

Minutes of the meeting of Moulton Parish Council held at Moulton School on Monday 15th July 2019 at 6.30 pm.

Present	Cllrs	D Almond Chairman J Derry M Price arrived 7.20 D James	D Clarke Tim James Ed Chambers Jane Horsnell R Bragg
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APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – C Cllr Robin Millar (excused due to previous commitment) and Cllr Mark Price who would be a little late.

ALSO PRESENT – the Clerk, District Councillor Roger Dicker and 3 members of the public.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST – Cllrs Mark Price (member Vets Football Team)

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 23rd May 2019 had been circulated, and it was unanimously agreed that these should be signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING

None –all covered in agenda items

PLAYING FIELD – agenda item held back until arrival of Panther’s Club representative

COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS

The Chairman had met with Cllr Robin Millar on 8th July and in particular the following Highway issues were raised, and a follow up report had been submitted and circulated in advance of the meeting

1. A PROTOCOL FOR COMMUNICATION with Suffolk Highways. Current system not working – ref all the failed communications regarding the drainage issues in Chippenham Road. Not one response to all the emails – and there was still a failure to give Flowline the correct information - engineers turned up again in School Road rather than Chippenham Road.

Cllr Millar advised that ‘As a result of the restructure and review, Suffolk Highways services are now coordinated centrally and delivered locally (Rougham is our delivery centre). With the centralisation has come measures PC colleagues will all be familiar with to manage day to day queries and fault reporting. For example potholes can now be reported directly via the Suffolk CC website. Policies and operating procedures support this arrangement. Central contact points (email and phone) are in place for reporting and communicating with County Highways. These are then processed to the local delivery centres and tracked electronically. Other policies, for example, require sign off for local works comes from the local Division County Councillor and Parish Council. For understandable reasons, it is not in their interests to subvert this by giving out personal contact details of engineers, surveyors etc. Even councillors must use central contact points, even if we do know the people behind them.

ESCALATION

Escalation occurs when the system is not producing a timely or reasonable response. I emphasise reasonable - engineers must make judgments about priorities and funding. No system is perfect - it cannot cater for everything. But equally not every query is exceptional, no matter how important we think it is.

1. The first step to do so is to ask the County Councillor to intervene and ask an answer or an explanation. This might involve a meeting or site visit or phone call etc. Again this is dealt with in the simplest way possible - by email or phone or that is sufficient.
2. The next step is for the county Councillor to approach the portfolio holder (Cllr Evans) who whilst bound by the same system and funding constraints (and is not going to contravene technical advice) sometimes has leeway to move.
3. A final step would be to contact the Chief Executive and our MP where there has been a complete breakdown of the system or communication.'

The Chairman asked for the views of councillors and it was agreed that whilst it was acknowledged that the Council had to work within the system, and the new process was understood, it had clearly not been working for the past 18 months. The Parish Council was better placed, being at grass root level to react promptly and give a current assessment, when needed, on an outstanding matter, and to this end needed a point of immediate contact with a Highways officer (not an administrator) should an urgent issue arise. It could not be expected that either Cllr Millar or the Portfolio Holder Cllr Mary Evans would be on hand at any time during the working day. Currently as a contact of last resort the Clerk had telephoned Mary Evans's Executive Assistant Emma Cook, who had reacted with great efficiency and speed when Flowline had arrived at the wrong location on 18th June. It was resolved that the Chairman should go back to Cllr Millar, requesting that the Clerk should be given a direct point of contact, which would only be used in matters which required an immediate response.

It was also regretted that the Parish Council were not invited to attend site meetings in the village when Cllr Millar arranged these with the Highways Engineers (ref early June and drainage inspection, before Flowline's attendance on 18th, and inspection of School Road issues)

2. NEWMARKET ROAD - this request has been logged. The engineer last inspected the site on 19th May 2019 (Survey No 046070) and no HMOP safety defects were found. This is scheduled for regular inspection and maintenance.

Resolved - to ask how often these inspections would take place, and on Cllr Price's arrival at the meeting he requested that the photos showing the flooding, and resultant risks to children on the walk to school route should be raised again with the Highways Authority.

3. GAZELEY ROAD - Cllr Millar had commissioned the repainting/spraying of the SLOW signs on the road (18th June) from his local highways budget. He had not been told when this was due to happen.

Cllrs noted this but were surprised that the funding from the locality budget was needed - as an important safety measure, and a renewal of an existing feature this should be routine, and the marking refreshed when the road painting team was in the locality.

4. BRIDGE STREET MOULTON – REDUCED SPEED LIMIT

Following a request from a villager this has been logged with the local engineer to assess. Cllr Millar due for an update on how they suggest proceeding. A community speed watch check had been carried out recently which did not show that there was a particular issue here.

5. CHIPPENHAM ROAD

Following the mix up and confusion in mid-June Cllr Millar (see full report Pages 1246/7) had asked for an explanation why the information provided did not find its way to the teams. After the volume of correspondence that has been exchanged there should have been no

confusion over what was required from Suffolk Highways regarding the unblocking of the drain on Chippenham Road. Cllr Millar had visited the site in early June (the week before) with the engineer, showed him the drain and the clearance to gain access by the parish. It was agreed this would be logged, and the priority raised to reflect the flooding threat to properties on the East side of the road.

Cllr Millar had received no follow up but was pressing for an update on the planned next steps before the August break.

6. SCHOOL ROAD

An additional clean of the ditch behind the lay-by (into which the water discharges) has been ordered. This was following a site visit by Cllr Millar (again the Parish Council had not been invited to be present) on the 10th June (a very wet morning) when the drains were observed as running clear. The ditch clearance had first been requested by the Parish Council in December 2018.

Also, it had been reported that the School Road crossing warning marks outside the entrance need to be repainted, and the uneven road surface requires patching - a trip hazard.

The defects were drawn to Cllr Millar's attention on 19th March, accompanied by a photo and a request that this was treated as a matter of urgency. Also the Vice Chairman reported the defects under Reference Number 00236993 and the School Secretary under Reference Number 00236831. Subsequently the School had been advised that an officer had visited the site, assessed the defects and reported that these did not warrant remedial action. No direct contact had been made to the Parish Council.

Cllr Millar advised that as no response was forthcoming he eventually met with the engineer outside the school (no invitation had been received for a PC rep to attend as well). Cllr Millar advised that it turned out the site had been inspected, and in the opinion of the engineer no further action was needed - it fell within their guideline tolerances.

Cllr Millar was of the opinion that the communication could be improved and it was not the outcome the PC wanted, but it was not a breakdown of the system or an unreasonable response.

7. B1085 - RESURFACING

Recent resurfacing had been carried out - Cheveley Road to the end of the Dalham Road. It was proposed that the Council inquires when the white lines were due to be re-instated.

8. B1085 – SPEED LIMIT IMPLEMENTATION – SCHOOL TO KENTFORD

A traffic survey had been commissioned by Cllr Millar and funded from his locality budget. The Clerk had been advised in January that once the survey had been carried out the officer dealing with this would come back to the PC to ask for information to back up the case for an exception site on the grounds that

"To enhance the safety for vehicles, pedestrians including accompanied school children, parents with children in buggies and dogs on leads, cyclists, and riders on horse-back. Bloodstock from the adjoining Stud Farm cross this road twice a day and following a 300% rise in residential development in Kentford there is a significant increase in traffic generated by villagers from Kentford accessing the school, pre-school and other facilities in Moulton. The Parish Council has the support of Kentford PC, and the adjoining landowners who are particularly anxious to see a 30mph restriction as the incidence of speeding here has increased considerably over the past few years. A safer route along the B1085 would enable more villagers to walk between the villages, encourage pupils to walk to school instead of being transported by car, access the railway station on foot or bicycle, and a safer passage from public footpath No 4, which joins the B1085 resulting in pedestrians having to proceed

along the grass verge bordering the de-restricted, and at times highly dangerous, section of road due to speeding vehicles."

A report was then meant to go to senior Highways Officer Mark Stevens, and Portfolio Holder Mary Evans, which hopefully she would support and the extension to the speed limit could then be implemented. The PC did not accept the County Council's quote of £5,000 to £10,000 for implementation – and were of the view this was a figure pulled out of mid-air as a diversionary tactic.

Cllr Millar advised that he would endeavour to get an update before the August break, and the Clerk was instructed to go back to the Highways officer, Belinda Godbold, one of the team who had been asked in January to explore the options for implementing a safe pedestrian/cycle route along the B1085 from the School to Kentford.

9. A14 RESURFACING/LINING – it was reported by Cllr Millar that overnight works are scheduled on the A14 between Newmarket and Bury St Eds to resurface and reline stretches of carriageway. This is a continuation of the last set of works and overnight closures. County Councillors had pressed Highways England and the contractor Grahams for full closures to avoid the rat running through villages (in particular Barrow) that occurred last time. A14/A11 traffic will be restricted to A road diversions (principally through Thetford) but this will inevitably cause some local disruption.

Cllr Millar also reported - **The Greenest County** is the strategy of several years ago which was being refreshed to coincide with the recent debates on Climate Emergency.

Details of the **Green Access Strategy** had been circulated. The Council had been required to put together a plan which identified changes to improve the rights of way provision for walkers, cyclists, horse riders and those with mobility issues. Whilst the verge along the B1085 was not a designated public right of way, it was a well-used route by all of these groups, and it was suggested that the Clerk should enquire whether this strategy would help access the resources needed to provide a safe walkable/cycle route.

Safe Active Travel Plan – School to Kentford – David Chenery (Highways Officer) was meant to be drawing up a brief (In February) so that an estimate could be obtained for a feasibility study for a footway/cycle path. The Clerk reminded councillors that they had agreed that the suggested Quiet Lane along School Road was not an acceptable alternative. It was regretted that there had been no further update from the team exploring the options notwithstanding the support of the MP, both Moulton and Kentford Parish Councils, adjoining landowners, the School and villagers – backed up by petition.

For the record the Clerk was asked to minute the following updates on

Chippenham Road – following a parish working party on 1st June the vegetation had been cut back to expose the drainage pipe at the Carrot Wash site. Flowline had been unable to tackle the blockage from this side of the road in April as they had been unable to locate the pipe.

Following emails to the Highways Authority on 22/4 and 16/5 (unacknowledged) and Mr John Ford's letter of 5/5 – the Clerk had contacted Cllr Millar on 4th June suggesting that the County Council may not need to go to the expense of calling in a camera crew to locate the blockage now that the pipe could be accessed from both ends. A further request had been made for the Flowline Team to return at an early date with a grinding drill. It had been pointed out that Moulton had enthusiastically entered into the spirit of self-help and empowerment currently being promoted by the Highways Department.

With no prior notification Flowline appeared in Moulton on Tuesday 18th June having been instructed to attend the drains on School Road not Chippenham Road. The Clerk happened to be in the village and had directed the contractors to Chippenham Road. She pointed out that the pipe could now be accessed from the Carrot Wash site and arranged with Godolphin for the gate to be opened so that Flowline could work off road. The Flowline engineer advised that he had instructions to use a camera from the opposite side of the road and did not have a grinder to clear the blockage. As Flowline did not have instructions to go off road, they were not prepared to access the drainage pipe from the other end.

All the back-up information provided over the past few weeks had not been passed over to the relevant Highway officers, or if it had they had failed to act on it.

Amanda Mays – Asset Manager at the CC Highways office telephoned the Clerk later in the day to update her, and followed up with an email as follows:-

“The Flowline engineer reports that the jetting head got stuck fast today, this can be indicative of a collapsed pipe, and there was further evidence of a significant break or collapse allowing water out of the pipe as it was flowing up through the joint between the road surface and the kerb. He wasn’t able to get a CCTV image to absolutely confirm things but I think this gives us sufficient evidence of pipe damage and I am adding Chippenham Road to the long list for consideration for future planned drainage programmes.

Timescales for design and delivery of planned drainage works is rarely as quick as residents and parishes would like to see, but this is a step forward in working towards permanent repair. We currently have around 500 reported flooding sites across the county, but drainage works are often complex and expensive. The annual budgets generally only allows us to deliver 75 to 80 schemes per year. We do look at the severity of issues when new sites come into the drainage team, and Suffolk Highways aims to deal with the most serious incidents first. The priorities currently set out for us are as follows:-

1. Internal flooding to 5 or more properties, flooding to major infrastructure for 10 hours or more.
2. Internal flooding to less than 5 properties, flooding to external property, flooding to major roads.
3. All other flooding occurrences.”

No definitive timescale could be given for further works to be undertaken to the drainage system here – a further delay of probably 2-3 years.

WEIGHT RESTRICTION – ROAD BRIDGE, CHURCH ROAD

The County Council notification for the application to apply for a permanent 10 tonnes max gross weight restriction had been circulated.

SELF-HELP SCHEME was launched in May and was designed to support and empower Parish Councils to carry out minor maintenance tasks in their community

The types of works included:

- Sign cleaning
- Fingerpost cleaning/painting/repair
- Tree pruning/branch removal
- Hedge cutting/pruning
- Siding out of footways, or paths (widen back to original/full width)

- Grass verge cutting
- Weed killing/weed removal

Parishes would be able to carry out these tasks and more through one or more of the following four options:

1. Buying in services from contractors
2. Using your own trained employee(s)
3. Using volunteers to undertake work
4. Buying additional services from Suffolk Highways

Cllrs Clarke and Douglas James had attended a presentation and further information could be accessed via www.suffolk.gov.uk/communityselfhelp

Public Footpath No 6 - running from the stile outside the Churchyard past Filberry Haven and then to Gazeley Road, opposite the water pumping station. The new owner of Filberry Haven had installed a set of gates and a side pedestrian gate across the footpath. There was nothing to say that this was a public right of way and the Public Rights of Way officer had advised that the request for a signpost would be actioned as soon as practicable. Our area officer will also visit the footpath to make sure that the gates that have been installed meet our standards - customer reference number 00242647.

The Clerk was asked to circulate a list of footpaths within the Parish.

Community Speed Watch

Cllr James advised that due to other commitments there had been few speed watch sessions recently, although the police had been seen carrying out checks in the vicinity of Farriers Grange (Kentford) and on Newmarket Road.

OTHER COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS:-

Cllr Millar reported that the Family Hubs had reviewed the Children's Centres across the County. Just 2 out of 38 will close, some will be repurposed to meet local demand for nurseries and Special Education need provision. Others will become Family Hubs providing a wider service to whole families and 0-19 years, not just young children.

DISTRICT COUNCIL

The Chairman welcomed Cllr Dicker and closed the meeting so that he could give a brief update on current issues which included the ongoing plans for the development of the Mildenhall Hub and the scheme for a planned new Western Way Services Hub in Bury St Edmunds.

The meeting was reconvened and that Clerk reported:-

Maintenance of Public Open Spaces and Trees

The local authority grass cutting service for the second year running was being undertaken by an in-house team, and villagers and the Parish Council had again cause for concern at the poor standard of work. Having raised a complaint with the newly appointed Open Spaces Manager John Van Rheede Toas the Council had been advised that the standard of grass cutting was being monitored, and new work schedules had been created which would improve the service.

In addition one of the planting troughs on the junction of the Newmarket Road had been killed by the use of weed killing spray in the vicinity of the plants. At a site meeting with the Open Space Manager, he had confirmed that the operatives had been using the wrong nozzles on their sprays which had caused the damage. He undertook to replace the soil and plant up the container with summer bedding plants and advised that re-training of staff was in progress to avoid such incidents in the future.

The Clerk reminded councillors that the Parish Council was responsible for the green, playing field and riverbank. The District Council maintained the grass areas around the centre of the village including the grass outside the school on the junction between the B1085 and School Road, Newmarket Road junction, Bridge Street Road junction, St Peters Road junction etc as well as Lark Hill (the grass areas and the trees), Church Road (the green area opposite 20-30 Church Road and the trees), Tweed Close (the green areas behind 2-24 Benefield Road, and the trees) & the Maltings Close grass verges.

Cllr Dicker advised that the newly appointed Councillor for operations was Peter Stevens, and if there were any further issues the Council should ask him to intervene.

It was reported that as promised the planter on the Newmarket Road junction had been restocked with summer bedding plants and new compost, and the Clerk undertook to thank the Open Space Manager.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

DC/19/1139/TCA 22a The Street – to fell one diseased walnut tree. Details had been circulated. It was agreed that no further action was required.

Planning Determinations - Approved

15 Newmarket Road – creation of rooms in roof space and 2 dormer windows and Juliet balcony.

Lawn House – 16 The Street – partial change of use of ground floor to shop and change of use of first floor to bed & breakfast

RURAL PARISHES ALLIANCE

Land At Hatchfield Farm – following Bill Rampling's attendance at the Hearing, Liz Marchington from Herringswell PC, and on behalf of the RPA, had emailed advising that, as usual, Bill had spoken with conviction, promoting sequential sustainable development across the District, in an attempt to prevent the continued over development of the villages. Again it had been frustrating to hear so many representations from the Racing community, who still failed to acknowledge that the failings of our local plan had come about because of the High Court challenge they had initiated, resulting in the quashing of our local plan 9 years ago.

Meeting to discuss A14/A11 link - Cllrs John Derry and Tim James attended the meeting on 30th May. There was a discussion on how the representatives saw the traffic problems and challenges in their villages. It was agreed that they would substantiate the concerns by collating evidence.

Another meeting was being held on 30th July at St Mary's Kentford at 7pm.

Cllr Millar had subsequently reported that he was supporting Malcolm Baker (Kentford PC) to Chair this sub-group of the RPA concerned about the impact of rat running N bound between the W bound A14/N bound A11 and the S bound A11/E bound A14. He had had a

productive preliminary meeting with the Local Planning team in West Suffolk and a follow up meeting with SCC was being arranged.

Proposed solar farm in excess of 2000 acres on land in Worlington, Freckenham and adjoining villages in Cambridgeshire. A report detailing the proposals had been circulated. The Clerk asked for it to be placed on record that she was a Freckenham resident. The Chairman referred to Bill Rampling's email to RPA members on 15th March with outlined details of the 2 proposed solar farms

Whilst currently the scheme was being considered under a non-statutory public consultation, the original plan for 2,600 acres was still open to further negotiation and additional sites might be added, as well as the withdrawal on 1st July of land owned by Freckenham Estates. The Chairman pointed out that whilst Moulton would not be directly impacted by this scheme there were issues which all parishes may wish to consider. He suggested that Moulton councillors might be of the view that that the RPA should support the neighbouring villages and add Moulton's weight to the Community Action Group which had been formed to oppose the scheme of such magnitude on productive agricultural land. Government guidelines recommend that renewable energy schemes of this size should be located on brownfield sites. Should a precedent be set in these villages, other rural/agricultural communities will be at risk. It was viewed that greenfield sites should be protected for food production.

It was proposed and unanimously agreed that the Chairman would circulate an email to all the 14 other member villages of the RPA as follows:-

"I refer to Bill Rampling's email to RPA members dated 15th March with outline details of the 2 proposed solar farms planned to the south of Worlington/Freckenham and neighbouring villages in Cambridgeshire. At the time I do not think any of us were aware of the scale of these proposals.

Parishioners in the affected villages have formed a Community Action Group and are campaigning against the magnitude of the scheme and loss of over 2,000 acres of agricultural land.

Moulton Parish Council will be submitting a response to the non-statutory consultation which closes on 28th July supporting the Community Action Group in their opposition to the scheme, and would also be pleased to support the RPA in also opposing the proposal should the RPA as a whole be minded to lend its support to Freckenham and Worlington, as well as neighbouring villages of Snailwell and Chippenham.

We shall also be advising our District and County Council of our opposition to these proposals."

PLAYING FIELD

A representative from the Panthers Football Club was present to consider the matters under review relating to the use of the football pitch and renewal of the licences, along with Cllr Mark Price who represented the Veterans Club.

On 28th May the Chairman and Douglas James had met representatives from the Moulton football clubs and Kate & Richard James representing the village users to review football activities on the playing field and village green. Notes of the meeting had been circulated and it had been agreed that all parties needed to work together to deliver good working arrangements for the use of the village resources for football.

The Clerk was authorised to order urgent signage to be installed on all the gates leading into the Playing Field with the following wording.

GOAL POSTS

24/7 CCTV in operation.

Please respect the goals and surroundings

Do not climb on or try to move the goals

The goals will be checked and should be moved by **authorised persons** only.

Please report any issues to Moulton Parish Council moultonpc@gmail.com

It had been agreed that Cllr Douglas James and Richard James would repair the bolts on the goal posts, and once an anchor system had been devised and fitted to the base of the posts, they could be returned to the playing field, away from the main goal areas. Goals would be moved as required to prevent excessive wear and tear and would be taken out of action in wet conditions if the pitch was suffering undue wear or if misuse occurred. A goal inspection sheet was to be drawn up, and it was to be agreed who was to be responsible for moving (in and out of season) to prevent wear and tear.

There had been further reports of youths coming into the village from Newmarket to use Moulton's football facilities, and on one day the goal post had been moved. The Chairman was asked to intervene and he reported he had advised the visitors that moving the posts would put their future use in jeopardy. Cllr Douglas James had contacted Newmarket Councillor James Lay and had asked why there were no facilities in Newmarket. If provided it would then mean that the young would not have to travel to other villages to play football. He undertook to raise the issue at the next Council meeting.

Copies of the draft licences had been circulated and the Council was asked to consider the terms and agree the licence fees for the forthcoming season.

In addition it was pointed out that the goals, nets and fittings should confirm to BS EN 748 and the use of the goals posts should meet the provisions of the Code of Practice BS8461.

Goals must be anchored at all times

- Moving the posts should only be done by trained, authorised people
- Goals should be stored properly (when not on the field for match or village use), locked together using the locks provided (to be kept in the football shed)
- The goals will be checked on a regular basis by a Parish Council representative
- The goals must be inspected by a Club representative at the start and finish of play, and at the finish of play an inspection record sheet completed, signed and dated (to be kept in the football storage shed)

A copy of a goal post safety manual had been sent by email to the Football Club representative and circulated to all councillors.

Last year a fee of £40 was made for the annual licence fee and a contribution of £50 per football team was requested to go towards the cost of maintenance and upkeep of the pitch.

It was proposed, seconded and agreed that there should be no change to the current charges, but these would be reviewed at the Budget meeting later in the year for the following season. The Clerk had re-issued the amended licences as approved and these were signed and countersigned at the meeting.

VILLAGE MAINTENANCE

Play Equipment – details of the latest monthly inspection report had been circulated.

There was some evidence of algae and moss on the wooden seats and tables, and rot in the timber of the gate and fencing to the side entrance by the recycling centre. The frame to the 2 Bay 4 Seat cradle swings also needed to be treated and repainted and would be included in a parish maintenance session.

Working Party – fixed for Saturday 24th August. Various matters would be added to the list including clearing the drainage gullies of silt on School Road, investigating the blockage on the Carrot Wash site end of the drain, following a request for the ditch to be cleared by the landowner, and maintenance in the playground.

Condition of the metal railings of bridge over the river at Church Street – had been noted as in poor condition, posts rusted and flaking paint and logged under Code 637 Ref 42/01 and a request has been put forward for the works to be undertaken by the County Council. It was viewed that there was little hope of this being done in the foreseeable future.

Tree belt adjacent to playing field - it was proposed that further work should be done on the tree belt between playing field and village green in the autumn. It was proposed that another inspection should be carried out to check that the trees were of no risk to the public and Cllr Price was asked to see if his Father, who carried out the previous assessment for the Council would be able to do so again.

Village Green – a villager had drawn attention to nuisance parking around the Green in particular by group of youths coming to the village make use of the football facilities. In addition the question of drinkers walking out of the pub premises onto the Green during the summer months and the risk of glasses being left on the green or on the pub window ledges had been raised.

The Parishioner had been advised that these concerns would be monitored, as well as anti-social behaviour and risks due to stray balls, litter etc.

The riverbank – Ken Hutchinson had carried out the spring cut. The Chairman pointed out that as usual another cut would be undertaken later in the year. The Chairman and Cllr Douglas James were authorised to arrange this and the Clerk effect payment on completion.

Overhanging hedges and weeds – an email had been sent to the Chairman reporting the overhanging leylandii hedge on the corner of Dalham Road/St Peters Avenue which had been allowed to encroach over part of the footway. It was viewed not to be a problem at the current time, and in any event it was understood that the owner was considering removing the hedge. Also it was reported that there was significant weed growth from the property adjacent to the footway at the junction of St Peters Avenue/Close, at the junction of B1085/Mayes Meadow. The Council members were asked whether they considered that it was necessary to take action or if, so long as there was not a danger to the public or significant encroachment, this should be left to the owners/occupiers to deal as they deemed appropriate. It was unanimously resolved to take no further action at this time.

Dog Bin request – on the Footpath No 4 leading from the Packhorse Bridge along the riverbank to the B1085. The Clerk was asked to request if a new dog bin could be provided and located in the gateway by the verge on the B1085 where the footpath joins the public highway.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

Payment of Accounts - the Council confirmed and authorised the payment of the accounts presented at the meeting, as per the list detailing payments for the 2019/2020 financial year previously circulated and attached to the minute book.

Audit of Accounts –The Clerk/RFO advised that the annual return had been sent off to the external auditors PKF, & the period for the exercise of public rights had been published, running from 03/6/19 to 12/7/19.

On receipt of the conclusion of audit notice payment of the audit fee was authorised.

Outstanding Insurance Claim – despite many chase ups by the Clerk no progress had been made in settlement of the claim, and the Vice Chairman undertook to investigate why it was taking so long.

Draft Minutes – to consider publication of minutes on village website. Councils were now publishing the unapproved minutes following the meeting, rather than waiting to publish after approval at the next meeting. It was unanimously agreed that this policy should be adopted by Moulton PC.

SUFFOLK ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

Receipt of E-bulletins which had been previously circulated was noted.

The recently co-opted members had attended a councillor briefing session. Further courses were published on the weekly E-bulletin, and councillors were encouraged to look at the details and consider whether they would like to attend one of the specialist sessions on a variety to different topics.

SUNDRY CORRESPONDENCE

A request from a young villager had been circulated. He was suggesting that the Council consider the installation of a skate park for the young (and not so young) for fun and fitness. The young man offered to raise some money.

Councillors considered the request and were of the view that the play area had equipment to meet the requirements of children of all ages and was well equipped.

In September 2017 the question had been raised and considered. The potential cost would be in the region of £30,000. (2 estimates of £15K and £30K for the list price of skate park equipment were quoted). Before such a scheme could be considered the Parish Council would need to know if there was sufficient interest to consider long term plans. In some villages Community Skate Park Groups were formed by a number of residents and they were responsible for raising a significant amount of the money needed before the council would be in a position to start planning such a scheme. It had been decided then that the scale of investment was beyond the scope of a single Parish, however it could be possible for the District Council to help fund a project, but it would be necessary to get the agreement of a number of parishes and then to find a suitable site.

It was unanimously agreed that there was not a suitable location within the village, the Council had already provided a varied, well stocked and well supported play area, and it would not be possible to consider the request for a skate park. The Clerk was asked to contact the young man and offer apologies that his suggestion could not be actioned at the present time.

QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN

The Village Hall Management Committee had planning permission to build an extension for storage facilities. It was suggested that the Chairman should write to the Committee and request that when the extension was complete (probably by the end of the year) that the room adjacent to the kitchen, which had previously been earmarked as an office and storeroom for the Parish Council, should revert to the original purpose as agreed under the terms of the redevelopment scheme. On completion of the building works it would therefore be helpful if it could be vacated and cleared and handed over to the Council. The future management of the PC would be under review early next year as it was the Clerk's intention to retire at the end of June 2020, and by that date it may well be necessary to have office and storage facilities at the Hall, currently provided by the Clerk in her own home.

Public Participation in Meetings – it was suggested that an item was added inviting members of the public to speak on any item within the Agenda (for a maximum time to be agreed by the Chairman at the start of the meeting – subject to length of agenda, and number in attendance). It was unanimously agreed to ask the Clerk to include this extra item on the next agenda.

Mr John Ford asked if it were possible to give a short presentation at the next meeting on a proposed green strategy for public transport locally and the need to expand rail service at Kennett.

The next meeting of the Council was fixed for Monday 16th September at 6.30 at the School. There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.05 pm.

Signed *David Almond*

Date *16/9/2019*