

MOULTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting

16th May 2022

PRESENT: Parish councillors David Almond (Chairman), Mark Price (Vice Chair), Doug James, Jane Horsnell, John Derry, Tim James, David Clarke and Ryan Bragg.

Also present: Joanne Kirk (clerk), County Councillor Andy Drummond, District Councillor Roger Dicker, Jerry Goodwin (Moulton Village Hall) and nine members of the public.

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from Alan Sheldrick (Moulton Panthers).

The meeting was chaired by David Almond.

Reports are available on the Parish Council website at <http://moulton.onesuffolk.net/parish-council/annual-parish-meeting/annual-parish-meeting-2022/>

1. Approval of the minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 4th May 2022.

The minutes of the meeting were confirmed and signed as correct by the Chairman.

2. Reports

a) District Councillor Roger Dicker

Roger Dicker spoke about the following issues:

- Covid continues to play a large part in the actions and challenges for West Suffolk Council along with the rest of the country. The Council has used huge resources administering the various government grants supporting local businesses and trying to reach out to those isolated and vulnerable members of the public. Council officers are now back in the offices carrying out their valuable work.
- There has been a new Independent Living Suffolk service started between all the districts and county council to try and keep elderly and vulnerable people in their own homes by utilising governments grants to improve and adapt these homes.
- The Council declared a climate emergency and are looking to become carbon emission net neutral by 2030.
- The new Mildenhall Hub is now open with a range of facilities including a new school, health facilities, police, social services and council offices as well as top leisure facilities featuring a swimming pool, gym and exercise rooms.
- A consultation on the next stage of the new West Suffolk Local Plan – The Preferred Options consultation will begin on 26th May. Two sites have been put forward in Moulton.
- He has used his locality budget to put £750 towards community benches for the playing field and £200 towards the jubilee celebrations in Moulton.

b) County Councillor Andy Drummond

Andy Drummond spoke about the following issues:

- Suffolk County Council has also declared a climate emergency and is hoping to become carbon neutral by 2030.
- He sends regular reports to Moulton Parish Council which are uploaded onto the Moulton Parish Council website.
- He is happy to be contacted by residents if they have any queries.
- He has two locality budgets, one for highways issues and one for local communities.
- He is supporting Moulton with the possibility of extending the buffer zone near Moulton Primary School and the 40mph speed limit along Newmarket Road.
- The Sunnica application for a solar farm in the area.

A question was asked about the proposed application for the garden village in Kennett and the impact of increased traffic on the junction in Kentford near the Bell Pub. Andy Drummond said that there has not been any communication with Cambridgeshire County Council. Roger Dicker said he thought the proposal was for a roundabout at the junction.

A question was asked about solar panels on new homes and the possibility of feeding into national policy that new homes should be required to have solar panels. He agreed to raise this at a higher level.

c) Moulton Village Hall

Jerry Goodwin presented the Village Hall accounts.

Their income in 2020 – 21 was £25,722, over half of which came in the form of COVID support grants from WSC. Expenditure was £21,067. The net profit was £4,655.

The village hall has now returned to normal operations and is well supported.

Hire charges will be increasing in July 2022 to cover increased energy costs.

d) Community Speedwatch report by Tim James

Over the past twelve months they have been somewhat limited to sessions due to Covid and some issues with the speed gun which have now been resolved with a new gun which has an improved range on the old one and is smaller and lighter.

They continue to operate at the three sites in Newmarket Road, Dalham Road and outside the school. Speeding over 35mph continues to be about 15% of all vehicles passing which is unacceptable. Recently a car was clocked at 61mph in Newmarket Road leaving the village, there is no way it could have stopped if a small child, elderly person or dog/cat had wandered into the road.

Speedwatch is effective at the time it is carried out because volunteer notice some vehicles slowing down when they see the volunteers or the signs, but it is too quickly forgotten so more effective ways of reducing speed are needed on a daily basis.

The team continues to look for more people to assist and Tim James is looking for someone to take over the running of Speedwatch as he has held the role for over six years. He would be able to provide all the training and support to anyone interested and still attend some sessions. He would like to thank everyone who has assisted over the past year.

e) Vets football club

Mark Price has stepped back from running the Vets and they are currently looking for new volunteers.

f) Moulton Panthers

The 2021/22 football season ended with some highs and some lows on and off the pitch. The newly formed under 9's team run by Mark McTrusty have flown in their first year and reached a cup final in their first 12 months as a team. Mark will now see his under 9's move up a year to Under 10's and hopes their success will continue into next season as Moulton Panthers under 10's.

The Under 10's have had a varied season which saw some of their stronger players leave for bigger clubs like Newmarket but they have made it to the end with smiles on their faces and at this age, that's what it is all about.

This is the last season for the under 17's as they now venture into adult football but this brings with it a number of obstacles if they are to continue in the village so they have taken the option to form and play at Kennett. This is saddening as most of these lads have played for Moulton since they were 6 years old. A number of factors have helped bring this decision to where it is, the use of facilities and the ongoing dispute with neighbouring households have not helped.

Alan Sheldrick, along with the rest of the Panthers committee has taken the tough decision to step down at the end of this season. He would like to take the opportunity to say thank you for the Parish Council's support over the last 2 years. Going forward there will be some new faces for Panthers which he hopes will be helped and supported in the same way that he has.

Politics is making it harder and harder to keep village grass roots football alive. In his eyes a beautiful village like Moulton should do everything it can to get the children and their parents out and involved, as there is nothing better than seeing smiling faces and the laughter of the kids once they have finished playing.

Football has been played in the village for over 50 years and currently it is on the verge of collapse due to some people being unsupportive, making it difficult to play without complaint and also making life hard for the team of volunteers, who are willing to pay for facilities, to be able to keep the tradition of football going. They have received numerous complaints about "stray balls", children using the goals, the goals not being in the correct position despite attempts to minimise the impact on anyone in the village. If there has been any impact from Panthers they have dealt with it immediately. It is his feeling

that some people are going out of their way to make life harder for them to bring social sport for children. It is a recreation field used by many to enjoy, so please just continue to let them enjoy it and stop bothering the volunteers with such menial issues.

Parish councillors present asked for it to be minuted that they encourage and support village activities and sport on the Recreation Ground and will continue to do so.

g) Moulton Charity.

The charities are trying to reach out to families in need.

3. Chairman's Report

David Almond spoke about the following:

- It is good to see life returning to normal after COVID and to be back to face-to-face meetings.
- He is happy to chair an efficient parish council in a lovely village.
- He thanked the clerk for her support out over the last year. The Parish Council has benefited from her knowledge and experience and has reviewed and updated online banking, procedures and policies.
- He thanked fellow councillors for their contributions. There are no vacancies on the Parish Council at the moment. The next elections will take place in May 2023.
- Funding has been approved for a speed report for Newmarket Road.
- Moulton has many activities and groups involved in making Moulton such a lovely place to live. The Parish Council has worked with Moulton Wildlife Group to set up some wildlife areas and with the Sicon Foundation which has agreed to provide and help to plant free trees and hedging on the playing field.
- He thanked Moulton Village Hall trustees for the work they do for the community.
- He thanked Jill Goodwin and her team for putting together a fantastic programme for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.
- He thanked all the volunteers who help out in Moulton including Moulton in Bloom, the village litter pick, Community Speedwatch and keeping the book exchange in the phone box tidy.
- West Suffolk Council's Local Plan. The next round of consultation starts on 26th May. One site has been allocated for development in Moulton near the carrot wash off School Road.
- Council funds are very healthy and the Parish Council would welcome any ideas for the village. One suggestion was for soundproofing for the Landwades Room in the village hall so that it can be used alongside the main hall.

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

One resident has been without a landline for several weeks. Openreach may need to close Gazeley Road when work the is carried out.

The meeting closed at 8.25pm.

Signed Dated.....