**Backford Parish Council**

**COUNCIL SUMMONS**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Council members are summoned to a meeting of the Council to be held in ONLINE on Zoom**

**Meeting ID: 928 421 7843**

**Passcode: 459747**

**on Tuesday 11th May 2021 at 19.45hrs**

**In Attendance**

Mike Cheers

Ade Deary

Anita Dodd

Mark Littler

Clive Morgan

Andrew Harkness

Dave Ruscoe

Simon Eardley

**Apologies**

Nil

MC talked through his Chairman’s report thanking Councillor Ade Deary for doing all of the treasury work and Councillor Andrew Harkness for completing the work on the PWLB. Thanks also to Debbie Jones for ensuring smooth running of the Parish workings on a day to day basis.

All had read the report – no further comments. All discussed the current vacancy and wanted to advertise this – discussion about Backford Park and there are 2 interested parties from there.

**DJ to advertise the one vacancy.**

MC stood down and the meeting continued with AH to chair whilst nominations for Chairman continued. AH nominated MC to continue as Chairman and ML seconded, and all were in favour.

Vice chair proposal by MC Councillor AD and this was seconded by AH.

All in favour.

**Accounts**

Invoice to be clarified AD to do this with Littlejohn. AD not happy with the same issue.

MC for all to agree the accounts and no questions.

Mike Purcell to check the accounts over and AD to send to Simon Eardley although this is not absolutely necessary.

**Action AD**

**Declarations of Interest**

Village Hall for AH and MC otherwise none.

**Open Forum**

B4RN - AH reported that the voucher scheme has been changed now as the old scheme has ended. The cabinet is to be set up by a cabinet in the hospice. Speeds are faster in Mollington. Like to ask the landowners who have not done the wayleaves to be encouraged to do so. Ready to start on the Backford sign. MC needs vouchers so discussed with AH. Gigaloc are now working on Townfield Lane and have crossed land without wayleaves – now reconfiguring but using poles etc.

AD needs a big map to join in a meeting. AH asked were the landowners ok with the wayleaves and they all seemed to be in favour. AD reported that the way leave could be cancelled at any time with either party. CM - poor broadband areas there is no problem but there are mixed feelings in this area. CM asked how the Burton one is going – no news that Puddington and Capenhurst have various people connected and had similar challenges. AH queen’s speech increasing broadband and the 2024 program for open reach is being brought forward but this area is not in that.

**Part 2**

**10/21 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

Typo Mr malthouse it is £25 not £28 in section 5/21 change item 8/21 change this to ML.

Thank you to go into the noticeboard Marie Bradley and onto the website. The Parish council will support people will bags and kit for this doing this. SE asked if we need to hoops and bibs. Order 6 of each item thank you. Orange bibs are less likely to be run over.

**11/21 Village Hall Update**

**Update on Progress**

Restart to be in June AH gave a verbal report there is a lot of activity currently relating to the final drawings and spec for drains sinks fittings and fixtures. In the wider village hall, there are thoughts about the new activities and are expected to do those sorts of things. Opportunities new groups. Dance group has started. New members to be encouraged committee to be encouraged. Volunteers advert. 3rd time that the hall has been attempted to be renewed. AH mentioned how hard the committee has worked. Great progress

FCC money not showing in the accounts for the village hall. DJ reported that the letter from the village hall confirming the contributions to be sent from MC to AD.

**12/21 Planning**

Woodstock – AH planners have objected because the design reflects the 18th century building planning officer wants a copy of the 4 small windows in the door. AH was confused about why this should happen. Now has to appeal. Comments to go back as the parish councilors are happy with plans as is.

**DJ to ask why are they are taking their** **decision**.

Like the design in keeping with the 18th century building.

Rock bank – no objections and this is next door to AH – the building looks like it may not support this but still happy to support. This

Hospice MH concerned about hedge rows and cars for coming in and out at night time. Lighting to be sympathetic. Decent landscaping.

**DJ to comment.**

CM asked how many car parks spaces – 30 to 50 spaces.

**13/21 Reports by Representatives**

To receive reports from the following representatives:

* Backford Charities - Mike Cheers

Meeting being arranged.

* War Memorial Trust
* - Councillor Mark Littler
* Rural Local Issues - To be confirmed

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**14/21 Finance**

Bank Balance - £5844.32 no change as of exiting the year

Zurich to be paid again soon.

Payments for staff £229.54

Audit

**15/21 Future Projects**

Need to spend up some of the reserve – skewed balance because of the additional loan. Talking about buying the planters. Number 2 Gordons lane are interested in maintaining them. Needs to be an agreement with the local authority as this need’s agreement

**16/21 Police Report**

Lamb on the A 41 might have been one escaped from his field but not owned by him. Curious what the police action was? DJ to ask Tony Icke PC. Report by MH re incident on A41outside his house at 12.30p.m. – new PCSO called in also something stolen off one of the caravans at Manor Farm. DR asked about the registration number as a car pulled in at the entrance of his field.

Further incident on the corner of the fisheries the car did not get round the corner. Report of car hitting a tree on rake lane reported also. 24.4.21.

Canal incident man lost his life found dead in the water no further information available. Condolence’s to the family.

**17/21 Highways update**

Fisheries corner traffic lights briefly up – high platform truck there now resolved.

SE at this location works agreed for this junction by the end of May 2021. SE - Disappointed that no site meeting had been undertaken. Bend warning signs as this is a very sharp bend. AD - widening and tarmacking of the road to make the bend wider. AH suggested that it might be better to have the inside of the bend widened but this might not be ok with the land owner.

Speed reduction from 60 mph t 50 mph. Councillors are mystified by this.

Additional Chevron signs approach and slow road markings. AD reported previous discussions about this with regards to white lines down the middle of the road.

Road surfaces Chorlton lane to Chester Zoo – have been raised as an urgent with CWAC. No update as yet but this has gone to a more senior officer.

Long standing request for traffic survey work highways advised this is going to re start shortly. All agreed to press ahead with this in Backford.

SE is happy to make points but not stop what they are doing –

**AD to do this.**

DR suggested letting them do the work and then starting again after this work is complete. All agreed apart from AH who would like to see the proposal. DR would be curious to know the age range of the drivers who are having the accidents.

**Cheryl Ryan issue on the road to Whitby – logged with the enforcement team – needs to go on the planning SE on their radar. DR looked at Google Street view and the area looks very different. DR shared the google street view of the old area showing t**he bridle path with a large hedge with no access at all compared to the pics that Simon Eardley sent MH used to farm the field 20 years ago and felt it was too dangerous to pull out of that area. This was really useful for all. Poor sight of the road. SE agreed it was really dangerous. Hedges are removed that are not on their and. CM has seen concrete laid down as well. New pictures were also shared. This falls within the local authority remit as this is in the 30mph – this area is covered in chunks of tarmac. Looks like they are making an access road. Large rectangle is at the end of that pile of Tarmac and SE will send this on to the planning enforcement team.

Length of hedge removed is illegal – coppice more than a hedge? It is against the law to remove hedge.

Grass cutting – local authority change of contract is starting to become noticeable and SE said fast road areas is worse – no resolution to this at the moment.

A41 central reservation encroached with weeds and grass approaching the Backford area. Footpath being done and road been shut to one lane for the last 3 weeks.

**Kay Parry – bus stops closed DJ to ask Kay Parry.**

CM another issue at the other end of the road people now denying access to the bridleway to the otherowners of the land. CM – concerned and this is in the hands of the solicitors. The owners are not respecting the laws and rights of access through the track. Independent surveyor is on the case.

ML asked that Simon Eardley for thanked for his work on the walk pathway and this has encouraged new walkers. Pump lane bridle way now much improved still some water issue at the Gordon lane end AD thanked SE.

AD - PCSO Tony Icke highlighted issues at the far end of the bridle way and SE agreed to raise this issue with CWAC.

**Action SE**

**18/21 Any Other Business**

Telephone box DR – still operational and in use for the community.

Venue to be considered as the village hall is booked – practicality of zoom is convenient DR the broadband is an issue for some of the committee. MC to see where we are as at the next meeting.

SE government policy now that meetings must be physical for validity.

AD reported that he is pursuing internet banking

Meeting closed at 21.45hrs

**DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

**Thursday 15th July 2021** - 19.45hrs