

Minutes for the meeting of Moulsoe Parish Council held on
Tuesday 27 September 2022, Millennium Hall, Moulsoe at 8pm

Present Councillors: Chair Steve Waters (SW); Chris Oakley-Holton (COH); Belinda Oakley-Holton (BOH);
John Hamilton (JH)

Ward Councillors: None

Public: 4 members of the public

Clerk: Kay Hamilton (KH)

Prefix for all minute items **2209/**

A minute's silence for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was observed prior to the start of the meeting

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1. **To Receive Apologies for Absence:** Apologies received from Ward Councillors and PCSO Ormston
2. **Disclosures of Interests:** SW employer hosts the domain for the village website
3. **Approval of Minutes:** Council APPROVED the minutes of the meeting on Tuesday 12 July 2022
Council APPROVED the minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 22 August 2022

Chair Councillor Waters then thanked Councillor Richards who has recently resigned.

As some of you know I have regretfully accepted the resignation from the parish council of Councillor Nigel Richards. Nigel continues as chair of the Moulsoe Community Association and is currently on holiday so is unable to be present today but, in his absence, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank Nigel for his dedication to the parish council and the village since him becoming a councillor many many years ago long before even any of us, the remaining councillors, even came to the village.

Nigel has proved to be a reliable resource of all things Moulsoe, an oracle containing answers for even the oddest of queries irrespective of topic – the history of Moulsoe, farming questions, drainage, roads, woodland. Nigel also provided a useful and often used link to the surrounding farming communities around Moulsoe allowing exchange between residents and the rural fabric of the area.

One of Nigel's endearing qualities was his willingness to help out. Even when he was an active farmer in the village, we all know a farmers' day to day life never follows a predictable timetable but he could always find the time. It has been a privilege to know and work with him for the past 10years.

We will miss seeing him with his notebook, pile of papers, well used phone and his portable filing cabinet aka his trusty laptop from which he could pull out the most historical bits of information within a matter of moments.

So in closing I would like to extend mine, my fellow councillors and the clerk's, deepest and heartfelt thanks for his valuable contribution to both the village and the parish council.

4. **Public Representations:** A resident spoke at his concern regarding the flying of a drone over his property prior to the parish council's extra ordinary meeting of the 22 August 2022 to discuss the planning application at Highfield. The residents expressed concern that this may have been a deliberate attempt to obtain information relating to the planning application. The resident wanted it noted in the minutes that it is an illegal act to fly over private property and make public or use any obtained images. Instead of resorting to spying to obtain information Any individual or group only

Signed

Dated

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had to speak to the resident regarding the application and they would have been happy to show them around the site. The drone came from the area of Glebe Farm/Compton Court. SW stated that the parish council had no knowledge of this drone flying and was not anything to do with the parish council, the resident was not suggesting it was. As the information is freely available in the public domain, if it was an attempt to gain information SW agreed with the resident that the action was very underhand. The resident had not reported the incident to the police and it was suggested that they contact our local PCSO Arlene Ormston with their concerns.

5. Police Report: There had been no incidents in the parish since the last meeting

6. Ward Councillor's Report: None

7. Parish Council Business & Matters Arising from Last Minutes:

7.1 Moulsoe Millennium Hall

7.1.1 Custodian Trustee - A meeting in July between Moulsoe Community Association (MCA) had taken place with the MCA asking the parish council to consider acting as Custodian Trustees for the MCA. (Role of Custodian Trustee is limited to the legal title of the charity's property being vested in the local council. The parish council would have no role in the management or administration of the charity.) The parish council had taken advice on the matter and taking into account the uncertainty of the parish council in relation to the MK East development would propose that the MCA register the land with the Official Custodian of Trustees, this can always be changed in the future. This route was proposed as the most practical one Council AGREED that this option would be recommended to the MCA.

7.1.2 Future of Millennium Hall - With the MCA decision not to accept large bookings due to the overflow parking on the field being limited by the parish council they had provided the parish council with the forecasted figures that showed that there would be a deficit in the hall's accounts. It appears, according to the MCA, that the hall is unable to self-fund with these parking restrictions in place. Section 19(3) of The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 gives the parish council the power to make a grant to the hall. Any funds granted to the MCA would need to be included in the budget for 2023-24, this increase may need to be explained to the residents. Clerk will include figures in the draft budget. There was lengthy discussion regarding the parking on the field and the MCA representative stated that the decision from the parish council that the field could not be used had been omitted on previous council minutes. SW agreed that the Parish Council had reviewed the overflow parking arrangements as leaseholders of the field and that it is designated as a playing field, and have restricted the parking on the field for events booked at the hall. At the parish council meeting in July the council had proposed (minute ref 2207/7.4) the MCA take over the lease of the field. This was put to the MCA at the meeting called by MCA on 2 August 2022 and this was going to be looked into by MCA. Therefore, the council considered the matter was still an ongoing conversation so therefore no decision had been taken and minuted. SW requested that it was minuted that the field could not be used as overflow parking. Parking is available on the road, and the MCA are not prepared to allow parking on the road, as the likelihood of a serious accident is incredibly high, compared to the virtually zero risk of the field and they are not prepared put children and others at risk by parking on the road, and people will inevitably park on the pavement. The MCA do not accept the Parish Council's reasoning and concern over vehicles being on a children's playing field. MCA are unable to take on the lease of the field due to the unable to register the land, and also would need funding. If the MCA were to take over the lease of the field, then they would be able to use the field as they wished and use it for parking. With the effective running of the hall in recent years with more event bookings being larger there are more people using the parking. In the early days the events were far smaller and the parking was able to use car park. The parish council understand that and appreciate the success of the hall.

7.1.3 Overflow Parking for specific bookings- Council AGREED that for charity and resident bookings the field could be used. The field would not be used between January and March due to the possibility of soft ground and should there be inclement weather outside of these months the condition of the ground would need to be assessed. Any events already booked until the end of the year will be allowed to park on the field if required.

7.1.4 Playing Field Maintenance – Kingham & Son will not be tendering for 2023-24, Parish Council thanked them for maintaining the field and hedges over so many years. There is one scheduled cut of the grass left to do. Clerk will obtain quotes from new contractors for the contract 2023-24 currently the field has 10 cuts per year, and the hedge is cut once a year and there are 3 weed sprays in the year.

7.2 MK East – There were no further updates.

7.3 Parish Councillor Vacancy – Notice of Casual Vacancy had been posted as requested by MK Council election office. There was no request for an election so the position can be filled by co-opting. The next election for the entire parish council will be May 2023.

7.4 Marshall Aerospace – Marshall Aerospace have set up a Stakeholders Group with Central Bedfordshire Council and a number of parish councils affected by the proposed development including Moulsoe. SW and JH will attend for Moulsoe.

7.5 Traffic and Roads – Wood end Lane surface breaking up again, Clerk has reported to MK Council. The number of vehicles attempting to turn right at the junction with A509 has increased, notably taxis and possibly contractors. Graham are keeping Newport Road/A509 junction reasonably clean, although this need to be monitored with the autumn/winter weather.

7.6 Planning Applications -

22/01979/REM - Primary substation and associated works MK East – No Comments

To update on

21/02440/OUTEIS – Land at Caldecote Farm, Willen Road – this has now been granted planning permission

22/01770/PIP – Highfield, Cranfield Road, Moulsoe – refused

A representative from Highfield Homes the developer of the site was in attendance and had some questions relating to the council's comments and asked to speak. SW agreed that they could.

Questions were:

Why did the council comment it was not in keeping with the village, as no design layout was given?

The general consensus over the year is there is no objection for development on a like for like basis. Currently there are only 2 houses on the plot the village currently has single dwellings, but with possibility of 6-9 houses it is effectively a mini housing development estate in a rural setting, that affects the characteristic of the village. The other issue is that number of houses will have an impact on the traffic coming in and out on the narrowest part of the highway in the village. Council are aware that MK Highways have rejected other applications based on the increase in vehicle movement.

Why has the hedgerow just along from the application site not been cut?

This is a MK Highways issue and not a parish council matter so unable to comment on this.

Is there an issue with flooding and drainage?

There has been flooding in the centre of the village, into Wood End Lane. Also there has been flooding in gardens from the pastures when the ground is saturated especially in heavy rain events. If there is hard standing that problem will be exacerbated and will increase the flooding and put more pressure on the drains that are already at capacity.

If the parish council had a say in the development, what would they like to see there?

Like for like redevelopment is acceptable, so 2 houses for 2 houses, possibly 3 may be acceptable. The issue is the number and size of vehicles through the village at that narrow pinch point has increased and any development would add to those vehicle movements. That point of the highway has already seen a number of accidents due to the narrowness of the carriageway. At that section of road data shows the speed of vehicles average is 48 mph.

Are there any plans to change the speed limit in the village?

The parish council have tried to lower the limit over the years and are having conversations to lower the limit to 20mph. That would be a decision for MK Council and with the road possibly being classed as key route a reduction may be unlikely.

28. Parish Councillor Reports: None

39. Finance & Administration:

9.1 Accounts:

9.1.1 Council CONFIRMED the Barclays Account Balance of £13389.08

9.1.2 Council APPROVED the accounts as at 31 August 2022

9.1.3 Council APPROVED payments to:

K Hamilton - Clerks Salary

MK Forum - Annual Subscription £25

9.1.4 JH will be a signatory as a result of the recent resignation of Councillor Richards

9.1.5 Council AGREED to the application for a Debit Card linked to the Barclays Bank Account. To be used for items that are unable to be paid by Direct Debit in particular the annual Microsoft subscription, all payments using the card to be subject to Council approval.

Meeting Closed 21.20

Next Parish Council Meeting Tuesday 8 November 2022