

MOULTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 15th May 2023

PRESENT: Parish councillors David Almond (Chairman), Mark Price (Vice Chair), Doug James, Jane Horsnell, Richard Edge, Tim James, Ed Chambers and Ryan Bragg.

Also present: Joanne Kirk (clerk), District Councillor Roger Dicker, Jill and Jerry Goodwin (Moulton Village Hall), Rachel Wood, Michael Jefferies and Sarah Beckett (Newmarket Neighbourhood Plan Working Group), Mark McTrusty and Darren Thomas (Moulton Panthers), David Unwin (Chairman of the Moulton Charity) and 5 members of the public.

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from parish councillor John Derry.

The meeting was chaired by David Almond.

Reports are available on the Moulton website at <http://moulton.onesuffolk.net/parish-council/annual-parish-meeting/annual-parish-meeting-2023/>

1. **Approval of the minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 16th May 2022.**
The minutes of the meeting were confirmed and signed as correct by the Chairman.
2. **Short presentation by the Newmarket Neighbourhood Plan Working Group.**
Michael Jefferies and Rachel Wood spoke about the Newmarket Neighbourhood Plan. They trying to find out what residents in surrounding villages would like to see in it, what the key issues are for Moulton residents and what services Moulton residents rely on in Newmarket. The full presentation is available on the Moulton website as detailed above.
3. **Reports**
 - a) **County Councillor's report**
County Councillor Andy Drummond sent the Annual Suffolk County report which is available on the Parish Council website.
 - b) **District Councillor's report**
Following the recent district council elections, the number of councillors from different political parties has changed. He is hoping that the new council will be bringing in people who will listen to the electorate. He feels that parishes in the former Forest Heath area will be better supported under the new council.

A lot of work has taken place at West Suffolk Council in the last year to support people during the cost-of-living crisis.
 - c) **Moulton Village Hall.**
Jerry Goodwin presented the Village Hall accounts. Individual bookings are down on the previous financial year. There has also been the cost of the hiring a village hall manager. Jerry Goodwin thanked the Parish Council for their financial help to meet this additional cost.

Their income from 30th June 2022 – February 2023 was £16,961 and expenditure was £18,502. This left a deficit of £1,541.
 - d) **Community Speedwatch report by Graham MacGregor.**
Graham MacGregor thanked Tim James and all the Community Speedwatch volunteers. Over 200 speeding drivers have been reported. There are also a number of repeat offenders. Newmarket Road is the main issue, with speeds of 50 and 60 mph being recorded both for vehicles coming into and leaving the village. He would like to extend the number of checks, but they need more volunteers. He would also like there to be closer liaison between CSW and the Parish Council.

Question and comments from residents

One resident asked for checks or signs to try and slow down traffic near Moulton Stores and the playing field particularly on days when Moulton Panthers are playing football.

One resident said that there are a lot of people cutting through Moulton particularly when the A14 is closed.

Graham MacGregor explained that it has been difficult to carry out checks in Kennett Road because of cars queuing up to collect children after school.

e) Moulton Panthers.

Mark McTrusty gave a short report about the last season for Moulton Panthers. After a bit of a shaky start, things are running better now. There has been a bit of an issue with people climbing on the full size goals so they have been taken down. The Under 11's will need larger goals next season. They would like to put the bigger goals on wheels but de-net them and put them out of the way somewhere in between matches. In two years they will need full size goals.

Moulton Panthers will be holding a football tournament on 10th June. The Parish Council confirmed that they could use The Green for parking.

f) Moulton Charity.

David Unwin, Chairman of the Trustees of the Moulton Charity presented the following report:

As many of you will be aware The Moulton Charity has come into being following the amalgamation of the Moulton Fuel Lands Charity and the William Deynes Charity. This process is virtually complete. At last November's AGM, in addition to my appointment as Chairman, Tim James was also appointed as a Trustee, and Jane Horsnell as Secretary. Bill Rampling retired as Chairman and Lorraine Stone as Secretary. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them both for their extensive efforts and contributions to the village in these capacities.

The Moulton Charity has continued with its activities: collecting rent from the land it owns and distributing funds to those in the village in need. A particular emphasis has been placed on publicising the availability of funds from the charity to those in the village who qualify and apply. This has proved successful and I would like to thank the Rev Chris Childs, and Debs Shipp [the headmistress of Moulton School] and her colleagues, as well as the Trustees, for their support in this."

David Unwin reiterated at the end of his report that the Moulton Charity has funds available and would like to use it to support the residents of Moulton.

Question and comments from residents

Could something be put on the Moulton Facebook page? David Unwin explained that this is already in hand.

4. Moulton Wildlife Group

The full report is available on the Parish Council website. Anne Collins gave an update on the last year for the group. They have received funds from District Councillor Roger Dicker, from the proceeds of the Jubilee celebrations and from stalls at the Christmas Fair. They have had a successful year and have planted a number of wildflower areas as well as trees along the playing field boundary, with more projects planned for next year.

She thanked Doug James for all his help, Tim James for hanging bird boxes, Natasha Ingram from the Sicon Foundation for donating trees and other items, Mrs Shipp, headteacher of Moulton Primary School for involving the children in planting trees on the playing field, all the volunteers and villagers who have either helped out or donated plants and seeds, District Councillor Roger Dicker for his locality funding and parish clerk, Joanne Kirk, for all her support.

5. Chairman's Report and Moulton Financial Report by Parish Council Chairman David Almond.

David Almond thanked the clerk and councillors and welcome Moulton's new councillor Richard Edge. He also thanked the outgoing councillor David Clarke for his contribution as a parish councillor.

The Parish Council's finances are in good order and more detailed information is available on the Parish Council's website. The overall balance has been reduced by about £6,000 for highways measures which Moulton Parish Council has had to fund itself. The posts have been replaced on The Green and some addition improvements are underway including new village gateways and planters for the crossroads. The Parish Council has also given financial support towards the cost of a manager for the village hall.

The Parish Council has done a lot of work on West Suffolk Local Plan and how it will impact Moulton. A Housing Needs Survey will be distributed to households in Moulton at the weekend to find out if there is a need for affordable housing and what types of housing is needed in Moulton. He asked residents to complete the first part of the form even if they have don't have a housing need as their views about future

housing in general are important. Finally he thanked Moulton villagers and all the organisations which make it such a great village to live in.

6. Any other village issues or concerns which residents would like to bring to the attention of the Council.

Question and comments from residents

- The church would like to make a representation at future Annual Parish Meetings.
- Turning right at Moulton Crossroads is difficult. The Parish Council explained that this has already been raised with Suffolk County Council but there is nothing that can be done to improve the junction largely due to cost and the current layout of the junction.
- Roger Dicker said it is worth restating Moulton Parish Council's views relating to the Local Plan now that new district councillors are in post.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.

Signed Dated.....