

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF MOULTON PARISH COUNCIL held at MOULTON VILLAGE HALL on MONDAY 13th FEBRUARY 2012 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs. C. Bowie (Chair)
A. Aston, A. Burgess, D. Hough, N. Harris, A. Rigby, P. Vernon, D. Watkinson and A. Wood

In Attendance: E. Beech – Clerk
P. Sanders – Clerk (elect)
L. Williams – resident

12.02.01 Apologies for Absence

Resolved: that the apology for absence received from Cllr. Kershaw (family illness) be agreed and those from Cllrs. Sinar, Weltman and Watson (Cheshire West and Chester Council) and PCSO K. Stock be noted

12.02.02 Public Open Session

The meeting commenced with a 15 minute session during which members of the public had the opportunity to raise questions and seek clarification in relation to village and community matters. No matters were raised but an update was given regarding the grid in the walkway between Lodge Drive and Niddries Lane.

PCSO Kat Stock had sent her latest monthly report, which included reference to there being 10 incidents including 1 crime related and 2 anti social behaviour (including at the War Memorial)

12.02.03 Minutes

Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting held on 9th January 2012 be agreed and signed as a correct record

12.02.04 Clerk's Report

Resolved: that

- a) the Clerk's report relating to progress on a number of current matters be received;
- b) arising from the report it was noted that:
 - contact had been made with the young resident via his father and the invitation to attend a meeting of the Council was repeated
 - Cllr. Aston's had attended a training session relating to the roles and responsibilities of a parish councillor and gave a brief report back
 - the repair to the cantilever basket swing has not been correctly completed so progress is underway to arrange its return to the company for the repair to be corrected at its expense
 - a damaged light unit at the MUGA is to be repaired for which an insurance claim has been submitted and agreed
 - the damaged streetlight at the play area has been replaced
- c) Highways be asked to consider similar action in Moulton as a result of piloting, with some success, a new engineering solution to try to address the problem of damaged grass verges in Greenbank

12.02.05 Reports

(a) Finance

Resolved: that

- i) the following position concerning contracts costs for 2012/13 be noted:
 - Northwich Town Council – grounds maintenance – no increase proposed
 - G J Steele – litter pick / weekly and monthly play area inspections – awaiting response
- ii) the increase of 3.5% requested by Cheshire West and Chester Council for the cleansing service at the playing field, car park and War Memorial area be agreed
- iii) the 3rd quarter report for 2011/12 received from the Internal Auditor be received and that there are no areas of concern or anomalies identified, be noted
- iv) the appointment of a new Internal Auditor needs to be undertaken
- v) concerns about value for money in relation to the Council's donation to help fund the 2-week summer playscheme in Moulton be raised with the organisers as numbers were low for the first week in 2011

(b) Planning

Resolved: that the following be noted:

- i) planning applications permitted by Cheshire West and Chester Council:
65 Main Road – extension of time to implement planning permission 08-2685-OUT - two storey detached dwelling
2 Lawrence Avenue - concrete panel and timber front and side boundary fencing (retrospective)
5 Park Lane - Porch to front and carport to side
- ii) comments made by the Planning Committee on the following application:
87 Main Road – first floor extension to rear – no objections but request to ensure new materials match existing materials

(c) Garages Area

Noted no significant matters were raised at the rents collection on 21st January 2012 but there remain concerns about the number of potholes at the site and the state of some of the garages; these matters will be considered at the Garages Area meeting to be held on 20th February 2012.

(d) Community

Noted that information and application leaflets have been produced and are being put in local outlets to help promote the Council's Citizenship Awards scheme.

12.02.06 Queens Diamond Jubilee Celebrations

Cllr. Rigby reported on the first meeting of representatives of community groups, organisations and local businesses held on 8th February at the Village Hall. He highlighted how pleasing the turnout was, that the meeting had been productive in establishing what is currently planned and what is proposed and there is a commitment to work together to make the celebrations inclusive of the whole community. The next meeting will be held on 28th February at the British Legion.

Resolved: that the Council's role be as follows:

- a) continue to facilitate the community approach to the organisation of events
- b) produce a 'Whats On' guide or similar to be distributed to the community and include a Jubilee page in the next Parish Newsletter

12.02.07 Annual Parish Meeting and Report / Parish Newsletter

Resolved: that the

- a) Annual Parish Meeting be held on Wednesday 23rd May 2012 at 7.30pm at Moulton Village Hall
- b) the Parish Newsletter which includes the Annual Report and an invitation to electors to attend be prepared and printed for distribution in early May to all households.

12.02.08 Anti-Social Behaviour

Noted MADSAG met on 12th January. Concerns expressed about current anti social behaviour in the vicinity of the War Memorial as large pieces of brick have been found within the fenced area.

Resolved: that to support the CCTV facility at the site two notices be put on the fencing around the War Memorial to advise that CCTV is in operation and prosecution will be pursued against anyone found to be acting in a way which may result in damage or near damage to the Memorial.

12.02.09 Correspondence

Resolved: that

- a) correspondence received as detailed below be noted and the action list be agreed
- b) individual Councillors respond direct on a personal basis if they wish to the 'Joint Strategy for the Future Wellbeing of the Communities of West Cheshire'
- c) Cheshire Community Action be advised that the Council will not be entering the Community Pride Competition this year due to its concerns about the perceived focus on 'pretty' villages and the lack of appreciation of the vibrancy and community spirit of others but will re-consider next year
- d) the following response to the Review of ChALC Area Meeting Arrangements be made:
 - i) the proposal to facilitate 2 Parish Conferences each year in each Borough be supported
 - ii) the proposed number of representatives which would be annually elected to the ChALC Executive Board be amended to their being 5 from Cheshire West and Chester Area (to match the representation for Cheshire East) and 3 from Warrington, Halton and Trafford Areas (to enable 1 representative from each of these 3 Areas)
- e) Cllrs. Rigby and Harris represent the Parish Council at the CPRE's seminar on Engaging Communities in Planning on Friday 30th March at 10am – 4pm at Middlewich Town Hall

1	Cheshire West and Chester Council	Various	Various briefing notes for Elected Members	Noted
		6 Jan	Invitation to comment by 1 st March on 'A Joint Strategy for the Future Wellbeing of the Communities of West Cheshire' Localism Act 2011 - provisions on standards and code of conduct for members of town and parish councils	See b) above
		10 Jan	Notice of consultation on hackney carriage / taxi licence regulations	Noted
		12 Jan	Northwich & Rural North Area Partnership News – Jan. 12	Noted
		17 Jan	West Cheshire Together - Partnership Bulletin – Jan. 12	Noted
		17 Jan	Customer Driven Services Training workshops – booking information	Noted
		19 Jan	A Parish Councillor's Guide to Parish Council Insurance	Noted
		20 Jan	January Bulletin for Town and Parish Councils, including Bulletin on Proposed Changes to current Code of Conduct	Noted
2	Cheshire Community Action	14 Jan	Invitation to enter Cheshire Community Pride comp. 2012	See c) above
		11 Feb	Invitation to 'Connecting Communities' conference – 7 th March – Crewe – all day	Noted
3	Cheshire Rural Touring Arts	16 Jan	Spring 2012 programme	Noted
4	Fire Brigades Union Ches. Fire Auth	12 Jan	Information concerning the closure of local Emergency Fire Control Room	Noted
		6 Jan	Response to above letter	Noted
5	CPRE / NALC	21 Jan	Copy of 'How To Shape Where You Live: a guide to neighbourhood planning'	Noted
6	Cheshire West CAB	20 Jan	Letter of thanks for £50 donation	Noted
7	ChALC	18 Jan	Vale Royal Area Meeting – 2 nd February	Noted
		26 Jan	Invitation to comment on a review of ChALC Area meeting arrangements	See d) above
		27 Jan	Copy of response to CWAC's consultation on the introduction of 'special expenses' to alleviate the double taxation problems experienced by a number of local councils	Noted
		31 Jan	February Newsletter	Noted
8	Resident	30 Jan	Engaging Communities in Planning – hosted by CPRE – 30 th March at Middlewich Town Hall from 10am-4pm	See e) above
		30 Jan	Copy of a letter to the Chief Planning Officer regarding parking in Beechfield	Noted
9	Age Concern	31 Jan	Information on a project funding bid to extend the 'Men In Sheds' initiative to rural areas, including Moulton – request for distribution of questionnaire	Noted
10	DEFRA	31 Jan	Notice the Government has announced a funding agreement for new waterways charity - Canal & River Trust	Noted
11	CHAMP	8 Feb	Notice of first meeting of the CHAMP Hall Users – 15 th Feb. Notice of a public consultation meeting on a CHAMP Constitution – 18 th April	Crk. to attend Consider at next meeting

12.02.10 Accounts – net payments / income

Payments:

£

E. Beech	salary – Clerk	587.50
G. J. Steele	litter pick/insp. contract – Jan - 5 occasions	175.00
G. J. Steele	garages area – tidy 14A and litter pick	16.00
Trinity Mirror NW & North Wales Ltd	advert – Clerk's vacancy	16.37
A. Burgess	photos of garages and garage site	8.10
Linnet Book-keeping Ltd	Internal audit (Jul-Dec 11)	28.00
Northwich Town Council	Reinstall post/rail fence at garages & re-lay/replace flags-War Memorial	352.00
JD Hughes & Daughter Ltd	tree work at rear of Regent Street (as per quote)	520.00
Office Essentials	printer toner	55.88
Cheshire West and Chester Council	cleansing service at playing field Oct – Dec 11	#241.75

net cost will be reimbursed by Playing Field Trust

Resolved: that the above accounts below be passed for payment

Proposed: Cllr. Vernon

Seconded: Cllr. Wood

Income:

Noted receipt of the following income since the last meeting:

£

Interest – Jan. - current account	0.43
Playing Field Trust – reimbursement	2809.32
Garage and land plots rents	1585.00
Reimbursement from MADCA for shared costs of professional legal advice	286.50

12.02.11 Councillors' Reports

The following were highlighted for report, action or to note:

- concern about the declining bee population and the need to create wildflower areas
- Cllr. Harris' reports on his attendance at a recent Friends of Weaver Parkway meeting and a Cheshire Playing Fields Association meeting
- regarding a TV licence for the Hall
- concern about progressing work on the ditch at the playing field
- the play area in Weaver Road and its future use
- concern that the requirement to set up community liaison meetings does not seem to be a priority of the current Operations Manager at the Veolia site

Resolved: that

- a) the Council consider the suitability of areas on land in the village which it owns to establish a wildflower area and other land which it could encourage owners to do the same
- b) a second quote for work to remove lying water in the ditch at the playing field be obtained
- c) proposals for the play area's future improvement be explored with the community and submitted to Cheshire West and Chester Council for consideration
- d) representatives attending the next meeting of the Community liaison meeting on 14th March raise the concern that the required two meetings a year seem not to be taking place.

12.02.12 Next Meeting

Noted the next meeting of the Council will be held on Monday 12th March 2012 at 7.30pm at Moulton Village Hall (Back Hall) commencing with a 15 minute public participation session, following by a meeting of the Playing Field Trust

Also: Garages Area Committee – Monday 20th February – 7.30pm – Committee Room

Joint Parishes meeting – Monday 19th March – 7.30pm – Moulton Village Hall (agenda items to be further considered)

12.02.13 Clerk

Noted the recruitment of Mr P. Sanders as Clerk to the Council with effect from 5th March 2012.

12.02.14 Recruitment Panel

Resolved: that

- a) due to the confidential nature of the discussions of the Panel, members of the public and the press be excluded and instructed to withdraw at this point in the meeting
- b) the confidential minutes of the meetings of the Recruitment Panel held on 24th, 30th and 31st January 2012 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.40pm