

Mollington Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 4 July 2017 at 8.00pm in Mollington, Backford & District Village Hall

Present: Councillors Mike Jones (in the Chair), Amanda Clarke, Charles Charlesworth and Phil Crane. Councillor Brian Crowe arrived late due to a prior commitment

In Attendance: Mrs Pauline English (Parish Clerk) and one member of the public

17.52 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None received. Councillor Angus MacSween was absent from the meeting.

17.53 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Charlesworth declared an interest in Minute 17.59 as the Parish Council's representative on the Village Hall Committee.

17.54 OPEN FORUM

Chris Jones, Chairman of the Village Hall Committee, was invited to give a progress report on the issues currently facing the Village Hall. He reported that only that evening he had been informed that the application to the Big Lottery Fund for grant for the refurbishment of the Hall had passed Stage 1 and would now be moving into Stage 2. Amongst other things this would require a revised business plan to be submitted. Negotiations were still under way with Virgin's insurers with regard to compensation for the damage caused to the tennis courts during the cable laying, when they had used the area for storage. It was confirmed that the cable would reach as far as Warren Farm on Townfield Lane but it was unlikely to go further in that direction, although discussions were still ongoing on that issue.

17.55 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 2 May 2017 were confirmed as a correct record.

17.55 PLANNING

(1) Applications Received:

17/02713/FUL	First Floor Rear Extension at Old Orchard, Townfield Lane, Mollington, Chester Cheshire CH1 6NJ
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(2) Decisions:

17/01509/FUL	Change the use of The Good Intent to Offices (ground floor), demolition of existing single storey extension and porch and re-positioning of a boundary wall at The Good Intent, Parkgate Road, Mollington, Chester - APPROVED
17/01258/ADV	Two 4m flag poles displaying the company logo at Footgolf Chester, The Pavilion, Parkgate Road, Mollington, Chester - APPROVED

(3) Awaiting Decision: None

(4) **Mollington Grange – update:** Councillors Clarke, Crane and Crowe and the Parish Clerk met Nial Casselden, Cheshire West and Chester Planning Team Manager, to discuss the current situation at Mollington Grange. Councillors Clarke and Crane had visited Mollington Grange earlier in the day and spoken to a number of tenants. The majority view was that they would prefer to stay at Mollington Grange, especially those who had built up a business that relied on customers from the immediate area. Inducements had been offered from North Wales and some businesses were considering a move there, which would be a loss to Chester in general and Mollington in particular, as Mollington Grange was the only small business site in the parish. The Parish Council had objected to the application on the basis that not all of the units fulfilled the criteria required by the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order – SI 2015 No.596, as they were not office units. The Parish Council also felt that the proposed change of use was contrary to Policy ECON1 of the Cheshire West and Chester Local Plan which stated that “The Council will promote sustainable economic growth in the borough and wider sub-region, supporting existing

businesses, encouraging indigenous business growth and attracting new inward investment. It was now for CWaC Planning (Cathy Reay, the designated Planning Officer) to look into these issues. Chris Matheson MP had offered his assistance if needed.

17.56 DAMAGE TO WALL

The damage caused to the Mollington Hall estate wall during Virgin Media's cable laying works had been drawn to the attention of Mr Julian Holland, Virgin Media's Community Liaison Officer. He had investigated and confirmed that the sub-contractor had admitted liability and was in the process of rectifying the situation. He promised that the work would be prioritised and completed by 30 June. The Parish Council had also written to Virgin and a representative had attended on 16 June. He was not aware that Julian Holland was also dealing with the incident but took no further action and the Parish Council did not receive any response to their letter. On 27 June a resident had confirmed that work had started on the repair and it had continued intermittently, finishing on 4 July with a message from Julian Holland offering his personal sincere apologies for the whole incident on behalf of Virgin Media.

17.56 HIGHWAY MATTERS AND AMENITY CLEANING

The Parish Council had sent a formal letter of objection to the Cheshire West and Chester Borough Council (Addition of Public Footpaths No.12, No.13, No.14., No.15, No.16 in the parish of Mollington) Modification Order 2017 and had received the following response from Adele Mayer, Public Rights of Way Officer at CWaC: *"Thank you for sending the response. I'll reply formally later, but please draw to your members attention the following notes:*

- That the council refused to make an order for all of the paths claimed in the original application. The opportunity to object to that decision was given when the decision report was published.*
- The applicant subsequently appealed to the Secretary of State and the council was directed to make the order for some of the paths claimed and which are now shown on the order. I do not know why the applicant has not appealed the decision made by the Planning Inspector, nor why he has not resolved the issue and appealed for more witnesses to come forward to support the claim that has been made.*

I do know the applicant has taken the view that an Inspector has the power to modify an order, following a public inquiry, with the addition of new paths. An Inspector has already rejected the Appeal claim for some of the paths and I would assume the decision would be the same unless the applicant believes he can provide new and additional evidence/witnesses. Additional witness evidence had been sought from the applicant when investigating the claim, but the request was refused.

I accept that you are objecting to the order as made."

It was agreed that a copy of the Parish Council's letter and Adele Mayer's reply should be forwarded to Gordon Emery.

17.58 MOLLINGTON SCHOOL AND PLAYING FIELD

No issues raised

17.59 VILLAGE HALL

No further issues raised (see 17.54 above)

17.60 CORRESPONDENCE

Clerks and Councils Direct July 2017

17.61 FINANCE

(1) Payments

Method		Amount
BACS	HMRC-Income Tax	334.46
BACS	Came & Co – Insurance	168.00

Bank	Service Charge	18.00
BACS	Village Hall – Room Hire July	16.00
S/O	Parish Clerk – salary July 2017	130.40
Chq241	J Davies (Amenity Cleaner) – wages July 2017	166.40
BACS	Parish Clerk – expenses March-July 2017	85.65
S/O	Parish Clerk – salary August 2017	130.40
Chq242	J Davies (Amenity Cleaner) – wages August 2017	166.40

(2) **Receipts:** None

(3) **Balance** as at 4 July: £19,400.03

17.62 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION AND NEXT MEETING

17.63 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 5 September 2017 at 8.00pm in Mollington, Backford and District Village Hall

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