**Lea-by-Backford Parish Council**

**Minutes of Meeting held 10th May 2021**

**In Attendance**

Councillor John Littler

Councillor Sue Pownall

Debbie Jones (Parish clerk)

Councillor Rob Griffiths

Borough Councillor Simon Eardley

Councillor Richard Jones (Chairman)

Councillor Robin Lea

Dave Evans Resident

**Apologies**

All Present

**Declarations of interest**

RJ and JL declared an interest in the B4RN project.

**Part 1**

**BARN**

RJ explained that Sue Caddy regional B4RN representative, – is communicating with a number of land owners. The project is subdivided into a number of routes. Most of the areas are up to 30% a variation on the route and that is why there has been a delay on the relevant maps and information being shared.

DE mentioned that there is a common misconception the nature of the project as a community project, as being different to Open reach who are a business. B4RN is a not for profit by community shares project. This is more like loaning money to the project by the community. 5% return on the investment if any residents wished to invest.

SP asked if Sue Caddy is in charge of the route DE explained that she is a community project facilitator. DE reassured SP that there would be a way round the drive way for SP. SP asked could this be taken off the route map – SP would like a name to contact so that she could have in writing a form of formal letter confirming this has been taken off the route.

JL – other companies – landline – is that the same with B4RN – DE said that by 2025 traditional land lines will be replaced by a internet based service. Voice over the internet (VOIP) a very fast connection is required.

RL highlighted that the gate to wards the end of bridle lane was a concern. This was a provisional route and feels it might be prone to getting damaged during any B4RN excavations. DE reported that the route would not go onto the land id RL did not want it to go on to his arable land. B4RN started as a group of farmers and they were considerate of any farming issues.

Deep cultivation is the concern at leighs farm unless it is very deep. Already has 2 pipelines and this is a small piece of land and RL would not be happy to have any more on this piece of land. RL maintained that 2 foot would not be deep enough for Leighs Farm.

**Elections of Chairman**

JL Proposed Chairmanship Richard Jones by and Sue Pownall seconded this – all were in favour.

Sue Pownall will continue as Vice Chair on a temporary basis.

**Part 2**

**11/21 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

Cycle path and the cycle community requested that the route needs attention and there is a lot of barbed wire and trees need to be re planted.

**Minutes were agreed as a true record.**

Cycle track - has been tidied up along one part of this area. The other one along

Demage Lane remains unkempt.

**12/21 Planning**

* Planning application for Masts on Railway between Chester and Hooton

No issues were raised with regards to any current planning applications within Lea.

**13/21 Reports by Representatives**

To receive reports from the following representatives:

* Backford Charities - Councillor Rob Griffiths

RG still no meeting and not organised until next November.

* War Memorial Trust - Councillor Sue Pownall

SP spoke to Carl Stagg who said there will be a meeting early September and advertise the grant system early July/august 2021. No previous meeting for the last 7 years that SP had been invited to. SP has been calling for meetings. The meetings should be more frequent. There were two applicants last year who were unsuccessful in accessing any of the grant, there is one new applicant this year.

**DJ to follow up with a letter to Mr Stagg within the next month.**

* Rural Sounding Board - nil of note.

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**14/21 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 - DJ reported the difficulties found with using Nat West bank in particular the receipt of regular bank statements which has been infrequent due to the lack of use of the cheque book. RJ would like to pursue electronic banking.

**DJ to Contact Lloyds Bank.**

* Payments for staff - nil this month
* Audit Information – accounts ready for internal checking and Mr Edwards has been contacted but no response back as yet. Certificate of exemption for the AGAR confirming that this authority gross income or expenditure did not exceed £25,000 in the year of account ended 31st March 2021 was confirmed. Once audited internally by Mr Evans accounting statements shared by e mail and approved.
* Signatory and Bank Accounts – signatory was FJ need to look at another bank. SP Lloyds are helpful – RJ asked how would we want to proceed . RG thinks digital would be the way forward. RL transactions mainly done on line and this works well.

**16/21 Elections**

Councillors wished to ensure that all of the applicants going forward are actually in the Lea by Backford parish as the Grove Road sits half within Mollington and half within Lea.

**DJ to ask Kate Hughes to check any candidates actually reside in Lea by Backford.**

Cost still to be found for the election - voting venue to be found this is done by the CWAC election office.

SP has question about other councillors having to go for an election and this is not the case. Information back so far is that the election is just for any new parish councillors.

**17/21 Highways**

**Speeding Limit Grove Rd and Signage**

RG feels that before the 40mph limit there should be stripes on the road. Gates would make the hedge trimming harder therefore RJ and JL would not be in favour as it would make the road narrower. JL looked for research on this and felt that each situation is very different and there were no speeding cars which have gone straight through onto the field where police in attendance. Signage for planning says Mollington and this should say Lea by Backford. Map is in the planning information and this should be correct. SP - Chris Whittaker has it down as Grove Road in Saughall. Officials should get the information correct when discussing projects.

**Grove Road Flood Update**

RJ updated that there had been 2 collapsed pipes opposite the school and there were balls stuck in the drain which have come out of the school. The water has now gone down and DJ to do a thank you to the council officers who were involved in that

**Outstanding Issues**

Demage Lane speed is getting worse in the evenings and morning to and from school. There appears to be little respect for people walking on the road. Young children – vehicle went into the hedge row on the 21st April about 2 a.m. The fence was blocking the road and RG got highways out to remove the debris. Traces of oil left on the road. SE suggested including Demage Lane on the speeding review. SE met with highways 10 days ago – after next Monday SE to expedite with highways.

SP asked why the 20mph has been done in Little Rake Lane and Chorlton lane Backford – why do we have to have many accidents and deaths prior to the change in speed limit? SE explained that on a very regular basis there are multiple incidents along that road.

**18/21 Five Villages**

* Website

JL to write the words with DJ which better reflect the village attributes.

* Five Villages Newsletter

SP said that Christine Jones is asking about the chopping back of the large tree on the village green – needs to be pruned - grass below the tree needs to be cut and RJ felt that it was very unsightly at the moment.

**19/21 Police Report**

Nil as yet.

**20/21 Village Hall Update**

DJ reported that apart from the cladding externally being delayed due to changes insupplier the build is on track financial due for completion at the end of august 2021.

**21/21 Future Projects**

Noticeboard on Grove Road nice to do not essential at this time. DJ to see if cork could be replaced.

B4RN - 6 routes altogether concentrating on Backford area and touching on Lea as well it will be coming in through Capenhurst coming in aling the main road and SE helping to get a wayleave over CWAC land. Please would parish council continue to encourage where possible residents to take up.

Hydrogen gas pipe from Stanlow - SP asked about the detail on this and RJ explained a survey about to start, the project is looking to be stored as future fuel. RJ wondered what size the pipe is. Could there be any danger to people or cattle. All agreed that this is no more dangerous than natural gas. RJ said that the government are pushing this very heavily. 3 proposed routes one alongM56 and M53

SP the Queen 70th birthday is due May 2022 and Councillor’s asked what could we do to commemorate? There is an additional BH Thursday and Friday 2nd and 3rd June 2022. This will be the first time a reigning monarch has reached this milestone. this All to think about this.

SP – what is the procedure for a tree preservation

**SE to let us know about TPO**

**Any Other Business**

Bridle lane has become a major walkway bridleway and a lot f people walking up and down. It is a local authority road and the gate was paid for by CWAC. The gate has been there ever since. It is deteriorating rapidly neighbour has been welding it and is in some places badly corroded. Concern that the gate should be replaced. Needs signage and enough walk through for bikes or people. RL concerned about it. John Winstanley. Simon Eardley.

Councillors are invited to raise matters of information not included elsewhere on the

agenda and to raise items for future agendas. Councillors are also invited to submit

any correspondence received since the date of the last meeting.

**DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

**Monday 12th July 2021** **19.30hrs**