**Lea-by-Backford Parish Council**

**Notes of Meeting Monday 10th August 2020**

**Venue – MBDVH**

**Apologies**

Rob Griffiths

Robin Leigh (absent due to illness)

**In Attendance**

Cllr Richard Jones

Cllr Fred Jones

Cllr John Littler

Parish Clerk Deborah Jones

Cllr Sue Pownall

Borough Cllr Simon Eardley

**Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest

**Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

Not agreed and signed off as COVID Restrictions still in force

**Part 1**

Dave Evans (B4RN representative), posed issues with regards to the minutes in January 2020 at which FJ had suggested that BT and Virgin were to be to initiate the plan to have broadband underground and overhead.

DE asked was this fibre to the cabinet or something else. DE asked for detils and clarification of the disscusions. DE explained that Openreach had just published the next plan where 227 villages were for fibre connection and this did not include our local area. The group discussed about costings.

Councillors then discussed personal preferences for use by B4RN of individuals land and FJ and RJ re-itorated concerns in relation to their land use. DE asked that everyone in the community should contribute to the community project but the group again highlighted personal preferences on this issue.

JL asked why was it that no verges had been used – verge work requires road works and insurance – all cabling is laid under the road. Working with B4RN world class broadband fibre network would be 50% of the cost of BT or Virgin. JL - easement would mean allowing repair teams to come on to the land. RJ asked where is it coming into the village. DE suggests that there is permission to use a BT duct. JL - cable going through his land is the main issue and the implications of that. CP asked about ‘silverside’ driveway and has the route been changed.

RJ – how would the areas be accessed. At the moment entry at the top end of Mollington and down to the school and that will be the hub and then off to individual properties. RJ no way leaves or easements currently in place. SP asked how they are going down Grove road to the school and it was thought that the grass verge could be used in this instance although parts of the verge areas are very narrow. SP requested a map to show the up to date route, this has been requested before. DE will send to DJ for forwarding to Parish Councillors.

DE suggested that FJ wanted to stop the project all councillors agreed that the access to their land was the main issue and there was no other drivers for stopping the project.

SE – if there was a way to benefit landowners is this a possibility or not. DE explained that land owners have previously just complied. SE explained that this will not happen for the next 3 years and COVID means people are using the broad band more. Incentives should be considered. Currently 150 homes are now engaged. First target is 230 homes.

**Acton SE and DE**

**72/20 Village Hall Update**

PWLB Update – DJ gave an update on the Public Works Loan Board extension period which has now been agreed for the coming 12 months.

**73/20 Finance**

DJ updated the group on progress of the AGAR and bank balance.

* AGAR Accounting Statement
* Certificate of Exemption
* Pubic rights and publication of unaudited annual governance and accountability return

All documents agreed by Councillors and formally accepted. DJ to ensure information available for public scrutiny via noticeboard at present as the website is undergoing a migration.

All to be returned to PKF Littlejohn. SP suggested that we consider using income generation slots on the website for use by local users.

**Action DJ**

**74/20 Reports by Representatives**

**Backford charities**

**War memorial –** sue is going to write to Mr Webster and put it through his door**.** Two applications received by SP. Another representative to be available for the wreath laying in November 2020.

**75/20 Planning**

**Nil new**

**76/20 Updates by Clerk**

* Update of Web site -

DJ shared pictures of the new site for Mollington and the Lea and Backford are mirror images of this. Progress towards full migration going well however old passwords to enable the migration are proving a challenge. It is hoped that the work will be competed before September 2020.

* **School Duct Blockage**

RJ shared pictures of the drain which is causing problems outside the school and shows the silted up area. SE agreed he would talk to Tony Jones and report back. Also rods could be an option and Highways should really do this. Too much water coming as run off from the school and the drains cannot cope with this.

* **Speed Limit Grove Road**

Nil can happen until resolution for the water.

RJ updated the group on discussions with Kay Parry from highways. It has been suggested that the survey on Station Road be undertaken in September time on return of the school to full capacity post COVID.

The school will contribute around £500 to the works along with Mollington PC and Lea for the difference (approx. £1500 in total).

Councillors agreed that the option of the survey would be to put the strings on the road which measures speed and numbers of cars.

**Action SE**

* **Noticeboard**

Councillors are happier with a wooden noticeboards

* **Footpath of Demage Lane**

SE to have sight of all of the photos etc Richard Ankers PROW officer.

**76/20 Police Report**

Nil available

**Any Other Business**

Cycle Path – overgrown with briars, complaints come to FJ re cycle route 56. JL doesn’t own the land and SE is underway with this.

FJ requested that the village should help to maintain the ever growing ‘Ragwort” on the side of the grass verge. FJ to help write something about ragwort to go in noticeboard and on to the website.

Village green – SP to organise a gardener. Tree needs to be pruned Red horse chestnut. Consider pruning of the tree.

Royal mail not delivering as COVID might be an issue locally.

**Could the letter box be painted the royal mail to be contacted DJ**

**70/20 Any Other Business**

DJ to order the poppies and the wreath to be laid at Backford Church.

**DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

**Monday 12th October 2020**