



8 December 2019

Freedom of Information Act 2000 Response

Parish Poll

Query

On 1 December 2019, the following request was made of Moulton Parish Council:

- 1. How much is the parish poll costing the Parish Council?*
- 2. Are the Parish Council able to reclaim the cost from the proposer in the event the question is defeated?*
- 3. How is the Parish Council intending to fund the poll if unable to reclaim the money?*

Response

On Friday November 15th 2019, a Parish Poll was called by David Wakefield and supported by the requisite number of electors, as required under Local Government Act 1972. In this case, the returning officer for Cheshire West and Chester Council required that the unitary authority manage and run the poll.

They have stated, in communications to Moulton Parish Council, that it will cost £1,720, plus the costs of the hire of the venue. All charges will be paid by the parish council, and this will be similar to the estimate provided to David Wakefield, the proposer, by the clerk of the Parish Meeting when the Parish Poll was discussed in the Parish Meeting.

The parish council are not aware of an ability to reclaim the costs from the proposer of the Parish Poll, in any circumstances. The unitary authority will reclaim the costs of the exercise from Moulton Parish Council, from where they must be borne.

Moulton Parish Council is primarily funded by the Parish Precept, which is part of the Council Tax bill paid by properties within the parish. This amounts to approximately 5% of the total annual parish budget, and a Parish Poll was not in the 2019/20 budget for the council. Therefore Moulton Parish Council will need to either reduce expenditure or increase their proportion of Council Tax, to meet the shortfall.

