

# MOULSOE PARISH ANNUAL MEETING 10 May 2022

Held at Millennium Hall Moulsoe

**Present:** Councillors Steve Waters, Nigel Richards, Chris Oakley-Holton,

Belinda Oakley-Holton, John Hamilton

Ward Councillor Peter Geary

1 resident

Parish Clerk Kay Hamilton

1. Councillor Steve Waters – Chair of Moulsoe Parish Council welcomed those present
2. The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of 4 May 2021 held virtually due to Covid restrictions were approved by those in attendance
3. Chairs Annual Report:

I'm not going stand...since you have probably had enough of Boris and his podium. Since last year was a fairly mute year in terms of our freedoms within the community, in fact across the whole country and the globe in general, I only have a few items of interest.

MK East

OK so lets start with the elephant in the room. After many years of discussion, resistance and patience that that MK Council would do the right thing and drop MK East - the development on our doorstep has started and 10 years or so of building work has begun. Our last stand was the possibility of a procedural error during the last Development Control Committee meeting to approve the outline planning application but after a neighbouring parish consulted with a barrister specialising in planning law matters it appeared that although not all was right the chances of a successful legal challenge was probably not going to go our way. If the barrister thought there was something to get his teeth into and the chances of success were high enough he would have acted for free.

We now have to manage the project and make the best of a bad thing and use the situation to our advantage to get the best outcome for the village – this includes traffic management, road improvements including speed calming and traffic movement mitigation plans and other benefits commensurate with the detrimental effect the project will have in the short to long-term.

Communications

We recognise and appreciate that the current channels for delivery of information may not suit all in the village but the emergence of technology and online information sources is something that we have to embrace and use since it has become the norm.

But there are those who do not have access to the internet or mobile phones and this gives us a challenge in how we cater for their inclusivity.

As an organisation of local government we comply with all statutory guidance in providing information and displaying notices etc. on our notice boards, on the website and some careful use of social media. These do not extend to providing hard-copies of information to all residents and in pursuance of a general sustainability agenda we have tried to reduce our reliance on printed matter except where a situation dictates it is absolutely essential. The PC will provide hard-copy information of certain documents upon request but this will be restricted to statutory documents only – meeting minutes, accounts etc. but we reserve the right to refer requesters to the website since all docs are available on a self-service basis

We will continue – where we feel necessary - to deliver Moulsoe Mail as an when but will continue to review its relevance and usefulness on an on-going basis.

When it comes to one-off information bulletins, matters of village interest etc. we will again rely on our normal on-line channels but I will be proposing the possibility of a Register of Hard-Copy Information for those residents of specific need that would benefit from printed information – e.g. those who do not have access to technology or need paper copies. In order to be placed on this register a resident will need to contact the clerk and provide your details and brief reason e.g. I don't have access to technology etc. We would expect a large proportion of our residents not needing to be on this list but if we feel this facility is being taken advantage of, then since it is a voluntary rather than statutory activity, we reserve the right to stop supporting it which would impact those few who might benefit.

#### Marshall Aerospace

It has been widely publicised that Marshall Aerospace, based in Cambridge, have decided that Cranfield is their preferred choice for their relocation plans for a large proportion of their aircraft refurbishment business. We have had informal conversations with them over the past few years and have had further meetings with them pre their open house session in Cranfield last month. They are in the process of completing an outline planning application for their development to be submitted to Central Bedfordshire Council. They have been very open re their plans and aspirations and there are some significant benefits for an organisation such as Marshall moving into the airfield in terms of economic stability of the area even though they will not be based in Bucks.

We will be having further conversations with them in the coming months since they will have assessed feedback from their session at Cranfield and based on that we have yet to decide whether it would be beneficial to have an open session in Moulsoe. It is clear the main impacts to Moulsoe will be potentially more traffic but with our other traffic management plans with St. James it is possible that much of this may be mitigated in some form or another. It is still early days and one needs to get their project into perspective since they don't plan to start moving in until 2026. Realistically there will be objections to any development of this type but one must also consider and assess the possible alternatives if say Marshall did not move in. There is still an open option of a commercial airport known as a London Jetpark etc. which could take its place something which has bigger disadvantages.

Our plans for the coming year will be focussed on the above points so MK East and Marshall and any other projects deferred from 2021.

In closing some thank you's.

To our Ward Councillors – congratulations to Peter Geary regarding his being re-elected a Ward Councillor for Olney – thanks for your support, advice and help.

To my fellow councillors for their time, contribution and support.

And last but by no means least to extend our thanks to Kay Hamilton our dedicated and committed parish clerk for her work and patience over the past year.

4. No matters were raised by residents
5. Meeting closed at 7.4pm