

# MOLLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 15 March 2022 in the Five Villages Hall, Station Road, Backford

PRESENT: Cllrs Roger Jones (in the Chair), John Fielding, Jack Jones, Mike Jones, Rob Skupski and Dave Wells

In Attendance: Ward Councillor Simon Eardley and Mrs Pauline English (Parish Clerk)

## **22.15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr McKeagney (work commitments)

## **22.16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Fielding declared an interest in matters relating to the Five Villages Hall as he was a Trustee

## **22.17 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME**

The Chairman reported that a letter had been received from Gigaloch following the announcement by B4RN that they were unable to continue to promote their project to provide broadband services in Mollington. Gigaloch were at a point similar to B4RN in that unless they were able to progress without any additional land permissions, they might have to close the build in the Mollington area, although they would continue to provide a service to existing customers. Ward Cllr Eardley had passed the Chairman's contact details to Mike Dugine, the Digital Sector Specialist at CWaC, and he had emailed the Chairman offering to talk to Members about upgrading the current broadband network in Mollington to provide an FTTP fibre network for all residents.

RESOLVED: That the Chairman contact Mike Dugine to arrange a meeting with all interested parties.

## **22.18 MINUTES**

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 18 January 2022 be confirmed as a correct record

## **22.19 UPDATE REPORTS**

The following updates on matters dealt with at previous meetings were noted

### **(1) Additional Waste Bins**

Following a site meeting with Salty Siteine, CWaC Street Scene, the Chairman reported that the Parish Council could not get any further bins placed in the village. He had asked whether it would be possible to have one of the current bins moved to a more convenient location. There were two bins near the Village Green and it was queried whether one could be moved, possibly to Townfield Lane. Further discussion with Salty had confirmed that this was not possible.

RESOLVED: That the current position be noted

### **(2) Re-wilding**

RESOLVED: That a further report on this issue be made once the CWaC re-wilding at the junction of Townfield Lane and Parkgate was established.

### **(3) Trees**

Two Cherry trees had been made available to celebrate HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee, one for Mollington and one for Lea-by-Backford or Backford. Members were unable to approve a site for the tree without further advice and Cllr Dave Wells was asked to progress this with CWaC. Once a location was approved by CWaC they would be asked to issue a licence.

RESOLVED: That more information be sought from CWaC about the requirements regarding location (Cllr Wells).

### **(4) Backford Charities**

A further report would be made by the Chairman following discussions with Helen Fielding.

## 22.20 FINANCE

RESOLVED: That

- (1) expenditure since the last meeting be noted

| Date     | Method | Description  | Amount   |
|----------|--------|--|----------|
| 17.01.22 | BACS   | Lea-by-Backford PC-share of donation re Chester 10K      | 50.00    |
| 17.01.22 | BACS   | Parish Clerk-expenses including Radar Gun & accessories  | 320.93   |
| 17.01.22 | BACS   | HMRC-Income Tax  | 350.00   |
| 28.01.22 | SO     | Staffing costs-January                                   | 392.42   |
| 28.02.22 | SO     | Staffing costs-February                                  | 392.42   |
| 28.02.22 | BACS   | 5 Villages Hall-room hire Parish Council/Risk discussion | 40.00    |
| 28.02.22 | BACS   | Cllr R Jones-reimbursement of cost of Zoom subscription  | 143.88   |
|          |        |  | 1,689.65 |

- (2) it be noted that no Income had been received since last meeting

|                |                 |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Reconciliation | Opening balance | 9,531.52        |
|                | Add: Receipts   | 0               |
|                | Less: Payments  | <u>1,689.65</u> |
|                | Closing balance | <u>7,841.87</u> |

- (3) Barnes Cooper be appointed as internal auditor for the financial year 2021-22 at a cost of 125 + VAT.
- (4) the salary award for Parish Council Clerks with effect from 1 April 2021 be noted

## 22.21 PLANNING

RESOLVED:

- (1) That

- (a) the following application received for comments be noted

| Application No. | Application  | Location  | Comments by            |
|-----------------|--|---|------------------------|
| 22/00592/TPO    | Chestnut tree in rear garden-2-3m (20%) crown reduction and crown thin | The Hollows, 18 Townfield Lane, Mollington, Chester CH1 6NJ | No comments to be made |

- (b) the following decisions made by CWaC since the last Parish Council meeting be noted

| Application No. | Application   | Location   | Decision |
|-----------------|---|--|----------|
| 21/04965/TPO    | 1x oak in front garden - reduce the tree height by about a half   | The Hollows, 18 Townfield Lane, Mollington, Chester CH1 6NJ      | Approved |
| 21/02008/FUL    | Change of use of land to enclosed private dog exercise facility including parking and addition of site office/ timber store | Land at Mere Farm, Townfield Lane, Mollington, Chester, Cheshire | Approved |

- (c) the applications awaiting decision be noted

| Application No. | Application  | Location  |
|-----------------|--|---|
| 21/04439/FUL    | 1.8m brick boundary wall and tree protection in retrospect | Eden House, Well Lane, Mollington, Chester CH1 6LD                    |
| 21/04742/FUL    | Erection of detached single storey garage                  | Willow Farm Cottage, Well Lane, Mollington, Chester, Cheshire CH1 6LD |

- (2) An application had been received too late to be included on the agenda, but which required a response before the next meeting of the Parish Council. The application was 22/00314/LDC-Use of recreational fishing lakes for overnight fishing in excess of 10 years on land at Townfield Lane, Mollington, Chester. Ward Cllr Eardley reported that he objected to this application being approved and had requested a discussion with the case officer before it was determined. CWaC Enforcement were aware of

serious and ongoing concerns about activity on this site and there were considerable resident concerns around ongoing activity which would cause a significant problem if it was approved.

RESOLVED: That the Parish Council should support Cllr Eardley's objection to this application.

## **22.22 HIGHWAYS, RIGHTS OF WAY AND AMENITY CLEANING**

### **(1) Grove Road Speed Limit**

On 15 March 2022 CWaC had made the following Traffic Regulation Order in accordance with the provisions of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 which would come into operation on 18 March 2022. The Order would introduce a 40mph speed limit on Grove Road, Mollington from a point 166 metres north of its junction with Gipsy Lane to a point 500 metres north west of its junction with Damage Lane. Signage was already in place.

RESOLVED: That the conclusion of this project be noted.

### **(2) Parish Council Gardener**

The Parish Council had contracted with a local gardener to spend around 3½ hours a month working on those parts of the village that were not within the remit of CWaC. He had spent his first visit to Mollington working around Well Lane, Meadow Court, Mollington Court and Grove Road by the Notice Board. He had submitted his first account totalling £68.

RESOLVED: That the Gardener's work be noted.

### **(3) Condition of the roads**

Concern was expressed about the general condition of some of the roads in Mollington, in particular the edges of Overwood Lane which were breaking up allowing greenery to encroach and the lane to become so narrow that it was difficult for two vehicles to pass each other. This was a main artery into the village which needed to be kept open. There were also some patches at the end of Townfield Lane which were breaking up. Ward Cllr Eardley offered to take up these issues with CWaC on behalf of the Parish Council, with Cllr Wells.

### **(4) School Bus Services**

Despite the suggestion in October 2021 about using the 'green agenda' of CWaC to provide additional bus services, this had not proved possible. The only prospect now was the outcome of resourcing possibilities through the Bus Services Improvement Plan process. CWaC would not adjust their current position despite the lobbying efforts of many parents, supported by Ward Councillor Eardley. A copy of a report presented to Saughall & Shotwick Park Parish Council following a meeting with CWaC Members and officers had been circulated to Members.

RESOLVED: That the report be received and Cllr Eardley be requested to report back as the issues developed.

## **22.23 MOLLINGTON SCHOOL AND PLAYING FIELD**

The Parish Council currently had a licence which allowed informal use of the field at St Oswald's Primary School by the community outside school hours, including weekends and school holidays. The licence required access to be by use of a key. The Parish Council was unable to find the existing key holders. There was a general discussion about the possibility of finding a field suitable for conversion into a playing field and play area. It was agreed that the Parish Council should use the facility they already had until something more suitable was found. Cllr Eardley mentioned the play area at Ince village, which was a smaller village than Mollington, and recommended contacting the Parish Clerk for information about how the facility had been funded. He added that this could be an excellent Crowd funding project.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Clerk contact the Clerk of Ince Parish Council for information about the playing field/play area at Ince
- (2) Cllr Jack Jones identify new key holders close to the school

## **22.24 HM THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE**

The Chairman reported that he had met with both Lea-by-Backford and Backford Parish Councils and had attended Lea's Council meeting.

It was confirmed that the Beacon lighting should be on 2<sup>nd</sup> June at 9.45pm and that the Beacon should be sited on the Five Villages Hall car park. The bar in the Hall would be open to buy drinks and food would be offered to purchase. The function venue would have to be confirmed following a risk assessment, which the Chairman would progress. It was noted that provision of the food on the night had already been agreed.

The event would be free of charge with any costs being met by the Parish Council. The Chairman would ask Lea-by-Backford and Backford Parish Councils for a contribution towards the cost.

Additional car parking space would be sought from Fires & Stoves and advice would be sought from the Parish Council's current insurance provider on the need for additional insurance cover.

Cllr Jack Jones offered to be the Town Cryer.

As part of the celebration prizes were being offered for the Best Scarecrow, the best floral display and the best cake. It was agreed that the prize should be £25.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) Fires & Stoves be contacted about additional car parking
- (2) the Chairman asks Lea-by-Backford and Backford Parish Councils for a contribution towards the cost of the event when this is known
- (3) the Chairman progresses the risk assessment
- (4) the Clerk registers the event with CWaC and
- (5) the Clerk purchases three £25 vouchers to present to the prize winners

## **22.25 WARN AND INFORM**

This was a procedure to inform people what to do and who to ask if disaster struck. A team of "buddies" would be sought with local knowledge. A draft Manual had been produced by Mrs Christine Jones which needed the approval of Rob Ruddock in the Joint Cheshire Emergency Planning Team before being offered to Mollington residents.

RESOLVED: That the production of the draft Manual be noted, and the Chairman pass it to Rob Ruddock for approval.

## **22.26 COUNCILLORS CODE OF CONDUCT**

In December 2020, the Local Government Association (LGA) had developed and published a Model Councillor Code of Conduct in association with key partners and following extensive consultation with the sector. This was in response to the recommendation of the Committee of Standards in Public Life Local Government Ethical Standards 2019. The code provided a template for Local Authorities to adopt in whole and/or with amendments to take account of local circumstances.

RESOLVED: That the LGA Code of Conduct be adopted, taking account of local circumstances.

## **22.27 REVIEW OF PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES**

The Boundary Commission for England was holding a secondary consultation from 22 February to 4 April 2022 on its proposals for new parliamentary constituencies as part of the 2023 Boundary Review. The Commission would analyse responses from both consultations and produce a report deciding whether the initial proposals should change and detailing any suggested changes. If the Commission's recommendations varied, a further four-week written consultation on their revised proposals would be held, inviting views. Comments and the Commission's final report would be published and sent to parliament by July 2023 and subsequently made law. Mollington was placed in the new Chester North & Neston constituency.

RESOLVED: That the review be noted. No comments to be made.

## **22.28 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

Annual Meeting Tuesday 17 May 2022 at 7.15pm at The Five Villages Hall