

# Mollington Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 7 January 2020 at Mollington, Backford & District Village Hall

**PRESENT:** Councillors Roger Jones (in the Chair), Brian Crowe, John Fielding and Christine Jones  
In Attendance: Mrs Pauline English (Parish Clerk), Cheshire West & Chester (CWaC) Ward Councillor Simon Eardley, Andy White (Active Leisure Events Limited) and two members of the Village Hall Committee

## 20.01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors Sally Atkin, Mike Jones and Angus MacSween

## 20.02 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

## 20.03 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME

It was RESOLVED that agenda item 11 (Aldi Chester 10K) be brought forward to enable Andy White of Active Leisure Events Limited, the organisers of the Chester 10K, to provide information about both the 10K on Sunday 8 March 2020 and the Essar Chester Half Marathon on Sunday 17 May 2020. He reported that the route of the 10K was different to that used last year and there would be less impact on Mollington residents. Although Parkgate Road out of Chester would be closed between approximately 8.30am and noon, residents would be able to leave the village via Overwood Lane by turning right onto Parkgate Road. The Essar Chester Half Marathon on Sunday 17 May 2020 would start at Chester Racecourse then leave the City via Watergate Street and the Garden Quarter heading for Mollington on Parkgate Road. At half way the runners would return to Chester via Woodbank and Saughall, finishing outside Chester Town Hall. This was the first time this race had come through Mollington and there would be opportunities for residents to get involved in the organisation of the race, mainly by providing marshalls (aged 18+). Approximately 12 people and a team leader would be needed. The Race Co-ordinator would be asked to get in touch with the Chairman to liaise over details. The school would get involved as a cheer point. Councillor Crowe asked whether the race could use an alternative neighbourhood in future years; other Councillors were happy for it to continue through Mollington.

## 20.04 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 November 2019 would be confirmed at the next meeting.

## 20.05 PLANNING

(1) **Applications Received:** The following application was noted

19/04429/FUL	Addition of roof lights for loft conversion at Nearby, Well Lane, Mollington, Chester, Cheshire CH1 6LD – no comments to be made
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(2) **Decisions:** The following decisions made by Cheshire West & Chester Council (CWaC) were noted:

19/00308/FUL	Demolition of 2-storey farmhouse and erection of new single storey dwelling at Elm Farm, Townfield Lane, Mollington, Chester CH1 6NJ – APPROVED
19/02633/FUL	Amendment to windows and doors to residential units approved under 17/04033/PDO at Mollington Grange Business Park, Parkgate Road, Mollington, Chester CH1 6NP - APPROVED
19/03603/FUL	Single storey rear extension, first floor rear extension, and provision of roof lights to serve a loft conversion at Creole, 11 Well Lane, Mollington, Chester, Cheshire CH1 6LD – APPROVED
19/03657/FUL	Removal of existing front boundary wall and alterations to layout and landscaping of front garden to provide a new vehicle crossover and driveway area with turning space at Wellfield, Well Lane, Mollington, Chester, Cheshire CH1 6LD - APPROVED

## 20.06 HIGHWAYS, RIGHTS OF WAY AND AMENITY CLEANING

- (1) **Proposed footpath between Townfield Lane and Parkgate Road bus stop:** This matter had been brought up with Kay Parry (CWaC Highways) previously and the advice remained the same, that CWaC did not have any funding available for projects that were not considered to be essential. It was queried whether this could be made the subject of a S106 agreement if the owners of the Golf Club site submitted a planning application to develop the site of the former Clubhouse. Councillor Eardley agreed to check this with Kay Parry.
- (2) **Update on public meeting re footpaths on former Golf Club site:** Councillor Eardley had contacted Richard Ankers (CWaC Footpaths Officer) regarding the gate to the public footpath leading onto the former Golf Course site. which was chained off. Councillor Eardley asked whether this was something CWaC had done or was it the landowner. The Clerk had confirmed that this footpath was on the definitive map so access should be kept open at all times. As well as being blocked, access to the main pathway was very overgrown and there were considerable amounts of rubbish in the vicinity. Mr Ankers had replied that he was unaware of any formal closure in place that would require the locking of the gate to prevent access and the landowner would be informed of this and asked to remove the padlock and chain as soon as possible. This Footpath was not on CWaC's list of Public Rights of Way that were strimmed annually, and there were currently insufficient resources available to instruct a contractor to do the job as a one-off.
- (3) **Other Public Rights of Way issues:** There were several of the old black and white public footpath signs around the area including a cast iron milestone close to the footpath entrance, all of which needed refurbishment. Mr Ankers explained that the cast iron fingerposts had been supplied and installed by the Wirral Footpath Society. He had not been able to determine whether responsibility to maintain them following installation had reverted to the Council. The Footpath Society had a working party that cleaned and repainted the posts, but they also covered the Wirral area where there were many more such posts so had their work cut out keeping up with them. They had been made aware of the issues in the Mollington area and had said that they could do something with them but were unable to commit to a timescale as they were all volunteers. CWaC did not have sufficient resources to undertake this work. Councillor Eardley would look further into possible restoration projects for finger posts and milestones.
- (4) The leaf sweep of the village had been requested.

## 20.07 MOLLINGTON SCHOOL AND PLAYING FIELD

Following a request by a parent, Councillor Fielding reported that he had drawn up some proposals for increasing the amount of parking available around the school area. He had circulated three drawings and would speak to the Headteacher about the possibility of approaching CWaC to discuss the options further.

## 20.08 VILLAGE HALL

*Councillor Fielding declared an interest in this item as he was a member of the Village Hall Committee. As no decision was to be made on this item, he remained in the meeting.* Two representatives of the Village Hall Committee attended the meeting for the purpose of putting to the Parish Council a case for an increase in the amount to be made available towards the cost of the new Village Hall. They explained that the need for further estimating and design work had put back implementation and had resulted in additional costs. All external works had now been removed from the building contract and would be undertaken separately. Two local businesses had offered their help and there was still an option to seek redress from Virgin Media, but this could take time. The case for additional funding would be put to the England Committee the following day and if approved would enable the building works to start at the beginning of April. The Parish Council was left with four options to consider and it was proposed that these options should be put to an extraordinary meeting of the Parish Council when all seven Councillors were in attendance. The four options were:

- (1) Utilise the portion of the precept allocated to pay back the loan in 2019/20 (£2,355) as a further contribution towards the Village Hall bid;
- (2) Allocate some or all of the available anticipated surplus at the end of this financial year to support the VH bid;
- (3) Increase the amount of the proposed PWLB loan from £50K to £56.7K, thus providing an additional £6.7K for the Village Hall, and extend the payback of the loan from 15 to 17 years;
- (4) Increase the precept for 2020/21 to generate cash in further support of the VH bid

The Clerk was asked to contact ChALC to check that (1) was a legitimate use of this money. The Chairman would discuss (3) with Andrew Harkness and report back.

It was RESOLVED that:

- (1) the current situation with regard to the new Village Hall be noted;
- (2) an extraordinary meeting be called on a date to be agreed during week beginning 13 January 2020 to finalise the Parish Council's budget for 2020-21 and to agree the amount to be raised by precept.

## 20.09 COMMUNICATIONS

It was RESOLVED to defer consideration of this item until all seven Councillors were available

## 20.10 FINANCE

(1) **Receipts since last meeting:** None

(2) **Payments made since last meeting:**

Date	Description	Amount
13.11.19	Parish Clerk-expenses including £35 contribution towards SLCC subscription as agreed at September meeting	69.35
15.11.19	Cllr Roger Jones-Garden Competition expenses	89.35
28.11.19	Amenity Cleaner-wages November	182.00
28.11.19	Parish Clerk-salary November	139.46
28.11.19	PAYE	400.92
03.12.19	1&1-website hosting monthly fee	7.19
17.12.19	Shelley Signs-Interpretive Panel for Mollington	798.00
18.12.19	Cllr Christine Jones-setting up website for Interpretive Panel	180.00
30.12.19	Amenity Cleaner-wages December	182.00
30.12.19	Parish Clerk-salary December	139.46
31.12.19	Bank Charges (3 months)	18.00
02.01.20	1&1-website hosting monthly fee	7.19
07.01.20	Parish Clerk-expenses	42.25
07.01.20	Village Hall-Room Hire	20.00
	Total	2,275.17

(3) Balance in bank as at 7 January 2020: £8,082.83 (including the £2,355 to repay the PWLB)

## 20.11 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Extraordinary meeting during week beginning 13 January 2020 to discuss the Village Hall proposals and the Parish Council's budget and precept (date to be confirmed).

The next scheduled meeting was on Tuesday 10 March 2020 at 7.30pm in St Oswald's Primary School