

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF MOULTON PARISH COUNCIL held at MOULTON VILLAGE HALL on MONDAY 13th JULY 2009 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs P. Vernon (Chair)
A. Burgess, D. Hough, M. Green, J. Kershaw, D. Watkinson and A. Wood

In Attendance: E. Beech – Clerk
L. Williams – residents
G. Bebbington – Northwich Guardian

09.07.01 Apologies for Absence

Resolved: that the apology for absence received from Cllr. Sant (holidays) be agreed and those of Cheshire West and Chester Cllrs. Manley and Musgrave be noted.

09.07.02 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 matters raised was a reminder to the Council regarding the Crow Fair event on 18th July.

09.07.03 Minutes

Resolved: that the minutes, including the confidential minutes of the meeting held on 8th June 2009 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

Proposed: Cllr. Watkinson

Seconded: Cllr. Wood

09.07.04 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:
 - a meeting with Cheshire West and Chester Officers and Elected Members regarding the request to extend the barrier along the A556 route to School took place on 7th July arising from which Cllr. Manley agreed to ensure the matter was addressed via the relevant Council Committee
 - arrangements for the final judging and presentation of awards by Bron Kerrigan from Cheshire Community Action were being completed
 - secretarial support for MADSAG is to be provided by Clerks to Davenham and Moulton Parish Councils
 - the summer playscheme is being run by Vale Royal Playscheme Association on weeks beginning 17th and 24th August
- c) Cllr. Burgess reported on his attendance at the Northwich West and Abbey Community Forum held on 30th June at which the Connect2Northwich project was discussed, in particular that he reported the poor state of the path and overgrown hedges on the Weaver between Newbridge and to a point just south of Vale Royal Locks which are resulting in 'pinch points' which may make the path unsafe in parts.

09.07.05 Council Representation

Resolved: that Cllr. Sant be appointed as one of the representatives on the Moulton and District Community Safety Action Group (MADSAG)

09.07.06 Reports

(a) Finance

Noted receipt of the External Auditor's certificate and opinion on the audit of the Annual Return, advising that the bank statements had not been received and the fidelity insurance is inadequate.

Resolved: that

- a) the External Auditor's recommendations be considered by the Finance Committee at its meeting on 30th September
- Cllr. Green declared a personal interest in the matter under c) below as a member of the Parochial CC.
- b) the 1st quarter financial statement for 2009/10 be received; and arising from the statement,
 - c) the rising cost of gas and electricity services to the Village Hall be monitored by the Finance Committee and be considered as part of the discussion regarding the renewal of the lease.

(b) Planning

Resolved: that the following decision made by Cheshire West and Chester Council, be noted:

- 71 Main Road – 2-storey rear extension – *permitted*

(c) Garages

Resolved: that

- a) the minutes, including the confidential minutes of the Garages Committee meeting held on 6th July 2009 be received
- b) the outcomes of the meeting with lessees held on 29th June and that representatives of the Over Allotments Association and Winsford Town Council are attending the Committee's next meeting, be noted

09.07.07 Village Design Statement and Parish Landscape Assessment

Cllr. Burgess confirmed that the consultation was completed on 24th June, following which the comments submitted are being considered and incorporated, where appropriate in the final document.

09.07.08 Review of Warding Arrangements for Cheshire West and Chester Council

Noted the opportunity to submit views on the above to the Boundary Committee.

After discussion, a proposal that this Council submits a view in favour of a 3-member ward was proposed. An amendment that the Council submit a view in favour of a single member ward was proposed and, following a vote resulting in the majority of members in favour, it was

Resolved: that the Boundary be advised that

- a) this Council considers that a single member ward is the best option to serve the community of Moulton as it would enable the elected Member's focus to be on working for the Moulton community rather than across a large ward (in electorate terms);
- b) the Council would therefore wish to see a ward which solely serves Moulton but it recognises that ward sizes may need to be equitable across the Authority
- c) the Council will comment further once draft recommendations are drawn up and consulted on.

09.07.09 Anti-Social Behaviour

Noted MADSAG had met on 9th July at which a number of matters relating to Moulton had been raised. Also, Community Action Meetings will now take the form of the PCSO being at suitable sites in the community at published times to enable members of the community to raise any relevant matters.

09.07.10 Correspondence

Resolved: that

- a) correspondence received as detailed below be noted and the action list be agreed
- b) whilst the Council agrees that there has been a decline in retail businesses in the village there are other businesses delivered via self-employment from residents' homes or small offices, however it would look favourably at any proposals to start up a business in the area so long as there is no adverse effect on the community
- c) the Council will consider the perceived issues regarding the trees at the playing field and seek professional advice to support its wish to balance tree amenity with individual residents' concerns
- d) the application for co-option received from Mr. J. Gregory be considered at a meeting of the Council to be arranged for 3rd August at 7.30pm

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|---|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| 1 | Cheshire West & Chester | 12 Jun 3 Jul 3 Jul 7 Jul | Notice of Overview and Scrutiny Committee Review of Town and Parish Councils – meeting to finalise the terms of reference and commence the Review on Thurs. 16 th July at 6.30pm at The Lifestyle Centre, Winsford 'Partnerships West' – Edition 6 West Cheshire Local Strategic Partnership Network Conference – Mon. 20 th July at 9am at Winsford Report of progress on actions from the Local Councils Event on 30 th April | Noted Noted Noted Noted |
| 2 | Cheshire Community Action | 12 Jun | May Briefing Sheet | Noted |
| 3 | Clerks & Councils Direct | 29 Jun | July edition | Noted |
| 4 | Resident | 22 Jun | Expressing concern about the decline of businesses in the village and interested in filling any gap in provision | See b) above |

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| 5 | Resident | 12 Jun | Second request to do something about the willow and silver birch trees which drop leaves and seed pods into the garden | See c) above |
| 6 | Resident | 5 Jul | Concerned about the poor state of site of the waste water pumping station - Main Road and seeking help to get United Utilities to rectify this Requesting tall trees near property in Summerfield Drive be pruned | Contact with UU to support See c) above |
| 7 | ChALC | 7 Jul | Notice of Vale Royal Area meeting on Thurs. 16 th July at 7pm at Wyvern House July newsletter | Noted Noted |
| 8 | Resident | 13 Jul | Application to be co-opted to the Council | See d) above |

09.07.11 Accounts – net payments / income

Payments:

£

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| E. Beech | salary – Clerk | 555.83 |
| E. Beech | travel and tel. calls & broadband | 56.85 |
| G. J. Steele | litter pick/insp.contract - June - 5 occasions | 175.00 |
| G. J. Steele | operational inspection – June | 20.00* |
| J. Vernon | Reimbursement of garage plot rent (part year) | 23.50 |
| MADCA | Use of hall for meetings Mar – Jul 09 | 131.50 |
| Audit Commission | 2009 audit fee | 285.00 |
| Northwich Town Council | contract work - 4 sites – June | 577.50 |
| Northwich Town Council | contract work - pl. field – June | 450.00* |
| British Gas | gas supply to Village Hall (24 Mar – 22 Jun) | 229.40 |
| Cheshire West & Chester Council | contract – bin emptying & car park sweep – pl. field | 226.75* |

* net cost will be reimbursed by Trust

Resolved: that

- the above accounts be passed for payment
- invoices for contract payments to be made in August be paid but reported to the next meeting
Proposed: Cllr. Green Seconded: Cllr. Hough

Income:

Noted receipt of the following income since the last meeting:

£

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|------------------------------------|---------|
| Interest on current account (June) | 3.44 |
| Playing Field Trust reimbursement | 1896.08 |
| VAT repayment | 680.20 |

09.07.12 Councillors' Reports

Litter at Newbridge (River Weaver)

Cllrs. Kershaw raised concerns that there are no litter bins at this site – this will be reported to the relevant service of Cheshire West and Chester Council

09.07.13 Next Meeting

Noted the next Meeting of the Council will be held on Monday 14th September 2009 at 7.30pm at Moulton Village Hall (Back Hall), followed by the AGM and an ordinary meeting of the Playing Field Trust

Also:

Garages Area Committee – Monday 30th July 2009 at 7.30pm Back Hall, Village Hall

Noted Joint Parishes meeting – Monday 21st September at 7.30pm at Davenham

There being no further business this part of the meeting closed at 9.05pm