



Moulton Parish Council

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MINUTES

Minutes of an ordinary meeting of Moulton Parish Council held on
Monday 9th August 2021

Present: Cllr Capstick (Chair), Cllr Harding (Vice Chair), Cllr Bush, Cllr Jennings, Cllr Kershaw

Also present: Clerk to the Council (Mrs W Maddock), Cllr Watson (CWaC) and 1 member of the public

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm

1	Apologies	<p><i>The council recognises approval for this agenda item as appropriate to meet the requirement in Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972. -</i> Motion: The council accepts the apologies listed and approves the absences for the council members</p> <p>Apologies received from Cllr Boyle (holiday), Cllr LeBreuilly (holiday) and Cllr Smith (prior appointment)</p>
2	Vacancy to fill by Co-Option	<p>Section 21 of the Representation of the People Act 1985 grants the Council the power of co-option to fill any vacancies. To consider applications for co-option and to vote to accept an applicant onto the council.</p> <p>The Chair made the following statement: <i>The item of co-option has been suspended.</i> <i>The decision to make a co-option to fill the vacancy on the Council was taken following an instruction from CWaC's Democratic Services Office that there had been no call for an election. When this was challenged by Cllr Smith, the Clerk liaised with CWaC who realised that they had made a mistake and an election will now be held. CWaC has apologised for this error and a letter of complaint has been sent to the Returning Officer by myself on behalf of MPC. MPC has now been notified that the date for the election will be 23rd September. CWaC has provided indicative costs to hold the election of approx. £6,000, for which MPC will be invoiced. This is in addition to the costs for the election held in May. Unfortunately, money has not been budgeted for elections, and the costs will need to be covered from "another pot". It is with regret that the Council will now need to suspend the Community Grants for this year, in order to help meet these additional costs.</i> <i>A letter has also been circulated to all councillors by Cllr Smith suggesting that if they are thinking of resigning, they should do so now in order that multiple vacancies could be filled in this election. It stated that the Council does not understand the level of anger and frustration over the Regent Street Backs development. I wish to state clearly that this Council and previous Councils (RSB development has been ongoing for many years) do understand the community's feelings about RSB. The Neighbourhood Plan and later the Parish Poll, voted on by the village, both supported the decision to develop RSB and it is with this mandate that the Council has proceeded.</i> <i>There has also been an indication that another Parish Poll is likely to be called, for which there will be an additional cost to the village. There will be a finance meeting to revise the budget allocation to accommodate these election costs but there is a likelihood that next year's precept will need to be increased to cover this and any further unexpected expenditure.</i></p> <p>Following the Chair's statement, there was further discussion about the costs and process of the election. It was recognised that community members are entitled to exercise their democratic right, but it was also thought that all villagers should be aware of the costs involved. It was also noted that no members of the public in support of this action were in attendance at the meeting.</p>

3	Declarations of Interest	Members to declare any (a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and (b) Other Disclosable Interests as required under Chapter 7 of the Localism Act 2011 and Moulton Parish Council's Code of Conduct	
		None declared but it was noted that Cllr Jennings would update his Members' Interests Form at the next Council meeting.	
4	Public Forum	<i>Maximum of three minutes per speaker, with an overall limit of fifteen minutes All parishioners who wish to speak should make their intentions known to the clerk prior to the commencement of the meeting</i>	
		A member of the public gave an impassioned speech and stated his ongoing commitment to be part of the Council and to working to save the greenbelt around Moulton. He stated that the proposed Miller development was an affront to the village and clearly outside the Neighbourhood Plan. He thanked the Council for their very quick and positive reaction to challenging the proposals. It was confirmed that a meeting has taken place with Miller Homes, attended by Cllr Weltman, Cllr Capstick, Cllr Boyle and Cllr Harding and representatives of Davenham Parish Council. Cllr Weltman stated that, in his opinion, the proposals do not meet any of the main criteria for planning approval. It was also confirmed that a number of assertions made by Miller Homes as part of their plan are being challenged. Cllr Bush thanked the member of public for attending another meeting and for his input. Cllr Kershaw asked if the member of public would like to join the Environmental Working Group.	
5	Financial Matters	Consider the current budgetary position, and income and expenditure received to date Motion: To accept the financial report as presented and approve payments <i>Proposed by Cllr Kershaw, Seconded by Cllr Capstick. Resolved.</i>	
		1. A donation of £250 has been received from James Richards Circus. An item will be added to the September agenda to discuss how this will be used. 2. Three payments of £17.50 have been received as reparation for the saplings broken on Weaver Road Play Area and one payment is still outstanding. One boy also took part in the community litter pick in August. A statement is to be released detailing how the ASB at Weaver Road was dealt with.	
6	AOB	<p>Cllr Jennings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A complaint has been received about trees close to Summerfield Drive. The Clerk will write to the resident and action remedial works. <p>Cllr Kershaw</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work is needed on the wildflower area on MPF – to be actioned by the Clerk and handy-person. Raised planters are to be progressed for MPF Requested details of the Bostock PC Veolia contact <p>Cllr Bush</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ASB incident needs to be followed up with the police. A letter should be written to James Richards Circus thanking them for a successful event and confirming that MPC would provide references if needed. <p>Clerk to MPC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requested the minutes from the Special Projects Committee meeting on 28th June. 	
7	Summary of Actions	To be circulated to Council members.	
8	Next Meetings	Moulton Parish Council	13 th September 2021 at 7.30pm (Location TBC)
		Finance Committee	TBC
		Special Projects Committee	TBC
		Moulton Playing Fields Trust	TBC
		HR Subcommittee	TBC
		Planning Working Group	TBC

The meeting was closed at 8.16pm

Signed by Chair	
Name	Clr Capstick
Date	