

MOULTON PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 22nd March 2021

Councillors present: David Almond (Chair), Mark Price (Vice Chair) Doug James, Jane Horsnell, John Derry, Tim James, David Clarke, Ryan Bragg and Ed Chambers,

Also present: Joanne Kirk (Clerk), District Councillor Roger Dicker and 3 members of the public.

1. Appointment of Joanne Kirk to act as temporary clerk for the meeting

It was resolved that Joanne Kirk would act as clerk for the meeting.

2. Acceptance of apologies for absence

County Councillor Andy Drummond sent his apologies.

3. Approval of minutes of the meeting held on Monday 18th January 2021

It was resolved that the minutes were correct. The chairman then signed them.

4. Declaration of Interest in items on the agenda and dispensation requests

Doug James declared a pecuniary interest in item 13 on the agenda – the village maintenance contract. Mark Price and John Derry declared a non-pecuniary interest in items 11c and 9b on the agenda respectively. No dispensation requests were received.

5. Open session

The Chairman paused the meeting to give members of the public an opportunity to speak to councillors. The following issues were raised:

- Damage to verge and road between Boys Grave and the A11 which has been reported to Cambridgeshire County Council.

6. County Councillor's Report

County Councillor Andy Drummond had sent a written report prior to the meeting.

7. District Councillor's Report

District Councillor Roger Dicker sent a written report prior to the meeting. The following issues were included in the report:

- The deadline of 31st March for West Suffolk council (WSC) business grants is fast approaching. So far 95 million pounds of help has been given in the district.
- Extra help is being organised for rough sleepers. Extra supported accommodation and personalised healthcare is to be offered.
- Forest Heath council offices in Mildenhall are now being used as an extra vaccination centre.
- Mildenhall Hub is set to begin its phased opening from 24th May. It will house a new school, a gym, a library, health services and council offices all under one roof. A large battery was delivered to the Hub which will supply the power for the building.
- WSC's campaign to help and give advice to communities to stop dog fouling. In some areas of Red Lodge there has been a 90% decrease with the use of posters etc in selected areas.
- Two weeks ago WSC set its council tax at 7.1%. for the old Forest Heath area whilst the rise for the former St Edmundsbury Borough Council is only 0.8% rise. This is to harmonise both band D levels. Roger Dicker and all the other independent Forest Heath councillors voted against the increase, along with the St Eds labour group. All the Conservative councillors voted for the 7.1% rise.

8. Finance

a) Approval of any payments

It was resolved that the following payments would be approved.

- Suffolk County Council – Street light maintenance and energy costs from 01-04-2020 to 31-03-2021 – Parish Council's Act 1957, s3 - **£1,372.77**
- CPRE – Annual donation – S137 – **£36.00**

- K Hutchinson and Son – flail riverbanks – Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 and 10 - **£408.00**
- SALC Payroll Service – LGA 1972 – S111 – **£54.00**
- Packhorse Fencing – maintenance contract – supply of posts and playground inspections – Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 and 10 - **£696.18**
- Staff costs and consultancy fees for preparing year-end accounts – as per confidential cash book

Payments made since the last meeting

- Staff costs
- D Haird – Planings for riverbank near the Church - Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 and 10 - £422.93

b) Confirmation of the latest bank reconciliation as of 9th February 2021

Current account	£3,115.85
Deposit account	£76,300.80
Less unrepresented cheques	£1,555.72
Total	£77,860.93

c) Confirmation of the effectiveness of the Council's internal audit and financial controls

It was resolved that the Internal Audit Report for the year ending 31st March 2021 would be approved.

d) Email from UK Power Networks re Wayleave payments

UK Power Networks has given two options for future wayleave payments:

- **Option 1 – A 15 Year Termed Wayleave Agreement**
In exchange for granting UK Power Networks a fixed 'Termed Wayleave' a one-off payment of **£220.00** would be made.
- **Option 2 – Annual Wayleave Agreement (12 months):** In exchange for granting an annual agreement, UK Power Networks will make an annual payment equivalent, at today's rate, of **£21.99**. The first payment will be due on the first anniversary of the agreement being completed.

It was resolved that the Council would choose option 2. The clerk was asked to notify UK Power Networks of this decision.

9. Planning issues

a) DC/21/0368/HH - Spinney Mead, Moulton Rd, Moulton - a. pitched roof to two existing dormers on front elevation b. single storey rear extension c. cladding to first floor on all elevations

It was resolved that no objections would be made to this application.

b) DC/21/0491/TCA – 22A, The Street, fell one Alder

It was resolved that no objections would be made to this application.

c) DC/21/0277/OUT – 19 Newmarket Road, Moulton - outline planning application (means of access, appearance, layout and scale to be considered) - one dwelling and access (following demolition of existing garage)

It was resolved that the Parish Council would submit the following comment to West Suffolk Council:

The Parish Council is unable to submit a response as the information provided is inaccurate. There is an existing extension which is not included on the block plan and there will be insufficient space for the proposed dwelling. The Parish Council recommends a site visit.

d) Applications received since the publication of this agenda

No applications have been received.

e) To confirm recent planning determinations

John Derry agreed to keep the Parish Council updated about recent planning determinations as the weekly planning lists are no longer updated by West Suffolk Council.

f) Updates and additional information on Moulton Pre-school - new location required

There is nothing to update at present.

g) Local Plan update

The next stage of the Local Plan is the Preferred Options consultation which will take place from January – March 2022.

10. Highways/Rights of Way issues/tree/transport issues

a) **Drainage and hedge work 6 Bridge Street**

It was resolved that the Council would monitor the progress of the work.

b) **Village hall tree**

Moulton Parish Council has the consent to fell the tree. It was resolved that the Doug would speak to Bill Rampling about felling the tree. The clerk agreed to check with the Parish Council's insurers about any health and safety requirements for the work due to its location on the playing field and proximity to the village hall.

c) **Speeding outside the primary school and in Newmarket Road**

It was resolved that this item would be deferred. The clerk was asked to contact County Councillor Andy Drummond to register the Parish Council's interest in Suffolk County Council's ANPR scheme. Tim James agreed to provide information about suitable locations.

d) **Potholes in Brookside**

These have been reported online to Suffolk County Council.

e) **Grit bins**

The grit bins in Moulton need topping up. It was resolved that Mark Price would request a top up via Suffolk County Council's online reporting tool.

f) **Maintenance of the footpath from Larkhill to The Street**

It was resolved that the clerk would contact Suffolk County Council's Rights of Way Officer about the footpath and ask if it could be improved and if not the Parish Council would investigate the cost of planings to improve the footpath. Doug James agreed to speak to the parishioner who has expressed an interest in carrying out repairs using materials provided by the PC.

g) **Dog fouling and provision of dog bins**

Tim James agreed to include an article about dog fouling in the next newsletter.

11. Village issues:

a) **Approval of the extension to the football pitch licences 2021/22 for the Moulton Panthers and Vets**

It was resolved that the football licenses would be extended until 27th June 2021. Mark Price agreed to let Moulton Panthers and Vets know.

b) **Latest inspection report**

The following issues were raised in the report:

- Lift and reglue tiles around spring seesaw to secure.
- Put the missing swings back when safe to do so

It was resolved that the clerk would contact Tim Ghee at West Suffolk Council to find out if he would be able to glue them down.

c) **Proposal for a covered bench for the playing field near the football pitch**

Funding has been secured to cover 50% of the cost of a covered bench alongside the football pitch on the playing field. The Parish Council has been asked if they would fund the remaining 50% of the cost which equates to £2,500 plus ongoing maintenance.

It was resolved that the clerk and Mark Price would produce an article for the Moulton website, village Facebook page and some posters to display in the village. The final decision will be made at a future meeting.

d) **Renewal of West Suffolk Council's playing field Service Level Agreement**

It was resolved that the agreement would be renewed.

e) **Licence for the use of the playing field for yoga and contact details for the yoga group.**

It was resolved that the yoga group classes would be allowed on the village green or the park (Queen Elizabeth playing field) at the back of the Village Hall, subject to COVID regulations and social distancing measures, from 12th April until end of September on the following days:

- Mondays 6 - 7:30pm
- Thursdays Between 10am-midday
- Thursdays 6-7:30pm
- Occasional Saturday/Sunday mornings between 9-11am

The cost will be £25 a quarter. The clerk was asked to contact the yoga group to confirm this and provide a copy of the proforma template.

- f) **Email from Vivo Outdoor Fitness re restarting outdoor fitness sessions – received after publication of agenda**
Vivo Outdoor Fitness would like to resume our classes as per the previous arrangement. The classes will be an hour long on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 9:45 and will run all year round with a maximum of 30 people. As previously, they will change the area they use to minimise wear and tear.

It was resolved that the clerk would contact Vivo Outdoor Fitness to confirm that the Parish Council is happy to continue with arrangement subject to compliance with COVID regulations and social distancing measures and payment of the normal quarterly licence fee.

12. Issues relating to the River Kennett, flooding and riverbanks

a) **Flood signs**

The depth sign has been resited into a position where the gauge is more accurate. It was resolved that no further action would be taken.

13. Review of the village maintenance contract

Doug James left the meeting as he had declared a pecuniary interest. It was resolved that the village maintenance contract would be renewed for a further 3 years with the rate to increase in line with the RPI.

14. Correspondence:

a) **Email from Beck Row Parish Council about the possibility of forming a new Parish Group**

It was resolved that John Derry would join the group on behalf of the Parish Council.

b) **Email from CAS re membership renewal**

It was resolved that the CAS membership would be renewed.

c) **Email from two residents about the possibility of setting up a wildlife project similar to in Risby**

It was resolved that:

- The Parish Council would support a wildlife project and tree planting in principle.
- The clerk would be asked to draft a wildlife policy ready for discussion at the next with a view to forming a wildlife group
- The clerk would contact the residents and ask if they would be willing to produce a proposal for the Annual Parish Meeting.

15. Questions for the Council and any urgent business

No questions were asked.

16. Confirmation of date of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council and the Annual Parish Meeting.

Remote meetings are only allowed until 7th May. After that face-to-face meetings will have to take place which follow COVID guidelines. It was resolved that the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council and the Annual Parish Meeting would take place in Moulton Village Hall and if that is not possible then via Zoom.

17. Any other business for noting or including on the next agenda

There has been some surface water flooding between Moulton and Kentford due to blocked grips. Mark Price has reported them to Suffolk County Council who have said that no action would be taken. It was resolved that he would contact Andy Drummond to ask him if he could refer this back to Highways.

18. Resolution to exclude press and public under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960: the public and press be excluded for the remainder of the meeting because of the likely disclosure of private and confidential information

It was resolved that press and public would be excluded for the closed session.

There being no further business the main meeting closed at 8pm.

Signed (Chairman) Dated