

MOLLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 21 September 2021 at 7.00pm in St Oswald's Primary School, Grove Road, Mollington

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

In attendance: Mrs P English (Parish Clerk)

21.77 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Mike Jones and also from Ward Councillor Simon Eardley.

21.78 VACANCY FOR A COUNCILLOR

The vacancy caused by the resignation of Councillor Mike Riley had been reported to Cheshire West & Chester Council (CWaC) and a Notice inviting 10 members of the public to request an election had been put on the Notice Boards and the website. CWaC had confirmed that no request had been received for an election, allowing the Parish Council to fill the vacancy by co-option. 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 and one application had been received.

RESOLVED: That Mr Jack Jones be co-opted onto the Council with immediate effect.

21.79 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Fielding declared an interest in matters relating to the Five Villages Hall (Mollington, Backford & District Village Hall) as he was a Trustee.

21.80 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME

There were no members of the public present

21.81 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 28 July 2021 be approved as a correct record.

21.82 UPDATE REPORTS

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

- (1) **Village Hall:** The new Hall was almost complete. It had been anticipated that handover would take place on 20 September, but the programme had slipped, and handover was now targeted for mid-October.
- (2) **B4RN:** Members of the local community were being asked to buy shares in B4RN to the value of £1,500 in order to raise at least £98,000 to enable the project to go ahead. The annual return on the purchase of these Community Shares would be 5% but if they were kept for three years the connectivity fee of £150 would be waived making the annual return equivalent to 8%. It was noted that Gigaloch were also working in the village and had signed up a number of customers in the Townfield Lane area.
- (3) **Grass Verges and Hedges/Rewilding:** Councillors Roger Jones and Dave Wells and Ward Councillor Simon Eardley had met Jason Lambert from the CWaC Environment Team to discuss rewilding in Mollington and a report was presented which set out two possible ways in which this could happen. The options were (a) rewilding of grass verges on the A540 on either side of the Townfield Lane junction, which would be undertaken by CWaC Highways and maintained by them and (b) locally implemented projects funded by the Parish Council or the Ward Councillor which, once established, would be maintained by the residents. It was suggested that Members should visit some established areas and then decide whether there were areas of the village that could be rewilded. Residents would be asked if they were in favour of rewilding and whether they would be prepared to help with the ongoing maintenance.

RESOLVED: That before the next meeting

- (1) Members should visit some local established areas such as the Strawberry roundabout and the Zoo entrance;
- (2) Councillor McKeagney would contact the Headteacher of St Oswald's Primary School to ask whether he was in favour of rewilding the verge outside the school.

- (3) Members consider whether CWaC should be asked to rewild the verges at the junction of the A540 with Townfield Lane
 - (4) Members consider whether there are any other areas which would be suitable for rewilding, either by CWaC or by the Parish Council;
 - (5) Members consider the best way of contacting residents to ask if they are in favour of rewilding and would be willing to help maintain the selected areas.
- (4) **Representatives on Outside Bodies:**
- (1) **Backford Charities** had been set up to help the poor and destitute in the local villages. However, the constitution was now out of date and needed to be changed to enable the Charity to function. Several attempts to do this had been made previously but they had been turned down by the Charity Commission.
RESOLVED: That Councillor Roger Jones would speak to Maurice Cotterall to see if a way forward could be found.
 - (2) **WW1 Fund** provided small grants towards the purchase of study books. Two Trustees were needed from each parish.
RESOLVED: That Helen Fielding and Nicola Ashcroft would represent Mollington.
 - (3) **St Oswald's Primary School**
RESOLVED that Councillor Cathy McKeagney would be the Parish Council's liaison with the Primary School in place of Mike Riley.
- (5) **Speeding on Grove Road and Townfield Lane:** The Parish Council were interested in doing some volunteer speed monitoring work and Councillors Roger Jones and John Fielding had met with PCSO Tony Icke to discuss the issues involved in setting this up. It was confirmed that Mollington, as a community, could purchase a speed gun and operate speed checks in Mollington. These checks would have no legal standing but could be used to decide if further action was needed and would act as a deterrent. To implement the testing a team of at least 6 volunteers would be needed to ensure continuity of the project. The volunteers would receive training which would take 2-3 hours in one-hour sessions.
The Parish Council could also purchase a movable battery-operated post/pole-mounted flashing sign indicating actual speed and a smiley or unhappy face depending on the speed of the vehicle.
The police would agree the location of any equipment.
In the meantime the Police had agreed to carry out speed checks between Overwood Avenue and Well Lane, along Well Lane, along the southern end of Townfield Lane between the "S" bend and the derestriction sign opposite the Finger Post (Old Parkgate Road) and in the 20mph area outside the Pre-School on Grove Road. It was suggested that Councillor Roger Jones could attend as a learning process.
RESOLVED: That the Clerk should get a copy of the speed monitoring criteria
- (6) **Communications:** The Parish Council's main means of communicating with residents was through the website and the Newsletters, both of which were managed by Mrs Christine Jones. It was suggested that the website could be "livened up" and Councillor McKeagney agreed to introduce Mrs Jones to a work colleague who might be able to offer some suggestions. Councillor Skupski also offered to talk to Mrs Jones.
- (7) **Parish Plan:** Councillor Roger Jones had met representatives of Backford and Lea-by-Backford Parish Councils to discuss the possibility of having a joint Plan. It had been agreed not to go ahead with a Neighbourhood Plan but that a joint Plan was a good idea.
RESOLVED: That the Clerk should ask John Heselwood (Cheshire Community Action) if he would be happy to attend a meeting with all three Parish Councils to advise on the best way to prepare a joint Parish Plan. Two dates to be requested and the best date for all three Councils to be sought.

21.83 PLANNING

(1) Applications received for comment and passed to Councillors

Application No.	Proposal	Site	Response by
21/03700/FUL	Proposed new single-storey rear extensions (amendment to planning permission 21/01144/FUL)	7 Well Lane, Mollington, Chester, Cheshire CH1 6LD	7 October 2021

(2) Decisions taken by Cheshire West & Chester Council (CWaC)

Application No.	Application details	Application site	Decision
20/01430/FUL	Change of use of barns into hydro-therapy pool, gymnasium and annexe flat for use in connection with new dwelling	Elm Farm, Townfield Lane, Mollington, Chester CH1 6NJ	Approved
20/04324/FUL	Farm redevelopment incl. conversion of buildings to 5 dwellings, demolition of several existing buildings and the erection of new agricultural buildings	Warren Farm, Townfield Lane, Mollington, Chester Cheshire CH1 6LB	Approved
21/01144/FUL	Single storey side/rear extension, alteration to side windows	7 Well Lane, Mollington, Chester, Cheshire CH1 6LD	Approved
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 over existing flat roofed garage/porch	Ashbourne House, Well Lane, Mollington, Chester CH1 6LD	Approved

(3) Decisions awaited

Application No.	Application Details	Application Site
20/04168/FUL	Two storey front and side extension and detached garage	Dilkhush, 3 Feilden Court, Mollington, Chester CH1 6LS
21/01339/FUL	Single storey rear extension	8 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	Greenacres, Townfield Lane, Mollington, Chester CH1 6NJ
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
21/02304/FUL	Single storey front and first floor side extension at	Warren Chase, Townfield Lane, Mollington, Chester CH1 6LB

21.84 FINANCE

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

26.07.21	Cheshire West & Chester Council – Members Budget grant	300.00
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(2) Payments: The following amounts had been paid since the last meeting

26.07.21	DD	Information Commissioner-Annual Fee	35.00
28.07.21	SO	Amenity Cleaner-wages July	197.60
28.07.21	SO	Parish Clerk-salary July	194.82
02.08.21	BACS	Amenity Cleaner-additional hours, Well Lane	91.20
31.08.21	SO	Amenity Cleaner-wages August	197.60
31.08.21	SO	Parish Clerk-salary August	194.82
Total			911.04

Reconciliation:	Opening Balance	12,905.59
	Add: Receipts	300.00
	Less: Payments	<u>911.04</u>
	Closing Balance	<u>12,294.55</u>

21.85 HIGHWAYS

Thanks were given to all those who had assisted in the Chester half marathon. 21 residents of Mollington and Lea-by-Backford had offered to help as marshals. There had been some 2,200 entries.

21.86 THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE 2022

As reported at the last meeting, High Sheriffs had been asked to encourage their local communities to take part in HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations by lighting a beacon on 2 June 2022. CWaC had asked Local Councils to confirm whether (a) the parish had a temporary/permanent beacon and (b) whether the Parish Councillors were looking to light it. It was noted that Mollington did have a beacon which was believed to be at Glebe Farm. Councillor Roger Jones agreed to speak to Councillor Mike Jones about retrieving and relocating it. A street party was suggested which Councillor McKeagney offered to organise.

21.87 CONSULTATIONS

NALC Policy Consultation Briefing: Local Nature Recovery Strategies: DEFRA had recently launched a consultation into Local Nature Recovery Strategies and how to prepare for them, and NALC would be responding to the DEFRA Local Nature Strategies consultation in coming weeks. NALC was seeking the views of county associations and member councils in response to the questions within the briefing, to help inform its own submission to DEFRA. **RESOLVED:** That Councillors pass their individual responses to the Clerk by 13 October and she would prepare a response to NALC based on these responses.

21.88 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/NEXT MEETING

The Parish Council gave thanks to Anne Minors who had paid to have the tree on the Village Green trimmed.

21.89 DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 16 November 2021 at 7.00pm in The Five Villages Hall, Station Road, Backford