**Lea-by-Backford Parish Council**

**Minutes of Meeting held 8th March 2021**

**Meeting ID: Meeting ID: 928 421 7843**

**Passcode: 459747**

**In Attendance**

Patrick Chester – local resident

Councillor John Littler

Councillor Sue Pownall

Debbie Jones (Parish clerk)

PC Wendy leason

Councillor Rob Griffiths

Borough Councillor Simon Eardley

Councillor Ricahrd Jones (Chairman)

**Apologies**

Councillor Fred Jones

Councillor Robin Leigh

**Part 1**

Patrick Chester attended to ask specifically about the regulation of the speed limit in particular along Station Road. Mr Chester is new to the village and has reported several instances of speeding.

Police Constable Wendy Leason agreed to forward on to the traffic constable, as all councillors agreed and have reported a number of issues. WL suggested that the police only look at numbers of crashes of which there have been very few. Andy Jones is the traffic officer. E mail address to be provided.

PC suggested that the speed limit is not appropriate for the road but agreed that this was a rural road general issue.

RJ highlighted that the survey for the area is in the hands of Kay Parry (CWAC), and that the Parish Council has committed to the implementation costs. Parish Council contribution would be £1500. SP suggested that all local residents need to report accidents/near misses as actual reports are important to police activity. SE noted anecdotal evidence adds to the overall protocol. PC offered to help by advertising this on Facebook. WL agreed to post this information on FB aswell.

**Declarations of Interest**

RJ and JL declared an interest in the B4RN project.

1. **B4RN**

Recent update report discussed. COVID has restricted further work on this project and the expiry date for the voucher scheme is coming to an end at the end of March 2021. DJ to prioritise in website. Agreement now for B4RN in Backford. DJ to organise and host a meeting for RJ and JL.

**Action DJ**

**Part 2**

**01/21 Minutes of the Previous Meeting 11th January 2021**

Agreed as a true record.

**02/21 Village Hall Update**

* Public Works Loan has now been received into the bank account.

DJ updated the Councillors on the progress of the new build – on track and going well.

**03/21 Planning**

* Withdrawal planning application for Masts on Railway between Chester and Hooton

Siting of the masts DJ to ring CWAC back to check if they are going ahead. JL stated that the drawings showed the site and they are at the track level. SP asked about the reason for the masts and felt concerned that the countryside may be defaced for a short journey. SE wanted to be kept informed.

* [Demolition of existing conservatory, single storey front, side and rear extension, erection of garden room.](https://pa.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?keyVal=QNGR42TEMP100&activeTab=summary) 

West Home Station Road Lea by Backford Chester Cheshire CH1 6NT

Ref. No: 21/00326/FUL | Received: Mon 25 Jan 2021 | Status: Awaiting

RJ said it was not visible from any other property so no objections to the agreement of this going ahead.

**04/21 Reports by Representatives**

To receive reports from the following representatives:

* Backford Charities - Councillor Rob Griffiths

Meeting cancelled due to COVID restrictions – 4 people have had the allocation of the funding for this year. RG stated that the committee are constantly looking at ways of using some of the funding. Concern is that monies can be taken from them if it is not utilised.

RG is going to telephone John Hess as SP has a possible contact for this and will let RG know. Brian Crow (RIP) was on the committee. DJ highlighted other options following flooding which could be considered for Backford Charity support.

* War Memorial Trust - Councillor Sue Pownall

SP stated there was no poster information as yet – Carl Stagg not done it yet due to COVID and most of the university students were not currently in university full time. CW waiting to see what happens with the relaxation of the rules and will advertise later in the year. Two of last years applicants to be considered for this year.

* Rural Sounding Board - To be confirmed

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**05/21 Finance**

* Bank Balance - £15,601 this includes the Public works loan for the Village Hall of £9325
* Payments for staff - Debbie Jones £392.40 (4 months to the end of March 2021)

and £307.50 (4 months to the end March 2021)

* Payment for Noticeboard - £400
* CHALC training for Clerk Audit and Election process - £58.68
* Printer cartridges - £30.50
* Condolence books - ££19.96

**06/21 Five Villages Website**

The newsletter – JL did not realise what was happening locally within the Mollington parish. The website does not explain fully and Lea was not reflected in a good light – negative slant on the parish. Wildlife and ponds Issues not peculiar to Lea by Backford.

**Action DJ to talk with Christine Jones from Mollington PC to look at amend.**

DJ read out the waste options

SE green waste not a service that they have to provide.

**DJ to send a link round.**

Elderly people assisted service is available SE

SP chronicle – fly tipping is now out of control.

RJ when taking rubbish to the tip the controls are extremely vigilant.

All Parish Councillors would like to review any further newsletters before it goes out to residents.

SP felt that it has to represents peoples’ views.

**House Numbers** – some residents are not in favour of this SP highlighted to the group. Some discussion about the 5 villages brand and it was agreed that this is built on the village hall new approach to communication with the public. SE would be disappointed if the newsletter project was to be dropped as it was supported financially by the CWAC budget and the answer is to offer to contribute to both the running of this and the production f the wording in the newsletter. SP 75% of the residents in Grove Road are in lea – the other newsletter in November was mainly relating to Mollington and there needs to be a balance.

**07/21 Police Report –** already covered in Part 1.

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

SE, Roger Jones, Christine Jones and Richard Jones met on zoom about flooding on grove road. Promising evening. List of actions to pursue on various issues. SP - flooding on the railway onto Demage Lane and now the railway has sandbags ready. Since the willows were chopped down the flooding seems worse. Network rail and council – re footpath. Never a footpath there historically. RJ has ensured the ditches are clear. SP remembers the pipes being smashed up many years ago.

Work to resolve on going.

**09/21 Elections**

Discussions re future of parish councillors who are off at the moment RJ to speak with Robin about how he feels.

**10/21 Death of Dignitary Protocol**

DJ has purchased joint books of Condolence for Mollington, Backford and Lea by Backford. The protocol is being written by DJ and with contributions to be shared across the 3 Parish Councils. Action plan to be agreed.

**11/21 Future Projects**

Village Green – Trees by the benches need to be pruned. SP had a quote for £150 to prune do all the nettles and clean the stones. Silver Birch needs the ends taking off.

**Action SP**

Noticeboard – SP to look at it and see what she thinks about replacement or if it can be cleaned.

**Action SP**

Speeding Survey - £1500

**Any Other Business**

Passing places – parking of cars passing only no parking.

**Action DJ**

**RG Footpaths**

From Tythe Barn round to the mews houses. Full of debris. The footpath now has been cleared onto the A41 and is now very wide. Only safe place is walking on the road.

SP responsibilities are with the cycle community and the council. Cycle people may have cleared by john’s place.

**Action Needs to be dug out by the council SE will do this.**

All the poppy wreaths had been removed and the church warden did not know why. Ask the chairman of the PCC.

**Action DJ – Rev Stephen Mansfield.**

SP asked if the army camp is being sold for development. SE has not heard that. We would have to keep a very close eye on the army camp and SE to ask Gill Houlbrook. Golf club one is going nowhere.

**Action DJ to organise meeting on ZOOM with B4RN Sue Caddy.**

**DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

**Monday 10th May 2021**

**19.30hrs.**