

MOLLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 18 January 2022 at 7.15pm in the Five Villages Hall, Station Road, Backford

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

In attendance: Mrs P English (Parish Clerk), Ward Councillor Simon Eardley and Mrs Christine Jones

22.01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Cathryn McKeagney

22.02 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

22.03 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME

As a result of the Covid pandemic and the recent storm and flooding damage, at the request of the Chairman of the Parish Council, and using information provided by the Joint Cheshire Emergency Planning Team, Mrs Christine Jones had put together a draft Community Resilience Plan for Mollington. The draft Plan contained a lot of information, but more was needed to complete it. The Plan had been circulated to Mollington Councillors for comment but had not been distributed widely. It now needed to be communicated to Lea-by-Backford and Backford Parish Councils, whose engagement with the project would be essential to its success, and a crisis management team needed to be recruited. Mrs Jones asked for the Parish Council's approval to continue her work on this project. The Parish Council thanked Mrs Jones for her excellent work to date and **RESOLVED** to approve its continuation.

22.04 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 16 November 2021 be approved as a correct record.

22.05 UPDATE REPORTS

The following reports were made, updating on issues previously raised:

- (1) **Additional Waste Bins:** The Chairman reported that he had met Salty Siteine, Cheshire West & Chester (CWaC), to discuss the possibility of having additional waste bins in the village and had been told that Mollington did not meet the criteria for additional bins. The Parish Council discussed repositioning one (or more) of the existing bins as long as this would not compromise collection. It was **RESOLVED** that the Chairman would consult Salty Siteine (CWaC) about repositioning bins.
- (2) **Re-wilding:** Ward Councillor Simon Eardley confirmed that he had selected the Townfield Lane/Parkgate Road junction as his preferred re-wilding site. This meant that the site would be planted and managed by CWaC. It was anticipated that the planting would start in March. A second site was proposed in the verge outside the school. Councillor Wells had discussed this with the Headteacher and had suggested it might be a school project. It was proposed that the management and appearance of the Townfield Lane/Parkgate Road site be assessed before a decision was made to go ahead with this second site. **RESOLVED** that Councillor Wells follow this up.
- (3) **Representatives on Outside Bodies-Backford Charities:** No progress had yet been made on the amendment to the constitution. It was **RESOLVED** that the Chairman should report back when there was any news.
- (4) **Speeding on Grove Road and Townfield Lane:** The Radar Gun had been purchased. PCSO Tony Icke had provided a map of the approved locations for the speed watch volunteers to stand while carrying out the scheme, along with some notes of issues the volunteers should be aware of. The next step was to find sufficient volunteers to undertake the basic training following which a date for this would be confirmed. **RESOLVED** that the Chairman follow this up with PCSO Icke.
- (5) **Communications:** Councillor McKeagney was not present at the meeting to report on progress.

- (6) **HM the Queen's Platinum Jubilee:** The Beacon was still at Rosie Crowe's. Councillor Mike Jones would be speaking to her in the next day or so and would ask if she would be happy for the Beacon to be removed to one of his fields. Councillors Jack Jones and Mike Jones were also investigating the possibility of using a site along Damage Lane which would be central to all three parishes. However, it was eventually agreed that the school field would be the best site, subject to the agreement of the Headteacher.

It had been suggested that a tree be planted to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee. Ward Councillor Eardley confirmed that the Mersey Forest would be happy to provide funding for a tree and Mary Lavery at CWaC had agreed to liaise with the Parish Council over the purchase and planting. Some thought needed to be given to an appropriate person to plant the tree. RESOLVED that Councillor Wells take this forward.

It was noted that the school were holding a party on 11 June.

- (7) **Emergency Planning:** It was reported that a resident had the skill set and experience to be the prime co-ordinator for the proposed emergency plan. He had already volunteered his services.

22.06 PLANNING

- (1) RESOLVED that the following applications be received, and comments be submitted to CWaC

Application No.	Proposal	Site	Parish Council comments
21/04439/FUL	1.8m brick boundary wall and tree protection in retrospect	Eden House, Well Lane, Mollington, Chester CH1 6LD	Height of wall not acceptable. Councillor Fielding to draft Parish Council's objections
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	No indication given of the reason for reducing the tree by half. Ward Councillor Eardley would ask Planners
21/04742/FUL	Erection of detached single storey garage	Willow Farm Cottage, Well Lane, Mollington, Chester, Cheshire CH1 6LD	No comments

- (2) RESOLVED that decisions made by CWaC be noted, as follows

Application No.	Application	Application Site	Decision
20/02289/FUL	Change of Use of existing footgolf building and associated area to day care for dogs	Land At Mollington Grange Business Park, Parkgate Road, Mollington, Chester	Approved
21/01380/FUL	Demolition of existing garage, erection of detached garage to front, single storey side extension, two storey and single storey rear extensions	Greenacres, Townfield Lane, Mollington, Chester, Cheshire CH1 6NJ	Approved

- (3) RESOLVED that applications awaiting decision be noted as follows:

Application No.	Application	Application site	Comments
21/02008/FUL	Change of use of land to enclosed private dog day care/dog exercise facility including parking and addition of site office/timber store	Land at Mere Farm, Townfield Lane, Mollington, Chester, Cheshire	Planners have confirmed that a condition limiting the number of dogs to 25 allowed within the site at any time was acceptable the condition being necessary and reasonable in this instance,

- (4) Ward Councillor Eardley reported that Harworth had lodged an appeal with the Planning Inspectorate in relation to the refusal of 6no. houses on the former golf club site (application number 20/03019/FUL). No decision had yet been made as to whether the appeal was to be heard via written representations or in person. He would keep the Parish Council informed.

22.07 FINANCE

RESOLVED that

- (1) it be noted that no income had been received since the last meeting of the Parish Council
- (2) the following expenditure since the last meeting of the Parish Council be approved

Date	Method	Description	Amount
29.11.21	SO	Amenity Cleaner – wages November	197.60
29.11.21	SO	Parish Clerk – salary November	194.82
17.12.21	DD	PWLB Loan repayment	1,117.35
29.12.21	SO	Amenity Cleaner – wages December	197.60
29.12.21	SO	Parish Clerk – salary December	194.82
31.12.21	Bank	Service charge	18.00
06.01.22	BACS	Five Villages Hall – Room Hire	20.00
Total			1,940.19

Reconciliation:	Opening Balance	11,471.71
	Add: Receipts	0
	Less: Payments	1,940.19
	Closing Balance	<u>9,531.52</u>

- (3) the Parish Council's budget for 2022/23 be approved:
- (4) the Clerk's salary be increased by one column point to SCP23 (£14.42 per hour)
- (5) the monthly fixed payment of £10 to mitigate the costs of having the Parish Council's registered office at the Clerk's home be agreed for 2022-23;
- (6) the rate per mile for casual use of own transport by both employees and Councillors on Parish Council approved business should remain at 45p per mile;
- (7) the Amenity Cleaner's wage from 1 April 2022 be increased to the amount agreed by Cheshire West & Chester Council as the local living wage and his hours of work remain at six per week;
- (8) the precept be set at £14,000 (a Band D payment of £39.16 per annum);

22.08 HIGHWAYS

- (1) **Speeding Issues:** No date had been agreed yet for the speed signs to be erected on Grove Road. CWaC had informed the Parish Council that they were waiting for the signs to be delivered and promised that they would be erected before the end of the financial year.

The Parish Clerk had purchased a Bushnell radar gun with case and batteries at a total cost of £224.45 and had made enquiries of the Police & Crime Commissioner's office about seeking a grant to cover the cost. The Commissioner's office had confirmed that a community action fund was available whereby groups could apply for funding to help them make their communities safer. The fund was currently closed to new applications but would re-open in April 2022.

- (2) **School Bus Services:** No further information available.

22.09 MOLLINGTON SCHOOL AND PLAYING FIELD

RESOLVED that the Parish Council should continue to pay the £300 for the licence for the public use of the school playing field out of school hours, and that its availability should be publicised including instructions for accessing the key.

22.10 TACKLING THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY

Tackling the Climate Emergency remained a key priority for CWaC. Because many local groups and individuals were playing their part to make their communities greener and better places to live CWaC had launched an **online engagement hub named 'Inspire'** which provided the opportunity to share ideas and stories about what people were doing locally to reduce carbon emissions and improve the natural environment.

RESOLVED that this be noted.

22.11 POLICE & CRIME PLAN 2021-24

The Police & Crime Commissioner's Plan for 2021-24 set out his vision for policing, crime and community safety in Cheshire. It also detailed the strategic priorities for Cheshire Constabulary over the next three years and set out how the Chief Constable would be held to account to ensure that the police service delivered on these priorities. The six key priorities for policing and crime in Cheshire from now until 2024 were to prevent and tackle crime, make Cheshire's roads safer, deliver justice for victims of crime, protect vulnerable and at-risk people, improve public confidence in policing and modernise the police service. RESOLVED that the Police & Crime Plan 2021-24 be noted.

22.12 CONSULTATIONS

(1) **Postal Service Regulation:** The Office of Communications (OFCOM) had launched a consultation into its review of postal service regulation from 2022–2027. NALC would be responding to this consultation as most rural councils would have an interest in the proposals. A briefing document set out full details and the main consultation questions to which NALC would be responding. NALC were seeking the views of County Associations and member councils in response to questions to help inform its submission to OFCOM. The deadline for responses was 17 February 2022. RESOLVED that the consultation be noted

(2) **NACO (National Association of Civic Officers) Tree Planting Day-Friday 11 March 2022:** NACO wanted as many civic leaders as possible on the same day to plant a tree to mark The Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The day chosen was Friday 11 March 2022 which was the 70th day of the year in which The Queen would mark the 70th anniversary of her accession. What they were currently asking for was an indication whether or not the Parish Council was likely to take part. A bound book would be prepared, including the names of all Councils taking part, which would then be sent to HM The Queen. RESOLVED that the Parish Council should not take part in NACO's tree planting day as they had an alternative planned for later in the year.

(3) **Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) Publication of the Upton-by-Chester Neighbourhood Development Plan**

The Upton-by-Chester Neighbourhood Development Plan had been submitted to CWaC in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended). There would now be a six-week consultation period running from 13 January 2022 to 5pm on Thursday 24 February 2022 during which interested parties could make comments on the plan.

RESOLVED that the Plan be noted.

22.13 EVENTS

Crowdfunding Workshop: With nearly £300,000 raised by community projects through the Cheshire West Crowd to date, people were being encouraged to add their ideas to the platform ready to pitch for funding in the spring 2022 round. A workshop was to be led by CWaC Councillor Louse Gittins and Jackie Weaver, ChALC, from 12 noon to 1:00pm on Tuesday 1 February to help projects get their ideas ready for crowdfunding. The Council's funding pots available in spring 2022 would be announced in the New Year. Projects needed to be added to the Cheshire West Crowd and pitch to relevant Council funds by Wednesday 23 March.

RESOLVED that the Parish Clerk should sign up for the workshop on 1 February and report back to the Parish Council.

22.14 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 15 March 2022 at 7.15pm in the Five Villages Hall, Station Road, Backford