**Backford Parish Council**

**ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES**

**Tuesday 9th May 2023**

**at**

**The Five Villages Hall**

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Cllr Mike Cheers

Cllr Clive Morgan

Cllr Dave Ruscoe

Deborah Jones Parish Clerk

**Apologies**

Nil

**PART 1**

1. **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

Cllr Mike Cheers agreed to stand as Chair and this was proposed by DR and Seconded by CM.

Mike thanked the group for their work to date and looked forward to working together to improve services within the community

**b) ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN**

Proposed Adrian Deary by Cllr M Cheers this was seconded by Cllr CM and carried unanimously.

1. **Declaration of Acceptance Forms**

DJ to send the full set of forms to all councillors as some stated that they did not have any prior to the meeting.

**d) Register of Interest Form (copies to go on Website)**

**e) Borough Council Election Results**

Congratulations to Cllr Simon Eardley on his return to office with a significant majority of 59%.

**Apologies for Absence**

Nil

**Declarations of Interest**

HYNET as declared by Cllr MC.

Councillors discussed the current vacancies and that there needs to be a representative for Caughall and a further two councillors to take the place of non-returnees. Cllr MC is approaching the two previous members to see if they would be co-opted in the short term as despite multiple requests out to the community there have been no volunteers.

**Open Forum**

No outside attendees.

**PART 2**

**19/23 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

Agreed as a true record proposed by Cllr CM and Seconded by Cllr DR.

**20/23 Planning** [**Change of use to a dog walking field including access track and parking.**](https://pa.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?keyVal=RRM42GTEMJC00&activeTab=summary)

Lot 1 Liverpool Road Backford Chester

Ref. No: 23/00887/FUL | Received: Thu 16 Mar 2023 | Validated: Thu 16 Mar 2023 | Status: Awaiting decision

The request on the planning application is for 2 spaces for cars but in total number applied for is 8 cars?

Cllrs expressed reservations about the entrance as if more than one car was in the entrance the others would be required to back onto the A41 as you can only come out one way.

Cllr MC highlighted that the height of a car does not afford good visibility onto the A41 when exiting and this has been previously used by tractors which obviously have excellent height and therefore visibility onto a busy road.

This stretch of road is busier as it is Chester side of the Whitby traffic lights and the traffic is heavier prior to these lights.

 [**Vehicular access onto Whitby Lane**](https://pa.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?keyVal=RMW59NTE0U700&activeTab=summary)

Land At Whitby Lane Backford Chester CH1 6PH

Ref. No: 22/04621/FUL | Received: Wed 14 Dec 2022 | Validated: Thu 16 Feb 2023 | Status: Awaiting decision

No further comments.

**Ongoing Enforcements:-**

1. Poplar lane – no further information.

**21/23 Reports by Representatives**

To receive reports from the following representatives:

* The Consolidated Charities, (Backford, Charities) - MC and ML

No further information as yet.

* War Memorial Trust - Councillor MC

Representative now in place from each Parish Council.

Cheque books signatories now in place.

£100 to be allowed for each applicant towards learning materials.

* Other Rural Local Issues - To be confirmed

Cllr CM offered to check the Rural Sounding Board On line in time for each meeting and report back as appropriate.

* Village Hall

Cllr CM fed back re the current finances.

Spend now possible on finishing off landscaping etc

Doing well with bookings

**22/23 Finance**

* Bank Balance - to be confirmed by Cllr Deary.
* Payments for staff – remain the same £208.80 – litter picking - DR highlighted the cost of living and DJ explained that a pay rise is currently being negotiate for Parish Clerks but that the minimum wage has not been changed.
* Plants - £65 to be paid to DJ
* £20 for the hall
* AGAR – to be completed by Cllr Deary.

All payments agreed.

**23/23 Police Report**

No report received.

**24/23 Highways Update**

Nil of note received.

**2523 Parish Plan**

For future meetings

**26/23 Newsletter**

DJ to ensure this is sent via e mail on completion prior to posting out to the residents.

DJ to ensure an item is included in the next newsletter to call for new councillors.

The group asked that this negative news should be included demonstrating

the lack of support from the local planning authority for this local farmer in trying to provide housing for farm workers on site at Church Farm.

**27/23 HYNET**

Further public meeting has not been forthcoming and Cllr MC has had information personally but nothing for the local community. Cllr Eardley, in his absence, will be asked to follow this up as the parish council should he be re elected.

**Action SE**

**28/23 Planters**

Ideas for the planter placement as residents in Backford Park could not make a decision on where the third planter should go:-

Corner of Church Lane and corner of Rake Lane. DJ to ask about this with highways for advice on the preferred option being Church Lane.

**Action DJ**

**Any Other Business**

Nil

**DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

**Tuesday 11th July 2023**

**Tuesday 12th September 2023**