



MOLLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 9 August 2022 in the Five Villages Hall, Station Road, Backford.

PRESENT: Cllrs Dave Wells (in the Chair), Jack Jones, Roger Jones and Rob Skupski

In Attendance: Mrs Pauline English (Parish Clerk), Cheshire West & Chester (CWaC) Ward Cllr Simon Eardley, Charli George (Community Sales Manager, FactCo) and one member of the public.

22.48 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Mike Jones and Cathryn McKeagney

22.49 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Jack Jones declared an interest in Agenda item 12 (HyNet Statutory Consultation) as the pipeline would affect his family's property.

22.50 BROADBAND FOR THE PARISHES

The Parish Council welcomed Charli George (FactCo) and Chris Jones. Charli worked for FactCo, one of the leading registered suppliers in the UK of the Project Gigabit Voucher Scheme provided by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport. The DCMS had allocated funding to help support communities with poor broadband in rural areas across the UK.

The Government planned to switch off old copper networks by 2025. These networks needed to be replaced with faster, future-proof "full fibre" (FTTP) broadband networks. Full Fibre was broadband with a dedicated connection that ran straight to a property using the latest fibre-optic technology. It could offer gigafast upload and download speeds of up to 1000Mbps.

Charli explained that using the Government's voucher scheme, FactCo would be able to help communities that were eligible for the Government funding to get an internet connection they could rely on. If the application was successful, once approved they would work with Connecting Cheshire to build a fibre broadband network covering the Cheshire Villages Project area of the parishes of Saughall, Mollington, Lea-by-Backford, Backford, Chorlton by Backford, Croughton, Wervin and Stoak.

Other schemes had found that crossing people's land via an underground cable had proved difficult to achieve and required the use of wayleaves. FactCo preferred to use existing lines of communication where possible.

Everyone who signed up to receive broadband from FactCo would be allocated a voucher. People who had already been allocated a voucher under another scheme but had not yet used it would be able to use it with the FactCo scheme, however the voucher could be used only once so those who had already used their voucher for another scheme, but preferred FactCo, would have to pay the full cost.

Charli agreed to attend the next Parish Council meeting to update members further.

22.51 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME

No issues raised

22.52 VACANCY FOR A PARISH COUNCILLOR

An application had been received from Catherine (Katie) Brassington, who was unable to attend the meeting due to a holiday commitment. She had confirmed that she met the requirements to enable her to be co-opted and that she had the support of Cllr Dave Wells. She would be able to attend the next meeting of the Parish Council.

RESOLVED: That Catherine Brassington be co-opted to serve on the Parish Council for the remainder of the year to May 2023.

22.53 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 17 May 2022 be confirmed as a correct record

22.54 UPDATE REPORTS

Insurance (Minute 22.38): The Clerk had been tasked with finding a better insurance quotation than that offered by Hiscox (£619.91). A quotation of £300 had been received from Zurich and, due to time constraints, this had been accepted by the Clerk.

RESOLVED: That the acceptance of the quotation from Zurich be noted and approved.

22.55 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Members had been asked to consider appropriate areas of responsibility to be allocated to individual Councillors. It was proposed that the Clerk should suggest possible areas of responsibility and the councillor(s) who might be allocated to them. If possible, a contact in CWaC or other organisation should also be identified.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk should prepare a report for the next meeting of the Parish Council.

22.56 FINANCE

RESOLVED: That the following receipts and payments be noted.

(1) Receipts:

23.05.22 – Active Leisure-Marshalling assistance	250.00
06.06.22 – S Jones-Purchase of unused wine from Jubilee event	169.90
08.06.22 – R Jones-repayment relating to Landstruction (Jubilee account)	<u>656.06</u>
Total receipts	<u>1,075.96</u>

(2) Payments

05.05.22 – BACS – Parish Clerk backpay	8.60
12.05.22 – BACS – Income Tax	50.92
12.05.22 – BACS – John McDonald (Grasshopper Landscapes	60.00
13.05.22 – BACS – Workshop Aberfeldy-Tree plaque (Jubilee account) extra cost	33.00
24.05.22 – BACS – Barnes Cooper – Internal Audit	150.00
24.05.22 – BACS – Parish Clerk-expenses including £62.40 tree plaque initial cost)	84.65
26.05.22 – BACS – Zurich Insurance	300.00
30.05.22 – SO – Parish Clerk – salary May	203.42
31.05.22 – SO – Amenity Cleaner – wages May	205.92
31.05.22 – BACS – 5 Villages Hall Room Hire (17 May)	20.00
06.06.22 – BACS – Landstruction – Jubilee planters	656.06
06.06.22 – BACS – Jack Jones – Jubilee bar stock	354.23
06.06.22 – BACS – John McDonald (Grasshopper Landscapes)	60.00
08.06.22 – BACS - Roger Jones-Jubilee expenses	730.78
08.06.22 – BACS – Cheshire Community Action – membership	20.00
08.06.22 – BACS – Hadfield Photography – website	275.00
08.06.22 – BACS – Roger Jones – Jubilee – Coronation Oak	766.01
08.06.22 – BACS – Roger Jones – engraving trophy	16.95
17.06.22 – DD – PWLB Loan Repayment	1,117.35
24.06.22 – BACS – HMRC Income Tax	307.01
28.06.22 – SO – Amenity Cleaner – wages June	105.92
28.06.22 – SO – Parish Clerk – salary June	203.42
30.06.22 – Bank – Service Charge (3 months)	18.00
11.07.22 – BACS – Five Villages Hall Room Hire for Parish Assembly 28/06/22	20.00
11.07.22 – BACS – John McDonald (Grasshopper Landscapes)	65.00
26.07.22 – DD – Information Commissioner (ICO) Annual Fee	35.00
28.07.22 – SO – Amenity Cleaner – wages July	205.92
28.07.22 – SO – Parish Clerk – salary July	203.42
28.07.22 – BACS – John McDonald (Grasshopper Landscapes)	50.00
28.07.22 – BACS – HMRC Income Tax	<u>102.34</u>
Total payments	<u>6,528.92</u>

Reconciliation	Brought forward	19,846.21
	Add: Receipts	1,075.96
	Less: Payments	<u>6,528.92</u>
	Carried forward	<u>14,393.25</u>

(3) **Bank Signatories:** Since the Parish Council last approved signatories to the Unity Trust bank account there had been a number of changes to the membership of the Council, and it now appeared that there was only one signatory remaining. It was agreed that Cllrs

Jack Jones, Roger Jones, Rob Skupski and Dave Wells should become signatories to the account, along with the Parish Clerk, and that all previous signatories should be deleted.

RESOLVED: That

- a) The amendments to the mandate for the operation of the bank account(s), payment instructions and banking services be approved and be provided to the Bank by persons authorised to do so in accordance with the Bank's procedures and the Mandate;
 - b) The Bank is entitled to rely upon the amended Mandate until it receives a later Mandate amending it, and the Bank is entitled to rely on instructions given by any person named in Section 3 and may disclose any information relating to the account to any such person;
 - c) The Bank is under no duty to make enquiries before acting on the instruction of any person named in Section 3;
 - d) The Bank will be notified in writing of any changes to the organisation as per the terms and conditions of the account.
- (4) **Donation:** Cllr Jack Jones has asked whether the Parish Council would be happy for the bar cash takings (£190) from the Jubilee event to be donated to the Hospice of the Good Shepherd in Backford. This had already been approved by Backford and Lea-by-Backford Parish Councils.

RESOLVED: That the bar cash takings of £190 be donated to the Hospice of the Good Shepherd in Backford.

22.57 PLANNING

RESOLVED: That

- (1) applications received by CWaC relating to Mollington be noted as follows:
22/01847/FUL – Single storey rear extension at 12 Overwood Avenue, Mollington, Chester, Cheshire CH1 6NH
- (2) decisions taken by CWaC since the last meeting be noted, as follows:
21/04742/FUL - Erection of detached single storey garage at Willow Farm cottage, Well Lane, Mollington, Chester CH1 6LD – APPROVED
21/04439/FUL – 1.8m brick boundary wall and tree protection, in retrospect, at Eden House, Well Lane, Mollington, Chester CH1 6LD – APPROVED
22/01308/NMA – Non material amendment to planning permission 20/04324/FUL – external insulation, window/door amendments and additional skylights at Warren Farm, Townfield Lane, Mollington, Chester CH1 6LB – APPROVED
22/01847/FUL – Single storey rear extension at 12 Overwood Avenue, Mollington, Chester, Cheshire CH1 6NH – APPROVED
- (3) 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
- (4) it be noted that the following application has been withdrawn:
22/00314/LDC – Use of recreational fishing lakes for overnight fishing in excess of 10 years on land at Townfield Lane, Mollington, Chester
- (5) the decision of the Planning Inspector to ALLOW the appeal relating to former Mollington Grange Golf Club be noted (full details available on the Parish Council's website)

22.58 HM THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE 2022

The celebrations had taken place over the weekend of 3 and 4 June starting with the lighting of the beacon at 9.45pm on Friday 3 June. A licence to serve liquor had been obtained allowing a bar to serve beer and wine along with soft drinks. Strawberries and ice cream were also on offer. The bar had made an excellent profit of £190, which had been donated to the Hospice of the Good Shepherd (see Minute 56 above). Several street parties had taken place and the celebrations had climaxed with an Afternoon Tea served at the Five Villages Hall on Saturday 4 June. As part of the Jubilee celebrations a tree had been planted in the verge

outside St Oswald's Primary School. Thanks were particularly given to Debbie and Jackie for the café, Colin and Martin for the street party and Dave Binks for the floral display.

RESOLVED: That the success of the Jubilee events be noted and all those who helped to organise and help out be thanked.

22.59 HYNET STATUTORY CONSULTATION

Cllr Jack Jones declared an interest in this item as the pipeline encroached on land owned by his family. He remained in the meeting.

A letter had been received from Liverpool Bay CCS Limited in relation to their proposals to develop, install and operate a new carbon dioxide (CO₂) pipeline between Ince, near Stanlow, and Flint, and to repurpose an existing 24-inch natural gas pipeline between Flint and Point of Ayr Terminal for transportation of CO₂. A copy of the letter with the new proposals had been circulated with the agenda and was available on the Parish Council's website. It was noted that HyNet were proposing to use Grove Road, anticipating that it would be a quiet road. However, this was not the case and the Parish Council was concerned as there were a number of issues that would need to be resolved before this road could be used.

RESOLVED: That HyNet be informed of the issues relating to the use of Grove Road.

22.60 HIGHWAYS AND PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

(1) **Speed Limit at Rose Farm Cottage:** This had been discussed at the Parish Assembly on 28 June 2022 with Andy Raynor, CWaC Principal Highway Engineer, and Cllr Wells had promised to send him a note of the possible issues.

(2) **Planters around the Village:** This had also been raised at the Parish Assembly when it was suggested that planters in the village would add a touch of colour. A decision would be needed about whether to purchase the planters and maybe ask residents to look after them (watering etc) or to rent the planters with a care package. It was suggested that residents be encouraged to plant pots with colourful blooms to be put in their front gardens.

Ward Cllr Eardley informed the Parish Council that each CWaC councillor had been allocated an additional £6,400 to spend in their wards on 'small to medium environmental improvement "projects which will generate, create and support civic pride, community engagement and the wellbeing of local communities."' He would be happy to contribute towards the proposed planters. However, he reminded the Parish Council that this was a "timed" scheme and that all projects would need to be completed by 12 March 2023.

22.61 VILLAGE GREEN

The Village Green was left in poor condition by contractors working for CWaC who had dug a trough to lay a cable. CWaC had been informed and had undertaken to have the area repaired. Some seed had been laid in parts where the major activity had taken place, but there had been no levelling or remedial work on the surface trough which had been caused by the work. CWaC were responsible for cutting the grass on the Village Green once a month when cutting the verges. Lea-by-Backford Parish Council, who also had some responsibility for the Village Green, had employed a gardener to do some additional work and were now asking Mollington Parish Council to contribute 50% of the cost (£71). It was agreed to do this as a one-off and to inform Lea-by-Backford that Mollington had a gardener who would be asked to do any additional work on the Village Green in the future.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) CWaC be asked to review the level of work done by their contractors and to arrange for the surface trough to be made good and level with the rest of the Village Green;
- (2) John McDonald (Grasshopper Landscapes) be asked whether he would be able to do additional cuts of the grass on the Village Green, as required to keep it tidy.

22.62 FIVE VILLAGES HALL

(1) **Defibrillator:** The Parish Council had been asked to consider contributing towards the upkeep of a defibrillator at the Five Villages Hall. The defibrillator would be located outside the Hall and would be available for use by anyone at all times in an emergency. The cost had not yet been confirmed. It was noted that there was a defibrillator at St Oswald's school but this was inside the building and only available when the school was open.

- (2) **Annual Contribution:** The Parish Council had been asked to consider making an annual grant payment to the Five Villages Hall. A grant had been given annually before the loan was taken out but was discontinued due to the Parish Council having to meet the repayment costs of the loan. It was anticipated that the new Five Villages Hall would be self-sufficient.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Parish Council agrees in principle to contribute towards the upkeep of a defibrillator at the Five Villages Hall subject to being advised of the projected cost; and
- (2) a representative of the Village Hall Committee be invited to attend the next Parish Council meeting to discuss the annual contribution.

22.63 NEWSLETTER

Cllr Skupski would be taking over production of a Five Villages Newsletter. It was proposed that it would be produced three times a year in January, May and November. Cllr Skupski's intention was to invite each of the parishes to contribute to the newsletter and he would contact them in good time before each production date to offer an opportunity to share anything important. As the newsletter was two sides of A4 these contributions would need to be short and sweet, if possible with a relevant photograph. Any comments, good or bad, would be welcome to help improve the Newsletter's content and appearance. Ward Cllr Eardley had given the Parish Council a grant from his Members budget to cover the cost of printing the first Newsletters.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk submits an application to CWaC for funding from Cllr Eardley's Member's budget to cover the cost of production of the Newsletter, once this is known.

22.64 ST OSWALD'S PRIMARY SCHOOL ACADEMY STATUS

A letter had been sent to the local community in May explaining the rationale behind the decision by St Oswald's Primary School to apply for academy status, joining Chester Diocesan Academies Trust (CDAT) and asking whether they supported the proposal. The proposal was generally supported.

RESOLVED: That the decision by St Oswald's Primary School to convert to academy status be noted.

22.65 WEBSITE

Cllr Skupski reported that he had a meeting booked on Monday 15 August at his home with Bob Hadfield to discuss the website. This was noted.

22.66 POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER INITIATIVES

- (1) **Rural Crime Survey:** The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Cheshire, John Dwyer, had launched a survey for people living and working in rural communities to better understand their policing needs. The feedback would be used to hold the police to account on tackling criminal activity in rural areas. The Rural Crime Survey aimed to gather a range of people's experiences and build on the relationship that rural communities have with the police. The survey would be open throughout the summer www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/ruralcrimesurvey2022.

- (2) **Community Cashback Fund:** The PCC for Cheshire, John Dwyer, had launched a new £90,000 'Community Cashback Fund', which would see money taken from criminals under the Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) spent on projects to improve local communities. Each of Cheshire's nine Local Policing Units (LPUs) would be given £10,000 from the Community Cashback Fund during the 2022/23 financial year, with residents able to vote on how the money is spent. More information was available at www.cheshire-pcc.gov.uk/what-the-commissioner-oes/commissioningandfunding/community-funding/community-cashback-fund

RESOLVED: That the Police & Crime Commissioner's initiatives be noted and every opportunity be taken to ensure the Parish Council can benefit from them.

22.67 SHARED PROSPERITY FUND

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) was part of the Government's Levelling Up agenda. The national £2.6 billion funding was for local investments by March 2025. CWaC had been awarded £12.6m, £1.5m of which would be used for Multiply, the Government's adult

numeracy programme. The funding was aimed at investing in local priorities and targeting funding where it was needed most to increase pride in places, support high quality skills training, support pay, employment and productivity growth and increasing life chances. It replaced the funding previously available from the EU.

RESOLVED: That the Shared Prosperity Fund be noted

22.68 CHESHIRE WEST CROWD AUTUMN 2022 ROUND

The following funding pots would be available from the Council in the autumn 2022 round - Community Innovation Fund £250,000, Youth Fund £20,000, Cheshire West Crowd Fund £90,000, COVID-19 Recovery and Renewal Fund £47,885, Climate Change Emergency Fund £10,000 and Tackling Poverty Fund £9,865. With the Community Innovation Fund, a gold standard project would need to tackle more than one objective in the Council Plan, be an innovative idea, and be delivered in a high need area, such as rural communities, tackling poverty, aimed at tackling rural poverty, social isolation, or community transport.

Project creator workshops would be run by the Council and Spacehive to help projects get ready for crowdfunding, with monthly support sessions taking place in local libraries from August to November 2022. The deadline for projects being added to the Cheshire West Crowd was Wednesday 2 November 2022, as the Council would be allocating funds from the various pots in January 2023. All projects would need to reach their crowdfunding targets on the Cheshire West Crowd by Tuesday 28 February 2023.

RESOLVED: That the above funding pots be noted, and the Parish Council considers whether it has any forthcoming projects that might benefit from them.

22.69 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/NEXT MEETING

A request was made to have a list of landowners within Mollington so that any animals found on public land, including the highway, could be reported directly to the owner and rescued without having to alert the police and/or other agencies. It was considered that this might be a difficult exercise to undertake as landowners did not always want others to know what land they owned. Even though this would be a very useful piece of information, it was decided not to pursue it at present.

RESOLVED: That the proposal be noted but no further action be taken at present.

22.70 WARN AND INFORM

It was proving a little difficult to get some of the information required to include in the Warn and Inform document due to issues of privacy. It was proposed to write a general letter to residents asking if they were aware of anyone who would be affected by flood, etc.

22.71 OPERATION LONDON BRIDGE

Deferred to a future meeting

22.72 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 20 September 2022 at 7.15pm in the Five Villages Hall