



Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday,
17 January 2023 in the Five Villages Hall, Backford

PRESENT: Cllrs Dave Wels (in the Chair), Katie Brassington, Jack Jones, Roger Jones, Sue Kerfoot and Rob Skupski,

In Attendance: Mrs Pauline English (Parish Clerk), Ward Cllr Simon Eardley, Mr Umesh Ummat (Mollington Banastre Hotel) and three members of the public

23.001 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Mike Jones

23.002 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest

23.003 INVITED GUEST

The Parish Council welcomed Mr Umesh Ummat, Chairman of Brook Hotels who owned the Mollington Banastre Hotel. Mr Ummat was keen to explore with the Parish Council ways in which the Mollington Banastre Hotel could become more involved with the local community. Suggestions ranged from promotion of events to provision of discounted rates for the use of the facilities at the hotel.

RESOLVED: That Mr Ummat be thanked for attending the meeting and a further meeting be held with him and as many Councillors as were available at the hotel to discuss options in more detail.

23.004 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME

Three residents were in attendance to speak to the Parish Council about planning application 22/00873/FUL (Conversion of an existing two storey barn into a residential dwelling and conversion of an existing, detached barn into a residential dwelling at Rose Farm, Townfield Lane, Mollington, Chester. As this was on the agenda it was **RESOLVED** to bring the item forward and to include the residents in the discussions. Concern was expressed about the potential increase in traffic that might be generated at a very narrow part of Townfield Lane, especially into and out of the access to the proposed new properties. Access to Rose Farm was on a blind corner and the road was the main access road into Mollington village and the primary school so it was a busy road for much of the day. There had apparently been multiple collisions around area, fortunately to date none of them life threatening. There was also an issue of privacy as the converted barns would overlook Rose Farm.

Ward Cllr Eardley would call in the application provisionally but would hope to avoid having to take the application to the Planning Committee.

RESOLVED: That the Parish Council would object to the application on traffic and privacy grounds.

23.005 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 29 November 2022 be confirmed as a correct record.

23.006 PARISH COUNCIL BUDGET AND PRECEPT FOR 2023-24

Members considered the draft budget which had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was agreed that there was sufficient scope to contain any unexpected items of expenditure. The annual payment to the Public Works Loan Board had been covered. It was agreed that in the current financial climate it would not be appropriate to increase the budget by the inclusion of additional items so it was proposed, seconded and agreed that the precept should remain the same as last year. This would result in a small decrease of 1.8% in the amount requested from a Band D property.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the budget for 2023-24 be approved
- (2) the precept be set at £14,000

23.007 FINANCE

RESOLVED: That receipts and payments since the last meeting in November be noted as follows

(1) **Receipts:** None

(2) **Payments**

23.11.22 Parish Clerk-backpay from 1 April 2022	109.79
28.11.22 Amenity Cleaner – wages November	205.92
28.11.22 Parish Clerk – salary November	203.42
05.12.22 Cllr Roger Jones – Crocuses	364.91
05.12.22 Cllr Roger Jones – plants for village	77.71
19.12.22 Public Works Loan Board – Loan Repayment	1,117.35
22.12.22 Parish Clerk – Salary December	217.21
22.12.22 HMRC – Income Tax	79.05
28.12.22 Amenity Cleaner – wages December	205.92
31.12.22 Bank Service Charge	<u>18.00</u>
Total	<u>2,599.28</u>

Reconciliation:	Brought forward	15,939.62
	Add: Receipts	0
	Less: Payments	<u>2,599.28</u>
	Carried forward	<u>13,340.34</u>

23.008 UPDATE REPORTS

RESOLVED: That reports from Councillors on their areas of responsibility (unless on the agenda as a separate item) be noted as follows:

- (1) Five Villages Hall (Cllr Jack Jones): It was reported that the Five Villages Hall were looking for options for new events. One suggestion had been Drop-in Nights. It was agreed to put a request for suggestions in the next Newsletter.
- (2) Police Liaison (Cllr Kate Brassington): The Parish Council had purchased a radar gun some time ago but had not yet been able to arrange training with Ian Rutherford. The Clerk would send a reminder.

23.009 PLANNING

(See also Minute 23.004 above)

No applications had been received. As well as the decisions and applications awaiting decision the Parish Council discussed notices which had been put up by Harworth's, the owners of the former Golf Club at Mollington. According to the owners, they had been advised by their legal team to put these notices up to ensure the footpaths/walkways currently used by walkers on the site did not become public rights of way. There was no intention to close any paths, the notice was simply to ensure that the public couldn't claim the paths had become rights of way.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) decisions taken by CWaC since the last meeting be noted as follows:
22/00574/FUL New access and driveway to facilitate parking at Tarrant, Well Lane, Mollington, Chester, Cheshire CH1 6LD - APPROVED
- (2) applications awaiting decision by CWaC be noted as follows:
22/00873/OUT Conversion of an existing two storey barn into a residential dwelling and conversion of an existing detached barn into a residential dwelling at Rose Farm, Townfield Lane, Mollington, Chester, Cheshire CH1 6NJ
22/03698/FUL - Proposed Extension to Stable Block at Brookside Farm Cottage, Parkgate Road, Mollington, Chester, Cheshire CH1 6JS
- (3) the reason for the notices on the former Golf Club site be noted.

23.010 PLANTING AROUND THE VILLAGE

Cllr Roger Jones updated the Parish Council on the planting that had been done since the last meeting.

23.011 CORONATION OF HM KING CHARLES III

The Coronation of HM King Charles III would be taking place on Saturday 6 May. Monday 8 May has been designated a public holiday. The Parish Council discussed what they might do to celebrate, and it was proposed that an event similar to that which had proved so popular for the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee was the best option.

23.012 NEWSLETTER

The grant from Ward Cllr Eardley's Member Budget had been refused because the end date was beyond 31 March 2023. Cllr Eardley recommended resubmitting the application based on the two Newsletters already printed plus another before the end of March.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk resubmits the application for funding from Cllr Eardley's Member Budget based on three Newsletters, the third to be produced before 31 March 2023.

23.013 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 14 March 2023 at 7.30pm in the Five Villages Hall