

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held at The Village Hall on
Monday 15th April 2019 at 7.00 pm.**

Present: Bill Rampling, Chairman, 7 members of the Parish Council and 8 members of the public. The Clerk, Inspector Mark Shipton from the Mildenhall Locality Constabulary were also present.

Apologies – Parish Cllrs Rachel Webb & Douglas James and Mr John Ford.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 16th April 2018, previously circulated (and published on www.moulton.onesuffolk.net) were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING

All issues were covered in the report for the year ended 31/3/2019– a copy was published on the Parish Council section of the village website, and in the Spring edition of Moulton Matters.

POLICE MATTERS

The Chairman welcomed Inspector Mark Shipton. He advised that the statistics revealed that there had been 3 recorded criminal incidents in Moulton in the past 12 months. He discussed various issues concerning the way in which the Constabulary responded to the changing nature of crime within current budgetary pressures. Currently there were only 3 PCSO's employed within the Newmarket/Mildenhall district. The Chairman invited questions from the floor following which he thanked Inspector Shipton for attending the meeting

COUNTY and DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS

In the absence of County Council representative the Chairman undertook to cover some of the outstanding concerns: -

Highway issues - the requested 40 mph speed restriction on B1085 between the parish boundary and the School was to be reconsidered as an exception site and a traffic count would be carried out in May. **A safe walkable route from the School to Kentford** - the County Council had promised to let the PC have a brief in order to get an estimate for the cost of a feasibility study for the footway and look at the options for the bend. The Chairman had spoken to the landowner and he was receptive to the idea of releasing some land adjacent to the highway so that the engineering works could be undertaken on the opposite side of the road to the proposed construction of a footway. The County Council maintenance team refuse to cut the verge along this section of road, stating that it was too dangerous due to the bend and speeding vehicles.

The PC's concerns had been further highlighted by changes to the School Travel policy - in which it is suggested that more should be done to improve walk to school routes.

Newmarket Road – realignment and resurfacing – had this programmed for some future date in the next financial year?

Chippenham Road – the parishioner whose property flooded due to the faulty run off to the field by the Carrot Wash site was particularly anxious to get the drainage issues resolved -

the problem was first raised by the PC in April 2017 and had been fully detailed to numerous County Council representatives including the Portfolio Holder, Cllr Mary Evans.

The Parish Council had located and removed a lance which had become stuck in the drain but there was still a blockage causing it to fill up quickly creating ponding on the road and extensive runoff into No 24 up to the front door of the property. On numerous occasions it had been pointed out that a camera investigation was needed, but to date the County Council had failed to respond.

Hatchfield Farm - Public Enquiry - the latest appeal was due to start on 8th May – the Chairman had volunteered to represent the RPA if required. He advised that the consultation on the Hatchfield Farm Masterplan had been welcomed, and if eventually approved, will provide houses ideally placed in order to access existing services, as well as a much needed new school, 5 hectares of employment land, and necessary improvements to the A14/A142 junction.

DISTRICT COUNCIL – a contested election would be held on 2nd May. In the circumstances it was not appropriate for the nominated candidates for the Conservative Party and West Suffolk Independents (present at the meeting) to take part in the proceedings or for the serving Cllr to report.

PAROCHIAL ACCOUNTS

Mr Jerry Goodwin presented the accounts on behalf of the Village Hall Management Committee for the year ended 30th June 2017. Mr Bob Saltmarsh was in attendance to present the account for the Moulton Church and Bridges Charity and the Chairman read out details of the balances and distributions on the Fuel Land Charity account. Copies of the accounts were handed to the Clerk who would be distributed on request.

The Chairman advised that the Charity Commission had been approached to see if it were possible to amalgamate the village charities and modernise the aims. It had been acknowledged that the purpose of helping the needy of the parish (under the terms of the original document for the Fuel Land Charity) was no longer relevant, and the number of recipients receiving fuel vouchers was diminishing each year. The Trustees of all the charities needed to consider how best they should move forward, and that the status quo was no longer an option. The triangle of land by the school (owned by the Church & Bridges Charity (C&B) had already been included within the Settlement Boundary as an exception site, to allow for potential development for a small affordable housing scheme for the young and/or retired villagers. The aims would need to be adapted to include the support of the needy (including the aspiration to develop social housing on the C & B land adjacent to the school), and to incorporate the existing purpose of the C&B charity to provide funds for the maintenance of the 'Pretty Bridge' and St Peter's Church Fabric Fund. It had been suggested that the The Mortlock Benefaction Charity, the Church & Bridges (Town Estate) Charity, the William Deynes Charity and the Fuel Land Charity (Moulton Fuel Land Poors Charity) should if possible be combined and titled The Moulton Charity.

ANNUAL REPORT

Copies of the annual report (affixed to pages 9/10 of the minute book) had been published. The Chairman asked those present if they wished to discuss any particular issues, and he made special reference to and thanked all those volunteers who helped the Parish Council in so many different ways to make Moulton such a special village.

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTION 2019

Was uncontested and 5 existing members had been duly re-elected as well as one new member. The Chairman advised that Cllrs Rachel Webb, Peter Collin, Ron Wallwork and himself would be standing down, and he thanked them all for their support and contribution. The new Council would be co-opting 3 villagers to join the Council at the May meeting, and anyone who was interested in standing should approach the Clerk.

COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH

Tim James gave a brief update on the work of the team over the past 12 months, and asked for more volunteers, even if only on an irregular basis. The highest speed recorded was 55 mph and 12.65% of the vehicles passing through the check were exceeding the limit. Data had been passed to the Constabulary, and as a result periodic enforcement was being carried out and there had been several convictions.

The Chairman reported that the 2 additional VAS signs purchased late last year, and now located at either end of the village were acting as a deterrent and a significant reduction in the speeding of vehicles had been noted on the B1085 outside the school.

The Chairman opened up the meeting for questions. He was asked if it were possible to have a first aid training course in the village. Radio Suffolk had been reporting on the availability of such sessions within the County and it was felt that it would be a good idea to have a refresher course on the use of the Defibrillator and CPR demonstrations. It was agreed that the possibility of holding a course at the Village Hall would be followed up. The Chairman was asked if he was aware that Eastern Power Networks were offering one off lump sums instead of an annual wayleave payment. Moulton Fuel Land Charity currently received an annual payment of around £70 pa. The Clerk undertook to investigate.

There being no other business Mr Jerry Goodwin, on behalf of all Moulton villagers thanked the Chairman for his invaluable services since he joined the Parish Council in May 2003. Throughout his time on the Council, and in particular since he became Chairman in 2007 he had championed tirelessly for the interests of Moulton's residents and the villages beyond. He had undertaken his responsibilities in a caring, reasoned, knowledgeable and thoughtful manner, and was always the first to offer hands on assistance for any task in the village or to give assistance to any villager in need. He will be sorely missed.

The Chairman thanked Jerry Goodwin for his kind words and closed the meeting at 8.05pm having thanked all those who had attended.

Signed

Date