

MOLLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 16 November 2021 at 7.15pm in the 5 Villages Hall, Station Road, Backford

PRESENT: Councillors Roger Jones (in the Chair), John Fielding, Jack Jones, Cathryn McKeagney, and Rob Skupski

In attendance: Ward Councillor Simon Eardley and two members of the public

In attendance via Zoom due to Covid-19 restrictions: Councillors Mike Jones and Dave Wells and Mrs P English (Parish Clerk)

21.90 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

21.91 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Fielding declared an interest in matters relating to the 5 Villages Hall as he was a Trustee and also in Planning Application 21/03477/FUL relating to 8 Willow Lea as it was his home address.

21.92 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME

Messrs Chris Jones and Dave Evans informed the Parish Council that the B4RN project was still short of 17 subscriptions to enable it to go ahead and asked that Parish Councillors help the scheme by promoting it, particularly on their website. B4RN, despite being not for profit, was considered to be a commercial operation. The Chairman explained that the Parish Council had been very supportive in the past when B4RN was the only option but could not support one supplier over others and a new supplier had now entered the market.

21.93 MINUTES

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

21.94 UPDATE REPORTS

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

- (1) **Village Hall:** The new Hall was now open for business!
- (2) **Fibre Broadband:** See Minute 21.92 above
- (3) **Additional Waste Bins:** Several requests had been made by dog walkers for additional bins on Grove Road and at the junction of Townfield Lane and Coalpit Lane. This request had been passed to CWaC who had asked for a specific location on Grove Road. There were already two bins on Grove Road, and it might be possible to relocate one of them.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk follow this up with CWaC.

- (4) **Grass Verges and Hedges:** CWaC had proposed rewilding the verges at the junction of Townfield Lane and Parkgate Road, and this was agreed. Councillor McKeagney had spoken to the Headteacher at St Oswald's Primary School, who was in favour of a rewilding scheme in the verge outside the school.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Mike Jones look into options for the type of plants to be used. The Parish Council thanked Angus MacSween for cutting the grass on both sides of the entrance to Mollington Court.

- (5) **Representatives on Outside Bodies - Backford Charities:** The Chairman reported that an application was to be made to change the constitution of the Backford Charities to permit a wider use of the funds available. Five Trustees were to be appointed. Another meeting would be held to discuss the issues before the next Parish Council meeting.

RESOLVED: That the Chairman follow this up and report to the next Parish Council meeting.

- (6) **Speeding on Grove Road and Townfield Lane:** The Chairman and PCSO Tony Icke had carried out a speed check on Grove Road around the school and pre-school. Comments from the parents dropping off children were generally in support of the exercise. The Chairman advised that the cost of a Bushnell speed gun was around

£189.00 plus a case £28.00 plus batteries. Members discussed this and it was agreed by a majority of 4-2 to purchase the speed gun. PCSO Icke would look into training courses to enable Councillors to use the equipment on a regular basis. It was noted that neither Lea-by-Backford nor Backford Parish Council were in favour of carrying out speed checks as they were concerned that residents might intimidate them.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman, should purchase the speed gun on behalf of the Parish Council and Councillor Eardley would speak to both Lea and Backford Parish Councils.

The Chairman reported that other speed signs eg smiley face with speed indication would cost approximately £2,500. It was **RESOLVED** not to progress that at this time

(7) **Communications:** Councillor McKeagney had asked her colleague at the Catholic High School to assist in improving communications including the set-up of the website. She would host a preview at her home for herself and Christine Jones.

(8) **HM the Queen's Platinum Jubilee:** Councillor Mike Jones would pick up the beacon from Rosie Crowe. Councillor McKeagney suggested holding a 1950s Tea Dance on the afternoon of 11 June which would allow children (and adults) to dress in 1950s clothing.

RESOLVED: That

(a) Councillor McKeagney would consult Lea-by-Backford and Backford Parish Councils on this proposal and report back before the next meeting

(b) The Clerk would register the Parish Council as lighting the Beacon at 9.15pm on 2 June 2022

21.95 PLANNING

(1) Applications received for comment and passed to Councillors

Application No.	Proposal	Site	Status
20/03408/FUL	Conversion of existing garage, with elevation changes, to create annexe accommodation for the main dwelling house	Willow Brook House, Well Lane, Mollington Chester CH1 6ld	No comments to be made Application approved
21/03804/FUL	Single storey side extension and demolish and rebuild carport to side	Lyndale Bungalow, Powey Lane, Chester CH1 6LH	No comments to be made Application approved
21/03831/S73	Change of use of existing footgolf building and associated area to day care for dogs – removal of condition 1, 3 and 5 of planning permission 20/02289/FUL	Land at Mollington Grange Business Park, Parkgate Road, Mollington, Chester	Some outstanding issues Application not yet decided

Councillor Fielding declared an interest in the following application as it was his home address

21/03477/FUL	Single storey front extension, demolition of rear conservatory and erection of single storey rear extension, alteration to all existing windows and doors	8 Willow Lea, Mollington, Chester CH1 6LW	No comments to be made Application not yet decided
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(2) Decisions taken by Cheshire West & Chester Council (CWaC)

Application No.	Application details	Application site	Decision
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 association landscaping, ecology mitigation and infrastructure	Former Mollington Grange Golf Club, Townfield Lane, Mollington, Chester CH1 6NJ	Refused

20/04168/FUL	Two storey front and side extension and detached garage	Dilkhush, 3 Feilden Court, Mollington, Chester CH1 6LS	Approved
20/04324/FUL	Farm redevelopment including conversion of buildings to 5 dwellings, demolition of several existing buildings and the erection of new agricultural buildings	Warren Farm, Townfield Lane, Mollington, Chester CH1 6LB	Approved
20/04612/FUL	Replacement garage with new garage and workshop	Willow Brook Meadow, Well Lane, Mollington, Chester CH1 6LD	Approved
21/01339/FUL	Single storey rear extension	8 Well Lane, Mollington, Chester CH1 6LD	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 CH1 6NJ	Approved
21/01831/FUL	Change of use of Golf Clubhouse to form one dwelling with extensions, swimming pool and tennis court and use of former greenkeeper's building for purposes ancillary to the dwelling and maintenance of the land	Clubhouse Flat, Mollington Grange Golf Club, Townfield Lane, Mollington, Chester CH1 6NJ	Approved
21/02304/FUL	Single storey front and first floor side extension	Warren Chase, Townfield Lane, Mollington, Chester CH1 6LB	Approved

(3) Decisions awaited

Application No.	Application Details
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 on land at Mere Farm, Townfield Lane, Mollington, Chester A letter containing comments regarding the proposal had been received but could not be considered as it was anonymous

21.96 FINANCE

(1) **Receipts:** The following amount had been received since the last meeting

13.10.21	Active Leisure – Assistance by residents at the Chester half marathon It was resolved to pay £50 of this to Lea-by-Backford Parish Council as some Lea residents had helped out.	250.00
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(2) **Payments:** The following amounts had been paid since the last meeting

28.09.21	SO	Amenity Cleaner-wages September	197.60
28.09.21	SO	Parish Clerk-salary September	194.82
30.09.21	Bank	Service Charge (3 months)	18.00
04.10.21	BACS	PKF Littlejohn-External Audit fee	240.00
28.10.21	SO	Amenity Cleaner-wages October	197.60
28.10.21	SO	Parish Clerk-salary October	194.82
06.11.21	BACS	ChALC-Training Cllr Skupski	30.00
Total			1,072.84

Reconciliation: Opening Balance	12,294.55
Add: Receipts	250.00
Less: Payments	1,072.84
Balance carried forward	<u>11,471.71</u>

21.97 HIGHWAYS

- (1) **Grove Road Speed Limit:** It was reported that CWaC were currently finalising sign design for the Grove Road speed limit. They expected this to be completed by the end of December, if not sooner.
RESOLVED: That the Chairman would follow this up
- (2) **Speed Limit on Townfield Lane:** The Parish Council had asked CWaC Highways about the cost of undertaking a review of the speed limit on the southern end of Townfield Lane from the fingerpost to Parkgate Road. CWaC had advised that an estimated cost would be £2,000 based on a similar one elsewhere but it would depend on what the recommended limit was as this would impact on whether terminal signs were still needed. The cost was for the physical signage and to put the notices in the newspaper. CWaC did not currently pass on the staff cost of monitoring, undertaking SLA or design/TRO implementation. The Parish Council's contribution would be approximately £1,000 and Councillor Eardley had kindly agreed to contribute £500 from his Member's budget toward this. CWaC would not go ahead with a review until the Parish Council gave a commitment to making such a contribution. CWaC had suggested assessing the section from the 30mph limit westerly to the A540 for consistency.
RESOLVED: That the Parish Council should not proceed with this project until Members had experience with the speed gun and the Chairman would report back after training
- (3) **Speed wires:** The Chairman had asked CWaC for advice regarding the speed wires that had been laid in Mollington. CWaC had advised that the wires belonged to a private company, Nationwide Data Collection, who were completing a number of surveys across Cheshire West and Flintshire, the data from which was needed to assess the environmental and traffic impacts associated with the construction and operation of the HyNet North West NSIP project. This data would be used to inform decisions on the future of the project for existing road, public transport, and nonmotorised user infrastructure. There were two such surveys in the Mollington / Lea by Backford area - Overwood Lane between A540 and Townfield Lane and Station Road between A41 and Damage Lane. They had not mentioned any on Townfield Lane but might have added others to their list since it was sent to CWaC. CWaC had asked Nationwide Data Collection for a copy of all the surveys completed in Cheshire West but had not yet received a reply.
- (4) **School Bus Services:** A school bus service currently ran to and from Mollington to Upton High School, the "Nearest Qualifying School" for those living in Mollington. The service was not without its issues, most notably the length of time the journey took. There were also inconsistencies as parents were being informed by CWaC that their child was not eligible to travel by bus as they lived within three miles of the school and were therefore able to walk but the route to school had been recognised by CWaC as an unsafe walking route for students, so they were eligible to "receive travel assistance". Many parents (and children) chose to attend Bishops High School in Boughton and were not eligible to receive travel assistance. The uncertainty of a school bus service to Bishops continued to cause concern and anxiety to local families with school age children and it had a considerable impact on the quality of life of those living in rural villages. This issue had been highlighted by Saughall & Shotwick Park Parish Council and it was suggested that Mollington join with them in bringing this issue to the attention of CWaC. Councillor McKeagney told Members that children attending the

Catholic High School had similar problems and that the School had decided to provide its own buses. Ward Councillor Eardley was aware of the problems and would provide the Parish Council with further information on the subject.

21.98 TREE PLANTING PROJECTS IN MOLLINGTON AREA

An email had been received from eforests.co.uk who work with wildlife trusts, community woodlands and community farms around the UK, supplying them with free trees for their nature reserves, rewilding projects, etc. They were offering free trees for tree planting projects with a minimum of 150 trees. The trees were all UK native species, grown from UK seed and could be supplied with free shelters, stakes, weed mats, etc. Trees could also be available for private landowners that had public access to their land.

RESOLVED: That Members advise the Clerk before the next meeting of any schemes of which they were aware that would benefit from being given free trees.

21.99 TACKLING THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY

Deferred to the next meeting

21.100 CONSULTATIONS

(1) **Police and Crime Plan 2021-24:** The Police and Crime Commissioner had launched his Police and Crime Plan covering the years 2021-24 on 1 November 2021. The Plan outlined his vision and aspirations for delivering on peoples' priorities for tackling crime in Cheshire. It also set out how support would be offered to victims of crime and how a modern police service would be offered reflecting the diverse communities in Cheshire.

RESOLVED: That the Plan be noted and Members comment individually

(2) Cheshire West and Chester Council had launched a consultation on their "**Land Action Plan: for the climate and nature emergencies**". The consultation was open until 12th December 2021. The Land Action Plan focused in detail on the "land use, adaptation and climate repair" theme of the Council's Climate Emergency Response Plan. It set out a vision for land in West Cheshire and 68 actions to achieve this. These actions were to be taken by CWaC, working with a broad range of partners. Insight and feedback on the Land Action Plan would be welcomed from local communities, people who owned or managed land and organisations. Councillors were invited to attend the next Climate Emergency Taskforce online meeting on Wednesday 17th November where the Land Action Plan would be discussed.

RESOLVED: That Councillors make their own arrangements if they wish to join this meeting.

21.101 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/NEXT MEETING

Members were reminded that the next meeting would discuss the budget for 2022-23. They were asked to put forward proposals for community projects to be undertaken, with possible costs. Ideas should be circulated prior to the next meeting

21.102 DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 18 January 2022 at 7.15pm in The Five Villages Hall, Station Road, Backford