

Moulton Parish Council - Chairman's Report – May 2024

My apologies for not being with you tonight.

Finances

Finances are in good order with full information available on Moulton Parish Council's (MPC's) website. MPC has made recent contributions to the running costs of the village hall. MPC is extremely fortunate to have benefited from a very generous legacy of £20,000 by the late Tony Franklin.

Planning

The Local Plan is closer now to being finalised by West Suffolk District Council (WSDC), with the only significant development for Moulton being earmarked for 20 to 30 houses on Godolphin owned land near to Riverside.

MPC were one of many objectors to the development application for the former Animal Health Trust's site which was refused by WSDC. However, we await the outcome of an appeal by the planning applicant.

Moulton housing needs

Thank you to all those who responded to MPC's survey of housing needs. 70% of the households who responded would support a small development of affordable homes for people with a connection to the village. MPC plans to organise a meeting in June to gauge the interest in setting up a steering group of Moulton residents to move this forward.

Road safety

At the crossroads MPC has arranged for additional signage and installed two planters with chevron signs.

90% of respondents to MPC's recent road safety survey believe speeding is a problem in the village. 84% support a 20mph limit near the school and near the village centre and 80% support the installation of chicanes at village entrances. MPC will discuss these survey results and how we improve road safety in Moulton with Suffolk County Council (SCC) who must approve any highways improvements.

The playing field and green

It is pleasing to see the Panthers football teams regularly in action on the playing field and we are grateful to Doug James for all the maintenance work he does around the village. The new hedge on the south side of the playing field has established well.

Flooding from the river Kennett

Storm Babet caused extensive flooding in the village. MPC has sent a report of the events to the Environment Agency and we await their response which we expect will include plans for further clearance and maintenance of the river and environmental options to hold water back upstream of the village.

Finally, I would like to thank our excellent and efficient clerk Joanne Kirk, fellow parish councillors, our WSDC and SCC councillors Roger Dicker and Andy Drummond, village businesses and organisations and the villagers themselves for all their contributions to making Moulton such an active and welcoming place to live and work.

David Almond - MPC Chairman