

MOULTON PARISH COUNCIL

Laura Yates (Clerk to Moulton Parish Council)

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38 Lester Piggott Way, Newmarket, CB8 0BJ

Minutes of the public meeting of Moulton Parish Council held on Monday 7th December 2020 at 6.00 pm – Remote meeting held via Zoom

Present:

Chairman David Almond (Chairman)

Vice Chair Mark Price (Vice Chair)

Cllr Ryan Bragg

Cllr Ed Chambers

Cllr David Clarke

Cllr John Derry

Cllr Jane Horsnell

Cllr Tim James

Cllr Douglas James

In attendance

- Laura Yates (Clerk to Moulton Parish Council)

- Cllr Andy Drummond (SCC)

- Cllr Roger Dicker (WSDC)

Four members of the public present including:

Four members of the public were in attendance, including John Ford from MPC Working Group

Technical difficulties with the login on the Zoom Meeting may have prevented some members of the public logging in to join the meeting.

1. Apologies for absence & declarations of interest

Chairman welcomed all to the meeting. No Apologies of Absence. Declarations of interest from:

Vice Chair Mark Price as a member of the Vets Football Club

2. Members of the public are invited to speak briefly on any item within the Agenda

No comments were made

3. Minutes from the previous MPC meeting held on 12th October 2020 to be approved as a true record

Minutes from the previous meeting held on 12/10/2020 remotely approved as a correct and true record by MPC

4. Planning matters including: -

4.1 - Local Plan – MPC Response

(PARISH COUNCIL RESPONSE APPENDIX 1)

Cllr John Derry read out the summary of MPC proposed response to WSDC Local Plan. This document was circulated to all Cllr's ahead of MPC meeting:

"Moulton Parish Council believes that the best interests of its parishioners will be served by limited, small scale developments, especially by infill. The "Included Housing" sites WS143 and WS144, identified in the SHELAA, would be detrimental to the character of the village. They would harm its setting in the rural landscape and create serious infrastructure challenges. Designation as a "Local Service Centre" seems arbitrary and we are concerned that this might enable or encourage future inappropriate developments that would damage the community. We have reached this position after detailed consultation with our parishioners. 86% of our respondents said they favoured development in existing towns or a new village. 83% favoured small-scale development like infill, or no further development"

MPC were requested by WSDC to submit their response using the online portal, although this is not set up for Parish Councils to submit a response in this way. MPC have urged all Moulton parishioners to submit their own individual response through the WSDC online consultation site.

All Cllrs agreed to this response. No further comments.

RESOLUTION: CLLR JOHN DERRY AND CLERK LY WILL RETURN MPC RESPONSE TO WSDC, CLERK LY TO UPLOAD RESPONSE ON THE PC WEBSITE AND ATTACH AS AN APPENDIX TO THE PC MINUTES

John Ford, a member of MPC working group, presented a document on affordable housing to MPC for consideration. The response received from parishioners was against large scale development. There was some support for small scale development including infill. Typically in Moulton, older dwellings are replaced by larger executive style homes. To encourage affordable housing some local initiative will be required. The report suggest that it might be worth investing some time to understand the process, what funding may be available, and how we can maintain a degree of control. Moulton charity own a potential site and have previously expressed an interest in providing and enabling affordable housing. We could also open conversations with relevant landowners and see whether there is any interest on a mixed development at the Griffiths Yard site, this plot is on the deferred list of the SHELAA. MPC discussed this suggestion and decided the planning working group would investigate in greater detail. It was felt that once we have researched this initiative and have a clear idea on the process involved, it could be presented to MPC for an informed decision on whether it is worth pursuing. No further comments.

RESOLUTION: CLERK LY TO UPLOAD AFFORDABLE HOUSING DOCUMENT ON WEBSITE AND ATTACH TO MINUTES.

4.2 - Updates on the Sunnica Solar Panel Consultation

MPC response is to object to the Sunnica Solar Development. Cllr John Derry read out MPC proposed response to the Sunnica Solar Consultation. Available as Appendix 3 to these MPC Minutes. It was suggested to add a reference to the section which relates to the Governments plan on offshore wind.

**RESOLUTION: CLLR JOHN DERRY TO ADD GOVERNMENT REFERENCE REGARDING OFFSHORE WIND
CLERK LY & CLLR JOHN DERRY TO SUBMIT MPC RESPONSE TO SUNNICA CONSULTATION.**

4.3 - Planning Applications received:

- **Expires 25th Dec – APPEAL DC/20/0485/FUL - Lawn House 16 The Street Moulton**
REPLACE ALL WINDOWS AND DOORS - REFUSED: UPVC REPLACEMENTS WOULD FAIL TO ENHANCE OR PRESERVE THE HISTORIC FABRIC AND APPEARANCE OF THE BUILDING WHICH HAS NOT UNDERGONE MANY VISUAL CHANGES AND IS A NON-DESIGNATED HERITAGE ASSET.
Notification that the application has been appealed. It was commented that like-for-like windows should be able to be purchased for this property if this was what the problem was.
- **Expires 21st Dec - Planning DC/20/1996/FUL - Amento Gazeley Road Moulton**
- ONE DWELLING (FOLLOWING DEMOLITION OF EXISTING BUNGALOW AND OUTBUILDINGS)
All Cllrs were in support of this application. It was noted that the bat survey lists the wrong address - although the content within the survey is relevant to Moulton and the application. Further comments included; the development would improve what is currently on the site, the property is tucked away from view enough so not to cause an issue, the landscaping was well planned, and the application has good environmental benefits.
Applicant who was in attendance of the meeting was invited to comment; the opportunity was taken to say they were pleased for a positive reaction from MPC and explained they had worked hard with the architecture to come up with a design which was in-keeping with the village.
→ **CLERK LY TO RESPOND WITH NO COMMENTS**
- **Planning DC/20/1977/TCA - 1 The Green Moulton Suffolk (- Expires 16th Dec)**
- TREES IN A CONSERVATION AREA NOTIFICATION - ONE WALNUT (T1 ON PLAN) TWO SILVER BIRCH (T3 AND T4 ON PLAN) FELL
There is no indication on the application that the trees which have been requested to be felled are diseased or causing damage to property. MPC were in agreement, trees within a conservation area should be managed and not felled. No detail on the application to explain the reasons behind this application. MPC have no reason to approve the application. Clerk LY reported to MPC that she had spoken to the applicant, the tree contractor she is using, who also submitted this application, has said the trees *are* diseased, there are no options to save them, and will need to be felled. West Suffolk previously assessed the Walnut Tree and advised the felling of this tree would not be a problem in its condition. West Suffolk will be required to consider the condition on the other two trees in the application. However, MPC can only decide on an application based on the information and detail which has been provided, in this case MPC objects to this application.
→ **RESPOND BY OBJECTING TO THE APPLICATION, INCLUDE ALL COUNCILLORS COMMENTS**
- **Planning DC/20/1940/HH - 17 Benefield Road Moulton (- Expires 10th Dec)**
- SINGLE STOREY FRONT AND SIDE EXTENSION WITH TWO ROOF LIGHTS (FOLLOWING DEMOLITION OF EXISTING FRONT PORCH)
→ **RESPOND WITH NO COMMENTS**
- **Planning DC/20/1976/TCA - 18 The Street Moulton (- Expires 7th Dec)**
- ONE PRUNUS (T1 ON PLAN) OVERALL CROWN REDUCTION BY 2 METRES ALL ROUND; ONE PEAR (T2 ON PLAN) OVERALL CROWN REDUCTION BY 2 METRES ALL ROUND

→ **RESPOND WITH NO COMMENTS**

→ **Planning DC/20/1911/TCA - 22A The Street Moulton (- Expires 26th Nov)**

- ONE BEECH (T1 ON PLAN) ONE COPPER BEECH (T2 ON PLAN) AND ONE LIME (T3 ON PLAN) OVERALL CROWN REDUCTION BY 3 METRES

→ **RESPOND WITH NO COMMENTS**

→ **Planning DC/20/1783/HH - 6 Bridge Street Moulton (- Expires 17th Nov)**

- ONE GROUND FLOOR WINDOW AND REPLACEMENT FRONT DOOR TO FRONT ELEVATION

→ **RESPOND WITH NO COMMENTS**

5. Update on the ongoing Covid pandemic

No updates. Everyone is looking after each other and there has been no demand.

6. County Council – to receive a report from Cllr Andy Drummond

Cllr Andy Drummond reported updates on Sunnica Solar Farm. Lucy Fraser and Matt Hancock have submitted a joint response to the Consultation. Andy Drummond declared he will be on the response side of West Suffolk, although he has to remain impartial it was difficult not to have an opinion. The application is too large for this area and the size of this site is the same a size as Heathrow airport, something which we can all appreciate the size of an understand its unsuitability for this area.

6.1 - Update on B1085 safety

The implementation of a cycleway still appears to be the only route to opening up safety measures on this stretch of road. If there is anything MPC would like from Cllr Andy Drummond to keep this item ticking over than he is willing to work with us. However, we did not accept his last offer with help on funding, and some of his budget has now been allocated to Kentford. No change on costings from highways (£8,616.15 plus VAT) on the 40-mph buffer zone. Chairman David Almond has spoken to Kentford PC Chair who still expressed a willingness to support Moulton, including financially.

6.2 - Updates on outstanding issues and progress establishing communication with Highways

Clerk LY explained the frustrations since the last meeting on several phone calls with Highways when reporting issues. Clerk LY has tried to contact highways to report problems in Moulton but is always transferred to the main switchboard and the online Highways reporting tool. Clerk LY has not been able to establish a contact at Highways who is willing to deal with the various issues in Moulton. The reporting tool does not offer an update or further communication to on whether problems are resolved. Clerk LY feels all options have been exhausted and is struggling to see a way forward to clear the list of outstanding problems. Councillor Andy Drummond suggested Clerk LY to send him an email explaining the problems and difficulties Moulton are experiencing. Cllr Andy Drummond will be able to act on this email and show Highways that their current system is not working for Parish Councils.

RESOLUTION: CLERK LY TO EMAIL CLLR ANDY DRUMMOND EXPLAINING THE PROBLEMS WITH TRYING TO ESTABLISH A CONTACT AT HIGHWAYS

Vice Chair Mark Price has a similar problem with pavements and received a brief reply from the Highways reporting tool. A pavement issue was reported one month ago using the Highway tool, a response has just been emailed which says Highways do not cover this fault, no further action to be taken and complaint closed. Vice Chair Mark Price questioned Cllr Andy Drummond on the next steps, it is clear Highways are unable to speak to MPC to get a detailed answer on why are unable to help. Cllr Andy Drummond suggested that perhaps the pathway was the responsibility of the District Council rather than Highways, and this may be the reason why the case had been closed without a solution.

RESOLUTION: VICE CHAIR MARK PRICE WILL EMAIL CLLR ROGER DICKER TO INVESTIGATE WITH WSDC. COPY IN CLERK

6.3 - Public footpaths and footways

Nothing to report other than Highways faults previously mentioned

6.4 - School road / Chippenham road crossing safety issues (Parent Concerns)

A parent has contacted Clerk LY to highlight to MPC the safety issues along School Road. This individual has contacted Highways on three separate occasions over the past 12 months with concerns over safety and the speed vehicles are travelling along this road. The resident is frustrated and feel that no one is taking her concerns seriously. She would like more attention on this area in Moulton. She has had discussions with parents and spoken to the school about starting a petition, she would also like to get an article in the Newmarket Journal, she

is happy to express the problems she has had with Highways. The parent would like the issue of speeding vehicles close to the school and the safety of children addressed. The aim is to have a zebra crossing installed at the school as a measure to ensure some sort of safety for the children. Councillor Andy Drummond requested his details to be passed on and the parent to get in touch with him directly, he will contact Highways directly and try and get something done on this issue.

**RESOLUTION: CLERK LY TO PASS ON DETAILS AND REQUEST THE RESIDENT TO EMAIL CLLR ANDY DRUMMOND
MPC SPEED WATCH TEAM TO UNOFFICIALLY RECORD SPEEDS ALONG SCHOOL RD IN THE MORNINGS**

6.5 - Newmarket road / Moulton road safety issues (Resident Communication)

Clerk has reported this issue of speeding along Newmarket Road twice to Highways. No response has been received back. Clerk LY contacted David Chenery today on the hope that as he was dealing with the speeding issue on B1085 he might be able to help in this area too. Thankfully David Chenery was very helpful was able to offer speed reduction suggestions for MPC to consider. Ultimately, we still need support from Cllr Andy Drummond.

Clerk reported the suggestions made by David; MPC could sign up and join the Suffolk County Council SID group, this is a 'community speed watch' type programme. The group visits each Parish on the scheme with a Mobile Speed Indicating Device from time to time and monitors the traffic for the PC. Another option available when registering with the Suffolk County Council speed watch group is the opportunity to have speed checks and survey work completed on roads which are a concern. The final low-cost option available would be to place warning signs around 200 yards before the speed limit reduces, this should make drivers aware of the upcoming speed reduction. These three schemes are low cost Clerk LY was given an estimated of around a couple of hundred pounds depending which option we take up. More expensive options would be a 40 mph buffer zone (we already know what this entails), this is quite a costly option. David Chenery advised that this road is not suitable for extending the 30mph speed limit further along this road.

Councillor Andy Drummond was in full support of speed reduction scheme and expressed a willingness to help. He informed MPC that Suffolk County Council have recently purchased a small number of SID's which have advanced technology. Rather than the usual ones which only flash and monitor speeds vehicles are travelling, the newer ones which County Council have invested in, have an automatic number plate recognition software installed, this means any vehicles travelling above a speed limit will receive a postal notification alerting them they have been caught speeding. This in itself should have more impact than other measures. Councillor Andy Drummond is willing to make inquiries on securing one for Moulton if this is something we would like. Although there was support with this initiative in other areas of Moulton. Councillors updated that Newmarket Road is a 60mph zone and the problem on this agenda item is that 60mph is too fast to be travelling along this section. Councillor Andy Drummond will have a further conversation with David Chenery to see if there are any alternative options available.

It was discussed whether MPC speed watch team monitor the speed of vehicles from boys grave to the school in the mornings. Although it is not an official speed watch site it would be interesting to see how fast they get in this area. Also important to note that we need to also educate the parents about the dangers of speeding along the road. Large part of the problem will be from parents.

The biggest impact to slow traffic on Newmarket Road will be traffic calming measure. Signs are too easily ignored, Calming measures and obstacles would have the biggest impact to slow the vehicles. A final suggestion was to talk to the resident who owns the hedge along the problem section to see if they can cut it back. The hedge blocks visibility, if this was able to be cut back or reduced in height it would increase visibility and potentially make the roads safer.

**RESOLUTION - CLERK LY TO INVESTIGATE THE ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY SID FOR USE WITHIN MOULTON AND HOLD CONVERSATIONS WITH ANDY DRUMMOND TO HELP SECURE ANY FUNDING AVAILABLE
- RESIDENT TO BE APPROACHED AND ASKED WHETHER THERE IS THE POSSIBILITY OF CUTTING BACK THE HEDGE, THIS WOULD HELP WITH HIS VISIBILITY WHEN ENTERING AND EXITING HIS PROPERTY, HE MAY NEED TO CONSULT WITH HIS NEIGHBOURS BEFORE HE STARTS ANY HEDGE TRIMMING**

7. District Council – to receive a report from WSDC Cllr Roger Dicker and any other West Suffolk Council issues including:

Roger reported to MPC that Kentford had a meeting last week which Roger attended, Kentford's response to the local plan is that where they have been placed in the settlements structure is satisfactory. It is roughly the same as where they were previously, if anything slightly better off. Kentford are also of the opinion that any development should go to Newmarket and the larger towns. They have recently just had a large development in their village and so not looking for any additional applications to be allocated in their parish.

7.1 - Updates on repairs to Benefield Road garage block

Cllr Roger Dicker reported he had previously requested West Suffolk maintenance team to book the work on the garage block. Councillors were unsure if this was carried out

RESOLUTION: CHECK CONFIRM WITH CLLRS WHETHER THE PROBLEM OF DRAINS AND GUTTERS HAD NOW BEEN FIXED

7.2 - EDF Air Sourced Heat Pump

Cllr Roger Dicker requested feedback from the zoom call held for Moulton village and the renewable heat air pump. He has not received a reply from his query, however immediately after the meeting it was reported that West Suffolk and EDF were happy with the 25 residents who attended the Zoom presentation.

Cllr Roger Dicker had no other items to report on

8. Playing field – update on funding for shelters, consideration of installation of a barrier to prevent stray balls entering adjoining properties and outdoor fitness classes

- Purchase of shelters to be installed on the playing field is an ongoing discussion. MPC were of the opinion that the purchase shelters should be proposed to the Council by the football group. The clubs should carry out the background work. Once the Football Clubs have a proposition for MPC, which should include detail on Design, Funding, Planning Requirements and consultation with neighbours, MPC are happy to listen and look at the plan for consideration.

RESOLUTION: VICE CHAIR MARK PRICE TO OPEN COMMUNICATION WITH ALAN SHELDRIK (CHAIRMAN OF THE FOOTBALL GROUPS) AND TO GATHER INFORMATION REQUIRED.

- Due to covid and the restrictions, no visit was made to the resident who had been having trouble with the footballs in her garden.
- **License extensions**
New Licences to be checked and issued as required. Village Green is currently being used by Ben Blowes for fitness Classes, and Bridget for Yoga Classes. All agreed for renewal of licences if required. Vice Chair added it would be helpful if there was an addition to the licence - classes should not be held at the far end of the Green, by the wall close to the playground and along the side of the village hall. The ground has had a chance to repair and we should try and keep the Green in good condition. There should not be a need for classes to venture that far.

RESOLUTION: CLERK TO ISSUE NEW LICENCES WITH THE ABOVE DETAILS

9. The Village Green – unauthorised parking and planned maintenance on the tracks

➤ **Track Maintenance**

Bill Rampling and Cllr Doug James have laid the plainings for the track. This has gone well this year, the plainings appear to be graded unlike previous years. This makes a difference and were less problems when laying the track, positive reaction has been received from the residents.

10. Village Maintenance including: Play Equipment, Dog Fouling, Riverbank, Trees, Hedgerows

➤ **Play Equipment**

Clerk LY has no updates on the play equipment. The last safety inspection was viewed with no updates or concerns. Replacement parts for the baby swings had been delivered. However, due to covid restrictions still in place, and social distancing is still required to be observed, we are unable to replace the two swings which were taken down.

RESOLUTION: CLERK LY WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR RESTRICTIONS AND WILL UPDATE MPC AS REQUIRED.

➤ **Memorial wayside seats and benches**

Cllr Doug James has been receiving requests on locations for the seats. It was questioned whether we should facilitate these requests and have them scattered about the village; or whether we should stick to our plan and have them all placed in one location along the end where the row of trees are located. It was felt that from a maintenance point of view it makes it easier if all the seats are together. We need to ensure any requests on benches are going through the Clerk LY and the full PC for approval before any work is agreed.

Parking on Bridge street – An email has been received since the Agenda was issued from a resident, expressing the opinion that the parking appears to be getting worse in this area of Moulton. Cllrs discussed whether we should hard landscape the section by the Church. Currently the grass is being pulled up from parking vehicles and the recent wet weather conditions. The verge is looking muddy and unsightly, some strategically placed flower beds might help to soften the appearance. It would be a shame to landscape the area just for cars, it was doubtful that flower beds would be a realistic possibility. Parking is an ongoing issue in Moulton, if we monitor and deter parking in one area, it tends to encourage it in another. Moulton is very popular with residents and dog walkers and we have to manage the situation the best we can. It was discussed that Cllr Doug James and Vice Chair Mark Price should arrange to meet and look at the condition of the verge and investigate options to prevent future damage. It was reported that the Church Warden had considered opening the gates and allowing people to park on Church Grounds. An offerings box would be placed out for anyone wishing to park. This has not happened as there was the concern that this only moves the problem and the Church Grounds would quickly become ruined as the verge has done. It was suggested that while Cllrs are looking in this area, a conversation should be held with Church Warden Bob Saltmarsh, with regards to hard landscaping further into their area, rather than the verge. MPC to open a conversation with the Church Warden, Bob Saltmarsh.

**RESOLUTION: CLLR DOUG JAMES AND VICE CHAIR MARK PRICE WILL ARRANGE TO MEET AND FIGURE OUT SOME SOLUTIONS FOR THIS AREA. WILL DISCUSS WITH CHURCH WARDEN BOB SALTMARSH TOO.
- CLLR DOUG JAMES AND VICE CHAIR MARK PRICE TO UPDATE MPC WITH FURTHER DETAILS AND INFORMATION ABOUT PRACTICAL OPTIONS.**

➤ **Riverbank –**

There was a sharp Flood along the River a week or so ago, this was a fast-moving incident potentially caused by a blockage further down the watercourse which had suddenly cleared. Residents have asked MPC whether we could get more notifications and signage on risk of flood. A comment was made that the flood height signs are incorrect. There is a real concern about the seriousness of the incident and the safety of all residents. Many residents were alarmed how quickly the water came through. MPC previously had Road Closure signs. These were taken away from us with the explanation that we had not been trained on how to use them. Clerk LY should look into getting some more signs, they would be used at the Gazeley end of Bridge Street. This is where the cars are speeding and they approach a bit too fast, if there is rising water it is thought this is where any accident would be caused from. Signs from highways may work towards preventing an accident in the future

RESOLUTION: CLERK LY TO CONTACT HIGHWAYS AND REQUEST ROAD CLOSURE SIGNS FOR MOULTON TO HOLD.

11. Finance & Administration including

11.1 - Payment of Accounts - A schedule detailing income and expenditure to date, against budget, had been circulated, which had been approved by the Chairman,

- It was asked whether anything had been received from Ken Hutchinson after work on the riverbank. Nothing has been received but Clerk will chase this up if she does not receive something soon.
- It was proposed for Lorraine Stone, MPC Previous Clerk, to help Clerk, Chairman, or any Councillor if required, in a supporting role until the financial Year End (April 2021) It was agreed that an amount of £50 per month should be paid for Lorraine kindly offering this service.

11.2 - To confirm receipt of bank reconciliation

Circulated ahead of meeting.

11.3 - To fix the date for the December meeting of the Finance Group

Agreed finance meeting to be held on Monday 14th Dec at 4pm. Clerk LY to contact the finance group ahead of Monday and discuss whether the meeting will be in person or remotely via Zoom

12. Suffolk Association of Local Councils – acknowledgement of communications on webinars, online zoom training etc:

Parish and Town Forum - 04.11.2020, *Webinar on Financial health and wellbeing*, SALC e-bulletin, *Community Champions (SALC)*, *The Sicon Foundation - Tree planting initiative*, Community Action Suffolk News, *Civil Parking Enforcement report*, WS - Grants *Anti-social behaviour – Suffolk constabulary*, CPRE - Connecting the countryside during lockdown, *Suffolk Preservation Society*, *West Suffolk area forum - additional meeting*,

13. Correspondence - to note routine correspondence received since the previous meeting

- NEWMARKET ROAD/MOULTON ROAD REPORTS ON SPEEDING AND ROAD SAFETY,
- Reports received on School road Crossing - Safety Concerns
- Leaves – Maltings Close and Lark Hill
Build up of leaves on Maltings Close had occurred. Residents had collected these up into large bags and requested MPC to try and arrange them to be taken away. Highways and WSDC reluctant to remove. They were eventually cleared by a very helpful and kind resident. Clerk LY is highly determined that we will not have an issue next year with the leaves and will have already organised them to be cleared when required
- PARISHIONER RESPONSES TO LOCAL PLAN MEETING,
- PARKING ON BRIDGE STREET
- SINCE THE LAST MEETING – A SUGGESTION WAS PROPOSED TO MPC THAT A DONATION COULD BE MADE TOWARDS A VILLAGE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS COMPETITION. ALL AGREED £50 TO BE DONATED AND FELT LIKE A POSITIVE THING TO DO TO WITHIN THE VILLAGE.

14. Questions to the Chairman and urgent business

None

15. To fix the date of the next meeting

- AGREED 6PM MONDAY 18TH JANUARY

**SIGNED:
(Chairman)**

X

David Almond
Chairman

DATE: