**Lea-by-Backford Parish Council**

**Minutes of Meeting**

**Monday 13th January 2020 – 7.30 p.m.**

**Part 1**

**Apologies for Absence**

Councillor Rob Griffiths

**In Attendance**

Chairman – Richard Jones

Councillor – Robin Leigh

Councillor - Fred Jones

Councillor – Sue Pownall

Councillor – John Littler

District Borough Councillor – Simon Eardley

Andy White - Race Director for Chester Half Marathon

Callum Shields

Steve Thackaray

Colin Davies

Roger jones

**Part 1**

**OPEN FORUM**

Andy gave an overview on the 3 races and explained the route needs to be changed which will affect Lea area. The race date is 17th may 2020 and there will be 4.5K runners.

This years Charity is called Northern Lights and is a local charity for children with life threatening illnesses. Works closely with healthy lifestyle issues. The marathon has beeb going in Chester for 39 years. Route change - Lodge Lane not safe as is in bad condition and there was a question as to whether it was a private road. Farms sold off on that road. working with police council and highways on new route.

Demage lane, Grove road and Station road are affected in lea area.

Road will be closed during the race. 9.17 am runners will be going within Lea. the area will be closed for 54 mins in total.

Questions - none from the councillors.

Leaflet drop - every household will be done by the marathon team.

**Declarations of Interest**

Members are invited to declare any personal or prejudicial interests they may have in any item on this agenda, subject to the rules regarding disclosure contained in the Members’ Code of Conduct.

None Declared.

**Village Hall** – CD gave an overview of events leading to now - during 2019 summer time the professional team (Quantity Surveyor), felt that 814000K was required and the tenders came back woefully over the price. Cost reduction programme has been undertaken with the lowest bidder which has cost 8K in design fees, and Virador pulled out due to length of time which lost 45K

PC construction agreed to undertake work on retaining walls free of charge. Contaminate waste on the tennis court, i.e. coal tar which is worse than asphalt and bitumen. Gareth from Ash Waste helping with that cost 6K. Virgin media is still possible as a claim.

Having removed 160000K from the quote still short fall. Now having to go for a smaller hall. The lottery team also applying for 155K additional funds which will be a total contribution of 655000K which will leave us 20K shortfall.

If successful contract will be signed end Feb - start building in April and finish in December

Big lottery has never done anything like this in this area. After 3 years plus now struggling for the final amount of funding. Mollington have agreed to use their precept

**Options**

Use precept for 19/20

Lengthen years of the loan

Increase precept for this year as a one off.

Roger jones explained that Mollington met and an additional option they have checked that money already in the budget we can use with no problems.

FJ highlighted that as it was a rural community. And this was going to change – he does not like the change of name to community hub.

CD explained that there have been discussion re sweat equity. Committee are agreeing to do things like flooring and decorating.

RJ asked about Tender process and it was explained that it was predicated on Quantity Surveyor advice. RJ suggested that it was a huge error of judgement with regards to the potential costs and asked why we did not go back out to Tender?

RJ explained that work is currently going on to look at extending the loan period.

**Interpretive panel**

The interpretive panel was brought for councillors to view. All agreed it was an excellent piece of work by Christine Jones and thanked her for her contribution.

**Part 2**

**46/20 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

Agreed as a true record and signed by Chair.

**47/20 Village Hall**

Simon Eardley explained that legal team CWAC are looking into whether it is legal to give a precept payment which was meant for loan repayment and would then be a gift. FJ had suggested that the priority for bookings in the future should be with the local residents.

**Action SE**

RJ felt that maybe a decision should be taken after the Mollington and Backford meetings. All agreed and an extraordinary meeting to be arranged week commencing 20th January 2020.

**48/20 Precept**

As the last precept was increased significantly the group felt there should be no increase this year.

**49/20 Planning**

No new planning applications

**50/20 Reports by Representatives**

To receive reports from the following representatives:

* Village Hall - All ready discussed
* Backford Charities - Councillor Rob Griffiths forwarded on an e mail – stating that the legal trust document is being studied professionally to ascertain whether the Trust as it stands can be altered in any way to provide financial assistance to other beneficiaries.
* War Memorial Trust – SP asked that a letter is written to Mr Webster. Two possible candidates.

**DJ to write to Mr Webster and request that SP be informed of the next meeting.**

* Rural Sounding Board – RL reported that two banks now pulling out of rural areas as with post offices

Broadband rural services network and EE are doing a good offer. The cost for amount of data on 4G mobile

.

**51/20 Finance**

Payments and Receipts: To note/approve the payment of salaries/wages and expenses and invoices for goods received and services rendered and to note any receipts. A schedule will be presented at the meeting.

* Bank Balance - £8065
* Interpretive panel – host contributions and final payment (208.80)
* Payments for staff
* PKF Littlejohn LLP invoice - £40 - HSBC Bank Plc Outstanding payment for Governance

**52/20 Correspondence**

Tax letter DJ reported all penalties have now been cleared by HMRC

**53/20 Updates by Clerk**

* CHALC Newsletter
* Interpretive panel

**54/20 Police Report**

None received

**55/20 Matters Arising**

**Broad band**

FJ reported that It is likely that the broad band will be provided by BT and use the trunking already provided by Virgin. FJ has met with them and it could be around 12 – 18 months. SE to request that BT attend a meeting in the near future.

BARN project will be out of step with this if this should happen.

**Tipping on A41**

FJ – reports that there has been local concern highlighted re the tipping which runs into the running Backford Brook. The allegation that the rubbish is contaminated. Some piping has been put in. Ditch looked at on the map and this takes the fall from the land on the other side of the road. The contaminants are filled right up to one side to Backford Brook. FJ feels it is potentially an open toxic sewer. SE experience of enforcement is positive. FJ Council Enforcement Officer to be asked to come to the meeting as there appears to be no planning and no tickets for each load. SP agreed to monitor progress.

**Rubbish Tip 2**

BC suggests that Backford Strawberry Roundabout has been moved from Backford to Stanney. Mr Simpson the owner of the fisheries has been dumping waste during the night into the ground. Water not been getting away – FJ has investigated and the water runs towards the strawberry and it rises about 5 feet and then into a culvert under the road and the ditch which it goes into and then has been filled in. The water then comes into the Brook at Backford.

JF highlighted Lea by Backford that it is regrettable that there will be less ground for nesting birds and this is not just in Lea, it would be the same for Mollington and Backford.

**DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

**Monday 9th March 2020 – 7.30p.m.**