

MOLLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 26 May 2021 at 7.00pm in St Oswald's Primary School, Grove Road, Mollington

PRESENT: Councillors John Fielding, Mike Jones, Roger Jones, Cathryn McKeagney, Mike Riley, Rob Skupski and Dave Wells

In attendance: Mrs P English (Parish Clerk) and Councillor Simon Eardley, Cheshire West & Chester (CWaC) Council Ward Member

Councillor Roger Jones in the Chair

21.37 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

21.38 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Councillor Roger Jones was proposed by Councillor Mike Jones and seconded by Councillor Dave Wells. There being no further nominations Councillor Roger Jones was elected Chairman of the Parish Council for 2021-22. All agreed.

Councillor Roger Jones in the Chair

21.39 APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN

Councillor John Fielding was proposed by Councillor Roger Jones and seconded by Councillor Dave Wells. There being no further nominations Councillor John Fielding was appointed Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council for 2021-22. All agreed.

21.40 VACANCIES FOR TWO COUNCILLORS

Following Councillor Angus MacSween's resignation from the Parish Council a Notice had been put on the Notice Boards and the website asking for expressions of interest from people wishing to be considered for co-option. Two people had put their names forward. On 29 April the Chairman had received the resignation of Councillor Christine Jones. Mrs Jones had asked to be able to continue to produce the quarterly Newsletter (which covered Lea-by-Backford and Backford as well as Mollington) and to manage, with the Parish Clerk, the Parish Council's website. The Parish Council would also be able to call on her services in an advisory capacity.

The Clerk had reported the two vacancies to Cheshire West & Chester Council (CWaC) and had been told that a Notice inviting 10 members of the public to request an election was required. The Notice had been put on the Notice Boards and the website on 29 April with a cut-off date of 20 May. On 20 May it had been confirmed that no request had been received for an election, allowing the Parish Council to fill the two vacancies by co-option.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) Mr Rob Skupski and Mrs Cathryn McKeagney be co-opted to the Parish Council with immediate effect
- (2) Mrs Christine Jones be permitted to continue to produce the quarterly Newsletter and to manage the Parish Council's website with the Parish Clerk.

21.41 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor John Fielding declared an interest in matters relating to the Village Hall as he was a member of the Village Hall Committee.

21.42 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME

No issues raised

21.43 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 9 March 2021 be confirmed as a correct record

21.44 AUDIT

The Parish Council had appointed Mr David Cooper as internal auditor for the 2020-21 audit. It was noted that the PWLB loan had taken the Parish Council's income over £25K

requiring an intermediate audit to be undertaken this year, which would incur an additional cost. The audit had not yet been completed.

RESOLVED: That a special meeting be convened in June to approve the Annual Governance Statement and the Annual Accounting Statement and to receive the Auditor's report.

21.45 REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

The Parish Council was entitled to representation on the following bodies:

- Backford Charities – 2 representatives
- War Memorial Trust – very little was known about this Trust. No-one could remember Mollington ever being represented on it.
- Village Hall Committee – 1 representative

RESOLVED: That Councillors Roger Jones and Mike Riley be appointed to the Backford Charities and Councillor Cathryn McKeagney to the Village Hall Committee.

Councillor Cathryn McKeagney declared an interest in matters relating to the Village Hall as she was now the Parish Council's representative on the Village Hall Committee.

21.46 SCHEME OF DELEGATION

Deferred to the next meeting.

21.47 INSURANCE

Came & Co were insurance brokers who checked the Parish Council's requirements with three insurance companies each year. This year a renewal quotation had been received from Ecclesiastical of £218, which was the same as last year.

RESOLVED: That the insurance policy with Ecclesiastical be approved.

21.48 RECEIPT OF AGENDA ETC BY EMAIL

RESOLVED: That agenda, minutes and background documents be received by electronic means

21.49 FOLLOW UP ON ISSUES RAISED AT PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- (1) Broadband in Mollington Village: The Six Villages Hyperfast Team had progressed the project to achieve a full fibre gigabit broadband network for the villages that were not included in any of the plans of the main providers. Both Openreach and City fibre were now actively installing broadband in and around Chester but had no plans for the Mollington area. Progress on achieving the Government gigabit vouchers along with community shares in B4RN had seen a steady increase but Mollington was still short of the target to begin digging. It was still the intention to have a cabinet at St Oswald's Primary School in Mollington, giving the school a free service. The Parish Council agreed that they should not be promoting B4RN over other providers.
- (2) Village Hall: Councillor Fielding gave a brief update on progress with the new build.
- (3) Clearing the School Pond: Councillor Mike Riley was leading on this project and he reported that the school children and other members of the local community, including former Councillor Christine Jones, were keen to get involved. Newts had already been removed. The replacement of the broken drain under Grove Road (see below) should stop the pond from overflowing.

21.50 HIGHWAYS, RIGHTS OF WAY AND AMENITY CLEANING

- (1) Grove Road Speed Limit: A formal consultation had been undertaken with residents on Grove Road which had shown overwhelming support for a 40mph speed limit from Redwood Riding Stables to St Oswald's Primary School. As a result, it had been agreed with Cheshire Highways that this limit should be implemented, although no date had yet been given.
- (2) Drainage Issues: An examination of the drainage system had found a broken, collapsed drain under Grove Road, opposite the pre-school. This had been replaced and metal grids sited to prevent leaves and branches getting into the drainage system. It was hoped that this would resolve the issues of ditches not draining, the pre-school

pond overflowing and water leaking out of the Openreach manhole outside Lilac Cottage. Hedges and ditches along Grove Road would be maintained to permit run off from the fields during periods of heavy rain.

- (3) Village Gateways: CWaC Highways would have to approve the site for the Gateway and would undertake the installation. The cost would be in the region of £350 for the Gateway. No price had yet been given for the installation.

ACTION: Clerk to ask CWaC whether they would consider putting “dragons teeth” markings on the road leading up to the 40mph.

21.51 COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PLANS

The recent flooding events in January, caused by Storm Christoph, highlighted the importance of and need for Community Resilience. Councillor Dave Wells was the Parish Council's lead Member on this subject. The Joint Cheshire Emergency Planning Team (JCEPT) were offering assistance to Town and Parish Council in the creation of Community Emergency Plans.

RESOLVED: That JCEPT be invited to attend a future meeting of the Parish Council

21.52 TREES FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

Funding was available for tree planting projects as part of The Mersey Forest's Trees for Climate Programme, to help create the woodlands of the future and offset carbon emissions. Grants were available to fund the purchase of trees, their planting and tree guards including advice for ongoing tree care and maintenance. Councillor Fielding thought the Village Hall would benefit from some trees on the new development and he would look into it on their behalf.

21.53 PLANNING

- (1) The following applications had been received for comment:

21/00440/FUL - Demolition of existing conservatory, erection of single storey rear extension at 10 Well Lane, Mollington, Chester CH1 6LD

21/00992/TPO - Full removal of Beech Tree (T1) to ground level at Shackleton, Well Lane, Mollington, Chester, CH1 6LD (APPROVED)

21/01144/FUL - Single storey side/rear extension, alteration to side windows at 7 Well Lane, Mollington, Chester CH1 6LD

21/01380/FUL - Demolition of existing garage, erection of detached garage to front, single storey side extension, two storey and single storey rear extensions at Greenacres, Townfield Lane, Mollington, Chester CH1 6NJ

21/00646/FUL - Part single storey, part two storey extension to rear, and erection of new garage to side; External alterations to convert existing garage, add external insulation and render, replace windows and doors; Addition of a pitched roof and balcony over existing flat roofed garage/porch at Ashbourne House, Well Lane, Mollington, Chester CH1 6LD.

Councillor Fielding would look at this in more detail and advise the other Councillors.

- (2) The following decision made by CWaC was noted:

21/00992/TPO - Full removal of Beech Tree (T1) to ground level at Shackleton, Well Lane, Mollington, Chester, CH1 6LD - APPROVED

- (3) A decision was still awaited on the following applications

21/01144/FUL - Single storey side/rear extension, alteration to side windows at 7 Well Lane, Mollington, Chester CH1 6LD

21/00444/FUL - Demolition of existing conservatory, erection of single storey rear extension at 10 Well Lane, Mollington, Chester CH1 6LD

20/04324/FUL - Farm redevelopment including conversion of buildings to 6 dwellings, demolition of several existing buildings and the erection of new agricultural buildings at Warren Farm, Townfield Lane, Mollington

20/04612/FUL - Replacement garage with new garage and workshop at Willow Brook Meadow, Well Lane, Mollington

20/01430/FUL - Change of use of barns into hydro-therapy pool, gymnasium and annexe flat for use in connection with the new dwelling at Elm Farm, Townfield Lane, Mollington
 20/03019/FUL- Demolition of the existing building and structures and the erection of 6no dwellings, creation of new public pedestrian and cycle path, and community car park, together with associated landscaping, ecology mitigation and infrastructure at Former Mollington Grange Golf Club, Townfield Lane, Mollington
 20/04168/FUL - Two storey front and side extension and detached garage at Dilkhush, 3 Feilden Court, Mollington

Concern was expressed about the time that was being taken by the Planners to come to a decision on these applications.

ACTION: Ward Councillor Simon Eardley would raise this with the Planners on the Parish Council's behalf.

21.54 FINANCE

(1) **Payments** made since the last meeting

Date	Method		Amount
10.03.21	BACS	Lea-by-Backford Parish Clerk-Books of Condolence	44.93
29.03.21	SO	Amenity Cleaner-wages March	193.44
29.03.21	SO	Parish Clerk-salary March	146.12
31.03.21	Bank	Service Charge (3 months)	18.00
Total (included in the 2020/21 accounts)			447.42
Opening balance at 1 April 2021			4,786.04
27.04.21	BACS	CWaC-Playing Field licence	300.00
28.04.21	SO	Amenity Cleaner-wages April	193.44
28.04.21	SO	Parish Clerk-salary April	194.82
07.05.21	BACS	ChALC Inv 2021/019 DK Planning (RJ)	25.00
			4,072.78

(2) **Receipts**

Date	Source	Amount
08.04.21	Cheshire West & Chester Council – Precept	12,000.00
12.04.21	CWaC Members' Budget-Newsletters	300.00
26.04.21	Lea-by-Backford Parish Clerk-repay cost of condolence books	14.97

(3) **Closing Balance** at 26 May 2021 = £16,387.75

(4) **Approval to the use of BACS payments:** The Legislative Reform (Payments by Parish Councils, Community Councils and Charter Trustees) Order 2014 provided the opportunity for Parish Councils to make payments by BACS transfer provided such payments were authorised by the Parish Council. The Parish Council had been using this method of payment very successfully since the Order was made and it was the preferred option for many organisations.

RESOLVED: That payment by BACS be continued in 2021-22.

21.55 CONSULTATIONS

(1) **Local Authority Remote Meetings – Call for Evidence**

The government wanted to gather evidence about the use of the current arrangements for local authorities to meet remotely or in hybrid format, as set out in the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 (and the equivalent regulations for Wales and Northern Ireland) under powers granted by section 78 of the Coronavirus Act 2020. The advice given to respond to the Call for Evidence was to log into [Local authority remote meetings: call for evidence - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-authority-remote-meetings-call-for-evidence).

RESOLVED: That the Clerk respond to the Call for Evidence on behalf of the Parish Council supporting the ability to hold meetings remotely.

(2) Dog Control - Public Spaces Protection Order consultation 13 May 2021–04 July 2021

In October 2018 Cheshire West & Chester Council (CWaC) had introduced a wide range of measures covering the control of dogs and encouraging responsible dog ownership. These were now due for review. People could give their views in a variety of ways - On-line at: www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/DogControlOrderReview, by email to dogs@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk, by telephoning 0300 123 8 123 quoting "Dog Control" or by writing to Research and Intelligence Team, Cheshire West and Chester Council, 4 Civic Way, Ellesmere Port, CH65 0BE

RESOLVED: That Clerk respond on behalf of the Parish Council supporting the continuation and extension of the Dog Control - Public Spaces Protection Order

21.56 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

The following matters were proposed for inclusion on the next agenda

- Parking on pavements
- Stiles/Kissing Gates - Councillor Fielding was asked to find out where there were problems with stiles.
- Control of speed - Councillors Fielding and Skupski to ask CWaC Highways to advise on the best way of controlling speed (paint on roundels, dragons teeth, one lane priority, etc) and to report to Ward Councillor Eardley before bringing back to the Parish Council.
- Waste Consultation (would include changes to bin collections)
- Vandalism

21.57 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 28 July 2021 at 7.00pm, venue to be decided