

Mouldsworth Parish Council

Meeting Minutes - Monday 29 January 2024, 8pm at the Goshawk Pub and Restaurant

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

Members of the Public: 9

The Chair welcomed all those present and thanked them for attending

Apologies: Apologies for absence was received from Cllr H Deynem (Sandstone Ward)

Minutes

The 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

Cllr Pine reported that there was no additional update at this time

2. Notice Board

The Chair wished to record the Parish Council's thanks to Neil Gorman for enabling the Board to be sited on a Goshawk building and to Ossie Nuttall for its erection.

Finance

The Treasurer shared information on the quarterly financial position which included budget and outgoings to date. Joanne Monks (Clerk to Delamere & Oakmere PC) confirmed by the meeting as our internal auditor again.

He provided a summary on how finances come into the Parish Council and the criteria for expenditure from the Charity Account which has to be focused on the young and elderly in the Parish. He explained what the Risk Assessment covers which includes meeting cycle, how we use and pay accounts and reporting and auditing.

Documents provided: Quarterly Financial Update; Financial Standing Orders and the Parish Council's Risk Assessment. All these documents are available on the Council's website.

Resident Mary Jefferson suggested that Ashton Hayes Primary School may wish to make a case for a donation from the Charity Account.

The Chair thanked the Treasurer for his hours of work spent on our finance and statutory duties.

RESOLVED: That the Financial Standing Orders be agreed

ACTION: Mary Jefferson to discuss with the Head Teacher at Ashton Hayes Primary School and present a proposal for the Parish Council to consider.

Planning

1. **Mouldsworth Hall** - signed off
2. **Nortons Lane** - Closing date for comments 30 January 2024

Website

Cllr Pine shared a document which outlined the requirements for every Parish Council and there are many laws and regulations stating how they should be produced and presented. Cllr Pine's and Cllr Garnett's research is recommending that we purchase a package from NETWISE who are an established provider to parish councils (approx 330 already subscribers) and they offer 4 levels of packages. The premium plus package includes enhanced interaction, one of which points residents to planning applications and then straight through to CWaC Planning Department.

Background document available on our current website.

RESOLVED: That

1. The proposal to purchase a package from NETWISE be accepted and,
2. Cllr Pine to have further discussions with NETWISE and provide a timescale for the change over at the next meeting together with training provided.

The Chair wished to record enormous thanks to Simon Sherlock for all he has done for us by providing technical support for our current website. It is much appreciated by all current Councillors.

Plight of the English Oak - Oak Tree succession

Resident Steve Judd shared a paper on the importance of our oak trees which do so much for our environment.

- Over 2,000 wildlife species in the UK rely on oak trees as a source of food and shelter and over 300 of these depend on oaks for their survival
- oak trees absorb more CO₂ than any other tree and they help clean our air - a single oak can store as much as 48 pounds of CO₂ annually
- they also stabilize the soil and improve its quality.

Steve asked that the Parish Council agrees, in principal, to support an oak tree planting scheme for Mouldsworth and that it allocates an initial amount of money to support this commitment.

Cllr Nuttall reported that last summer a gentleman had been to Mouldsworth to carry out a survey of our oak trees as part of a wider survey on behalf of CWaC. Cllr Nuttall would endeavour to find the gentleman's details to share with Steve.

Steve's paper is available on the website.

RESOLVED: That

1. Steve be thanked for his detailed paper and,
2. the Parish Council gives support in principal and,
3. the Parish Council acknowledges that funds are available which could be allocated subject to future proposals and,
4. There be further discussions at the next meeting on how this can be taken forward and how to engage our community including our children and,
5. If anyone wants to be part of a small working group please let Steve/Cllr Nuttall know.

Defibrillator

Following a request from residents who attended the last meeting, Neil Gorman (Manager of the Goshawk) attended the meeting to discuss what training had been offered to date. Neil reported that details of past training was available on the Goshawk's website. However, 23 to date had been trained and the first respondent is in Ashton. Neil was more than happy to arrange further training subject to request. (Following the meeting Neil emailed Parish Councillors to say that three further dates had been arranged. 28 February 7.30 - 9pm; 6 March 7.30 - 9pm and 13 March 7.30 - 9pm. Bookings are on line using the link <https://fatso.ma/ZmL> followed by d for 28 Feb, l for 6 March and q for 13 March)

Correspondence

No correspondence has been received

AOB

1. Grass Verges - Smithy Lane

Residents Brian and Barbara Russell raised concerns about the speed of larger vehicles going down Smithy Lane and the damage caused to the grass verges. One resident had spoken to one driver but had received abuse. They had wanted to know who was responsible for the repair to the grass verges under either national or CWaC policy and, whether, CWaC would consider traffic calming measures.

RESOLVED: That: the Chair raise these concerns with Cllr Deynem

2. Quarry - Stable Lane

Residents asked whether the Council would speak to Hill n Ditch on their behalf about the speed of vehicles travelling down Stable Lane and consequently the increased noise levels. Whilst accepting that the lane is the national speed limit, this is a single track road.

RESOLVED: That subject to more detail being provided, the Parish Council would make representations

3. Car Meets - The Goshawk

Neil reported that the Car Meets were scheduled to take place again this year, using the tried and tested measures of previous meets.

Next Meeting

29 April 2024, 8pm at The Goshawk. This meeting will include the AGM