

## **Mouldsworth Parish Council**

### **Meeting Minutes - Monday 30 October 2023, 8pm at The Goshawk Pub and Restaurant**

**Present:** Cllr G Jones (Chair)  
Cllr M Garnett (Treasurer)  
Cllr K Pine  
Cllr A Lowry  
Cllr H Nuttall

**In Attendance:** Cllr H Deynem (Sandstone Ward)

**Members of the Public:** 8

The Chair welcomed all those present and thanked them for attending

#### **Minutes**

Chair confirmed that the minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated and signed them as a true and correct record

#### **Matters Arising which aren't agenda items**

##### **1. Wheelchair access on the Chester to Manchester Platform at Mouldsworth Station**

Whilst it was reported at the last meeting by Cllr Pine that the Rail Company had refused to provide structural change due to cost and number of passengers affected (no actual cost provided by the Rail Company), Cllr Garnett said that there was 2.5K still available in the Charity Account which could offset costs and Cllr Deynem added that there was also a Ward Members fund that could similarly help.

**ACTION:** Cllr Pine to have further discussions with Claire Hogg and Sarah Muir.

##### **2. Replacement Village and Parish Council Notice Board**

Cllr Nuttall confirmed that the replacement board was on target for delivery from the joiners and this will be erected next to the post box on the The Goshawk's outbuilding.

##### **3. Parish Council Website**

Cllr Garnett reported that the website is doing the absolute minimum necessary (councillor details, minutes, accounts and dates of meetings), but it is very clunky to use and documents can only be uploaded by Simon Sherlock. Cllr Pine reported that she continues to explore cost effective solutions for our PC website which will enable us to have better communication with our community and ensure GDPR compliance. Cllr Garnett confirmed that we have sufficient funds to purchase a suitable website.

**ACTION:** Cllr Pine to provide fellow councillors with her proposals and Cllr Garnett to talk to CHALC re any suggestions they have, so that an alternative can be available for the next meeting in January for ratification

##### **4. Bonfire Night activities**

Cllr Jones reported that he had spoken to Neil (Goshawk landlord) and there will not be bonfire and firework activities this year.

## **Planning**

### **1. Mouldsworth Hall Farm**

The application is for the construction of additional storage space (circa 1500 sq m) for the Oasis Group who lease the northern portion of the farm. Cllr Jones reported that he had met with the applicant to gain a better understanding of the application. Cllr Deynem had also met with the applicant, agent and planning officer in this respect. It had been the view that this proposal supported local employment and rural diversity. Planning Officers were still considering their response but the Parish Council's initial view was that we would not raise any objections.

Steve Judd, Smithy Lane resident expressed concern about the consultation process and that the Parish Council hadn't actively sought the views of residents affected during the 21 day consultation period. Steve said there was crucial information with regard to landscaping that wasn't available on the Planning Portal and Cllr Deynem offered to investigate and inform the Parish Council of his findings. Cllr Jones apologised to Steve Judd if it seemed disingenuous as this was certainly not our intention. When asked, whether other parish councils responded to the consultation with both objections or support; Cllr Deynem said it was a mixture. He also pointed out that regardless of comments it won't change whether the application was in or outside policy and it may have to go to full committee and potentially appeal. Glen Ellcock Stable Lane resident asked whether CWaC had sent letters to affected residents and what was the criteria. Cllr Deynem confirmed that letters are sent out and he would let the Parish Council know which residents had been notified. *( the following day Cllr Deynem provided the names of residents written to and a copy of the impact assessment. The 61 page document was shared with Steve and Shirley Judd)*

Cllr Deynem said that Ward Members read comments made on all applications and it would be crucial that the valid points made by Steve should be on CWaC's website. Cllr Deynem urged concerned residents to email him or put it on the Portal. He would also do a deeper dive into the application

**ACTION:** Agenda item for next meeting to report on how we are going to improve resident communication within the 21 day period. Cllr Pine and Cllr Nuttall to make a joint proposal. Should any applications be received in the intervening period the Parish Council will endeavour to put flyers around the village.

### **2. Gongar Lane Update**

6 months have lapsed on the application and the land has been returned to the original owner (May 2023 Land Registry documents obtained confirms this ownership). Cllr Jones has spoken to our lawyer representatives to suspend the file but the Parish Council will keep a watching brief. Shirley Judd thanked Cllr Jones for his lead and hard work on this application.

### **3. Pingot Lane**

Vincent O'Brien (Manley resident) asked if we had any information on the current planning application for Pingot Lane which appeared now to be split into two. Cllr Deynem reported that there were now two appeals for Pingot lane and an additional two in Dunham Hill so there's a suggestion that all four be considered together. Manley Parish Council has appointed a planning specialist but no further information available to date with no dates set for the appeals hearings.

## **Finance**

Cllr Garnett summarised the budget and balance to date and recommended that we keep the same precept as previously which will take the bank balance to over 18K. The Parish Council has regularly reported that these high sums have been reserved for solicitor/lawyer costs for unforeseen future issues. Cllr Garnett reported that he has been working towards

closing one of the 3 bank accounts and sought Councillors agreement. With regard to the charity account Cllr Jones said we would welcome any suggestions for local causes. The detailed reports from Cllr Garnett are available on the website.

RESOLVED: that agreement be given to the closure of the third account and our continued thanks to Cllr Garnett for his hard work and rigour

## **AOB**

### **1. Sandstone Ward Meeting**

Cllr Deynem was asked to explain the background to this group meeting and whether there was any intention of it becoming a Parish Council formal meeting. Cllr Deynem explained that it was set up in order to have a forum for all the Sandstone PC's to jointly discuss issues that regularly arise at their individual meetings to develop best practice and share good practice. In the future Cllr Deynem would like to see how some powers could be devolved from CWaC to Parish Councils. Attendees can change dependent upon subjects being discussed so that local leads can attend.

### **2. Defibrillator**

Shirley Judd said she was pleased to see the defibrillator at The Goshawk and asked who was doing training. Glen Ellcock said Neil had put information on the The Goshawk website about training and Glen had raised it directly with him. Shirley said she would like to see some group training and a local protocol. Glen Ellcock reported that Manley Village Hall had taken similar action when they initially had their defibrillator but how that updated was unknown.

ACTION: item for next agenda and invite Neil so residents can discuss with him how training can be delivered

### **3. The plight of the Oak**

Steve Judd suggested that the charity account could enrich our local environment by funding an oak tree planting scheme. He said the future of the English oak is at risk and we need to take action.

ACTION: item for next agenda to discuss how we can co ordinate and get people involved. Steve Judd to provide a briefing on why this is so important and what we might do to mitigate the risk

## **Date of Next Meeting**

Monday 29th January 2024 8pm The Goshawk Pub and Restaurant.

**Signed:**

**Date:**