



Moston Parish Council

13th December 2023

Commenced: 7.30 pm

Terminated: 8.45 pm

Present: Councillor Nixon (Chair)
Councillors Haigh, Lockett, Bower-Lowe and Tumilty
Councillor Wray – Cheshire East Councillor

**Apologies for
Absence:** Councillor Moran

Also in attendance were 10 Members of the Public.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Moran.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received from Members of the Parish Council.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the proceedings of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 11th October 2023 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

4. PUBLIC FORUM

A member of the public referred to ongoing water leaks on Whitehall Lane which appeared to be running from the fields.

5. FINANCES AND BUDGET 2023-2024

(i) Members received the following Budget Expenditure at the 30th November 2023 and the forecast expenditure for 2024-2025.

Budget Head	Total	BUDGET ALLOCATED	DIFFERENCE	FORECAST EXPENDITURE 2024-2025
Salary	£2,328.27	£3,300.00	70.55%	£3,700.00
General Admin	£0.00	£500.00	0.00%	£350.00
Website/ICT Costs	£446.14	£500.00	89.23%	£500.00
Insurance	£215.32	£400.00	53.83%	£400.00
Payroll Costs	£200.40	£300.00	66.80%	£300.00
Audit Fees (internal)	£128.10	£500.00	25.62%	£300.00
Subscriptions	£291.06	£320.00	90.96%	£320.00
Meeting Room Hire	£50.00	£150.00	33.33%	£150.00
Training	£0.00	£200.00	0.00%	£150.00
Parish Improvements/Events	£153.88	£800.00	19.24%	£800.00
Chair's Fund	£0.00	£30.00	0.00%	£30.00
	£3,813.17	£7,000.00		£7,000.00

(ii) Members received the following bank reconciliation at 30th November 2023:-

Bank Reconciliation 30th November 2023		
MOSTON PARISH COUNCIL		
Financial year ending 31 March 2024		
Prepared by: Muna Clough, Parish Clerk & RFO		
Balance per bank statements as at 30th November 2023		£
Current Account (07572433)	£21,118.08	
Reserve Account including interest (96473193)	£5085.75	£26,203.83
Add: any unbanked cash	None	
Net bank balances as at 30th November 2023		£26,203.83
The net balances reconcile to the Cash Book (receipts and payments account) for the year, as follows		
CASH BOOK		
Main and Reserve @ 01.04.2023		£22,693.04
Add: Receipts in the year (including interest)	£7,323.96	£30,017.00
Less: Payments in the year	£3,813.17	£26,203.83
Closing balance per cash book [receipts and payments book] must equal net bank balances above		£26,203.83

(iii) The Clerk reported that the National Local Government Pay Agreement for 2023-2024 had been approved and that the Clerk's salary was now £13.06 per hour.

(iv) Members were asked to approve a payment to Civitas in the sum of £412.50.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Budget Expenditure at the 30th November 2023 and the forecast expenditure for 2024-2025 be received;
- (2) That the Bank Reconciliation at the 30th November 2023 be received;
- (3) That the National Local Government Pay Agreement for 2023-2024 be noted;
- (4) That a payment to Civitas in the sum of £412.50 be approved.

6. PARISH COUNCIL BUDGET AND PRECEPT FOR 2024-2025

Further to Minute 5(i) above, Members considered the budget requirements for the Parish for 2024-2025. They agreed that the Precept should be increased to £7,500.00 for the forthcoming year to ensure any unexpected increases in budget expenditure were covered.

RESOLVED

That the request to Cheshire East Council for the 2024-2025 Moston Parish Council Precept in the sum of £7,500.00 be approved.

7. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Parish Council to consider an update from Councillor Nixon on the following:-

(i) **New Planning Applications**

- **Planning Application 23/4603C The Cottage Plant Lane, Moston, Sandbach, Cheshire. CW11 3PH.** Replacement of existing glazed conservatory with a 7m x 4.6m single storey brick and tiled roof (4m in height) ground floor rear extension, which increases the existing combined footprint by less than 14 sq m.

RESOLVED

That the Parish Council does not raise any objections to this application.

- **Planning Application 23/4026C Thimsworra Farm, Dragons Lane, Moston, CW11 3QB** – Change of use of land to use as a residential caravan site for 7 Gypsy families with a total of 16 caravans, including no more than 7 static/mobile homes, together with laying of hardstanding, erection of communal amenity building, erection of 5 No utility buildings and erection of stable building.

Members of the Parish Council and Members of the Public expressed their strong concerns and objections regarding this application. They agreed that not only the objections of the Parish Council, but also individual resident objections must be submitted to Cheshire East Planning Authority, in an attempt to add weight to their concerns for the refusal of this proposal.

The planning application had been scheduled for consideration at the Southern Planning on the 7th February 2024 and the last date for comments was 20th December 2023.

The Chair explained the history of planning applications relating to this site and the impact that the development was having on the area, including its effect on the environment; water table; visibility; traffic; light pollution. The detrimental impact on wildlife was a huge concern, especially relating to the great crested newts, and the drainage of foul water was unknown.

Councillor Nixon added he had consulted with Cheshire Wildlife Trust and that Civitas Planning had submitted an extensive objection on behalf of the parish council.

RESOLVED

That the ongoing objections of the Parish Council in relation to the development applications on this site be noted.

(ii) **Ongoing Planning Applications**

- **Planning Application 23/3570/0C – Land south of Warmingham Lane.** Change of Use of land for use as a natural burial ground for the burial of coffins and urns with associated infrastructure.

The Chair reported that the Environment Agency had stipulated that there must be a gap of 1 metre between the water table and the coffins. He added that the comments of the Parish Council had been submitted to Cheshire East Planning Authority. The target date for a decision was the 20th December 2023.

- **23/3408C – Stables off Warmingham Lane, Moston.** Erection of Agricultural Building. 4m high. There were a number of discrepancies in the original application and the Chair had spoken to the Planning Officer regarding this matter. There was also the possibility of the location of a high pressure water pipe under the partially built building, which was within the remit of United Utilities. To date, there had been no progress with the application

- **22/3244C Fairacre, East Booth Lane, Moston, CW11 3PU** – This decision was still outstanding.

RESOLVED

That the updates to the Ongoing Planning Applications be noted.

8. MUD AND FLOODING ON WARMINGHAM LANE

The Chair updated Members on actions taken which included considerable liaison with United Utilities. He added that the verges were very badly damaged.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

9. MILL LANE TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS

Members considered a letter received from Cheshire East Council in response to the concerns submitted by the Parish Council.

The Cheshire East Road Safety Team was costing a vehicle activated sign saying ‘slow down’ and Mill Lane had been added to the request for the implementation of a speed limit.

Councillor Wray agreed to donate £2,000 of his Ward Councillor Highways Budget to Moston Parish Council for the purposes of traffic management.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted and Councillor Wray thanked for his generous donation.

10. SPEED MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR WARMINGHAM AND MOSTON

The Chair updated Members on the application by Warmingham Parish Council and Moston Parish Council to Cheshire East Council for a Speed Management Strategy. The main purpose of the Strategy was to propose the implementation of a maximum speed limit of 40mph in both Villages.

Councillor Nixon added that he had attended the most recent meeting of the Police and Crime Commissioner and Mr Dwyer had agreed to support the proposal.

RESOLVED

That the Speed Management Strategy for Warmingham and Moston be forwarded to Cheshire East Council.

11. CHAIR’S REPORT

The Chair reported that he had covered all matters pertinent to the Parish within the Agenda.

12. REPORT FROM CHESHIRE EAST COUNCILLOR

Councillor Wray, Cheshire East Councillor reported on the following:-

- The Full Council meeting was held at Jodrell Bank;
- The closure of Westfields – future plans unknown
- The relocation of staff from Westfields to Crewe and Macclesfield, but whenever possible, working from home;
- The appointment of the new Chief Executive.
- The Deputy Leader of Cheshire East Council Craig Browne, had announced his resignation from his Council positions, to be effective on a date in the New Year.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Members noted that the next meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Wednesday, 14th February 2024 at 7.30 pm at St Peter’s Church Hall, Elworth, Sandbach