**Lea-by-Backford Parish Council**

**Minutes of Meeting Online**

**11th January 2021**

**In Attendance**

**Sue Pownall**

**Richard Jones (Chairman)**

**John Littler**

**Fred Jones**

**Rob Griffiths**

**Deborah Jones (Clerk)**

**Apologies for Absence**

Robin Leigh

**PART 1**

**Declarations of Interest**

Barn Project was declared by all of the Parish Councillors

**Open Forum**

DJ reported that details of the meeting on line have been advertised on line and within the Parish Noticeboard.

**PART 2**

**01/21 Minutes of the Previous Meeting - Monday 10th November 2020**

The minutes were agreed as a true record – no amendments.

**02/21 Village Hall Update**

* Public Works Loan

DJ has agreed to formally represent the Parish Council in reporting back to the council following the resignation by Cllr Rob Griffiths as a Trustee.

The PWLB loan has been drawn down and is awaited within the current bank balance. When this comes through the monies will be transferred to the Village hall.

Works commenced at the site on Monday 4th January 2021.

The committee commended the Village Hall team on achieving this goal.

**03/21 Planning**

* Planning applications

The Laurels application, Grove Road. Councillors asked about the limits on building on housing when previous multiple extensions have been implemented. All councillors agreed to the planning approval in the absence of any further knowledge of this issue.

SE had no further information but agreed to question this with the planning team and report back.

**04/21 Reports by Representatives**

To receive reports from the following representatives:

* Backford Charities - Councillor Rob Griffiths

RG reported that Christmas gifts had been distributed to 4 persons within the parish and there was discussion about the ways in which the ways in which the donations could be expanded. The group were currently looking into the hospice. Each of the recipients were awarded £100. RG mentioned other ideas being explored.

Original deed needs to be looked at by a relevant person who might be able to look into this. RJ suggested that if the money went to the village hall this would need to meet the criteria of the original trust which was for hardship amongst the Farming community.

* War Memorial Trust - Councillor Sue Pownall

Nil to report

* Rural Sounding Board - To be confirmed

.

**05/21 Finance**

* Bank Balance £6355.29
* Payments for staff Due at the end of February 2021
* CHALC Affiliation Fee £58.68
* Precept

All councillors contributed to the discussion on the Precept for 2021 and RJ stated that the councillors could move the Precept up or move down, dependent on further projects within the Parish. All happy to hold the precept to the same amount. DJ to complete the necessary forms and return to CWAC.

**ACTION DJ**

**06/21 Future Projects**

* **Noticeboard in Demage Lane**

DJ to contact Mr and Mr Sibson’s to ensure that the previously discussed location is still ok.

**07/21 Police Report**

Police report not available ? due to COVID. DJ to e mail the police to request and copy.

**ACTION DJ**

**08/21 Highways and Grove Road Flood Update**

SP an RJ confirmed that leaves had been tipped into the ditches along Demage Lane and Grove Road. This contributes to the silting up of water courses if not managed.

SE in touch with Mike Powell from the Highways team at CWAC and asked for update on the dye works which would inform the team where the issue lies. A suitable day was being waited for as the dye requires specific conditions in order to get a result. DJ to let highways know that the other end has been blocked with leaves. SE to be copied in.

**ACTION SE AND DJ**

**Demage Lane Flooding**

Gulley’s either side of the road are blocked near to the Old Smithy and another outside Tythe Barn and 2 grids outside Hares Finch, all causing flooding problems. CWAC Machine has been down to Hares Finch but floods still a problem.

Inconsiderate drivers don’t slow down for people walking. SE to take this up with Highways. SP felt that the cleaning of the leaves and leaf sweep is only carried out once a year which is inadequate.

A request that gritters should include Grove Road in the gritting plans as they go down Station Road and up to Crabwall manor.

SP highlighted that the bins diary is required to all houses and green bins not emptied for several months of the year. SP reported that Green waste is an optional collection for the council. It was felt that for these bins not to be emptied just encourages dumping when the green bin is not collected.

SP reported that not all of Lea residents received information from Mollington PC re Village Green being decorated – only SP has received.

SE – B4RN update. Report very lengthy – updates progress – further for Lea to ensure it remains a standing item on the Agenda. Make information available around voucher activity.

**ACTION DJ**

Q’s from the B4RN team – Do you think we need to build a full fibre if not what other options would you prefer and why? Councillors to consider.

Do you consider working with B4RN is the best thing for the community? – Councillors all agreed that work to ensure that a full fibre internet facility for the community should be aimed for and agree with any progress towards this goal. However, individuals have the right to choose if work happens on individuals’ land.

FJ – does not feel it appropriate to be not recompensed for access to his land for. Realistic costings and thinking is required by B4RN. Farmers in a position to reject – FJ has seen one of the pipes and they are quite small. B4RN need to come up with options. All landowners involved would wish to pursue matter of a meeting when circumstances allow. Face to Face is most appropriate. FJ needs a meeting with land agent.

Speed on Station Road – fast traffic. White lines removed. Bend by Smithy Cottage is a particularly bad spot along with the bottom of the hill approaching Friars Park. Slow signs – SE to look into that. Speed surveys to be done when COVID allows. RJ asked if we could revisit the blocking off for ‘access only’ as with the passage of time the reasons for not considering this as an option are now not clear.

RG first lay by – need new sign passing place only no parking – highways one has been defaced.

**DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

**Monday 8th March 2021**