

# Minutes of Mouldsworth Parish Council Meeting

Held at Goshawk Pub

Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022

**Present:** Cllr. G Jones  
Cllr. M Garnett  
Cllr. H Nuttall  
Cllr. A Lowry

## **In Attendance:**

K Green

### **1. Welcome**

The Chair welcomed those present.

### **2. Apologies**

There were no apologies.

### **3. Minutes of the previous meeting**

The Minutes of the previous meeting were taken as read, proposed by Cllr Garnett, seconded by Cllr Nuttall and approved.

### **4. Matters Arising**

- Sandstone Group

A letter re traveller sites was sent to the Chief Executive of Cheshire Council, with the response that the problem should be left with the Planning Department. It was agreed that Parishioners should be encouraged to contact the Chief Executive.

- Red Van

The van has been removed from the road and is now parked on the driveway of the property.

- Car meeting

The management of the Goshawk pub have confirmed that there will be no further events.

5. **Planning**

There were no planning matters arising.

6. **Finance**

See attached notes and reports.

A vote of thanks was recorded for the Treasurer for all his efforts.

7. **Correspondence**

There was no relevant correspondence.

8. **Any Other Business**

It was proposed and unanimously agreed that Kate Pine be co-opted as a Mouldsworth Parish councillor.

9. **Date of next meeting**

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2023

**Chairman:**

## Mouldsworth Parish Council Meeting Monday 31st October 2022

### FINANCE SECTION NOTES

#### Parish Council accounts:

**Quarterly summary:** Unbudgeted extras 1) Ashton Hayes Jubilee event (£500), 2) Parish field map (£66.75). As can be seen we have £20,285 in our PC account now, which is more than usual despite our not having raised our £1,518 Precept for a couple of years. Our logic historically has been to have a fighting fund to pay for legal costs/planning advice if we ever needed it for something 'big' that impacted our village. £20,000 now seems about right for this.

**Budget 2023/24:** Shows very similar numbers to this year giving us a surplus (if nothing extra comes along) of £650. In view of this situation it is proposed to hold the precept at the same level as the last few years ie. £1518. This budget needs approving at this meeting.

**Our Mouldsworth PC situation:** No paid Clerk and quarterly meetings allows the above financial numbers. If we were to employ a paid Clerk our precept would probably have to treble – maybe not ideal. Note almost all other very small Parish Councils have given up and been absorbed by larger neighbouring ones (eg. Delamere and Oakmere PC, Ashton Hayes and Horton-cum-Peel PC, Dunham-on-the-hill and Hapsford PC). Our present PC strategy is to keep going as we are but government regulations/bureaucracy, particularly in the financial area, are making this increasingly difficult.

#### Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2021/22 Part 2:

This is the External Audit procedure for Parish Councils with incomes and expenditures less than £25,000.

- **Certificate of Exemption** – an email acknowledgement was received from the auditors PKF-Littlejohn on 27/6/2022 in time for their 1/7/2022 deadline.
- **Notification of exempt status** – an email was received from the auditors on 2/9/2022 saying 'By notifying us that Mouldsworth PC has claimed exemption there is **no review to be performed and consequently no audit certificate and report .....** will be issued by us for this reporting year'.

#### Parish Council Website:

We are still relying on Simon Sherlock for the website which is OK. The only hassle time of year is the 20+ pages that need loading after the April meeting with the annual accounts. Richard Johnson of Dunham-on-the-Hill Parish Council (and Frodsham Computers) has offered for us to potentially duplicate theirs (Dunham's) if we need to – but theirs has got more sophisticated recently. I will keep you posted.

#### Poors Land Charity Accounts:

The 'Poors Land' Charity trustees are traditionally the Parish Councillors. The Charity is not legally connected to the Parish Council. The Charity accounts are filed annually with the Charity Commission (Charity number 242165) – they were filed on 16/05/2022.

**Bank Balance** – Combined accounts £3,166.66 at year-end March'22, so still plenty of money left to spend/give away. Income from the charity's field rent is £240/year, so we are trying to give away £500/year – we have donated £4,750 in the past 10 years so are on target.

**Charity Bank Accounts** - We have two bank accounts - I have not yet closed the 'savings' account – in fact we should be getting some more interest soon so will wait and see.

Signed:



**Martin Garnett** – Treasurer Mouldsworth Parish Council