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## ASTON LE WALLS PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the MEETING of ASTON LE WALLS PARISH COUNCIL held on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at 7:30pm in the Village Hall.

Attendees: Cllr. Matt Hawkins **(MH)** Chair, Cllr. Rhiannon Harris **(RH)** Vice Chair, Cllr. Grahame Barnes **(GB)**, Cllr. Tom Boston **(TB)**, Cllr. John Funnell **(JF)**, Cllr. Richard Burgess **(RB)**, Cllr. Lee Lewis **(LL)**, Debra Kirton **(DK)** Clerk

Others: Mr. Charles Lees

### The meeting opened at 7.40pm

- 1) Apologies – None
- 2) Declaration of Interest – None
- 3) The minutes of the previous meeting held on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2024 have been approved as a true record and signed by Cllr. (MH) Chair.

a) There are no matters arising from the previous meeting held on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

**Action Points** from the previous meeting held on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2024:

- i) Cradle Swing quotation On hold.

- 4) Welcome to Cllr. Lee Lewis

Cllr. (MH) Chair warmly welcomed Cllr. (LL) who joins the Parish Council as our recently co-opted Councillor.

- 5) Correspondence to include Website and IT

Cllr. (RH) Vice Chair informed the meeting that Cllr. Lewis's name and details have been added to the Parish Council website and the website is up to date.

- 6) Financial Matters

- a) Balances & Invoices for approval of payment. The Clerk read out the financial matters, bank balances, invoices paid, and invoice for approval.

Balances @ 8<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Business Instant Account	£14,051.24
Treasurers Account	£123.25
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£14,174.49</b>
War Memorial Account	£464.59

Receipts / Payments / Invoices Approved from 11<sup>th</sup> January 2024 – 8<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Receipt/Payment	Details	Amount (Inc VAT)	Date Paid/received
Payment BACS	Cllr. Barnes Print & Stationary	41.47	15.01.24
Payment BACS	Npower Street Lighting 01.10.23-31.12.23	52.56	15.01.24
Payment BACS	Clerk PAYE – Month 10	267.44	30.01.24
Payment Visa Debit Card	F.N.Pile – Service of Pocket Park Mower	132.94	30.01.24
Mr. Grahame Barnes	Printing – Village Newsletter	10.32	

7) Delegated Responsibilities

Cllr. (MH) Chair explained to Cllr. (LL) that all Councillors are assigned village roles to ensure the maintenance and safety of our community. Cllr. (MH) Chair then delegated street lighting to Cllr. (LL) who duly accepted. Cllr. (GB) will hand over all necessary paperwork in due course.

8) New Parish Council Website Host

Cllr. (RH) summarised the pros and cons of staying with Cuttlefish or moving across to another provider. The latest announcement from Cuttlefish is that they took over the management and ownership of 2Commune on the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024. However, they have communicated a change in the timeline for Councils to sign up with them. Councils can wait until the end of their current contract and so for us that will be on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2024. This allows us time to make our decision:

Pros and cons of staying with Cuttlefish.

Pros:

- No change. Technical support remains the same as before with 2Commune.
- No additional cost, contract renewal will be on the 5<sup>th</sup> October 2024.
- No migration of data, reducing the risk of data loss.
- Familiarity, Cllr. Harris and the Parish Clerk can navigate around the current system.

Cons:

- Outdated website appearance.
- Possibly no functionality to add village hall information.
- Would there be a cost should we decide to upgrade the system.

Pros and cons of moving across to Parish Online.

Pros:

- Better looking website.
- Free data migration.
- Better functionality to incorporate the village hall, has a village hall diary.
- Upgrades and new functionalities free of charge.

Cons:

- Uncertain as to whether we would have to pay again for the maintenance of our Domain name.
- Training would be needed.
- Our present data would need to be migrated and there could be functionality differences between both systems.

**ACTION:**

- NCalc Discounts: Determine if both providers offer NCalc discounts.
- Renewal Costs: Ascertain the renewal costs for both Cuttlefish and Parish Online at the end of our current contract.
- Moving Provider: Inquire with Parish Online if they would allow us to migrate in October when our current contract expires.

9) Quotation for a cradle swing

Cllr. (RB) provided an update on the progress regarding the quotation for the cradle swing. Originally, the Council had intended to explore the costs of both a slide and cradle swing. However, a decision was reached not to proceed with the embankment slide due to safety concerns. Despite delays Cllr. (RB) has now received correspondence from Jodie, Sales Director at Wicksteed. Options include support posts either directly into the ground or with galvanised shoes. Posts directly into the ground offer a 10-year guarantee, the galvanised shoes provide a 15-year guarantee. Cllr. (RB) is currently awaiting a formal quotation. To reduce the cost Cllr. (RB) has suggested collecting the items and self-assembling the swing.

10) Village Maintenance

- a. Pocket Park – Cllr. (TB) and Cllr. (JF) walked through Pocket Park to inspect the trees. The inspection raised significant concerns regarding the safety of many of the trees and particularly the big willow tree opposite Nigel Taylor's property. There is a risk of the big willow and other trees falling causing significant damage to property, posing a potential liability to the Parish Council.

Cllr. (TB) obtained two separate quotes from specialist tree surgeons ranging from £1,500 to £3,000 Cllr. (MH) Chair read the Parish Council's insurance policy, which allows for claims up to £1,000 per claim and a maximum of 5 claims in one insurance year.

Cllr. (JF) suggested exploring the option of returning the land to the Council, as the lease contract doesn't expire until 2035. Cllr. (GB) suggested exploring potential grants to support community tree felling.

**Action:** Cllr. (MH) Chair said he would review the lease and requested that Cllr. (TB) speak to Nigel Taylor regarding the current concerns and contact the tree officer at the Council to arrange an inspection of the trees.

- b. Millennium Gardens – No concerns at present, Cllr. (MH) Chair mentioned that 400 daffodils had been planted just before Christmas. The Cherry tree on the corner of Plowden Close has ivy growing around it.

**Action:** Cllr. (RB) has offered to take care of removing the ivy.

- c. Street Lighting – Cllr. (GB) has purchased new sticky numbers to replace the old and illegible ones on the streetlights. Street Light number 7 outside the school appears to be slightly unstable, Cllr. (GB) said currently there are no immediate concerns, just monitor. In the event the column needs re-rooting we would contact Eon, our maintenance provider.

- d. Defibrillator – All in working order. Nothing to report.

- e. Public Footpaths & Rights of Way – Cllr. (GB) adjusted all the gates along the public footpath. Gate No.2 the latch and side post appear to be loose, Cllr. (GB) will report this to the Council.

- f. Trees and General Parish Environment – Cllr. (TB) will do a walk-around check.

- g. Winter Maintenance – Grit bins are full.

9) General Updates

- a. Welsh Road – The pavement in Butlers Close is a concern. The sub-floor seems to be moving and could be a trip risk.

**Action:** Cllr. (MH) Chair will report the fault to the WN Council.

- b. HS2 Liaison, Highways and Road Safety Update  
Nighttime road closures are scheduled on the A361 at Chipping Warden to forward the bridge work. The Warwick Road will be closed for several months with a diversion route put in place.

The Parish Council has received a planning notification for amendments to previous planning:

- Amendments to the earthwork slopes within Boddington Cutting
  - Earthworks associated with the GSM-R Compound
  - Changes to the bund on the east side of Lower Boddington Embankment
  - Banbury Road Overbridge was amended to accommodate a cycleway on Banbury Road, and amendments to the earthworks to provide space for the cycleway.
  - Increase in Parapet height along Banbury Road Overbridge. Amendments required to Banbury Road / Warwick Road to accommodate a cycleway along Banbury Road
  - Amendments to drainage details, location of vehicle restraint barriers and permanent fencing.
  - Amendments to the approved access tracks.
  - Location Land within hs2 Act limits from point southwest of Spella House Banbury Rd Lower Boddington to WNC boundary at the junction of Banbury Rd & Stoneton Lane
- b) Neighbourhood Watch – Domestic burglary in Morten Pinkey posted on the village Facebook. PC Mel Carter has suggested catch-up meetings with the PLR in March.

13) Any Other Business

Mr. Charles Lees asked if the Council would like him to put the VAS unit up, to monitor the speed of vehicles coming through the village. Cllr. (MH) Chair agreed. Mr. Lees also wished to draw the attention of the Parish Council to dog waste bags being put in the public litter bin along Main Street.

Action Points:

Action Item	
Website: NCalc Discounts available with Cuttlefish & Parish Online	Clerk
Website: Renewal costs for both Cuttlefish & Parish Online when our contract expires in October	Clerk
Website: Would Parish Online allow us to migrate in October	Clerk
Pocket Park Trees: Communicate with Nigel Taylor & Council Tree Officer	TB
Pavement in Butlers Close: Report to the WN Council	MH
Cherry Tree: Remove Ivy	RB

- 14) Dates of the Next Meetings to be held in the Village Hall: 7<sup>th</sup> March, 11<sup>th</sup> April Open Meeting, 9<sup>th</sup> May AGM, 13<sup>th</sup> June & 11<sup>th</sup> July, no meeting in August.

**Meeting Closed at 8.50 PM**