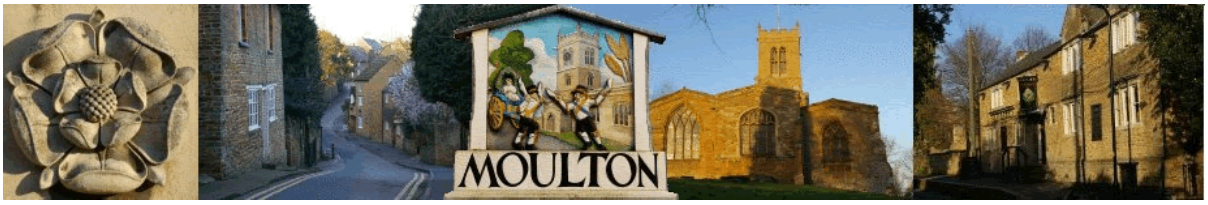

MOULTON PARISH COUNCIL
Annual Report to Electors

If during the course of the last twelve months you have taken the trouble to read my reports in the Moulton Scene you will be aware that it has once again been a busy year for the Parish Council. In addition to various new initiatives which I will tell you about in a moment, I would everyone to note that we do have ongoing responsibility for the maintenance of village properties: these include the village hall, our cemetery, the public gardens, Busby's Meadow, Crow Fields, many of our grass verges, the seating areas, our five notice boards, the cleanliness and repair of bus stops, regular replacement of litter bins, the care of the Stocks Hill planters and the hanging baskets, the shrub borders, and so on. Much of the essential work such as grass cutting is subject to annual tenders from commercial firms and contracted out, but we strive hard to ensure we get best value and good standards of workmanship.
Also we have quite a large ongoing administrative responsibility to keep up to date, and this includes matters such as the hire of the village hall; all the official administration involved with burials at the cemetery; the production of the regular issues of the Moulton Scene; as well as liaising with the various departments of the County Council and District Council over matters involving highways, footpaths, litter, environmental health issues, etc. etc., and also obtaining advice and help for villagers who come to us with problems and concerns beyond our normal obligation.
I mentioned The Moulton Scene and whilst I remember I will thank Pam Eastaff for her work dealing with the advertisers as she has recently retired from doing this after many years of loyal service. Thank you Pam.

One example of our liaison with Highways was our work to ensure the installation of parking restriction lines in Boughton Road, Pound Lane, and Jeyes Close where the daily parking had almost made that part of the village impassable. We also keep contacts with local businesses and other local organisations where community interests arise and our involvement can provide some benefit for the village. For instance we are currently talking to the Co-op about ways of improving the ad-hoc parking of their customers on Stocks Hill, which I know is causing some concerns.
The other major example of our work with other local government authorities was over the CC proposal to close our library. Together with the "Friends of the Library" group, and thanks to the overwhelming support of villagers, we have saved our library at least for the next few years. Many of you will be aware that the Parish Council do have plans to provide new village community centre facilities as at times the village hall has no parking available for our clients, and during the year we drew up and approved a business plan to achieve this objective. Provision of a site for a new library is included in our vision for this scheme so hopefully a long term solution may be possible.
Among the new improvements initiated during this last year have been the continuing redevelopment of the cemetery and we have now completed the task of identifying all grave plots and installed row and grave markers. The old rather ugly asbestos roofed garage in the cemetery and its concrete base were finally removed during last summer and other work included the central row of lime trees being pollarded.
The items in the old cemetery garage were transferred to our new store in the public gardens completed just a year ago, and at the time we enlarged the tarmac stage area and recently have added new amphitheatre seating set into the slope. This new shed has been fitted with CCTV to protect the children's play equipment and already this has proved invaluable to the police team. We closed the gardens for a week or so whilst new turf, additional shrubs and bluebell bulbs were planted and during this time youths climbed in and caused litter and damage. The police were able to identify the four thirteen year old boys responsible and inform their parents.
On planning matters we became quite directly involved in two applications: namely over the Moulton College application to build the new sports injury clinic where we needed to seek legal opinion over the correctness of the DDC decision, and also the development at Sandy Hill Farm where approval was given by an inspector after an appeal hearing. This approval will bring considerable highways improvements to calm traffic flows in Overstone Road as well as providing community land for all our benefits and avoiding any resurrection of the Alibone Waste Site for unpleasant uses.

Another legal matter was our need to obtain a licence for regulated entertainment on Stocks Hill and in the Public Gardens. The Church Choirs can now sing Christmas carols on Stocks Hill legally! The Christmas Tree there was kindly donated again by John and Mary Sheldon and this was greatly appreciated. Thanks are due to the parish councillors and family members who decorated it.
We have been pleased to support the Football Club in their bold venture to rebuild the pavilion and improve all the playing field facilities in Brunting Road. Their lease on the premises has been updated to include the new facilities. We have also backed them in a practical way by purchasing a small ride on tractor to allow grass-cutting to be carried out by the club members as and when necessary.
I hope everyone has noticed the transformation of the interior of the Parade Bank telephone box, which is now a "book exchange". If you haven't yet visited it you must, and please take along a few books to help stock it up.
One important change that has happened recently in our village is the appointment of a new principal at Moulton College, Mr. Steve Davies. I recently went to see him on behalf of the Parish Council, and I am pleased to report that our meeting was cordial and productive. I have high hopes that we can establish a good relationship to our mutual benefit. One positive initiative already in place is the decision by the College to fund a police officer to be based in the College but also to work within the community.
We do have failures just occasionally…and the closure of the Youth Café was one such disappointment to us. Our youth worker was unable to ensure his regular attendance due to a move to Devon and the club closed in the Autumn. Villagers sometimes point out other matters where there is a perception we could be better, and things that particularly spring to mind include things like litter, dog poo, overhanging bushes, and anti-social behaviour.
But let me say we can't be everywhere, or even solve all problems for everyone. Often what is needed is more community involvement with everyone who lives in the village giving us practical help and support where necessary by tackling the perpetrators or reporting who they are. We can't always expect someone else to be responsible for things, it is up to each of you to do your bit. The Neighbourhood Watch Scheme needs our support and in that way we can be supportive of each other.
Some small irritations could be dealt with if we all become brave enough to speak out sometimes. When you see school children sitting on the flowers in the planters outside the Co-op, it would help us all to ask them politely to use the seats instead and point out how their bottoms are damaging the plants. Also if litter blows past you it all helps to pick it up and pop it into a bin. In many such small ways we can all help improve our quality of village life.
Let us all work together to make Moulton an even better place to live.

Cllr B Care M.B.E.
Chair, Moulton Parish Council

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Cllr A Morrow	07990 586290
Cllr A Parkinson	01604 645029
Cllr J Sheldon	01604 644151
Cllr M Swannell	01604 647950
Cllr T Ward	01604 643836
Cllr H White	07801 289402

BALANCE SHEET - YEAR END 31ST MARCH 2011

Bank Reconciliation

		£
Community Account (Current)		24,478.71
Business Base Rate Tracker (Deposit)		33,545.05
Sub Total		58,023.76
ADD: Receipts not yet credited		0.00
LESS: Un-presented cheques		0.00
Total		**58,023.76**

Receipts and Payments

Reserves brought forward @ 01.04.10		57,319.25
PLUS: Receipts in 2010/11	194,215.32	
LESS: Payments in 2010/11	(193,510.81)	
SURPLUS/DEFICIT 2010/11	704.51	
TOTAL @ 31st March 2011		**58,023.76**

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT – YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2011

2009/10 £	RECEIPTS	2010/11 £
111,050.00	Precept	113,270.00
12,377.00	Moulton Scene	11,173.98
2,897.31	Allotments	3,605.41
3,144.23	VAT Refund	15,536.50
31.31	Bank Interest	20.63
7,950.00	Cemetery	13,190.00
1,000.00	Rent (Playing Fields)	1,000.00
1,374.60	MWGSP (136 Agreement)	1,423.06
13,128.49	Miscellaneous	34,995.74
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152,952.94	Total	194,215.32
	PAYMENTS	
8,455.97	VAT Paid	9,202.65
45,399.29	Staff Costs	54,960.87
397.73	Lighting/Water/Electricity	4,779.22
4,056.94	Allotments	2,303.16
14,253.09	Admin/Training/Insurance/Telephone	11,377.32
2,573.31	Busbys Meadow/Crowfields Common	1,713.11
3,869.86	Loan Repayments	5,234.40
30,173.67	Maintenance/Litter Picking	16,533.30
17,129.70	Grasscutting/Gardening	12,047.80
11,540.10	Moulton Scene	10,839.26
5,000.00	MAST	5,000.00
13,478.26	Miscellaneous	59,519.72
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156,327.92	Total	193,510.81
(3374.98)	SURPLUS/DEFECIT FOR THE YEAR	£704.51

ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS

Year Ending 31 March 2010 £	Year Ending 31 March 2011 £	Notes
111,050	113,270	Annual Precept – total amount received in the year
41,903	80,495	**Total other receipts** and income including grants received in the year
45,399	54,961	**Staff Costs** – Salaries, PAYE, NI and pension contributions Employment expenses
3,870	5,234	**Loan interest/capital repayments** on Public Works Loan Board loan (PWLB)
107,059	133,316	**Total other payments**
469,319	473,320	Total fixed assets as at 31st March
43,565	65,807	**Total borrowings** – The outstanding capital balance of all Loans as at 31st March

Explanation of Significant Variances year ended 31st March 2011

	Last Year 2009/10 (£)	This Year 2010/11 (£)	Difference (£)	Explanation	Amount (£)
Total other receipts	41,903	80,945	+39,042	PWLB loan Increase in cemetery income on previous year VAT Refund increase on previous year	25,000 5,000 12,300
				Total	**42,300**
Staff Costs	45,399	54,960	+9,561	Employment of administration assistant Employment of groundsman (reduction in cost of grasscutting maintenance contracts)	5,500 4,000
				Total	**9,500**
Loan interest/capital repayments	3,870	5,234	+1,364	Additional repayment on PWLB loan	1,364
				Total	**1,364**
Total other payments	107,059	133,316	+ 26,257	Grant to Football Club	25,000
				Total	**25,000**
Total borrowings	43,565	65,807	+22,242	Additional PWLB loan	25,000
				Total	**25,000**