

# Mollington Parish Council

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council** held on Tuesday 5 March 2019 at Mollington, Backford & District Village Hall

**Present:** Councillors Phil Crane (in the Chair), Brian Crowe, Christine Jones, Mike Jones, Roger Jones, Angus MacSween and Rebecca Wimpey

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

## 19.13 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None. The Clerk was welcomed back after her recent period of ill-health

## 19.14 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Mike Jones declared an interest in matters relating to the Village Hall.

## 19.15 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME

Mr Chris Jones reported that the B4RN team had been reviewing the first draft core route plan for the project. An HMRC decision had meant that eligibility for tax relief under the Enterprise Investment Scheme would no longer apply to Community Benefit Societies such as B4RN. That meant that all shares awaiting EIS certificates would not receive them and the 30% EIS tax relief would not apply. However, investors would receive interest from day one backdated to when the investment was received. B4RN had opened a crowd funding scheme to help with the short-term funding gap. A new flyer was being prepared and would be delivered to residents in the next week or so detailing the latest information about the project. More responses to the original questionnaire were still needed from residents and businesses within the project area. It was noted that Capenhurst had installed their cabinet and were starting to build the network. It was proposed to locate the Mollington cabinet at the school and access to it would be taken from the Capenhurst box.

## 19.16 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 8 January 2019 were disputed by Councillor Christine Jones, specifically regarding The Willows planning application. She maintained that Councillor Crowe's statement that planning had been refused was incorrect. This had caused confusion and some residents had been misled by it. Councillor Christine Jones insisted that this matter should be discussed following the formal Parish Council meeting and that residents should have an opportunity to express their concerns at being confused and misled. Councillor Crowe replied that this statement was incorrect and that he had, in fact, stated that the first application at the Willows in 2017 had been refused. At the time of the January meeting of the Parish Council the item had not come before the Planning Committee for consideration.

The remaining minutes were confirmed as a correct record.

## 19.17 PLANNING

### (1) Applications Received:

19/00308/FUL	Demolition of dilapidated 2 storey farmhouse and erection of new single storey dwelling at Elm Farm, Townfield Lane, Mollington, Chester CH1 6NJ – No comments by Parish Council
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### (2) Decisions

18/03983/FUL	Two storey side with part single storey rear extension at 4 Overwood Avenue, Mollington, Chester, Cheshire CH1 6NH - APPROVED
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A discussion took place about the recent application

## 19.18 INTERPRETATIVE PANEL

This project was now being considered by all three parish councils (Backford, Lea-by-Backford and Mollington). Councillor Christine Jones was engaging with each Parish Council over such things as cost, design, text, content, features, style, size and the eventual siting of the panel or panels. The design company had provided quotations for one and/or multiple designs plus one and/or two or three panels each sited according to

the wishes of each of the three Parish Councils. The History Society were being consulted with regard to Heritage features and the farmers with regard to footpaths and bridleways. Councillor Christine Jones had sought written permission to take photographs from the owners of Heritage private residences. The U3A had offered to take photographs and would wait for those written permissions before proceeding. Final costs were still fluid as the original quotation was valid for six months only and it was likely that this project would continue into the summer or autumn.

**19.19 HIGHWAYS, PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY AND AMENITY CLEANING**

Councillor Christine Jones told the meeting that she had reported four problems to CWaC on line, two of which had been resolved and the others acknowledged. She recommended the use of the on-line reporting system.

The layby before the canal bridge was full of rubbish. The Clerk was asked to report it to Carol Lammond at CWaC in the hope that it could be cleared before the Chester Half Marathon.

**19.20 MOLLINGTON SCHOOL AND PLAYING FIELD**

It was reported that the Deputy Head was leaving to take up a position in Singapore. The Parish Council wished him well in his new post.

Council Christine Jones had come into possession of the original Mollington Mile Fun Run Glass Trophy and would like to investigate the possibility of reinstating the event.

Councillor Mike Jones offered to mention it to Mr Wallace, the Headteacher, to see if the school would like to be involved.

**19.21 VILLAGE HALL**

The possibility had been discussed at an informal meeting of Backford, Lea and Mollington Parish Councils each taking out a loan to provide the additional funding needed by the Village Hall. Councillor Crane reiterated that the vote taken at the time was not binding as the proposal had to be approved at a Parish Council meeting. This had been done at the January meeting of the Parish Council. Councillor Christine Jones asked that residents be canvassed as soon as possible and suggested a resident's questionnaire which must possess both consistency and clarity across all Parish Councils. It was confirmed that each Parish Council would be responsible for all aspects of the loan. Councillor Crane suggested that it would be prudent for an Oversight Board to be set up and it was agreed that Councillors Crane and Roger Jones should undertake this together. The Parish Council had nominated Councillor Crane to represent them as a Trustee of the Village Hall. He wished to step down from this role as he saw a conflict of interest between his Parish Council duties and his duties as Trustee. It was agreed that Councillor Mike Jones should take over the role of Trustee and Councillor Crane would represent the Parish Council on the Loan Committee with Councillor Roger Jones as deputy. All these positions would be reviewed in May following the election.

**19.22 PARISH PLAN**

The Parish Plan was in need of updating. Councillor Christine Jones volunteered to take this on and would circulate a draft to all Councillors.

**19.23 FINANCE**

(1) The matter of membership of ChALC would be put on the agenda for the May meeting for consideration by the new Parish Council.

(2) **Receipts:** Since the meeting in September the following amounts had been received:

13.09.18	Elton Parish Council-repayment of training costs	25.00
10.12.18	CWaC Members budget-grant for WW1 Bench	978.00
27.12.18	CWaC Members budget-grant for field licence (3 years)	900.00

- (3) **Payments:** Due to the illness of the Clerk no minutes had been produced since the meeting in September 2018. The following payments made since September were noted:

Date	Method	Payee	Amount
17.09.18	BACS	Parish Clerk-expenses, including website hosting	95.04
17.09.18	BACS	Village Hall-Room Hire	34.00
28.09.18	S/O	Amenity Cleaner-wages September	169.73
28.09.18	S/O	Parish Clerk-salary September	133.28
30.09.18	Bank	Service Charge (3 months)	18.00
29.10.18	S/O	Amenity Cleaner-wages October	169.73
29.10.18	S/O	Parish Clerk-salary October	133.28
19.11.18	BACS	Parish Clerk-expenses	45.47
28.11.18	S/O	Amenity Cleaner-wages November	169.73
28.11.18	S/O	Parish Clerk-salary November	133.28
28.12.18	S/O	Amenity Cleaner-wages November	169.73
28.12.18	S/O	Parish Clerk-salary December	133.28
31.12.18	Bank	Service Charge (3 months)	18.00
28.01.19	S/O	Amenity Cleaner-wages January	169.73
28.01.19	S/O	Parish Clerk-salary January	133.28
31.01.19	BACS	David Ogilvie-WW1 Bench for Church	971.40
01.02.19	BACS	HMRC-Income Tax	704.50
11.02.19	D/D	1&1-Website hosting	7.19
13.02.19	BACS	B Crowe-repayment for Poppy Wreath	20.00
13.02.19	BACS	Village Hall-Room Hire	16.00
28.02.19	S/O	Amenity Cleaner-wages February	169.73
28.02.19	S/O	Parish Clerk-salary February	133.28
05.03.19	D/D	1&1-Website hosting	7.19

- (4) It was resolved that from 1 April 2019 the Clerk's salary be based on SCP21 (formerly SCP27+1) of the revised NJC payscales as advised by NALC. This amounted to £174.33 a month gross, £139.47 net.
- (5) It was resolved that from 1 April 2019 the Amenity Cleaner's wage be based on the Local Living Wage as advised by Cheshire West and Chester Council (currently £8.75 per hour). Based on this amount his monthly pay would be £227.50 gross, £182.00 net. Any amendment to the hourly rate notified by CWaC would be backdated to 1 April.

#### **19.24 RISK ASSESSMENT / APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL CONTROL OFFICER**

The absence of the Clerk due to ill health had highlighted the need for Councillors to take more of an active role in the management of the Parish Council. Councillor Roger Jones volunteered to become the Internal Control Officer, Councillor Crowe would shadow the Clerk on finance, Councillor Wimpey would shadow on the Minutes. The Risk Assessment was noted and approved.

#### **19.25 ELECTION TIMETABLE**

The election timetable had been circulated with the agenda and was noted. Councillors had picked up the nomination packs which were passed to the Clerk at the meeting. She would send them out to individual Councillors after familiarising herself with the contents of the packs.

#### **19.26 MATTERS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS FOR INFORMATION/NEXT MEETING**

No issues raised.

#### **19.27 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 21 May at 7.30pm at Mollington, Backford and District Village Hall.