Lea-by-Backford Parish Council

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish** **Council held on Monday 18th September 2017 at Mollington, Backford & District Village Hall**

**PRESENT**: Councillors Richard Jones (in the Chair), Sue Pownall, Robin Leigh, John Littler, Rob Griffiths, Fred Jones with Philip Pownall (Clerk).

**17.24 APOLOGIES**

None

**17.25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

**17.26 OPEN FORUM**

The meeting was addressed by our recently appointed Local Police Officer Robert Brown. Rob attended with a colleague and listened to and offered advice regarding local concerns expressed by councillors. Subject matter included the ongoing problems concerning speeding traffic, particularly along Station Road, Grove Road and Demage Lane and difficulties caused by heavy and sometimes inconsiderate parking during drop off and collection times at St Oswalds School. The officer suggested that he would visit the school and pass on the concerns of the council.

The difficulties encountered by landowners caused by Travellers and Fly Tippers were also discussed and the only way to resolve the issues was through the courts.

The matter of suspected drug exchanges taking place on Demage Lane was raised and any future concerns should be dealt with by ringing 101 or by e-mailing PC Rob Brown at [robert.brown@cheshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:robert.brown@cheshire.pnn.police.uk)

**17.27 PLANNING**

**Application 17/03830/FUL**  Application received to replace the security shutters on the Dunkirk Enforcement M56 – A5117 at Dunkirk. No objection raised

**Application 16/03653/FUL** Ashfield House Dunkirk - Cllr Leigh reported that a noise impact assessment took place on 22 August 2017 but ,interestingly, no processing activity took place on site for the 24 hour period of assessment. The investigating officer noted that no acoustic barrier is present on site and has recommended that such a barrier should be installed. The planning officer agrees that a large amount of site change is required pending a planning decision.

**17.28 REPORTS BY REPRESENTATIVES**

**Village hall:** Post still vacant. The clerk has made enquiries regarding the chaos and damage caused as a result of the contractors’ excavations installing the ducting for the proposed Virgin Media Superfast Broadband. Very limited progress towards compensation has been made so far, despite strenuous efforts by hall committee members and matters are now in the hands of our local MP.

**Backford Charities:** Cllr Fred Jones announced hisresignation as parish representative on this committee with immediate effect.

Cllr Sue Pownall proposed Rob Griffiths to be appointed as the replacement representative and this proposal was seconded by Cllr Robin Leigh. Cllr Griffith accepted this role and will be informed by the clerk as to the date and venue of the next meeting.

**War Memorial Trust:** Cllr Pownall confirmed that 2 applicants had received grants for the forthcoming academic year and as yet no date has been set for the next meeting of the trust.

**Rural Sounding Board:** Cllr Leigh reported that rural households are paying more for energy than urban properties but assistance is available . This could come in the form of solar solutions, warm home discounts for vunerable residents or free local energy advice available from their energy provider. Providers are working with local authorities in an effort to help reduce energy bills. The Community Infrastructure Levy is a planning charge on new housing and retail development that can be used by local authorities to improve and support development of their area.

**17.29 FINANCE**

**Cheques raised:** 000663 Clerk Aug & September 156.80

000664 Ammenity Cleaner 150.00

**17.30 CORRESPONDENCE**

**Pensions Regulator:** A claim form has been received from Northampton County Court in respect of a claim raised by The Pensions Regulator for the non-payment of a £400.00 fixed penalty notice due from Lea by Backford Parish Council. This action was defended by the council on the grounds that no correspondence had ever been received from the Regulator. The clerk wrote to the Regulator explaining this and a reply was received confirming that all correspondence had been directed to the previous clerk’s address and no reply had ever been received. As the council employs only 2 part time employees that do not qualify for a pension and did not wish to be considered for a pension the regulator has withdrawn the court action and has cancelled the fixed penalty.

**Boundary Commission:** Correspondence has been received from the Commission confirming that following the Electoral Review, their draft recommendation was that Backford, Lea by Backford and Mollington should remain warded together. This falls in line with the parish council’s submission.

**17.31 MATTERS RAISED**

Cllr Fred Jones reported to the meeting that a large loose kerbstone had become dislodged at the entrance to Friars Park Cottages. Clerk to report fault to CWaC Highways

Cllr Leigh reported that the manager at the Trampoline Park had organised a noise limiter to be fitted to the audio equipment reducing the output from the sound system.

Cllr Griffiths reported that the footpath on Demage Lane was in need of undergrowth removal and a general clean. He also pointed out that vehicles were parking on the bend opposite obscuring vision and causing difficulties for agricultural equipment to pass safely by.

Cllr Pownall reported that fly tipping had taken place by the noticeboard on Grove Road – clerk to notify the amenity cleaner to enquire about removal. Also it was noted that the hedge and footpath on the village green were overgrown and Cllr Pownall confirmed that she was awaiting a quote for the work to be carried out.

Cllr Pownall also raised the topic of the Rememberance Wreath purchased annually for the Royal British Legion Appeal and it was agreed that a wreath should be ordered from the legion.

**17.32 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was confirmed that the date of the next parish meeting will be on **November 13th 2017 at the time of 7.30pm** to be held in the village hall

**Signed: ------------------------------------------------------------------ (Chairman)**

**Date: --------------------------------------**