and D to fill in the relevant forms and return to CWAC for the noticeboard.

**DJ to organise**

Village green to be kept more tidy coming year. SE explained staffing issues are stopping the work COVID is an issue.

**07/22 Parish Plan**

DJ presented the draft ideas in the Parish Plan in line with government and local authority guidance.

General discussion ensued about the general ideas around building. DJ discussed schools etc and RG noted the school needs not to be any bigger – mums turn up early and leave their cars running which is not good for the environment. Affordable housing would be an issue going forward in order to keep younger families in the village. SP suggested thought needs to be given to the growing number of elderly within the community. TJ would want to ensure they are considered. Hynet now might not be coming through this area but might go around the back of Lea by Backford and reference to this should be in the Parish Plan.

All to consider ideas and look and report back on the key points mentioned.

SE amends - This has always been the case to the best of my knowledge. It is certainly the position I stood on at the last borough election and my predecessor, Cllr Brian Crowe, was very firmly of the view that the greenbelt should be protected. The recent consultation around possible planning reform included proposals to enhance protection of the greenbelt so I think this line might be amended or removed as it isn’t currently accurate and I wouldn’t want residents reading the minutes to have an impression of something that isn’t so.

**All to send ideas back by 10.2.22**

**08/22 Queens Celebrations**

RJ stated there is to be a Beacon already considered and would we want to join with Mollington. Plant a tree idea was agreed and SP suggested an area around the back of the village green dog leg of land off the small paddock. SP thinks Melvin (gardener) would sort the area ready for one decent size tree. Small plaque to commemorate the medium sized cherry tree.

DJ to do a notice for the notice board asking for community ideas. Consider first Thursday of the Queens Celebration free coffee and cake to residents.

SE reported that the Mollington development is close to the closure of appeal timescales and the options remain the same i.e one dwelling of higher value and 6 dwellings of affordable housing.

**09/22 Newsletter**

DJ to contact Christine Jones with regards to the new items for inclusion.

**10/22 Any Other Business**

SP Chester ring road update. SE said it was coming to a conclusion.

Green waste and bins was discussed and SE reported that further information was expected from CWAC in the very near future.

JL - shed going up on Whitby Lane – agricultural use – had this been looked at by Backford Parish Council. SE informed the group that this was ongoing and enforcement have been notified by Backford PC.

**Date and Time of Next meeting**

**Monday 14th March 2022**

**7.30p.m.**

**The Five Villages Hall**