

MOULTON PARISH COUNCIL

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Mr J Owens
Strategic Manager – Spatial Planning
Cheshire West and Chester Council
The Forum
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CH1 2HS

19 October 2012

Dear Mr Owens

MOULTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN NEIGHBOURHOOD AREA APPLICATION

This Application is made by Moulton Parish Council, a relevant body as defined by Schedule 9, Part 2 of the Localism Act 2012.

The primary contact points are:-

1. Cllr. N. Harris, Moulton Parish Council, c/o the Parish Clerk.
2. The Parish Clerk – contact details as above.

The proposal to begin the process of formally creating a Neighbourhood Plan was resolved at a meeting of Moulton Parish Council on Monday 10 September 2012. A copy of the Minutes of the Meeting is attached to confirm.

The Parish Council has formed a Neighbourhood Plan Working Group (NPWG), currently consisting of Parish Councillors only. In the near future the NPWG will also include Villagers from across the Parish. Input into the Plan will also be sought from CWAC Planning, local commercial interests and developers (already expressing interest in sites within the village boundary). The Terms of Reference of the NPWG were agreed at the Parish Council Meeting of 10 September 2012 and are included within the Minutes attached.

The NPWG believes that the area identified – bounded by red ink on the attached map – is the appropriate area for inclusion within the Neighbourhood Plan. Points to note are:-

- It is the recognized boundary of Moulton village.
- The area covered is the same as that covered in the Village Design statement dated 2008.
- The area covered is currently surrounded by open spaces, giving clear green gaps with neighbouring villages.

Initial thinking is that the Neighbourhood Plan should focus on the following key topics when seeking input into the Plan from the broader community.

- Possible locations for new dwellings.
- Protecting the existing village structure and identity.
- Traffic flow within the village, including public transport.
- Protecting the existing landscape and wildlife.
- Sustainability issues such as school places and local amenities, including shops.

Moulton is a unique village in that there is only one road in and out – effectively making it a large cul-de-sac. This feature, whilst giving the village an unusual aspect, also creates delicate issues with traffic volumes and management.

Property turnover within the village is less than average when compared to other local communities of similar size. This suggests a settled population that appreciates the quality of life it enjoys.

The present property mix within the village is broad, ranging from terraced properties to large detached multi-bedroom units. Ownership is primarily private, although a small number of properties are under the control of Weaver Vale Housing Trust.

Property development has been steady and gradual since 1945 and no new developments have been sizeable. This has helped the village to retain a semi-rural feel with no types, or styles, of property dominating.

Commercial activity within the village is negligible and is confined to 4 Public House/Clubs, a Post Office, a Takeaway and a Convenience Store. With larger shopping locations, Northwich and Winsford, only three miles away there is no demand for further retail outlets. There are no industrial units, or major employers, within the village boundaries.

The village is largely surrounded by open countryside which helps to prevent “merging” with neighbouring villages, all of whom have different characteristics. The centre of the village is dominated by the Playing Fields, which now have QE II status.

To the west of the village is the River Weaver and area renowned for wildlife and an extensive footpath network that links the larger conurbations of Northwich and Winsford.

The village is well served by local service buses, connecting to Northwich, Winsford, Middlewich, Sandbach and Crewe. The nearest Railway Station is at Northwich, which is on the busy Chester to Manchester line.

Whilst the road infrastructure within the centre of the village is often under pressure, particularly when buses pass through, the surrounding roads are considered adequate and fast links to all nearby towns are a feature. The M6 Motorway is 6 miles to the east of the village.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

CLLR. A. RIGBY
Chairman

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF MOULTON PARISH COUNCIL held at MOULTON VILLAGE HALL on MONDAY 10th SEPTEMBER 2012 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr. A. Rigby (Chair)
Cllrs. A. Aston (Vice Chair), A. Burgess, D. Hough, J. Kershaw,
N. Harris, P. Vernon, D. Watkinson and A. Wood.

Also In Attendance: P. Sanders – Parish Clerk. CWAC Cllr. H Weltman. 13 Members of the Public
(names recorded).

12.09.01 Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest

Resolved: to accept apologies from Cllr. Bowie (on holiday).

12.09.07 Reports

(a) Planning

Resolved: that the following be noted

- i) 12/03133/FUL – 8 Meadow Lane, Moulton – Front Porch. No objections.
12/03271/MIN – Land Shaft 4, Jack Lane, Bostock – various extensions and alterations to existing surface buildings relating to hazardous waste handling. No objections.
- ii) 12/03133/FUL – 8 Meadow Lane, Moulton – Front Porch. Permission Granted.
- iii). None.
- iv). The previously raised points regarding communication of RE's proposed development were discussed. It was felt that, at this stage, it is best to continue broadcasting updates via the two Web Sites and the Village Notice Board. Concern was expressed that Newsletters take time to produce and print and can very quickly become out of date in what is likely to become a very fluid, fast changing situation. The broader question of village wide communication can be discussed with the Residents Group in due course.
- v). The Parish Clerk advised that the Parish Council needs to make a formal application to CWAC to create a Neighbourhood Plan Area. The first stage of the process is to resolve to create such a plan and to agree the Terms of Reference of any Working Group instigated to assist in the process.
Resolved: to begin the process of creating a Neighbourhood Plan Area, setting up a Neighbourhood Plan Working Group and utilising support from villagers and other relevant bodies.
Resolved: to adopt the following Terms of Reference for the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group:-
 - i). To work solely on issues relating to the creation of a Neighbourhood Plan.
 - ii). To liaise as appropriate with Parishioners and other relevant bodies in the creation of the Plan.
 - iii. To meet as deemed necessary, with non Working Group Members allowed to attend if they wish.
 - iv). The Group has no authority to make decisions on behalf of the Parish Council.
 - v). To report progress, and make recommendations, to the monthly Parish Council Meetings.

(c) Administrative Issues

- i). **Resolved:** to adopt the new Code of Conduct as issued by Cheshire West and Chester Council. Members also handed in completed Notification of Interests Forms for subsequent passing on to ChALC.

12.09.08 Correspondence

- a) **Resolved:** that the correspondence received as below be noted and the following action be agreed.
 - Item 1 (6) – Cllr. Harris will review the Document and will start formulating the Parish Councils' observations/feedback.
 - Item 2 (1) - Cllr. Rigby and the Parish Clerk will attend.
 - Item 2 (5) – Cllr. Harris will complete and forward on to ChALC.
 - Item 7 – Cllrs. Harris and Wood and the Parish Clerk are attending.

1	Cheshire West and Chester Council	Various	Various briefing notes for Elected Members (<i>e-mailed 16 Jul, 20 July, 27 July, 13 August, 24 August, 31 August, 7 September</i>)	To note
		Various	'Altogether Better' - updates (<i>e-mailed 10 July, 17 July, 2 August, 24 August</i>)	To note
		Various	Bulletins for Town and Parish Councils (<i>e-mailed 19 July, 20 August</i>)	To note
		Various	E-mails relating to School Planning – Transport Charges (<i>e-mailed 19 July, 20 July</i>)	To note
		Various 31 August 5 Sept	Partnership Bulletins (<i>e-mailed 13 August, 24 August</i>) CWAC Local Plan – Consultation Document Northwich and Rural North Area News (<i>e-mailed 5 September</i>)	To note To discuss To note
2	ChALC	11 July	Notice of ChALC Vale Royal Area Meeting on 27 September 2012	To discuss
		31 July	Various Update (<i>e-mailed 31 July</i>)	To note
		21 August	E-Bulletin (<i>e-mailed 21 August</i>)	To note
		14 August 31 August	Newsletter (<i>e-mailed 14 August</i>) Survey regarding land use over the next 20 years	To note To discuss
3	Cheshire Community Development Trust	Various	Moulton Play Scheme Updates	To note
4	Veolia Environmental Trust	Various 16 August	Site Development Meeting Notices (<i>e-mailed 3 August, 5 August</i>)	To note
			Newsletter	To note
5	PCSO	26 July	E-mail relating to Vandalism at Weaver Road Playing Field	To note
6	Cheshire Playing Fields Assoc.	24 July	The Playing Field – Summer 2012	To note
7	Planning Aid England	14 August	Notice of Neighbourhood Planning Events on 12 & 18 Sept	To discuss
8	Audit Commission	31 August	Appointment of External Auditors (BDL LLP) from 2012/13	To note
9	VREN	Various	Newsletters (<i>e-mailed 31 August, 7 September</i>)	To note
10	Clerks and Councils Direct	8 Sept	September 2012 edition	To note

12.09.10 Councillors' Reports

The following were highlighted for report, action or to note:

- Cllrs. Vernon and Kershaw highlighted two overgrown hedges that are impeding pedestrians and motorists on Main Road. The Parish Clerk confirmed that Reports have already been submitted to CWAC and acknowledged.
- Cllr. Aston highlighted the existence of Community Interest Companies, feeling that it might be a suitable vehicle through which the Parish Council could operate local community initiatives such as IT Training. Cllr. Watkinson will review the technical documentation prior to the next Parish Council Meeting.
- Cllr. Watkinson advised that new Legislation is now in place preventing continuous ploughing on Ancient Monuments, such as the Burial Mound. It was agreed to monitor the situation.
- Cllr. Burgess advised that the hedge bordering the Electricity Sub Station on Main Road is in need of trimming. The Parish Clerk will liaise with Scottish Power accordingly.
- It was agreed to review the notes from the Crow Fair at the next Meeting. The Parish Clerk will distribute along with the usual pre-meeting papers.

- It was agreed to approach CWAC Recreation Department to enquire whether the Parish Council could take over the management of the run down Weaver Road Playing Area.

12.09.11 Next Meeting

Noted the next meeting of the Council will be held on Monday 8th October 2012 at 7.30pm at Moulton Village Hall (Back Room). There will be a 15 minute public participation session at the outset.

Also:-

Moulton Jubilee Events Group Meeting – 25 September 2012 – British Legion – 7.30pm.

Garages Committee Meeting – 26 September 2012 – Village Hall (Back Room) – 7.30pm.

Finance Committee (Grant Application Review) – 11 October 2012 – Village Hall (Back Room) – 7.30pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.53pm.

