

Lea-by-Backford Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 12th August 2019 at Mollington, Backford & District Village Hall

Present:

Councillors Richard Jones (Chair)
John Littler
Fred Jones
Sue Pownall
Robin Leigh (Vice Chair)
Deborah Jones (Clerk)

Part 1

Apologies for Absence

Rob Griffiths

Declarations of Interest

None declared.

Open Forum

In Attendance

Christine Jones	Councillor Mollington PC
Roger Jones	Chair Mollington PC
Mike Cheers	Chair Backford PC
Ade Deary	Vice Chair Backford PC

Christine Jones gave a presentation on the inter-active map which has been considered for the communities of Backford, Lea and Mollington Parish Councils to be called the Five Villages Map.

After much discussion it was agreed to move forward with two interactive maps on the basis that Mollington PC felt the addition of a 'Five Villages' map on the Village Green would be of particular benefit to the local school children and teaching staff. This will be sited on the Mollington side of the Village Green between the two benches.

The second to be located on the Village Hall site, on a wall yet to be determined, in view of the expected re development.

RL commented on the value of the benefits of co-operation and working together on this project.

A motion was carried by Lea Councillors to agree to the contribution with Backford based on population of £376 as a first payment with a similar share of design costs to also be paid.

21/19 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting of the Council 14th March 2019 were confirmed as a correct record and duly signed.

22/19 Re- Election of Chair and Vice Chair

FJ proposed that RJ be nominated for the position of Chairman and this was seconded by RL.

RL was proposed as Vice Chair and was seconded by JL.

DJ to prepare Declaration of Office Forms and distribute to RJ and RL.

23/19 Planning

1. 19/02279/FUL | First floor extension to side, addition of dormer and alterations to roof at rear | Carisbrooke Grove Road Lea By Backford Chester CH1 6LG

Agreed by Councillors.

2. 19/01989/FUL | Single storey extension | Carisbrooke Grove Road Lea By Backford Chester CH1 6LG

Agreed by Councillors

3. 19/01667/FUL | Single storey side extension | Lea Cottage Damage Lane Lea By Backford Chester Cheshire CH1 6NZ

The councillors felt that more information was required and the application will be distributed with further details by DJ.

24/19 Website

DJ to progress alternative provider quotes for consideration.

20/19 Reports by Representatives

Backford Charities – RG updated DJ prior to the meeting and explained a further discussion will be taking place at the end of August with relevant others and outcome will be reported back at next council meeting.

War Memorial Trust – SP explained there is a meeting in September to discuss otherwise nothing to report.

Rural Sounding Board – Nil to report

Village Hall – Discussions relating in the main to the progress of the approval for the loan which has been agreed by the Public Works Loan Board to now go forward for the actual application for the funds.

Councillors concerned that little information has been forthcoming from the Village Hall Project Group relating to the outcome of the Tender Progress and that rumours appear to be suggesting that all tenders had come in above budget to a lesser or greater extent and that the viability of the project was currently unclear. In addition it was felt that there was a need for greater transparency and it would be preferable for the Parish Councillors to have an understanding of the risks to taking the project forward.

All Councillors felt that any additional requests for funding would be outside of that which the Parish Council, on behalf of its residents, would wish to commit.

RJ and MC Chairman for both Lea and Backford PC wish to raise their concerns to Rosie Sedgwick, Chair of the Village Hall Project Group, formally by letter – action DJ.

24/19 Finance

DJ reported that the Audit had been undertaken and been approved by Mr Edwards (Auditor) as completed with no actions required. This is now with the National Auditors.

DJ provided RJ with a bank statement outlining current positive balance of £10,942.53 – this includes obviously the uplifted precept for the anticipated Village Hall loan.

DJ explained the new process with regards to the payment of staff which now includes pay slips.

DJ reported an underpayment of salary to J Reeves on the basis of last year and the new uplift of minimum wage in April 2019. A balance to rectify was £386.28 – cheque raised and signed.

HMRC issues still in dispute no further news yet.

25/19 Correspondence

- Zurich cancellation of insurance – DJ to expedite further policy details.
- Approval for the application letter to go forward for the Public Works Loan

26/19 Clerks Report

- DJ distributed the CHALC bulletin.

- The notice board has been recently refurbished on Grove Road and the one on the corner of Demage Lane has been removed.
- The Pension Regulator re declaration has been completed.

27/19 Matters Arising

The following items were noted:-

- Highways to be contacted formally by letter with regards to:-
- Oak Lodge Hedge
- Hedge on corner of Demage Lane and Grove Road needs attention
- Footpath between Station Road and Grove Road is overgrown and is not accessible.
- SP highlighted that outside a house on Grove Road called 'Trotonoy' was potentially less than pleasing to the eye and needs attention – letter to the owner.
- DJ to get new computer quotes.

24/19 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

16th September 2019 at 7.30 – Village Hall.