

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 12th October 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:

John Ford

Lorraine Stone (Previous Clerk)

Two other members of the public were in attendance

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

Cllr Tim James in relation to item 6 on the Agenda - Newmarket Road Planning Application due to his property directly facing the application.

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

No comments were made

3. Approval of Minutes (previously circulated) of meeting held on 01/09/2020

Minutes from the previous meeting held on 01/09/2020 were remotely approved as a correct and true record by the Chairman

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

- **Update on B1085 safety project to extend the 40-mph limit with a buffer zone as a precursor to a funded safe walkable/cycle route**

SCC Cllr Andy Drummond confirmed he was able to offer MPC £5,000 towards the buffer zone proposal. MPC have previously been quoted a price of £9,320 for this project. Clerk has been in contact with David Cherney from Highways and has tried to get an up to date price confirmed. It was reported that David Chenery was still waiting for the official costs to be sent through to him, but he offered the opinion that some costs may have reduced since the previous quote was given, but to keep in mind some costs are likely to have risen. It was expected the buffer zone final cost is likely to be around the same figure previously estimated. SCC Cllr Andy Drummond added that he has been in contact with Luke Cheadle, Parliamentary Assistant for MP Lucy Frazer at East Cambridgeshire. It has been discussed that East Cambridgeshire are introducing several Cycle Routes in the county. The intention is to connect all local villages and establish a route into Cambridge. There is likely to be support for Cycle Routes in Suffolk to join up with Cambridgeshire and connect all local villages together. There is a good chance that a Cycle Route from Moulton to Kentford would be approved. Once we have this cycle route, and also the buffer zone in place, we can apply for the speed reduction for the whole length of the B1085.

It was clarified that the cost of £9320 is for a 40mph Speed Limit along part of the B1085, from Moulton school to the footpath only. The cost does not include the cycle route or a path. MPC were uncertain about the cost for only a short distance. SCC Cllr Andy Drummond advised that due to elections fast approaching, there

is a risk that funding may be removed on any projects that yet to be accepted, he urged MPC to take him up on the offer while the opportunity for financial assistance was still there. MPC were reluctant to fund the remaining cost this project without any commitment or reassurance from Highways that the cycle route will definitely go ahead and in turn the speed limit will be reduced for the remainder of the road. It was felt that Kentford would be reluctant to pay half as this buffer only stretches to the footpath in Moulton. Kentford would not have any real benefit and it seemed unlikely they would be willing to help fund Moulton. All Cllr's would support the proposal if there was a guarantee in place. With so much uncertainty, as it currently stands, Moulton wanted to say thank you very much to SCC Cllr Andy Drummond for his offer of funding, but felt unable to accept and go ahead at this time.

- **RESOLUTION** - *Chairman to discuss Kentford PC contribution to costs with Kentford PC chairman*

➤ **Update on outstanding issues including the need to establish a better line of communication**

Moulton Clerk has tried to contact Lloyd Jones. It is understood that Lloyd is the contact at Highways that is able to keep MPC updated on all reported Highway Issues. A bounce-back email has been received to say Lloyd Jones will be on leave until Tuesday 13th October.

- **RESOLUTION** - *Clerk to contact Lloyd Jones after Tuesday 13th October to try and establish a good line of communication for all current and future Highways issues.*

➤ **Public footpaths and footways**

No comments were made

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

➤ **Update on repairs to Benefield Road garage block**

Repairs to the gutter and drains on the Garage block at Benefield Road were due to take place on 14th September. Unfortunately this did not go ahead, Clerk received an email today (12.10.2020) from WSDC Maintenance Company. It was explained that the work has been re-scheduled due to an increase in emergencies which typically occur at this time of year. The gutter and drain repairs are booked for 5th November AM.

- **RESOLUTION** - *All Cllr's to keep an eye on this and ensure the work is carried out as requested*

➤ **Community Chest Funding**

An email was circulated regarding 'Community Chest Funding' from WSDC. This funding supports voluntary and community groups which contribute towards the families and community strategy of improving the lives of local people. It was felt MPC currently do not have any community projects which would qualify for this funding. It was asked whether the potential purchase of football nets, which are due to be discussed under item 7 of the Agenda might fall under this criteria

- **RESOLUTION** - *Clerk to enquire further into the Community Chest Funding available from WSDC and whether the purchase of football nets for Moulton Community Playing Field, or any other village project, would fall under this scheme.*

6. Planning matters including

➤ **Applications received since the publication of the Agenda**

One application has been received since the Agenda was circulated (**DC/20/1697/TPO**). This application relates to an Oak Tree located on 'The Street, Moulton'. The application is for a reduction of 5 meters (25%). MPC were aware of this tree and all Cllr's agreed it required attention.

- **RESOLUTION** - *Clerk to respond to the application with 'No comments'*

➤ **To confirm recent planning determinations**

No applications were showing as determined on WSDC portal at the time of the meeting.

➤ ***ADDITION* Newmarket Road planning application - DC/20/1331/HH**

Clerk reported to MPC that no comments were currently showing on the WSDC portal page for this application. Cllr Tim James declared his interest at the beginning of the meeting on this item. He felt it was important to make MPC aware that after viewing the application documents in greater detail, he has noticed the scale of this proposal appears incorrect on the plans. Comparing the plans to the neighbouring property, the perspective seems out of sync and the development it doesn't appear to line up. It was suggested that more accurate plans should be declared. If the application is updated with new drawings this would only be classed as an amendment.

Cllr Jane Horsnell had picked up on a detail within the application. The applicant had responded 'No' to the question about whether the work would be seen from the street. It is thought this must be a mistake due to the location of the property and the front extension which has been proposed, the answer to this question is thought to be 'Yes'.

Cllr John Derry wanted to raise an opinion that it would have been nice to see an environmental gain in the application. Any environmental benefit is always welcomed when planning proposals are submitted, it would have been an advantage to see something incorporated in the plans, but there does not seem to be any benefit from an environmental point of view. If anything, there appears to be a decrease in benefit due to the proposed length which extends into the garden.

- **RESOLUTION** - Clerk to submit a response on behalf of MPC including the three points picked up by Cllrs. (Drawings do not appear to be to scale, work visible from the road and the lack of an environment gain incorporated). Overall there is no objection to the application.

➤ **Local Plan Issues & Options (consultation 13/10– 22/12/20 for the provision of houses and employment to 2040 in the light of environment and climate change) and the ongoing reform of the planning system**

The Planning Working Group have reached the conclusion that a Moulton Neighbourhood Plan would not be worth the manhours involved, there does not appear to be a great benefit in having one in place. It would absorb a vast amount of time and potentially would not protect Moulton against future development.

WSDC Local Plan is now open for consultation. The plan had been discussed at a previous District Council Meeting and members of Moulton Planning Working Group had been able to use these documents, which were made publicly available ahead of MPC meeting, to look at the proposal in more detail before the consultation opened. After reviewing the plans, attention should be given in particular to Section 3. This section explains the proposal to determine areas in the county into 'settlements'. For example, in the plans they explain 'Key Service Sites' will be like areas such as Red Lodge. There are a total four different types of settlements in the plans which include Key Service Centres, Local Service Centres, Type A Villages and Type B Villages. In WSDC Local Plan Moulton is classified a Key Service Centre. This is downgraded from the 'Type A village' 'infill' category which Forest Health had previously considered Moulton to be. If the WSDC Local Plan is approved, and Moulton is given the new status of a 'local service centre', there is the potential that future housing developments may automatically being designated to Moulton without the consideration which had been previously given.

After reviewing Appendix three in greater detail, it appears the whole document seems disingenuous, they have failed to mention important details about each of the local villages which may have made a difference to the status level they have been given. The plans also include a proposal to set up a completely new village. It is important to consult with the local residents in Moulton so MPC can decide on the appropriate response to the Consultation. We should get the opinions and views of parishioners to get a clear understanding on the general feel of the village. Residents may decide that they would welcome future development and would like the village to grow. Another point to consider will be the new Government Planning system which grades areas in one of three groups (Growth, Renew and Protect). Once this new system has been implemented, the requirement for local consultation is greatly reduced, if required at all. MPC were interested to know why WSDC had been classified Moulton in this way in the plans. SCC Cllr Andy Drummond explained that on page 30 in the Settlements document, it lists how it measured each village and shows the justification for the changes. Cllr Roger Dicker (WSDC) responded to say that any response we submit will have more weight if it is backed by evidence, Cllr Roger Dicker encouraged MPC to obtain the views and general feel of Moulton residents as this would be classed as evidence and would have to be looked at and considered. Kentford has recently had a development of new houses in the village and Cllr Roger Dicker was of a personal opinion that for any future housing developments should be given to Newmarket rather than the villages. Newmarket has the infrastructure to cope with additional housing and developments.

The plan and changes are proposed by *Officers* at West Suffolk District Council. The changes have to be approved by *WSDC Councillors*

- **RESOLUTION** - Cllr John Derry suggested to come up with a plan and try to do a leaflet drop to ensure all residents in Moulton are aware of the plans and MPC can gain an opportunity to hear the village opinion. Leaflets could go to the village shop and information can be uploaded to the website. There is the potential to arrange a village zoom meeting too to explain in greater detail what this Local Plan Proposal would mean for Moulton and listen to residents' responses and answer any questions. Cllr John Derry was granted a budget of 500 pounds to make some leaflets and to organise community involvement to gain an opinion from Local Moulton residents. Once

we have a clear idea of how Moulton feels about these plans, we can formulate an appropriate response to the WSDC Local Plan.

- *All Cllr's to help where possible*
- *Once the village views have been established, the PC can lobby WSDC councillors accordingly*

➤ **Update from Planning Working Group on the Sunnica Solar Panel consultation**

An email has recently been sent to MPC from Cllr Andrew Douch at Freckenham PC asking for support from all local parishes. Cllr John Derry and PC Clerk attended a remote meeting via Zoom which was held by Sunnica representatives on 21st September. This meeting took place before the Statutory Consultation opened on 22nd September. Sunnica appear to have changed the plans and stepped back from the village boundaries. The plans show that they have compensated this step back by overfilling into Isleham Village. It would appear that they are not willing to reduce the overall size of the development. MPC should look at supporting Freckenham PC and the other local villages, just like we would want to be supported if something was to happen in Moulton. It was noted that Freckenham PC had made some good points in the letter which was circulated explaining their concerns on the development.

- **RESOLUTION** - *All agreed to support the neighbouring villages, and we should decide on the best way to do this. The Sunnica Statutory Consultation is open so a response could be submitted from MPC. Clerk and Cllr John Derry to investigate an appropriate way MPC can support neighbouring villages.*

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

Vice Chair Mark Price has been in contact with Cllr Roger Dicker (WSDC) about potential available funding for the shelters which are being proposed for the council's consideration. Vice Chair Mark Price is waiting for an application form and will update MPC once he has more information and a response on what funding is available for this project.

- **RESOLUTION** - *No further comments.*

➤ **Football Nets**

The boundary of the playing field needs improving. Several footballs have been going into a resident's garden behind the zip wire. Chairman has been in touch with the resident who has expressed an interest in contributing towards any solution MPC can present to prevent this from happening. Alan Sheldrick, who is communicating between MPC and the Football clubs, had sent suggestions of a possible net. The net structure involves three semi-permanent posts and a pulley system, this allows the net to be raised when games are in play. The estimated cost is around £2,000 plus VAT. More accurate figures can be obtained if MPC decides to go ahead and enquire further. Vice Chair Mark Price advised that this type of net has been installed at a site in Hemingford Grey. It was installed for the same purpose to stop footballs, however, it is not efficient, and footballs still go over the net and it has not solved the problem. Cllr Doug James noticed trellises has been put up which he thought looked nice and, it was felt that this is a positive step in trying to resolve this problem. There is a concern if nets are installed it gives the impression of a football pitch and MPC have already agreed this field is not just used for football. If a permanent structure is put in place, we should be wary of encouraging children to climb on the equipment.

- **RESOLUTION** - *Chairman David Almond, Vice Chair Mark Price and Cllr Doug James to arrange to meet with the resident and discuss all options in greater detail.*

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

➤ **Licences**

Licences have been issued out to all those who use the field and green and waiting for all payments to be received back. A question was raised of who has been issued a Licence for Saturday mornings as there seem to be a great deal of cars in the area during this time. It was determined that the only Licences which have been issued on Saturday at this time was a Yoga Class and football training sessions.

- **RESOLUTION** - *Clerk to remind all Licence holders on responsible parking in the village*

➤ **Track Maintenance**

The residents who were issued with the village green maintenance charge have responded with payments. The planned repair of the track should be booked to go ahead as previously discussed and planned.

- **RESOLUTION** - *Cllr Doug James will be in touch with Bill Rampling to order the plainings for the track.*

9. Village Maintenance including play equipment, update following 19/9 litter pick and working party, dog fouling, the riverbank, trees, and hedgerows

➤ **Play Equipment**

The risk assessment from the playground equipment has been received and emailed to all Cllrs. Everything appeared reasonable with nothing that needed urgent attention. Cllrs have kept on top of the maintenance and fixed any problems as and when they occurred.

It was confirmed the Zip Wire would require a maintenance check after five years. To give guidance to the new clerk, the Zip wire was installed in 2017/2018.

The front straps had broken on two the baby swings, replacement straps have been ordered and when they arrive the swings will be fixed. Once it is deemed safe, from a Covid-19 point of view, and all the swings are allowed back on the frame, we will have a full set of four

- **RESOLUTION** - *Baby Swings to be fixed once the replacement front straps are delivered*

➤ **Dog signs**

Discussions had taken place over email during the month on this issue. Conversations were about the potential need for dog fouling signs in the village. It was questioned whether or not we feel dog fouling is a problem and whether we require signs. It was thought the issue is no worse than usual. There are still occasions when owners 'bag and leave' but there is no real need for dog signs at the moment.

- **RESOLUTION** - *Dog Fouling signs are not required at this time. Can review if issue worsens.*

➤ **Riverbank**

Ken Hutchinson has been contacted about the Autumn cut back on the riverbank, this is booked for next week. Whilst viewing the riverbank in preparation for the cut back work, a dip was noticed in the bank which might cause problems for Ken. Cllr Doug James has built this section back up to ensure safety while the work next week is taking place. There appears to be some new vegetation growing in the area that will be included in the cut back next week

- **RESOLUTION** - *Riverbank is booked next week with Ken Hutchinson for Autumn maintenance*

10. Memorial wayside seats and benches

Bench policy as follows:

- *Must have a concrete base and seats secured. - Cllr Doug James is able to do this*
- *The PC must pre-approve the design, location, and costs*
- *The requestor is responsible for future maintenance and repair costs*
- *The PC reserves the right to re-locate seats at any time, or dispose of a seat that is not being maintained*

It was suggested that any future benches should be located with the line of trees along the bottom section. All Cllr's agreed, MPC will adopt this policy on benches which are donated to Moulton.

- **RESOLUTION** - *MPC Bench Policy should be explained when responding to enquires about benches and ensure the bench policy is enforced on any future bench donations.*

11. Finance & Administration including

➤ **Payment of Accounts and grant aid**

Payment schedule has been circulated to Cllrs. Clerk updated on four additional payments to be processed since the schedule was sent out. Payments due include; HMRC, SALC Payroll, CRC Pest Control and Zoom for the monthly subscription. The current schedule and additional payments were approved by all Cllr's.

Online banking for MPC has been investigated but details still need to be clarified and more information is required. Details are still needed on the procedure and exactly how this is planned to work in practice.

- **RESOLUTION** - *Clerk will update MPC Finance Working Group once more information is known about the Online Banking procedure*

➤ **To confirm receipt of bank reconciliation**

The bank reconciliation was circulated ahead of the meeting. All approved with no comments.

➤ **To fix the date for the December meeting of the Finance Group**

The Finance Group are due to meet in December, the time of after 4pm was proposed. Potential dates will be circulated to be agreed on by the Finance Group members.

- **RESOLUTION** - *Clerk to circulate dates for consideration*

- **To confirm the handover of the management of the Council and to appoint the new RFO and Proper Officer**
Chairman announced the management of the council had officially handed over to the new Clerk who was also the Proper Officer and RFO.

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

Various emails from SALC have been circulated since the last meeting date. These include; E-bulletins, Training Events (remote training), Additional information on the white paper planning documents and information on the NHS test and trace App. All councillors acknowledged receipt

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

Road sweeper has been requested but it is unsure whether they have attended Moulton yet.
Email from 'Headway' seeking donations. It was discussed that we should stick to agreed donation companies to save confusion. The finance group should discuss and decide on who to donate to.
The 'Quiet Road Scheme' email has been circulated. Brookside was a popular choice and should be nominated. however it's unclear exactly what the Quiet Road scheme entails and what benefit it would be for the village.

- **RESOLUTION** - *Clerk to investigate Quiet Road Scheme further. Brookside and possibly Bridge Street would be a good potential for this scheme.*

14. Questions to the Chairman and urgent business

No questions were raised for the Chairman.

WSDC Cllr Roger Dicker explained he had sent MPC an email this evening about EDF and an Air Source Heat Pump proposal. An online Zoom meeting will be held on the 21st of October for Moulton to attend where further details will be given. This is Moulton's chance to take up this offer on clean renewable energy if we have any interest.

- **RESOLUTION** – *Cllr John Derry and Clerk to publicise the Zoom meeting in the village and circulate all information as it becomes available.*

One of the resident who was attending the meeting wanted to take the opportunity to say thank you for all the hard work MPC has done, and is continuing to do, on behalf of Moulton village. The resident expressed that he was happy to help MPC in any way possible and has a keen interest on the work which is taking place.

15. Update on the ongoing Covid pandemic

Nothing new to report on this situation. The village COVID phone has not rung since the last meeting. However it's best to keep the current system in place in case lockdown becomes more restricted.

- **RESOLUTION** - *Keep all measures in place and continue to monitor the situation*

16. To fix the date of the next meeting

Agreed 6pm Monday 7th December. - Zoom or face to face to be confirmed nearer the date

Previous Clerk of Moulton Parish Council, Lorraine Stone, thanked everyone for the Flowers, card and vouchers which were gratefully received. All PC's wished Lorraine well and good luck for the future.

SIGNED:
(Chairman)

X

David Almond
Chairman

DATE: