

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF MOULTON PARISH COUNCIL held at MOULTON VILLAGE HALL on MONDAY 12<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2011 at 7.30pm**

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

**In Attendance:** E. Beech – Clerk  
K. Christie, J. Christie, J. Finney, D. Webb, M. Webb and L. Williams – residents  
K. Stock – PCSO  
Cllr. E. Watson – Cheshire West and Chester Council

The Chair presented the Best Kept Garden Awards for 2011 to Mr. and Mrs. Christie, Mr. Finney and Mr. and Mrs. Webb. She congratulated them on the standards they have set with their gardens and on their achieving these Awards.

**11.09.01 Apologies for Absence**

**Resolved:** that the apology for absence received from Cllr. Wood (personal reason) be received

**11.09.02 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.

The only matter raised was concern about parked vehicles obstructing drivers' views along Main Road near the Beechfield junction and it was noted this can be considered under the specific agenda item regarding traffic congestions in the centre of the village. PCSO Stock will monitor.

PCSO Kat Stock submitted her latest monthly report, including reference to six reported crimes including theft of lead since the last meeting and a small number of low level anti-social incidents. PCSO Stock also advised that she had secured some funding for Coffee and Chat and the Co-op had agreed to provide free milk for their meetings and will be providing advice re bogus callers

**11.09.03 Minutes**

**Resolved:** that the minutes, including the confidential minutes, of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2011 be agreed and signed as a correct record

**11.09.04 Co-option**

**Resolved:** that

- a) the minutes of a meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2011 be received and the recommendation arising that Mr Allan Aston be co-opted to the Council be agreed
- b) Cllr. Aston's completed and signed acceptance of office pro-forma be received.

The Chair formally welcomed Cllrs. Harris and Aston to the Council.

**11.09.05 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:
  - more detail on school admissions allocation is now available
  - re the footway/cycle way on Davenham bypass – alternative given as right of way BR4 - the Rights of Way Officer agrees with the Council's concerns about the condition and will progress improvements
  - Cllr. Rigby and the Clerk will meet with the CWAC Historic Environment Officer re signage for the Mound and then contact with the universities will be made
  - Cllrs. Bowie and Wood will progress a first joint Parishes walk in the autumn
  - details of a suitable counter for purchase for the Parish Council stall at the Crow Fair are available and Cllr. Rigby will pursue
  - Play Area at Weaver Road – noted the area will be tidied up but will not be improved by CWAC as it does not have any capital funds for this - the Council is invited to suggest an alternative use for the area

- a 'Dog Fouling Roadshow' will come to the village to be located at the Main Road car park for a day in October half-term
- Highways matters raised during the Best Kept Garden judging have been reported and either completed or planned
- a resident has raised an issue about HGVs using Regent Street as access to the centre of the village and this has resulted in a suitable sign being agreed for siting at the Main Road junction following a meeting between CWAC Councillors and a Highways Officer. He will also investigate improvements to the Main Road and Whitlow Lane junction and report back

**Resolved:** that Cheshire West and Chester be advised that the provision of the play area at Weaver Road was a planning condition when the housing estate was permitted and was developed for younger children as they have to cross two main roads to get to the Main Road site so it should be improved

## **11.09.06 Reports**

### **(a) Finance**

**Resolved:** that

- i) the 'clean report' from the external auditor for the Annual Return 2010/11 be received and that all statutory requirements for publicising the outcome have been met, be noted
- ii) the internal auditor's report for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2011/12 be received and that there are no areas of concern or anomalies, be noted
- iii) the notice of maturity of the one year fixed rate Guaranteed Investment Account on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2011 be received and the Finance Committee be required to decide whether to reinvest in this account and, if so to decide the length of reinvestment.

### **(b) Planning**

**Resolved:** that

- i) the Planning Committee's comments submitted on the following applications be noted:
  - School Lane (Moulton Adventure Group) – siting of storage container – no objections (*now permitted*)
  - 162 Main Road – 3 bed dwelling with integral garage (re-submission) – remaining concerns about the front elevation
  - 122 Main Road – replace roof, install dormer window and front Velux window – dormer height may be intrusive
  - 10 Chapel Street – rear conservatory – no objections but neighbour impact to be checked
- ii) the current consultation on a new National Planning Framework be noted and the Planning Committee meet to consider and submit a response.

### **(c) Garages Area**

**Resolved:** that the minutes of the meetings of the Garages Area Committee held on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2011 and 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2011 be received and the following recommendations be agreed:

- the Committee's terms of reference be amended to include '*the management and maintenance of the site*'
- a hippo bag of filling for the potholes at the site be purchased
- the issuing of instructions regarding removal of garages to tenants of those in a very poor state of repair be agreed
- a quote be obtained to prune a number of trees at the site
- the basic garage plot rent for 2012 be increased to £55.00 pa with other rents being increased by the same percentage.

### **(d) Community**

- i) Christmas Tree Lighting Event

Noted action is in hand to order the tree, arrange the electricity supply for the new tree lights, submit an application for the temporary event licence, confirm the band's arrangements and include the newly formed British Legion Male Choir.

- ii) Parish Newsletter

Noted the next edition of the Newsletter is due by early November. Village community groups will be invited to submit brief articles for inclusion. A draft will be tabled at the next meeting.

## **11.09.07 Traffic Congestion**

Noted community concern being expressed regarding traffic congestion around the centre of the village with a suggestion that a one-way system is needed. Considered a number of factors relating to size of vehicles, particularly delivery vehicles and buses; lack of footpaths in some areas, on-street parking, speeding

vehicles, vehicle speeds possibly being kept down by the current position, etc. Noted Cheshire County Council had turned down any consideration of a one way system when it was raised about 3 years ago.  
**Resolved:** that a meeting with the relevant Highways Inspector be arranged to explore any possible road improvements, particularly at the junction of Main Road and Whitlow Lane which will reduce the current problems.

#### 11.09.08 Village Hall

Noted that the management of the Village Hall had changed with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2011

**Resolved:** that details of issues arising following the changes will be considered at the end of the meeting and due to the confidential nature of the matter at this point in time, members of the public and the press be excluded and they be instructed to withdraw for that item

#### 11.09.09 Anti-Social Behaviour

Noted that there are no significant matters to report following the meeting of MADSAG on 8<sup>th</sup> September.

#### 11.09.10 Correspondence

**Resolved:** that correspondence received as detailed below be noted and the action list be agreed

|   |                                   |                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                     |
|---|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Cheshire West and Chester Council | various<br>27 Jul<br>28 Jul<br><br>8 Aug<br><br>30 Aug<br>1 Sep<br>6 Sep | Various briefing notes for Elected Members<br>July bulletin to Town and Parish Councils<br>'You Choose' - online budget consultation<br><br>Standards Committee – Annual Bulletin for Town and Parish Councils<br>Aug. bulletin to Town and Parish Councils<br>Re Gypsy and Traveller sites<br>Polling Districts and Polling Stations Review | Noted<br>Noted<br>Will respond individually<br><br>Noted<br>Noted<br>Noted<br>Noted |
| 2 | Cheshire Assoc. of Local Cls.     | 12 Jul<br><br>23 Aug                                                     | Notice of AGM – 20 <sup>th</sup> October – 6.30pm – Middlewich Town Hall<br>Councillor and Clerk Training for September and October                                                                                                                                                                                                          | To consider attendance<br>Noted                                                     |
| 3 | Mickle Trafford Parish Council    | 1 Aug                                                                    | Appeal for Your Support on The Gypsy / Traveller Sites Problem in Cheshire West and Chester – petition to Cheshire West and Chester Council                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Noted                                                                               |
| 4 | Open Spaces Society               | 26 Jul                                                                   | 2 Government consultations – one re the registration of new town and village greens and one re proposals for the new Local Green Space designation                                                                                                                                                                                           | Noted                                                                               |
| 5 | St. Stephen's Church              | 11 Aug                                                                   | Invitation to attend the Licensing of Revd Doctor Gordon Clegg as the new Priest-in-Charge on 8 <sup>th</sup> September                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Noted Chair attended                                                                |
| 6 | Cheshire Police Authority         | 13 Aug                                                                   | Copy of the July 'Police Question Time' newsletter and invitation to submit views on where the Police should focus their time and effort                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Noted                                                                               |

#### 11.09.11 Accounts – net payments / income

|                               |                                                                            | £       |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| E. Beech                      | salary – Clerk                                                             | 587.50  |
| G. J. Steele                  | litter pick/insp. contract – Jul – 4 occasions                             | 140.00  |
| CHAIN                         | donation to appeal costs re Lostock incinerator                            | 100.00  |
| Audit Commission              | audit fee – Annual Return 2010/11                                          | 285.00  |
| Linnet Book-keeping Ltd.      | internal audit Jan – Jun 2011, inc. Annual Return                          | 48.00   |
| Northwich Town Council        | contract work-Churchyard, Village Hall & Regent Street – Jul               | 450.00  |
| Northwich Town Council        | contract work at Playing field – Jul                                       | 910.00* |
| Lights4Fun                    | 6 sets of Christmas tree lights and associated connections                 | 119.08  |
| Cheshire West and Chester Cl. | empty bins and clean car park at playing field – 1 <sup>st</sup> qu. 11/12 | 241.75* |
| Cheshire Assoc. of Local Cls. | Chairmanship course – pt. 2                                                | 30.00   |
| Gigg & Co                     | For professional services relating to Hall lease Jun 10 – Jul 11           | 271.00  |
| Office Essentials             | 2 x laser toner for printer                                                | 111.76  |

\* to be reimbursed by Playing Field Trust

**Resolved:** that

- the above accounts paid in August be confirmed
- the accounts below be passed for payment

Proposed: Cllr. Vernon

Seconded: Cllr. Watkinson

|                         |                                                              |         |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| E. Beech                | salary – Clerk                                               | 576.90  |
| Post Office Ltd (HMRC)  | PAYE & NI – 2 <sup>nd</sup> quarter                          | 10.60   |
| E. Beech                | use of PC and office facilities Apr-Sept 2011                | 200.00  |
| G. J. Steele            | litter pick/insp. contract – Aug - 5 occasions               | 175.00  |
| Northwich Town Council  | contract work-Churchyard, Village Hall & Regent Street – Aug | 450.00  |
| Northwich Town Council  | contract work at Playing field – Aug                         | 447.34* |
| Davenham Parish Council | Part payment for PCSO post – Apr – Sept.                     | 2632.45 |

Income:

Noted receipt of the following income since the last meeting:

|                                        |      |
|----------------------------------------|------|
| Interest - current account (Jul & Aug) | 4.83 |
|----------------------------------------|------|

**11.09.12 Councillors' Reports**

Highways

Cllr. Kershaw reported on a hedge on Main Road and a shrub on Niddries Lane which are overgrowing the roadside and pavement respectively.

British Legion

Cllr. Watkinson requested that the Legion be asked to arrange for the vehicle which empties the commercial waste bin to do so from the car park rather than park on Main Road and hold up other traffic.

Weaver Parkway

Cllr. Burgess requested that the parties which had funded and carried out the improvements to the length of footpath along the river in the Parish be thanked.

Noted concern that the footpath from the river which crosses the field to Eaton Hall Farm (RB4) is regularly very wet and can be impassable.

**Resolved:** that as this path is also used by Davenham residents it be raised at the Joint Meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> October.

**11.09.13 Next Meeting**

Noted the next meeting of the Council will be held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2011 at 7.30pm at Moulton Village Hall (Back Hall) commencing with a 15 minute public participation session.

Noted, also:

- Finance Committee meeting – Monday 26<sup>th</sup> September at 8.00pm – Committee Room
- Joint Parishes Meeting – re-scheduled to Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October at 7.30pm at Davenham

There being no further business this part of the meeting closed at 9.10pm