

MOULTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting
4th May 2021

PRESENT: Parish councillors David Almond (Chairman), Mark Price (Vice Chair) Doug James, Jane Horsnell, John Derry, Tim James, David Clarke, Ryan Bragg and Ed Chambers

Also present: Alan Sheldrick (Moulton Panthers), Reverend Chris Childs (Vicar of St Peter's Moulton), Joanne Kirk (clerk) and two members of the public.

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from Roger Dicker.

The meeting was chaired by David Almond.

1. Approval of the minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 15th April 2019

The minutes of the meeting were confirmed and signed as correct by the Chairman.

2. Reports

a) Moulton Village Hall accounts for the last financial year (see separate report)

Lockdown has severely impacted on the use of the hall. The pre-school has been able to continue to run but with reduced numbers. A business support grant from West Suffolk Council has helped keep the VH afloat financially during the Coronavirus pandemic.

b) Community Speedwatch report by Tim James

During the last twelve months we have been limited to how much speed watch has taken place due to the lockdowns, however we have had several sessions at the key sites on Newmarket Road, Dalham Road and Chippenham Road outside the school. On average between ten and fifteen percent of all vehicles are exceeding thirty five miles per hour, with the fastest recorded speed at fifty miles per hour in Newmarket Road. It is disappointing to observe some of the vehicles speeding near the school are collecting children!

I would like to thank the assistance I have had during the past twelve months especially Ian Richardson for arranging several sessions. If anyone else would like to join us you would be most welcome.

c) Reverend Chris Childs – Vicar of St Peter's Moulton

Reverend Chris Childs took over on 11th February 2021. Starting during lockdown has been a very different experience. He has been ordained for 16 years. Previously he had responsibility for seven parishes near Stowmarket but moved back home to West Suffolk as he was born in Bury and grew up in Culford. Moulton is part of the Kennett Valley Group which also includes Higham, Dalham, Kentford and Gazeley. Moulton has two church wardens who endeavored to keep the church open as much as possible during lockdown. The finances have not been as badly impacted as expected as a lot of parishioners pay by standing order however there was no income from fund raising. He looks forward to meeting everyone in person as soon as he can.

d) Moulton Panthers

Alan Sheldrick took over the role of chairman of Moulton Panthers FC in October 2020, whilst still in lock down. Things have been rather quiet on the pitch because of lockdown, however behind the scenes the committee has been working their socks off to make sure the club is still functioning and moving forward so that they can still bring football to the village.

As in all organisations we rely heavily on fundraising and because of lockdown it has had a detrimental effect on our club, I'm hoping that we can hold some fundraising events in the near future to help amend this.

Currently we hold three youth teams, Under 9's mixed, Under 15's Girls and Under 16's boys who all currently play home games on the Village playing field, generally there is a game or two every week in the season. All teams have done an amazing job to stick together and work through the Lockdown, their commitment to their managers has shone through. We would welcome any spectators once the FA say we are allowed.

Next season will see all current teams continuing with the addition of a new under 9's team coming in who will be playing home games at the school due to current license agreements.

We are looking for a club secretary and any other volunteers that would like to join, especially fundraisers, pitch markers etc. We are also looking to introduce youth coaches and referees (14 years and above) to help start them on their coaching and referee paths, we have one so far, more are welcome.

Lastly, thank you to the Parish council for extending our license agreement to allow football to continue this season after everything everyone has been through.

e) **Vets football club report by Mark Price**

They play on a Sunday morning and are unbeaten since lockdown eased.

f) **Moulton Charity Report by Bill Rampling (Trustee)**

The **Moulton Fuel Land and William Deynes Charity** was established in 1869 to provide assistance to the elderly, disabled and poor of the parish, and in particular with fuel for people in need. Each year fuel vouchers are given to villagers who successfully apply for support. Funds come from rents on land owned by the charity, at Church Meadow, the fields that abut the Church and Priory, and grazing land along Bury Lane.

The **Churches and Bridges (Town Estate) Charity** since 1829, has provided financial support for St Peter's Church Fabric Fund and for the maintenance of the 'Pretty Bridge' along Brookside. Funds come from rents paid on land owned including adjacent to the School let to the County Council for use as a playing field, and the adjoining grazing land, and a 4 acre paddock in Freckenham, as well as some interest earned on small deposits invested many years ago.

The **Mortlock Beneficiation Charity** which started around 1860, used the interest paid on a small investment to purchase a book prize for the school. In 2016 the decision was made to transfer this small investment to the Churches and Bridges Charity because the low interest earned made the separate operation of this charity unviable.

These Charities have now been amalgamated, and the Trustees are currently the two Church Wardens and the Rector, and 3 villagers nominated by the Parish Council - Bill Rampling, Douglas James, and Rachel Webb. Lorraine Stone, following her retirement from the Parish Council, has volunteered to continue to administer the Charity on behalf of The Trustees.

The aims of the Charity have been widened and modernised and will not only carry out reparation works to the Church and bridge but will endeavour to provide financial assistance (including fuel vouchers) and various services to promote healthy living and well-being among beneficiaries within the Parish of Moulton, for the benefit of the public. Beneficiaries to include parishioners in need. In the future the Charity will consider the possibility and potential of managing a scheme for the provision of affordable housing in Moulton.

Over the last twelve months the charity has distributed over £2,000 to individuals in the parish.

3. **Chairman's Report**

David Almond spoke about the last two years and the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic. Lorraine, their clerk of 37 years has stepped down. A new clerk took over but had to resign after a very short time.

The Chairman thanked Lorraine and Mike Stone for all their help and support over the years. He also thanked Joanne Kirk for stepping in as temporary clerk at short notice when the previous clerk had to leave.

The Chairman also thanked the previous Chairman Bill Rampling and his wife Lisa for everything they have done for the village. They will be greatly missed by the village.

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

One resident had asked for an update on the plans to make the B1085 between Moulton and Kentford a safer route, by extending the speed limit and constructing a safe walkway between the two villages. Councillors agreed to revisit this after the May elections. The clerk agreed to add it to the next agenda.

The meeting closed at 7.38pm. Full reports are available on the parish council website at www.moulton.onesuffolk.net

Signed

Dated.....