

# LEA BY BACKFORD PARISH COUNCIL

**Chairman of the Parish Council**

Councillor Richard Jones

**Clerk to the Parish Council**

Mr Philip Pownall

## ANNUAL REPORT 2016-17 (47)

### COUNCIL MEETINGS

During the year the Council met on seven occasions in Mollington, Backford & District Village Hall.

### EMPLOYEES

The Parish Council has two employees, the Clerk and an amenity cleaner.

The Clerk, Mrs Sophie Fish was unable to continue in her role due to pressure of her full time occupation and tendered her resignation. Mr Philip Pownall agreed to stand in in on a temporary basis and after consideration by the Council was selected as a permanent Clerk.

### REPRESENTATIVES

Councillor Richard Jones was elected as Chairman for the year, with Councillor Fred Jones serving as Vice Chairman

Councillors Pownall and Griffiths retained their roles as representatives of the Parish Council on the War Memorial Trust and the Village Hall committee . Councillor Fred Jones continued in his role as Backford Charities representative and Councillor Leigh remained as the representative of the Rural Sounding Board.

### FINANCE

The Parish Council set its precept at £2500.00 for the year 2016-17, a reduction from the previous year of £200.00. Expenditure remained within budget and the accounts were approved by the Internal Auditor who raised no issues with the Council's procedures and transactions. BDO, our external auditors , approved the annual return but noted that due to the difficulties arising from the sudden departure of the Clerk and the failure to meet the June 30<sup>th</sup> deadline, a Qualified Audit would be confirmed .

### PLANNING

During the year the Council considered five planning applications. These included an application for a change of use from an existing office to a Driving Test Centre and a change of use from a warehouse to a Trampoline Centre. All these applications were approved but the application for a change of use from waste processing to waste and metal processing at Ashfield House, Dunkirk is still pending following concern from local residents regarding noise nuisance.

### LOCAL ENVIRONMENT

The Council continues to employ an amenity cleaner who does an excellent job of removing rubbish from our roads and verges, working with CWaC Highways and Streetscene. Flytipping is becoming more common and the Council is doing the best it can to contain this rural nuisance.

Village Green: The Council has provided a new hardwood bench on the green and continues in its efforts to maintain the public rights of way.

### TRANSPARENCY CODE

The Council successfully applied to CHaLC for a grant towards the implementation of a Parish Website and a suitable provider has been appointed. The Council has approved a web domain – leabybackfordpc.co.uk and this is under construction.

### SUPERFAST BROADBAND

The Council continues to support the local community in its endeavour to have superfast broadband in the area and recently invited representatives of Virgin Media to give a presentation to the parish council regarding the future possibilities of providing a reliable and fast internet connection.

### CESHIRE WEST AND CHESTER COUNCIL

The Parish Council continues to work with Cheshire West and Chester Council on matters of local and national strategy. In particular the continued review and outsourcing of CWaC services.

Philip Pownall

Parish Clerk