

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF MOULTON PARISH COUNCIL held at MOULTON VILLAGE HALL on MONDAY 11<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2010 at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Cllrs. P. Vernon (Chair)  
A. Burgess, J. Gregory, M. Green, J. Kershaw, G. Sant, C. Turner, D. Watkinson and A. Wood

**In Attendance:** E. Beech – Clerk  
K. Stock – Police Community Support Officer  
F. Bennett, L. Williams – resident  
R. Davies – Connexions

Ron Davies of Connexions gave information regarding the UK Youth Parliament and details of how the elections from this area are being dealt with. Advised that Cheshire West and Chester are looking to develop a Young People's Senate and Shadow Community Forums. Now seeking to establish Youth Councils for Parishes; one already in place for Malpas.

PCSO Kat Stock gave an overview of incidents in the two communities since the last meeting. She suggested that she hold a Community Surgery before each Parish Council meeting from 6.45pm and this was supported. Will sort publicity via posters, newsletter, website etc to start as soon as possible.

**10.01.01 Apologies for Absence**

**Resolved:** that the apologies for absence received from Cllrs. Bowie (holidays) and Hough (private commitment) be agreed and those Cheshire West and Chester Cllrs. Mashlan and Musgrave be noted.

**10.01.02 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 concerns about the recent disruptions in the street waste collection services but noted regular updates from Cheshire West and Chester Council

**10.01.03 Minutes**

**Resolved:** that the minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2009 be agreed and signed as a correct record

*Proposed: Cllr. Gregory*

*Seconded: Cllr. Wood*

**10.01.04 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:
  - the possibility of arranging organised sports at the multi games area has been passed to the Cheshire West and Chester Sports Development Team;
  - recent Co-opted members appointments to Committees, etc to be agreed

**Resolved:** that the following Committee / representation appointments be made:

Cllr. Gregory be appointed to the Garages Area Committee

Cllr. Bowie be appointed to the Finance Committee and to the Village Hall Lease representatives group, subject to her agreement

**10.01.05 Police Community Support Officer – draft service level agreement (SLA)**

Noted receipt of the draft SLA for the next 3-year period with effect from April 2010

**Resolved:** that

- a) amendments and additions to sections as discussed be submitted to Cheshire Police and shared with Davenham Parish Council
- b) a meeting of representatives from the two Parish Councils with Inspector Snasdell, in line with the commitment made by Cheshire Police, be organised

**10.01.06 Electoral Review of Cheshire West and Chester Council**

Further considered the draft recommendations of the Boundary Committee on the electoral arrangements for Cheshire West and Chester Council and noted possible alternative options.

**Resolved:** that, by a majority vote

- a) a principle that Elected Members represent an identifiable community by this Council's position
- b) the following be submitted to the Boundary Committee:

### **Boundary Committee Review – Cheshire West and Chester Council Comments on proposals affecting Davenham and Moulton**

The map showing the area is incorrect in that it fails to recognise that Davenham Parish boundary will change in May 2011 and a new Parish Council of Kingsmead will come into existence. This Parish will consist of the present area of Davenham Parish north of the A556 and part of Northwich Town Council up to Sir John Deane's College. This is set out in detail in the Parishing Changes approved by Vale Royal Borough Council in February 2009.

This completes a series of boundary changes to the old Cheshire County Council Warding, Vale Royal Borough Council Warding, the Parliamentary Constituency Boundary and the Boundary between Davenham 'Village' and 'Kingsmead Wards' of Davenham Parish Council. The co-terminus Boundary resulting from these changes is the A556 trunk road.

We believe that the community is less concerned with the number of electors in each ward than that wards should encompass identifiable communities. The present warding recommendation bears no relation to a coherent community as understood locally. This was part of the consideration in creating a new Kingsmead Parish north of the A556. The boundary of the old 'Davenham and Moulton' and 'Kingsmead and Leftwich' wards of Vale Royal Borough Council was also amended to the A556 as their boundary. This boundary was of course retained when creating the current Unitary Council Wards.

The Boundary Committee proposal to change the Unitary Council Ward Boundaries will again create the confusion of different boundaries for the local authority wards and the parliamentary constituencies.

Moulton Parish Council strongly recommends that the A556, a more robust boundary line than any of the meandering brooks and arbitrary lines across agricultural land, be retained as the ward boundary.

Section 159 of The Boundary Committee's recommendations notes correctly that, '.... Hartford has very little in common with Moulton and Davenham'. The Council wishes to record that, however it may appear on a map, Leftwich has even less in common with Moulton or Davenham.

Section 160, having accepted that a two member ward including Davenham would provide good electoral quality, concludes without demonstrating any justification that '..... but would produce a weak ward boundary which divides residential streets!' As Davenham Parish will, after May 2011, not extend north of the A556, what streets are referred to?

Moulton Parish Council would, in conclusion urge you to reconsider your recommendations and to recognise:

- 1 That the A556 is a robust boundary between the very different communities of Kingsmead [largely a new housing development] and Leftwich [a semi rural housing area] north of the A556 and the old rural villages of Davenham, Moulton and Bostock south of the A556.
- 2 That the ward south of the A556 to include the smaller villages of Stanthorne and Wimboldsley in addition to Bostock and Whatcroft and be called 'Davenham and Moulton' [as it was prior to the new unitary authority].
- 3 That each ward then have two elected members. The Kingsmead/ Leftwich ward would have approximately 6140 electors and Davenham/Moulton 4552 electors. In noting that most wards are already proposed as 'two member' the Council considers that this should be the optimum. Whilst the two wards would increase the total number of councillors from 75 to 76 it seems a small concession to balance against community benefit.
- 4 The Council believes that whilst the number of electors in 'Davenham/Moulton' ward would be below the target figures this is, we would contend, less important in 'local' government than losing the importance of strong, identifiable communities.

- 5 There is considerable resistance to naming the proposed Ward 'Mere Heath and Leftwich'. Mere Heath is a small geographical area within Davenham, rarely referred to locally. Again even the OS mapping is no substitute for knowing the community on the ground. Our proposal above enables more recognisable Ward names.

#### 10.01.07 Reports

##### (a) Finance

Noted next meeting of the Finance Committee is arranged for Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2010.

##### (b) Planning

Noted the Planning Committee's comments submitted to Cheshire West and Chester Council on the following applications:

152 Main Road – replacement garage – *objections relating to location and construction materials*

50 Niddries Lane – first floor extension and front porch – *no objections*

17 Verdin Close – conversion of garage to habitable room and first floor extension – *no objections but request for condition to ensure parking places still available within the boundary*

##### (c) Garages

**Resolved:** that the minutes of the Garages Area Committee held on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2010 be received

#### 10.01.08 Village Hall Lease

Cllr. Green declared a pecuniary interest and was not present during the discussion on this matter.

**Resolved:** that this matter be considered at the end of the meeting and due to the current confidential nature of the lease discussions at this point in time, members of the public and the press be excluded and they be instructed to withdraw for that item

#### 10.01.09 Local Development Framework – Core Strategy Issues and Options

Noted the opportunity to comment on this Cheshire West and Chester Council consultation document

**Resolved:** that after consideration no comments be submitted but any Member may, of course, submit comments in a personal capacity.

#### 10.01.10 Village Design Statement and Parish Landscape Assessment

Noted document now being printed and distribution being considered.

**Resolved:** that the Moulton Village Design Statement be placed on the website.

#### 10.01.11 Anti-Social Behaviour

Nothing significant to report. Next meeting of MADSAG to be held on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2010.

#### 10.01.12 Correspondence

**Resolved:** that

- a) correspondence received as detailed below be noted and the action list be agreed
- b) the election of Cllr. G. Stewart of Utkinton Parish Council to the position of Local Councils' representative on Cheshire West and Chester Council's Winsford and Rural East Area Partnership Board be noted

1	Cheshire West and Chester Council	18 Dec	Review of Funding and Contractual Arrangements – next steps and timetable	Noted
		22 Dec	'Partnerships West - Edition 11 – December 2009	Noted
		30 Dec	Invitation to meeting about Waste PFI Contract	Noted
		11 Jan	Question Time for Executive	Noted
2	Local Strategic Partnership	8 Jan	Launch of the new independent website for West Cheshire Together, the partnerships framework (incorporating the Local Strategic Partnership) for the Cheshire West and Chester area - The website can be accessed at <a href="http://www.westcheshiretogether.org.uk">www.westcheshiretogether.org.uk</a>	Noted

### 10.01.13 Accounts – net payments / income

E. Beech	salary – Clerk	555.84
G. J. Steele	litter pick/insp. contract – Dec.- 4 occasions	140.00
G. J. Steele	operational inspection – Dec.	20.00
E. Beech	Tel. calls (14/9 – 13/12/12) £19.81 & Broadband £15.00	34.81

**Resolved:** that the above accounts be passed for payment

*Proposed: Cllr. Watkinson Seconded: Cllr. Turner*

#### Income:

Noted receipt of the following income since the last meeting:

	£
Garage plots – 2010 rent	150.00

### 10.01.14 Councillors' Reports

#### Youth Parish Council

Following the earlier input from the Connexions Officer, Cllr. Green suggested that further consideration be given to establishing a Youth Parish Council for Moulton with possible some powers to recommend grant funding to the Parish Council. Noted would need to publicise and promote via the April newsletter, the website and the Annual Parish Meeting.

#### Pre-School Accommodation

Noted a proposal is being submitted to demolish the existing old school canteen and replace with a more 'fit for purpose' structure but the planning application has yet to be received.

### 10.01.15 Next Meeting

Noted the next Meeting of the Council will be held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2010 at 7.30pm at Moulton Village Hall (Back Hall), commencing with a 15 minute public participation session

Also, Finance Committee – Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February – 8.00pm – Committee Room

There being no further business this part of the meeting closed at 9.22pm