**Lea by Backford Parish Council**

**Meeting Minutes Monday 13th September 2021**

**7.30p.m. at Upton Village Hall**

**Present**

Councillor Robin Leigh

Councillor Tom Jones

Councillor Rob Griffiths

Councillor

Dave Evans B4RN

Chris D Jones B4RN

Phil Crane B4RN

Councillor John Littler

Councillor Sue Pownall

Chairman Richard Jones

Borough Councillor Simon Eardley

**Apologies**

All present

**Declaration of interest**

RJ, TJ and JL HYNET and broadband

**Part 1**

Three representatives attended representing B4RN to reitorate that this is a community project and Phi Crane feels this is a best option for Mollington and the five villages. Phil Crane also said that Mollington residents are quite happy with broadband speeds but the project will address those trying in other parts of the more rural areas, to benefit from good speeds. There are still more residents needed to get the project off the ground.

Increasing need to meet the needs of future technology. Still under 30% of the communities are signed up. The representatives wish to understand what is the barriers to getting the sign ups.

TJ asked about what is Gigalok. Phil crane answered that the business model was in his opinion not good for the price of the potential. RJ said that the dishes are already up in the area. RJ feels that people are not signing up because they are satisfied or they don’t actually want it. Three years of trying to sell this to the local people why are they not taking this up. CDJ – people need to be convinced that it will actually happen. Government moved goal posts by moving the funding into a different stream which slowed it down. Cumberland and Northumbria have been put back. Should be capable now of starting our build but still have two of the wayleaves yet to be finalised.

Phil Crane – current provision will not fulfil future requirements. RJ - Parish Council have been supportive, and still waiting for information on the current routes. JE – asking particularly for Parish Council help. JE wants help with communicating the message

3 things need clarification within the community.

* Need for better broadband
* Community project – doing this for ourselves
* The project is the best option for our community

Not upgraded in Demage Lane and Station Road

Fastest broadband connection is 10,000mb per second. People in above areas on 1 – 4 mbps.

By 2025 85% nationwide to gigabit broadband.

This is our own project and B4RN is just the expertise needed to build, plan and deliver full fibre broadband. Definitely not for profit.

Best option because – quality of the connection is gigabit broadband £30 per month and this price has not changed since 2012 and how much you need to pay – may end up with surplus funds and discussions on going about how to give this back to the community. Hospice church and primary schools will be free. BT price increase policy – increase by 3.9% plus inflation.

COVID restrictions limited the ability to canvass. RJ - 3 new residents in the village and all 3 are not interested one in lea and two in Mollington.

TJ suggested that Virgin has not helped due to the legacy of past problems. Several questions from all RJ asked about in the telecommunications act the line could be sold – Dave Evans said this was not the case. JL stated that the starter of broad band for B4RN said this could be sold at ??? per metre.

**Most important is to:-**

* All Councillors to encourage people we know to apply for a voucher.
* Use of noticeboard
* Use of website
* Use of all communication

TJ – what is in it for B4RN – DE stated that **we are B4RN as a community.**

SP requested that nothing should happen within her drive boundaries and DE assured her that this would not happen.

**Part 2**

**32/31 Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Agreed as a true record. DJ to update the noticeboards and the website.

**33/21 Chester Half Marathon**

Volunteers requested and none offered due to other commitments.

**34/21 Planning**

DJ highlighted that conditions of planning approved applications do not need to be highlighted separately to the Parish Council. This is highlighted as lighting is on to the lower aspects of the villae hall however DJ has contacted John Fielding Architect and been re assured. Any further lighting of car park etc would require new planning application for village hall.

No further planning applications as of today.

**35/21Hynet progress**

First consultation phase is closed. No further information from SE. RJ route will be known by end of next march 2022. Project lead doing a presentation next week to the borough councillor’s and will pass on any information as and when its available.

Done by 2025 end date

**36/21 Reports by Representatives**

* **Backford Charities -** next meeting end of November charities criteria
* **War Memorial Trust**

SP brought the Trust Deed Book. Mr Webster was contacted by SP who does not want to do the charity any more. Mr Cottel was the accountant and SP and Mike Cheers – Helen fielding is now the accountant

Propose TJ and SP to represent Lea by Backford going forward. Each applicant to now have £100. (£11,000 current balance) 4 current applicants.

Finance

Current balance £6529.48 pence

Still awaiting invoice from CWAC for the election costs.

Wages to end of September paid to DJ and JR.

**37/21 Village Hall**

Already reported and will keep informed of opening day when organised.

**38/21 Highways**

Currently survey boxes can be seen on some of the lampposts for the speeding survey. Unfortunately ,one is on the floor in Demage lane as its heavy and has broken the post. DJ to contact Kay Parry about this.

**Action DJ**

**39/21 Future Projects**

Noticeboard – SE offered to contribute DJ to ask for a fixed price. JL suggested he was happy with the new noticeboard going on to the grass verge.

Dog bin not ging ahead at the end of the Demage Lane area as does not meet the criteria. SE to ask again still a desire for an additional bin but not on the entrance to his farm.

**40/21 Neighbourhood Plan**

Mollington application turned down for the new houses. At a meeting previously with Roger Jones, (Chairman Mollington), there had been criticism at the lack of a neighbourhood plan and recent discussion has taken place with regards to the appropriateness of having one across the five villages. Roger Jones provided a contact details for lead on this issue at CWAC.

**Action DJ to contact for an open discussion on this.**

JL – local nature recovery strategy – DJ to fill it in and send back to NALC

**AOB**

* SP asked that a New list of parish councillors be put into noticeboards
* Grass cutting on the village green.
* Wreath Laying – Helen Carter Clerk secretary ask to stay for a year £22 basic wreath to be ordered and ? Robin Leigh to lay on behalf of the Parish Council
* Playing fields – about the key SP and we now know that Helen Fielding will be a key holder for the field.

**Date and Time of Next Meeting**

**Monday 8th November 201**

**The Five Villages Hall.**