**Backford Parish Council Minutes**

**Tuesday 14th September 2021**

**Collinge Farm Backford**

**In Attendance**

Mike Cheers

Andrew Harkness

Clive Morgan

Ade Deary

**Apologies**

Anita Dodd

**Declarations of interest**

Mark Littler, David Ruscoe and Mike Cheers in B4RN as potential for it to be across some of the land.

**PART 1**

B4RN representative Dave Evans, Chris D Jones and Phil Crane were in attendance. Dave spoke about the remit of the project and essentially this this is a community led issue and they are looking for more take up of the vouchers in advance of the government withdrawal of vouchers , (government GIGABIT capability by 2025). If there is not enough take up in the area we will be in the 15% of the country which will not be able to benefit from this project. Capability is now 10,000 mgbts per second and some of the community are only able to achieve 1mgbts. Everybody in the community should have access to fast reliable broadband.

Costs have not changed since the inception of the company and this does compare favourably at £30 per month for 1 gigabit per second. Service also is the best available. Best value for money for people in the community and is affordable.

The issue at the moment is being able to get started and have ground to a halt with those buying vouchers and need Parish Councils to help and communicate in the community. They only have 300 e mails addresses and there are over 800 e mail addresses in the community. DE feels that residents are more likely to listen to people they know. Website use is to be utilised. Only 89 vouchers have been taken up in the Backford area.

DE would Like us to discuss

1. Are we on board is the Parish Council
2. How can we support this locally

There seems to be a disparity about the government wording about the B4RN application of the voucher does not entail a commitment to expediting this when ready to install.

DR asked who is likely to need Gigabit broad band. DE responded that we are future proofing for 50 years. The preference is to put in fibres which can cope with the needs of the future. Also broadband use is changing – types of media (i.e. streaming)

and current facilities do not cope the number of devices which can connect to the internet at the same time.

**29/21 Minutes of previous meeting**

All agreed that these are a true record.

**Matters arising from May 2021 minutes**

DJ highlighted that a verbal complaint had been received about words in the minutes from May 2021 by the new owner of the land on Whitby Lane. The minutes have been re-examined and It would appear that the word ‘allegedly’ had been accidentally missed from these minutes. The owner of the land had been invited to the meeting.

**30/21 Village Hall Update**

Demolition complete apart from the front entrance. Cadent are not able to commission the boiler, information on dates awaited. Coming in on budget and with a surplus. Well done to all those involved

**31/22 Planning**

DJ reported there are no planning applications currently.

MC asked if there had been any applications for the church lane area and there had been none.

AD highlighted the stable area half built near to pretty bridge where there is now a sign saying that it is formal postal address Pretty Bridge Lodge. DJ to report that there are 2 static caravans on this land and now changed to imply there is to be a house to be built on there. DJ to inform enforcement about the area at the bottom of the hill from Chorlton on the right.

**Action DJ completed – PL3700334577 and PL370338060**

AD asked if there had been any requests for repairs of the kerbs on Whitby Lane development. Simon Eardley has logged the kerbs for re-instatment as there is no kerb line edge the service utility covers are now all protruding which are stumbling hazards for members of the public. DJ to contact Kay Parry. DJ to mention to Enforcement as it appears the planning permission for a gateway onto the main road at Whitby lane is not passed and was never in the original application.

**Action DJ Completed**

**32/21 Reports of Reps**

Mark Littler reported on the Backford charities (Consolidated Charities) he has made some progress in contacting persons who are Trustees. ML to report back.

War memorial trust – mc reported that the money has been being spent on small donations. Helen Fielding is now the accountant – Sue Pownall and MC working now with the Trustees to make good use of the

**Other Rural issues**

CM asked if any new applications had been put in for the land around poplar lane. DJ stated that nil had been received.

Enforcement for Poplar Hall Lane. Stables by the tip caravan, trailers, tractors.

**33/21 Finance**

Bank balance – projects needed for the coming financial year. All to consider.

£5870.51 and £1512.21 in the reserve account for the Public Works Loan Board.

ML asked if we had around £3K how much would a litter picker cost. DJ reported that she may know 2 persons who would wish to do this. Councillors discussed this issue and the fact that there are certain better times of the year when it is easier to identify. PPE and training to be provided.

**DJ to speak to both persons.**

CM reported that payments were split between the numbers of persons within the 5 villages.

Village hall bursary – councillors discussed whether this should be paid this year CM to take this back to Village Hall Trustees with regards to the 5 Villages Board.

**34/21 E mail**

To be rolled over until next meeting

**35/21 Police Report**

Thankyou to Tony Icke for the report this met with the needs of Parish Councillors.

**36/21 Highways**

ML complete lack of instructions from highways to the owners of businesses on the A41. ML will discuss with Simon Eardley.

**37/21 Newsletter**

DJ to write a flyer and ask Mark Hockedy to share with next lot of flyers around the villages.

**38/21 Neighbourhood Plan**

DJ to organise a meeting with CWAC representative re the benefits of having a neighbourhood plan or other options

**Action DJ**

**AOB**

Nil of note

**Date and Time of Next Meeting**

**Tuesday 9th November 2021**

**7.45p.m. at Five Villages Hall.**