**Lea-by-Backford Parish Council**

**Monday 11th September 2023 at 19.30hrs**

**at the Mollington Banastre Hotel,**

**Minutes of Meeting**

**PART 1**

In Attendance

Cllr T Jones

Dan Walker progressive energy

Rob McKensie ESP

Cllr Tom Jones

Cllr John Littler

Cllr Robin Leigh

Cllr Rob Griffiths

Cllr Richard Jones Chairman

Debbie Jones Parish Clerk

**Apologies for Absence**

Borough Cllr S Eardley

**Declarations of Interest**

HYNET

**Open Forum**

Discussion re the post onto Cllr Eardley Facebook page have been well received.

Slide presentation HyNet representative – the Design Consent Order (DCO), process and then an informal QA session particularly on the issues raised with regards to Highways, took place just before this meeting and was for residents in the local area.

TJ requested info on potential start dates. The group were informed that the Project DCO stage comes to a close 20.9.23 next stipulated period examining authority will assess the project and their report takes 3 months to be written. This report is then detailed consent based on conditions or if not consent given.

Based on 3 months decision time ENI will be developing the detailed plans. Financial investment decision by ENI will be approx this time next year. Legally nothing can happen unless it is part of the DCO.

Approx 16 months across the whole of the pipeline and main works to be done in the summer months.

Many comments discussed from the Backford area SP felt that LBB and Mollington were not discussed as much at the pre meeting earlier. DW stated that the consent is much broader than what will actually happen and feels there are opportunities to – hot spots look like the Station Road and Chorlton Lane. It is felt that essentially focus groups at the point with the contractor once they have been appointed.

Cllr RJ suggested that Traffic management, generators, noise would be an issue. DW shared info on the responses to Cllr Eardley issues. Lots of discussion re Station Road and how the car flow would be managed particularly at peak times.

SP asked about trees lost and hedges – all information and links to information will left with DJ for dissemination. SP asked about replacement trees. Net gain of at least 1% to improve the habitats.

SP asked, “should there be a change in government would this affect the future of the project”. DW expected that there may be a pause but that an alternative government may well be just as committed to de-carbonisation. Cllr RJ asked about second pipeline for hydrogen. This was refuted.

Cllr SP asked about responses to the previous questionnaires which at that time were promised an acknowledgement – CP will discuss this with the engagement team and feedback.

HYNET partnership explained that companies in the northwest who would either be a partner or are looking to become a partner. Link to share this is on the HyNet **website.**

RJ – “Liverpool Bay are causing a lot of disruption and we would like to know what is in it for LBB Parish Council and local residents”. Community Benefit Fund (Voluntary) this has been recognised and will go through the internal processes and then see if there are any benefits for the community. CP will keep this in mind. Are we entitled to a rate re-bate next year. Cllr J L asked if there is an estimated cost for this pipeline. RJ had in mind that this could fund a repayment of the loan for the Village Hall.

SP asked about the MP Samantha Dixon and her involvement. CP will contact her. Reasons why this is going through our village – river route has been considered and is not stable enough to support the pipeline. Other options considered but quite a lot of technical issues.

**Action: SP and DJ to do a letter**

CP will be in touch with regards to a donation for the church for use this evening.

**PART 2**

**36/23 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

Accepted as a true record.

**37/23 Planning**

* [**Demolition of existing dwelling, garage and outbuilding, erection of new dwelling and detached garage**](https://pa.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?keyVal=RCIDWGTEMUR00&activeTab=summary)

The Chalet Grove Road Lea by Backford Chester CH1 6LG

Ref. No: 22/02021/FUL | Received: Thu 26 May 2022 | Status: Awaiting decision

**38/23 Reports by Representatives**

* Consolidated Backford Charities – Cllr Griffiths reported back on two requests for funds from this charity one of which was for the Village Hall outside space which was accepted and one of which was for Brain Tumour Research and this was denied.
* War Memorial Trust - Councillor Pownall – reported back on the progress which is being made with regards to bank account signatories and that a cheque book is now available and that clarification is still needed from Kate Brassington re recent e mails. There has however been a letter from M&G relating to the investment.
* Rural Sounding Board - Cllr Leigh agreed to take this back on for the next meeting.

**39/23 Finance**

* Bank Balance - £2886 on 4th August 2023
* Update on Internet Banking – no progress
* Election Re-charge - £181
* Zurich £140
* Payments for Staff – J Reeves £312.60 (10.42ph to include rise in minimum wage)
* D Jones £348.90 (11.63ph to include increment). Additional 3 hours for HyNet.
* Penny Lane Accounts
* Speeding Invoice Error
* Sundries charges – AGAR posting and stamps £11 and £2.60
* Posters re HyNet Meeting £45all paid by Backford PC – thanks to them.

**40/23 Future Projects**

Nil as finance will not allow at present.

**41/23 Police Report**

None available.

**42/23 Highways**

* Success in hedge and grass cutting.
* Speeding problem all round village.
* Hedge on Demage lane bend still needs cutting back to the kerb stone

**43/23 Newsletter**

To be discussed with Mollington

**Any Other Business**

* Litter sign now completely covered in over growth
* Bridle lane gate not fixed.
* Noticeboard - Cllr Griffiths agreed to help DJ fix the cork boards to the noticeboard.
* SP – village green needs sorting but to be left until later in the year
* Letter to Dave Wallace re mums sitting in the car with engines on – DJ contacted the school by phone.
* Bridle path needs clearing – Sustrans 0117 926 8893 and the Council to be contacted.

**DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

13th November 2023