

Moulton Parish Council - Chairman's Report – May 2025

Finances

Moulton Parish Council's (MPC's) finances are in good order with full information available on MPC's website.

Planning

West Suffolk District Council's (WSDC's) Local Plan is about to be finalised, with the only significant development for Moulton still being 20 to 30 houses earmarked on Godolphin owned land near to Riverside. Once The Plan is finalised, WSDC will start immediately to work on a new version.

Housing

As I write, we await the submission of an application for up to 1,000 new homes at the former Animal Health Trust at Kentford. In the meantime, MPC have held informal meetings with the WSDC Planning team and Lochailort, the developer.

Councillor John Derry has led a small group who have established the need for local affordable housing. This will be considered further as any plans develop for additional housing in Moulton and the neighbourhood.

Road safety

MPC has submitted a report to Suffolk County Council requesting support to tackle speeding in the village, including a 20mph limit near the school and in the centre of the village. Nick Timothy, our local MP, is very supportive of our request and has also been very supportive of our efforts to reduce the number of accidents at the Boys Grave crossroads and to increase frequency of the train service from Kentford.

Two of MPC's Vehicle Activated Signs have been upgraded and we appreciate the work done by Graham MacGregor and the Speed Watch team.

The playing field and green

Two new benches have been provided on the playing field and plans are being finalised to add new play equipment and refurbish some of the floor surfaces.

Again, it is pleasing to see the Panthers football teams regularly in action on the playing field. We are grateful to Doug James for all the grass cutting work he does around the village and to Mark Price who has taken on a general maintenance role.

Flooding from the river Kennett

In the autumn and winter, The Environment Agency carried out clearance work on the River Kennett near the Packhorse Bridge and appear to have stepped up their efforts to remove impediments to water flow.

Councillors

During the year Ed Chambers left the Council after many years of service, including several years ago, a major role in securing the replacement village hall. We welcome Richard Mather as his replacement

Finally, I would like to thank our excellent and efficient clerk Joanne Kirk, my fellow parish councillors, our WSDC and SCC councillors Roger Dicker and Andy Drummond, village businesses and organisations and the villagers themselves for all their contributions which make Moulton such an active and welcoming place to live and work.

David Almond - MPC Chairman