

## **MOULSOE PARISH ANNUAL MEETING 4 MAY 2021**

Due to Covid restrictions held remotely via Teams at 7.30pm

**Present:** Councillor Steve Waters  
Councillor Nigel Richards  
Councillor Chris Oakley-Holton  
Councillor Belinda Oakley-Holton  
Councillor John Hamilton  
Ward Councillor Peter Geary  
3 residents  
Parish Clerk Kay Hamilton

### **Chair's Report:**

As you may be aware, the 2020 Annual Parish Meeting was cancelled due to Covid 19, so I'd like to take this opportunity to wind the clock back a little, but I'm not going to go back to 2019 since the events of 2020 seems to have overtaken anything from previous years.

In the run up to Christmas 2019 the thought of a new decade around the corner was to my mind a slightly romantic notion, especially one with double digits. Little could we have predicted how things were going to turnout. So, in terms of Moulsoe Parish and parish council activity in the first quarter of 2020, everything slowed down to near walking pace, only to be followed by a dead stop for all our lives for the remainder of the year.

The parish council continued with virtual meetings, the only real topic of conversation was Covid and the proposed development known as MK East plus the usual administration of the parish council as the year went on.

It was agreed along with the guidance from government, that any distribution of information and updates from the parish council would only be done by the website and, where appropriate, social media posts on Facebook. Distribution of newsletters, etc. for example Moulsoe Mail was deemed as not an acceptable activity as it required physical distribution by somebody, and there may be rightfully or wrongfully a perceived risk of virus transmission.

Going on to MK East there will be further conversation later on in the parish council meeting. Much of the critical activities and decisions seem to be going on in 2020, pandemic or not. There's been some limited conversations from Moulsoe residents about the development, and there has been the appearance of the statutory notifications regarding planning applications in around the village over the past few months. MK East has been an ongoing project for past three to four years as a development. Its recent ratification could come as no surprise to anyone in Moulsoe since it reared its ugly head at the time of the adoption of Plan MK in March 2019. Then at that time it was known as the southern urban expansion. The southern urban expansion was incorporated into a supplementary planning document and was included and adopted within Plan MK in January 2020 with a

proviso that no development would be permitted unless the Housing Infrastructure Fund bid for £95 million forward funding was awarded by the Department of Housing. The bid was successful and was added to the 2020 budget statement at the last minute without any prior warning. It was clear that the £95 million estimate to cover the construction would not be sufficient to cover all infrastructure pre requisites for a project of this size. Repeated attempts to challenge the estimates by the parish council, our Ward councillors, neighbouring communities and their Ward councillors and participation in a stakeholders group came to nothing with much conversation and debate and to all intents and purposes and the whole episode seems to have been largely a waste of time. With Milton Keynes ignoring any objections and ploughing on regardless. We would not have had an objection had they kept to the original timeline of development of the area from 2030 onwards. The parish council has at all times attempted to keep residents of the parish informed. And did invite and look to residents to be part of an action group, subcommittee within or outside of the parish council in an attempt to bring together knowledge sets that current councillors did not have at their disposal. But the level of interest can be at best described as disappointing. So, it should come as no surprise to anyone that the outline planning application is now making its appearance. It is not as if this has just crept up on the village. But time for decisive action was in the run up to 2019, and it had to be a concerted group action from both parish council, but more so from the residents, since their opinion carried a weighted opinion of the whole community. To reiterate the Parish Council is not supportive of this opportunistic development for a myriad of reasons, none of which can now change the decision that MK Council has now made. But there has been a level of engagement recently from St James, the developers both with the parish council and residents of the parish via their postal brochure, which should have served as an appropriate indication that something substantial was afoot. Additionally, the press and local BBC News coverage was providing a level of coverage which had a greater impact than the parish council website or any newsletter that we could have sent out, most of which I suspect tend to be filed in the recycling. The ability to block MK East has now passed, what we now have is the ability to influence and comment on the shape of how that development will look and feel. MK Council has contacted all residents informing them of the outline planning application and their ability to comment on the development. Comments carry greater weight when they come from residents supported by the parish council, not the other way around. Everybody will have their own opinions and ideas, some generic, some more specific. The parish council is not in a position to collate all these ideas into one submission, but will happily add relevant and appropriate comments to our own submission to reinforce residents' concerns. As a final comment it is not the parish council's policy to conduct open debates, commentary and commentary on social media. We use it to provide some level of information to interested parties in conjunction with the website. It is accepted that the online resources are not always available to all interested parties, since we are not all connected to the internet. But as lives were gripped by Covid 19 it was the most appropriate resource at our disposal.

So, for 2021 we only have a few items on the list, this because we've been preoccupied with the run out of Covid 19 and what's going to happen next. We still don't know what will be

outcome for the nation, as we as we move further forward. We are looking at an additional defibrillator for the village. And we will carry on with our concerted efforts to combat speeding through the village and the increasing inevitably increased level of traffic.

Regardless of the lower-than-normal level of activity over 2020. I'd like to take the opportunity to thank the support of all my fellow councillors and their help. And finally, to extend thanks to our dedicated and committed parish clerk for her work over the past year.

### **Police Report from PCSO Arlene Ormston**

There had been no crimes reported in Moulsoe from 12 January 2021 to 4 May 2021.

There is a new website [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk), it's a website that allows you to put in your area and it will tell you what has happened in your area. There's some question on how accurate it is at the moment.

There has been a complaint regarding the parking of the speed camera van on a grass verge outside the Millennium Hall. There is a new speed van driver and if the parish council see the van and are able to speak to the driver and possibly discuss suitable places within the village to park that would be appreciated. It might be useful for Arlene to arrange a walk through the village with a member of the parish council and highlight where the best position for the van to be.

The Sentinel equipment is now available to Arlene and she will be seeking training on the kit and be able to use it in the village. Community Speed watch can now continue and Arlene will be coming out with another officer on a rota basis to the villages.

Nigel Richards raised the issue of the fires on the travellers' site, this is affecting Newport Pagnell residents more than Moulsoe. The police are investigating this and MK Council representatives are also involved. Ward Councillors have not received any direct complaints.

### **Questions from Residents**

There were no questions.

Meeting Closed at 8 pm