

Mollington Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 3 May 2016 at Mollington, Backford & District Village Hall

PRESENT: Councillors, Charles Charlesworth, Phil Crane. Brian Crowe, Mike Jones, Angus MacSween and Mike Riley

In Attendance: Mrs Pauline English (Parish Clerk), PC Chris Burnham, Traffic Management Officer, Cheshire Police and Mr Dave Wallace, Headteacher, St Oswald's CE Primary School. There was one member of the public present.

Councillor MacSween in the chair

16.31 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Councillor Jones was nominated by Councillor Riley and seconded by Councillor Crane. There being no further nominations Councillor Jones was elected Chairman of the Parish Council for 2016-17. Councillor Jones signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and took the chair. He thanked Councillor MacSween for his two years of hard work.

Councillor Jones in the chair

16.32 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

Councillor Crane was nominated by Councillor Jones and seconded by Councillor MacSween. There being no further nominations Councillor Crane was appointed Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council for 2016-17.

16.33 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

16.34 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Charlesworth declared an interest in Minute 16.41 as the Parish Council's representative on the Village Hall Committee.

16.35 SPEEDING AND PARKING ISSUES AROUND ST OSWALD'S SCHOOL

Chris Burnham, Traffic Management Officer, Cheshire Police attended the meeting to discuss the issues relating to speeding and parking around St Oswald's Primary School and how these might be resolved. The Headteacher of the School, Mr Wallace, was also in attendance. Dave Reeves, Cheshire West and Chester Highways, had been invited but was unable to attend.

Mr Wallace explained that the school was full which meant that there were a lot of parents dropping children off and picking them up. Only about a quarter of the children were from the village, the rest came from outside Mollington. He had asked parents to park considerately and not to linger but there were some who continued to park inconsiderately, blocking residents in. Solutions to the problem included introducing a drop-off system, but this would require parents to become involved. It might be possible to extend the small parking bay but this would have financial implications. A system where cars parked nose in was not supported because of the safety implications of backing out onto a busy road.

With regard to speed, it was noted that Cheshire West and Chester (CWaC) Council's policy was now to have a 20mph zone outside every school. PC Burnham told the Parish Council that they did not have the mechanism to deal with people breaking the 20mph limit. A mechanism would be found but it was not yet in place. Warning letters could be sent to those driving at excessive speeds and the Council could put out advisory notices. The problem area was the long, straight stretch of road leading up to the school which was currently national speed limit so it would be sensible to ask CWaC Highways to survey the road with a view to introducing a speed limit if it met the criteria. A resident commented that the speed limit should start on the far side of Damage Lane.

It was agreed that the Headteacher should follow-up ideas for better control of parking and that the Parish Council would ask CWaC for the limit to be 20mph outside the school as with other schools in the area and for the derestricted length of Grove Road be assessed with a view to extending the speed limit further up Grove Road.

The opportunity was taken to ask PC Burnham about the box that had been placed in Well Lane. He confirmed that there had been an assessment but the results had suggested that there wasn't a speeding problem.

16.36 OPEN FORUM

No issues raised.

16.37 MINUTES

It was resolved that the Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 1 March 2016 be confirmed as a correct record.

16.38 VACANCY FOR A COUNCILLOR

It was noted that the outstanding vacancy for a Councillor had been advertised for the requisite number of days and that no requests had been received to hold an election to fill the vacancy. The Parish Council could now fill the vacancy by co-option and the Clerk would prepare appropriate notices for the Notice Boards and the website.

16.39 DELEGATION TO COMMITTEES AND EMPLOYEES

It was resolved that the terms of reference and membership of the Conduct Committee, i.e. the Chairman and Vice-Chairman and one other Councillor, be confirmed and that submission of responses to Planning Applications between meetings be delegated to the Parish Clerk under the Scheme of Delegation.

16.40 REVIEW OF STANDING ORDERS AND FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

The Parish Council should review its Standing Orders and Financial Regulations annually and make any necessary changes as a result of new legislation or for other reasons. The Parish Council had last reviewed Standing Orders and Financial Regulations in May 2015 and it was resolved that no changes should be made.

16.41 OUTSIDE BODIES

- (1) The existing representation on the following bodies was noted:
 - (a) **Backford Trust:** Councillors Charlesworth and Crowe until 2019.
 - (b) **War Memorial Trust:** Rev Stephen Southgate. It was noted that following Rev Southgate's departure it would be Backford Parish Council's turn to nominate a representative.
 - (c) **Village Hall Committee:** Councillor Charlesworth until December 2017

Councillor Charlesworth declared a non-prejudicial interest as the Parish Council's representative on the Village Hall Committee and reported that Cheshire West and Chester Council had approved the planning application for alterations and extension at Mollington, Backford and District Village Hall.
- (2) Councillor Crane and the Clerk were nominated to attend the ChALC Chester and Vale Royal Joint Meetings

16.42 AUDIT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The internal audit of the Parish Council's affairs for the year to 31 March 2016 would take place on 17 May 2016. The dates appointed for the exercise of electors' rights to view the accounts and make copies of the annual return and all books, deeds, contracts, bills, vouchers and receipts and other documents relating to the Accounting Statements were 3 June until 14 July 2016.

16.43 POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

The following policies and procedures had been approved by the Parish Council in May 2015 and it was resolved that no changes be made this year:

- (1) Complaints Procedure
- (2) Data Protection and Information Security Policy
- (3) Dignity at Work: Bullying and Harassment policy
- (4) Discipline, Dismissal and Grievance Policy
- (5) Equality and Diversity Policy
- (6) Freedom of Information – Publication Scheme
- (7) Health and Safety Policy

- (8) Policy and procedure for handling requests for information
- (9) Risk Management Strategy
- (10) Scheme of Delegation

16.44 PLANNING

(1) **Applications Received:**

16/01181/FUL	Conversion of one building to dwelling, demolition of all other structures and erection of four new dwellings on land adjacent to Mollington Banastre Hotel, Parkgate Road, Mollington, Chester. This application replaced 15/04549/FUL (Residential Development of 4 dwellings - Amendment to 15/01844/FUL on land adjacent to Mollington Banastre Hotel, Parkgate Road, Mollington, Chester) which was withdrawn. The Parish Council has already submitted comments because of the deadline for responses. No objection, but concern that beneficial aspects agreed in the discussions about the previous applications are retained in this latest version.
16/01629/OUT	Outline application for two detached dwellings on land adjacent Greenfields, Grove Road, Mollington, Chester. The Parish Council were concerned that the Design Statement contained a number of inaccuracies and resolved to object on the grounds that the proposed development was in the Green Belt and that no very special circumstances existed for the dwellings to be built in this location. The criteria for infill development were not met and there was no proven need for these dwellings as there were sufficient houses of a similar type available in Backford.

(2) **Decisions:**

16/00336/FUL and 16/00337/LBC	Internal alterations including removing internal wall, raising of internal floor level and external fire exit door as a result of raised floor levels. Rebuilding and raising of external fire escape stairs to suit revised fire exit at Crabwall Manor, Parkgate Road, Mollington, Chester, Cheshire CH1 6NE – APPROVED
16/00340/HHE	Single storey rear conservatory at 4 Tarrant Court, Mollington, Chester, Cheshire CH1 6NL – PRIOR APPROVAL NOT REQUIRED
16/00463/DIS	Discharge of conditions 3, 5, 9, 10, 11 of application 15/04067/FUL for change of use of land to 'Footgolf' facility with associated infrastructure on land at Parkgate Road, Mollington, Chester, Cheshire – APPROVED
15/04944/FUL	Proposed touring caravan park with 10 pitches, camping area with 5 pitches, part conversion of building to form toilet and shower block, access alterations & installation of drainage system at Oakwood Farm, Parkgate Road, Saughall, Chester, Cheshire CH1 6EY (Neighbouring parish) – REFUSED on Green Belt grounds and that the proposals do not require to be located in this location and would result in an increased incongruous development that would have an adverse impact upon the general open and rural landscape character of the locality. It would have poor accessibility credentials, with a reliance on the use of the private car to access the proposed development and for its users to access services and facilities in the area. As a result, the proposals would be contrary to the provisions of Policies STRAT1, STRAT9, ENV2 and ECON3 of the Cheshire West and Chester Local Plan, retained policy EC18 of the Chester District Local Plan, and the National Planning Policy Framework.

- (3) **Notification of Planning Applications:** CWaC were proposing a change to the way in which planning applications were dealt with. The proposal was that an email would be sent informing the Clerk that an application had been received and was on their website and the Parish Council would have to download the documents. The deadline imposed for a response to the consultation would be more strictly adhered to with extensions being refused if the request was based solely on awaiting the next Parish Council meeting. A “conversation” would be held by CWaC with Parish Councils about how to deal with plans. The Parish Council resolved to write to CWaC objecting to the new proposals on the grounds that the equipment used by Clerks and Councillors was insufficient for viewing/printing large plans or copying

weighty documents, and that the cut-off for responses should be determined by the date when **all** the supporting papers were available on the CWaC website. The statutory 21 days was considered to be barely operable for unpaid volunteers and locals, who have other commitments. Many small Local Councils only met every two months and the introduction of a rigid time period for consultations would necessitate calling special meetings or making delegation arrangements which were an undemocratic way of responding. Further, it was the Parish Council's view that if and when significant changes were made to the scope of an application and/or its supporting documents and there was no new or revised application, the Local Council should be notified and the time limit of 21 days should be restarted from when the revised paperwork was available on the CWaC website.

16.45 HIGHWAYS, RIGHTS OF WAY AND AMENITY CLEANING

No issues raised

16.46 MOLLINGTON SCHOOL AND PLAYING FIELD

No issues raised

16.47 WEBSITE

Development of the Parish Council's website was progressing.

16.48 PARISH PLAN QUESTIONNAIRE

The summary of responses to the questionnaire on the Parish Plan update was noted and the Proposed Council Actions were approved. These would be circulated to residents with the Chairman's Report.

16.49 THE OAKS GOLF CLUB

The current owners had told the Parish Council that they very much regretted having to close the club, but it had been trading unprofitably from when it was taken out of receivership. It had not been possible to grow the membership to sustainable levels and there appeared little prospect of it ever getting into the black. The Club Management had done their very best to place all of the Club's members with other Clubs and had remained open to honour as many function bookings as possible. All suppliers were being paid. There had been several approaches to sell as a going concern but with no success and an offer had, therefore, been accepted from a local investor who was keeping all options open, including reverting to agriculture. He would be talking to the Planners about what to do with the Greenkeepers building and the Clubhouse. Nothing was yet finalised and thoughts regarding the site would be discussed with the Parish Council as they developed.

16.50 NO.22 BUS SERVICE

Councillor Crowe had been asked to make further enquiries about Mollington being included in the route of the No.22 bus service. He reported that this was not going to happen but that Arriva were looking at providing a service between Neston and Chester which might be able to stop at the Fingerpost. Further information was awaited from CWaC.

16.51 FINANCE

(1) **Payments:** It was resolved that the following payments be approved:

Cheque No		Amount
BACS	Cheshire West and Chester Council – School Field Licence	300.00
BACS	SLCC – Conference Fee	114.00
217	J Davies (Amenity Cleaner) – wages April 2016	156.00
S/O	Parish Clerk – salary April 2016	129.20
218	Village Hall – Room Hire	16.00
BACS	Parish Clerk – expenses April/May 2016	19.54
219	J Davies (Amenity Cleaner) – wages May 2016	223.30
S/O	Parish Clerk – salary May 2016	129.20
220	Cheshire Association of Local Councils (ChALC) Affiliation	223.30

- (2) **Receipts:** It was resolved that the following receipts be noted:

Cheshire West and Chester Council – Precept and CTRS	7,000.00
Barrow Parish Council – Share of Conference fees	94.00

- (3) **Balance** as at 3 May 2016 was £16,292.76
- (4) **Approval of use of BACS payments:** The Legislative Reform (Payments by Parish Councils, Community Councils and Charter Trustees) Order 2014 provided the opportunity for Parish Councils to make payments by BACS transfer provided such payments were authorised by the Parish Council. It was resolved to continue to make payments by BACS where appropriate in 2016-17.

16.52 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION AND NEXT MEETING

- (1) Rev Southgate had been the vicar of St Oswald's parish for some 15 years and he was leaving imminently to take up another post. The Clerk was asked to write a letter of thanks for his service to the residents of Mollington.
- (2) It was reported that two of the local show gardens would be opening again this summer with proceeds going to local charities.
- (3) Volunteers had been requested to act as marshals in the forthcoming Chester half marathon.

16.53 MEETINGS IN 2016-17

It was resolved that meetings be held on the following dates and times in 2016-17:

Tuesday 5 July 2016 at 8.00pm

Tuesday 6 September 2016 at 8.00pm

Tuesday 1 November 2016 at 7.30pm (Garden Competition presentations)

Tuesday 3 January 2017 at 8.00pm

Tuesday 7 March 2017 at 8.00pm (Annual Parish Meeting at 7.30pm)

Tuesday 2 May 2017 at 7.30pm (Annual Meeting)