

ANNUAL MEETING OF MOULTON PARISH

Date: Tuesday 16th May 2023 **Time:** 7.00pm **Venue:** Moulton Community Centre

1. Record Attendance and Apologies

Attendance:

Chairman: Cllr Aarons,
Parish Councillors: Cllr Swallow, Cllr Ward, Cllr Moss, Cllr Paul, Cllr Swannell, Cllr White, Cllr Bennett
West Northamptonshire Councillors: Cllr Warren
Parishioners: As named on a signed attendance list held by the EO
Executive Officer: Jane Austin

Apologies:

Cllr Curran, Cllr Morrow, Cllr White

2. Welcome and Chairman's Introduction

Cllr Aarons welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending.

3. Accept Minutes of Last Meeting held on 17th May 2022

It was **resolved** to accept the minutes of the last parish meeting held on 17th May 2022

4. Progress any Matters Arising from Minutes of 17th May 2022

No matters arising.

5. Receive Report from the Parish Council – Chairman Cllr D Aarons

_____ Following last year's gradual recovery from the restrictions of the Covid-19 pandemic, this year has seen a rapid return to "business as usual".

The first major surprise of the year was when Vice-chair, Geoff Paul, and I attended the NCALC (Northamptonshire County Association of Local Councils) AGM to be greeted unexpectedly with their Council of the Year Award

(<https://www.northantscalc.com/news/2022/10/council-of-the-year-2022>). The award to Moulton PC was for "its work promoting health and wellbeing and for its service to the community".

Much of this activity has been seen at Moulton Community Centre (MCC).

Moulton PC now supports something like 80 community groups, some with just a handful of members others with events for 100+. At MCC we provide support, services and activities across a full range of ages. In a discrete corner there are scales for new parent to keep track of weight for their babies and added soft furnishing is being used by families with young children. Story-time sessions are increasingly popular and usually over-subscribed.

Several activities are aimed at school-age visitors during term-time and there is always a programme of activities during school holidays.

MCC now has a dedicated "warm space" for daily use and a weekly food larder to help families in need.

As always, our senior residents have their games morning each Friday and a community lunch twice a month.

This is a small selection of what Moulton PC is organising to support Moulton and its residents. As always, there is more to do and the Health & Wellbeing team is constantly look out for new and better ways to do this.

Organisations such as Weight Watchers and the local National Trust groups also help to make MCC the thriving venue we see today. We also support outside public agencies such as local NHS teams and the Police & Crime Commissioner's office.

Having made the decision to run the café rather than let the space to a tenant it now forms a much more integrated part of all of the activities taking place. Following a necessary refurbishment and restocking programming the café has steadily increased its hours to deliver the best possible service to all our centre visitors and hall hirers. This has led us to using Section 106 funding, from local house building, to expand the café seating area and build on this success which will provide us with the space to provide even more services to residents.

None of this would have been possible without the strenuous efforts of our Executive Officer, Jane Austin, and her hard-working team. They have gone "above and beyond" to deliver the best possible service to our community.

Councillors have also been hard at work this last year.

Unfortunately we said goodbye to two of our councillors. The resignations of Trevor Ward due to ill health and Steve Morrow owing to a house move. Trevor has acted as our longstanding expert leading the planning team and Steve was our police liaison councillor. David Conway and Josh Marshall were co-opted as new councillors during the year.

Our green spaces have benefitted from the efforts of Councillor Martin Swannell and his small team of helpers. Martin works to ensure that these precious areas benefit from good management as he oversees our long-term plan as well as planting large numbers of new trees in Crowfields Nature Reserve.

Councillors Kevin White and Tony Morrow continue their work to develop provision for teenage residents, sometimes a forgotten group, in Moulton.

A working group to consider how we can mitigate some of the impact of climate change has just begun. Our first tangible benefit is the upcoming installation of solar panels (funded by Section 106 money) at MCC. This should result in a considerable reduction to our electricity bills over the long-term.

Councillor Yvonne Swallow spends a great deal of time working with the library and H&W team to help them deliver their much-needed service.

Councillors Stephen Fehnert and David Conway have battled with Mulberry Homes and WNC planners in order to establish a proper level and use for ground allocated for Moulton FC when the development on Boughton Road was first planned several years ago.

Councillor Chris Curran continues with his ongoing (sometimes frustrating) dialogue with WNC Highways on subjects such as pot-holes and community transport.

The Finance Committee under the chairmanship of Councillor Geoff Paul work hard to ensure that we achieve a proper balance between maximising service delivery to our community and judicious use of funds. In this endeavour he is ably supported by Councillors Stephen Fehnert, Gary Moss and Yvonne Swallow.

Our WNC ward councillor, Mike Warren, has become a welcome member of the parish council team for the life of this council. There have been several challenges over the last year and Mike has been active in assisting MPC in trying to overcome them.

Lastly, all of this activity is underpinned by the volunteers who step forward to enable us to make these things happen and they have my heartfelt thanks.

All-in-all another good year for MPC and the community it serves – bearing in mind there is ALWAYS more to achieve!

6. Receive Report from Finance Committee Chair – Cllr G Paul

This has been another challenging year for the finances of Moulton Parish Council. We started the year coming out of the Pandemic, with the challenges to our income from hire of

the Parish facilities. Fortunately, the vast majority of our old established hirers have returned, and we have continued to seek additional users – much of this growth has been as a result of the outstanding work by our new Community Connectors, who continue to develop our ‘offering’ to the community.

Once the pandemic subsided, we were then faced with unexpected inflation of our cost base, following the invasion of Ukraine. Many of our recurring contracts have an inflationary clause, which means our costs have risen much more than we had anticipated. (We are of course not alone in this).

Our community centre café (Eat at Moulton CC) has continued to grow, and now provides us with a significant income stream, and is developing an excellent reputation. We are currently extending the café area – a high capital cost, but one we are confident will pay for itself over the short to medium term, by increasing the availability of space to hire out to residents.

We achieved a close to break-even financial result in the year to March 2023, and have budgeted for the same in the new financial year. Unfortunately, the result of the inflation in costs we have experienced over the past year (many of which we are continuing to face) has meant we have felt obliged to increase our precept for this year. We are too close to the memory of what happened to the old Northants County Council to take the risk of leaving precept income at an inadequate level.

The Finance Committee has continued to meet regularly, and has conscientiously examined all proposed spending – only recommending those items which we are confident will provide a future benefit. In this regard, I wish to place on record my sincere thanks for the members of the Finance Committee, who have worked hard to ensure the Parish Council remains in a sound financial position.

7. Receive Report from Executive Officer

Last year’s activities differed greatly from the previous two years of the pandemic. As ever, we are always faced with many demands, challenges and pressures on council resources and finances and each new year brings different ones! Financial pressures are high, we began running the café last year which required some investment. We aim to see that element of our business breaking even during this new financial year.

Although in a much-reduced capacity, Covid is still with us and during the autumn we experienced a number of booking cancellations at short notice. I am pleased to report that since Christmas bookings for the Community Centre remain at a very healthy level and are back at pre pandemic levels. I must thank Louise and Caroline who not only manage the bookings but keep the building open and well maintained! We have more than 40 service contacts linked to the community centre and Louise and Caroline interrogate each contract continually to ensure we are obtaining the best possible service and value from each one.

The past year has seen many advances on parish projects, and these are detailed later in the report. Our Health and Wellbeing Hub continues to grow and visitors to the library number approx. 10,000 per month. Working closely with the café staff provides the best service for all users at the community centre. Such is the parish council’s commitment to our Health and Wellbeing initiative we are fortunate enough to employ two Community Connectors, Rachael and Dionne. This has enabled us to deliver so many events and provide more services to all ages of our population, as well as managing the library. In October 2022, we were honoured to receive the ‘Ncalc Council of the Year Award’ for our Health and Wellbeing provision. This provision increased during the winter months when we became a ‘Warm Hub’ supporting residents who are affected by the cost-of-living crisis. Huge thanks must go to Rachael and Dionne our Community Connectors and Annette, our Hospitality

Manager for their work in supporting our community and providing such a warm welcome to all visitors.

Although we are still a parish council, we have the operation and function of a small town council. Below is a small example of how our parish has grown in the last 7 years:

	2016	2022/23
Population	3454	6500
Dwellings	1474	2500
Contractors	5	45
Staff	2	26
Play Areas	1	5
Attenuation Basins	0	7
Public Open Spaces	4	9
Community Buildings	1	2
Library	0	1
Cafe	0	1

New housing developments in Moulton parish are coming to an end and at the present time, Mulberry Homes will be the last one to be completed. Although development in Overstone parish will continue over the next decade, the need for community infrastructure will be significant and Moulton will continue to feel the impact of this for some time to come.

Sadly, in September the death of HM Queen Elizabeth II necessitated following a strict protocol as detailed in Operation London Bridge, the process required following the death of a monarch.

I must pay special tribute to the Chair and Vice Chair who appreciate the dedication and relentless hard work of my team and never fail to thank them. Their steadfast support enables us to continually strive to improve services and provide best value for residents. It's a great advantage that this council understands the difference between Governance and Management.

The Parish Team continues to grow and develop and comprises of very experienced individuals all with great strengths. Our staff team has grown to 26. We accept and rise to any challenge thrown at us. The threat of Covid may have receded but we had to work hard throughout the winter on our parish wide initiative to ensure we were able to help alleviate heat and food poverty for our most vulnerable residents. Our Community Larder initiative began in September 2022 and continues to run weekly. Huge thanks must go to Claire Watt, who not only manages all our Finances (including securing a clear audit) and Human Resources but somehow manages to find time to produce two Moulton Scenes each year!

For some years, Moulton has held the reputation of being the best run council in the County. Notwithstanding the strong working relationship with council, I believe this to be down to the best group of people I could ever wish to work with, all of whom work many more hours than they are paid for and the many contractors to support our efforts in running the parish.

8. Receive Report from Community Connectors

The Community Connectors report is inserted below.

MOULTON LIBRARY HEALTH & WELLBEING HUB

2022-2023

117k

Between May 2022 and April 2023 over 117 thousand visits were recorded to the hub.

2

Community Connectors!
Rachael & Dionne each work 4 days a week, manning the welcome desk, liaising with residents and arranging a programme of activities to cater for all ages!

1

EXPANDED CHILDRENS LIBRARY

With three additional sofas our children's library has expanded to create more space for all of the activities we have on offer!

In October we welcomed Katy, and introduced an additional Rhyme Time session for babies. With weekly members exceeding our capacity for both groups we quickly had to resort to utilising a booking system! To date we have held 24 sessions with Katy totalling to a whopping 2112 available spaces for Under fives and their carers to enjoy the sessions

- CONSTRUCTION CLUB
- STAY & PLAY(X2)
- RHYME TIME
- BOUNCE & RHYME
- BABY WEIGHING
- HOMEWORK CLUB

960

BIG BOUNCE

336

PARTIES

70

ZOO LABS

70

SCIENCE SHOW

75

STORYTIMES

195

EASTER CRAFTS

140

THEATRE

50

BANKING WORKSHOPS

2k+

Who have we connected with...

- Under the Bed Theatre
- Zoo Labs
- Just Karen
- Sarah Martindale Entertainment
- Everyone Active
- Atomic Science
- Music Bugs
- Judith Allnatt
- Daisy First Aid
- Warm Welcome UK
- Overstone House Care Home
- Sleep solutions with Sam Lullababy
- Musical Memories
- Breathing Space
- Northants Health Watch
- NDAS
- West Northants Customer Service Team
- Age UK
- Squires Mews Care Home
- Farm Foods
- Aldi
- Little Acorns
- Fitness without Boundaries
- Moulton 77 Brass Band
- Weston Favel Food Bank
- British Red Cross

Throughout each school holiday a full programme of activities was arranged with accessible and affordable activities being our priority. The figures to the left show the number of available booking spaces available for children at each activity - all of which were fully booked! Big Bounce has now been expanded to include preschool sessions and soft play. Additional resources have been purchased to improve all activities and the children's library in general.



Throughout the winter months 169 refreshment trolleys were made available, with warm drinks and snacks during our extended hours. Fresh fruit and pastries are available throughout the day on the welcome desk.

1 KINDNESS RAIL
Free warm clothes are available, including jackets, jumpers, scarves, hats and gloves.

1 SNACK BASKET
Fresh fruit is available at all times. Giving visitors access to healthy food.

7 SANITARY CARE BOXES
Towels, liners and tampons can be found in all seven toilets throughout the building. Free for all who need them, including packs to take away.

2 BABY & CHILDREN SUPPLIES
Two large drawers of nappies, wipes and spare clothes are available in both of the baby changing facilities.



25
Community Jigsaw's completed on the community table.

A Staff room essentials box was created for staff to utilise. With dental hygiene products, skincare and toiletries.



- Morrisons
- Moulton Guides
- Moulton College
- White Cobra Events
- Safe Bounce
- Moulton Scouts
- The Hope Centre
- Daventry Policing
- Moulton Fire Service
- Moulton Theatre
- HSBC Financial Education
- Barclays Bank - Fraud
- Gigaclear
- Q Space
- Strong Start
- Supporting Independence
- Volunteero
- Silver Light Legal
- Vespaccino
- Monday Night Team
- Walking for Health

MOULTON CAR SCHEME

Our car scheme continues to assist residents in reaching their medical appointments. One new driver has been recruited and another is ready to start pending their DBS checks.

1 CHRISTMAS CRACKER

With over 45 stalls selling handmade goods, Moulton Church with Christingle crafts, Moulton Scouts and Brownies with fun games, Moulton 77 Brass band serenading us whilst we shopped, and the Children's library full of crafts, reindeer food and letters to Santa there really was something for everyone.

175 We replied to 175 letters that children wrote to Santa.

5 INDOOR CAR BOOTS

Proving popular each winter we hosted 5 car boots this year with all proceeds going back into resources for the library.

1 SECONDHAND BOOK TROLLEY

Books are unpriced and sold for a donation only - ensuring they are accessible for all.

• GAMES MORNING

Having ensured the continuation of Games morning on Fridays we have seen it grow from strength to strength. New members are referred on a regular basis and what used to be a regular group of 20 has grown to a minimum of 30 each week. We have ensured to reinvest funds by buying additional resources and now have an established group of Rummikub players as well as the usual Scrabble, dominoes and cards. We were thrilled to welcome Kevin Whately as part of the Warm welcome campaign!



• CRAFTERNOON

Crafternoon has continued to prove popular with attendees increasing to an average of ten each week. Cards are made and sold in the library shop, with takings being donated to a nominated charity each couple of months.



• COMMUNITY LUNCH CLUB

To date we have now hosted 28 Lunches! With themed specials commemorating the Queens Jubilee, Remembrance Day and Christmas it has become a community staple, with 50 joining us for Christmas lunch.



• BOOK CLUB

We are about to celebrate Book clubs first anniversary! Meeting monthly we are an inclusive book club with no pressure to read a chosen book. We hosted our first Author event which was a huge

9. West Northants Councillor Report – Cllr M Warren

Year 2 of the new WNC and another challenging year harmonising the previous 4 legacy councils and all the various differing policies.

DDC's old building in Lodge Road, Daventry has now closed.

This is part of the rationalisation of assets held by the council.

The Planning Dept at Daventry has now moved to the Council Offices in Towcester

Changes to Planning

WNC has now voted through changes to the Planning Committee structure

It is reducing the number of area planning committees from 3 to 2, A North and a South planning committee.

Moulton will be covered by the North committee, and this will sit in Northampton.

One of the biggest issues for us locally and across the whole of West Northants is Potholes, hopefully there is some light at the end of this dark tunnel

WNC has been awarded additional funds of £1.8M from Central Government to help fix the potholes in the WNC area.

This is in addition to an extra £1M put into the budget by WNC for the coming year.

We are also investing in new equipment – A Pothole Pro (JCB) machine, and a further Thermal Repair machine, which will make us more efficient thereby delivering more repairs.

Some of the Highlights for us this year

We have worked to continue to support people coming to the UK as part of the Homes for Ukraine scheme.

There have been over 400 generous sponsors across West Northants, who between them have welcomed around 700 guests.

We announced the new Highways contract with Kier which commenced in September 2022. We increased investment to the service by more than £1million per year and we also put in place our own contract management team to monitor performance.

Northamptonshire formally established its new statutory Integrated Care System on 1 July.

This was a new legal requirement not just for our county, but for the whole of England across 42 local areas. An integrated care system is a partnership of local health and care organisations that come together to plan and deliver joined-up services and to improve the health of people who live and work in the area. Our integrated care system is called Integrated Care Northamptonshire.

It replaces and builds upon the partnership work undertaken over the last few years by Northamptonshire Health and Care Partnership. This has subsequently led to the establishment of Local Area Partnerships across West Northants, a pioneering approach that has for the first time brought together council, health, police, and other services to identify and meet the specific needs of local communities.

The council has budgeted for a new 250-place school for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

The Council will convert an empty facility in Tiffield near Towcester into a SEND school for children aged four to 18. The unit will cater for children who are on the autistic spectrum (ASC) and have speech, language, and communication needs (SLCN), and also those with severe learning difficulties (SLD). The plans come in addition to a £1.1 million expansion and

the creation of 50 new specialist places at Hunsbury Park Primary School, which was given the go ahead earlier last year.

Several further school extensions to increase SEND capacity have subsequently opened or are currently under construction.

Daventry Country Park, Abington Park, Bradlaugh Fields and Delapre Park have all retained their Green Flag Awards. There are plans to work towards achieving similar accolades for Towcester's Water Meadows and Hunsbury Country Park.

Ward Boundary Changes

Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) released its proposals for new Council electoral boundaries, with draft recommendations for 76 members to represent 35 wards across West Northamptonshire.

The report of the Boundary Commission recommends 35 wards across WNC. This is an increase of 4 wards. There will however be a reduction of councillors from the current 93 to 76.

There will be seven 1 councillor wards, fifteen 2 councillor wards and thirteen 3 councillor wards.

The Final recommendations will be published on 1 August 2023 and these will be the recommendations which will come into force for the 2025 election.

What does this mean for Moulton.

The new Moulton Ward, which did consist of 12 villages, will be reduced to 4

Boughton, Pitsford, Moulton and Overstone and will still be represented by 3 councillors.

The villages north of Moulton move to a new ward which is proposed to be called Walgrave & East Farndon and represented by 1 councillor. The villages west of Boughton will be moved to a new ward called Long Buckby and represented by 2 Councillors.

Thank you for your continued support for WNC, my colleagues and myself, please do not hesitate to contact any of us if there is anything we can help you with.

Contact Details: -

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10. Northamptonshire Police Report – PCSO K Lumbis

PCSO Lumbis gave the following report:

Current Neighbourhood Policing team consists of: Sgt Matt Moore, PC Lee Stevens, PC Chris Stevens, PC Lewis Cardell (Student Officer and PCSO Kev Lumbis.

Recent crime – 1 burglary (vulnerable property, crime prevention team have made improvements to the house) and one theft from vehicle

Anti Social Behaviour – street racing on the A43 has improved with the installation of the traffic light.

Other activities include use of passive drug dogs operation at Moulton College

One resident reported the speeding traffic on Northampton Lane South at night. PCSO Lumbis to speak with resident.

Business Manager thanked PCSO Lumbis for all his efforts working with Moulton Primary School.

Rachael Warr (Community Connector) thanked PCSO Lumbis for his consistent

11. Open Forum – Parishioners Question Time

Cllr Aarons thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

12. Confirm Next Meeting

The date of the next Annual Parish Meeting is to be confirmed.

Meeting Closed at 7.35pm

Copies to:

Parish Councillors (13), West Northamptonshire Councillors (3)