MOULTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting
18th May 2026

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

Also present: Joanne Kirk (clerk), County Councillor Adrian Whittle, District Councillor Roger Dicker, Jerry Goodwin (Moulton Village Hall), Graham MacGregor (Community Speedwatch), Reverend Chris Childs (St Peter's Church). and one member of the public.

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from David Unwin (Chair of the Moulton Charity) and Anne Collins (Moulton Wildlife Group).

The meeting was chaired by Parish Council Chair David Almond.

Reports are available on the Moulton website at https://moultonparishcouncil.gov.uk/parish-council/annual-parish-meeting/annual-parish-meeting-2026/

1. **Approval of the minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 19th May 2025.**
   The minutes of the meeting were confirmed and signed as correct by the Chair.

2. **Reverend Chris Childs (St Peter's Church).**
   Rev Chris Childs spoke about work that has taken place in the church. £11,000 was spent on the roof, and the gold fish regilded. Government has removed the Listed Places of Worship Scheme which makes financing work difficult. They continue to apply for grants as a lot or work is required and their reserves are depleted. The wooden floor needs replacing with tiles and the chancel walls are flaking. Many of the history displays have been moved because they were faded and tatty. They will be preserved and brought out at appropriate times. A children's area is also being created.

   The Three Churches walk is popular and a card reader has been installed so that visitors can make donations. The Easter Egg hunt was also very popular and raised £1,000.

   Rev Childs thanked Moulton Parish Council for their financial support for churchyard maintenance, Jane Horsnell for her work as church warden and cleaners and volunteers who organise flowers.

   He is relatively optimistic about the way the church is running especially as attendance has been rising.

   He is the main point of contact for requests for the support from the Moulton Charity.

3. **County Councillor's report**
   The new County Councillor for Moulton, Adrian Whittle, introduced himself. He is currently taking part in an induction at SCC and mandatory training. He is happy to be contacted by councillors and residents. He will aim to attend as many meetings in possible.

4. **District Councillor's report.**
   District Councillor Roger Dicker gave his report. He spoke about:
   - The Local Government Review. The current system of Suffolk County Council and district councils will be replaced by three unitary councils West Suffolk, East Suffolk and Ipswich.
   - Better Recycling which is due to start in June.
   - He has spent his locality budget which included a donation to Moulton Pre-school.
   - Local Plan. Having just finished the previous one, work has started on a new Local Plan. Moulton can feedback as to what they would like to see in the Local Plan.
   - Free parking is being provided in Bury St Edmunds from 8-10am on Mondays. New machines will be installed.
   - Pavement licences have been reduced to £100.

5. **Moulton Village Hall.**
   Jerry Goodwin presented his report. The village hall accounts have been uploaded onto the Moulton website as detailed above. The accounting period is 1st July – 30th June. Their income to 30th June 2025 was £32.310 and expenditure was £32,080. Their solar panels generated a feed-in-tariff of £2,482 and their investments earned £1,057. Their bank balance is £52,686.

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He thanked Moulton Parish Council for their grant towards running costs. Carpet bowls has been reintroduced and is proving popular. They are very thankful to have several regular users.

Ian Spinks took over from Stuart Wright as General Manager.

6. Community Speedwatch report by Graham MacGregor.

Graham MacGregor presented his report and VAS data which shows a significant issue with speeding in Moulton. The full report is available on the Moulton website. They have eight sites now in Moulton all of which have been reassessed by the Police. All of them have been approved apart from one near the triangle by the primary school. An alternate site has been agreed.

They now need three volunteers for every check, which makes it more difficult to get enough people at any one time to carry out a check. They did a leaflet drop to try and find new volunteers but no one came forward. Since then, two new members have joined.

A question was asked about when the highest speeds are recorded. The highest speeds recorded are at night and during peak commuting times.

7. Moulton Panthers.

No report was received.

8. Moulton Charity.

David Unwin sent a written report. They have funds available to support people in the village who are in need.

A question was asked about the Charity providing land for allotments. Cllr Jane Horsnell confirmed that a small section of land has been put aside for allotments and a resident is looking into how viable they would be. It would be a community project.

9. Moulton Wildlife Group.

Anne Collins sent a written report. The full report is available on the Moulton website.

10. Chairman's Report and Moulton Parish Council Financial Report.

The Chairman, David Almond presented his report. He spoke about the Parish Council's attempts to make the village safer, particularly in relation to speeding. These would have to be funded locally.

The playing field is well used. New equipment has been installed. He thanked Cllrs Doug James and Mark Price for all their work to keep the playing field looking so good.

He thanked the clerk and fellow councillors for their support. He also thanked District Councillor Roger Dicker and County Councillor 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.

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

Question and comments from residents.

- One resident raised the issue of grit bins. Could shovels be provided?
- A possible Quiet Lane scheme for Gazeley Road.

The meeting closed at 8.28pm.

Signed …… Dated……

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