
ASTON LE WALLS PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the MEETING of **ASTON LE WALLS PARISH COUNCIL**, held on Thursday 9th January 2025 at 7:30pm pm in the Village Hall.

Meeting opened at 7.34pm

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

Others: Cllr. Alison Eastwood Vice-Chair of the West Northamptonshire Council

Cllr. Hawkins, Chair opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and wishing all a happy new year.

1. Apologies – Cllr. Richard Burgess
2. Declaration of Interest – Cllr. Richard Burgess Item: 7

Cllr. Hawkins, Chair invited Cllr. Eastwood to present her report. Cllr. Eastwood presented her report at the meeting, confirming her intention to stand in the May elections. She emphasized the importance of her commitment to supporting and collaborating with any party elected, prioritising the needs of the community. Cllr. Eastwood had just returned from a meeting on the Devolution Options for West Northants. Cllr. Eastwood stressed the importance of joining the initiative now rather than waiting for the Government to enforce it. Devolution, she explained, would transfer powers from Central Government to local-area decision making, on key areas such as transport, public health, and local area partnerships. An expression of interest will be submitted to join together, West Northamptonshire, with Bedford, Central Bedfordshire, Luton, Milton Keynes, and North Northamptonshire. This would also lead to the election of a Mayor in June 2026.

Cllr. Eastwood presented Devolution briefing notes for the Councillors to read and to post on the Parish Council website.

3. The minutes of the previous meeting held on 14th November 2024 have been approved as a true record and signed by Cllr. Matt Hawkins, Chair.
 - (a) There are no matters arising from the previous meeting held on 14th November 2024.
 - (b) Actions arising from the previous meeting held on 14th November 2024

M. Hawkins
20/11/25

Actions	Owner	Status
Meeting with Head Teacher, St. Mary's RC School	Cllr. RH	Pending
IT meeting with Cllr. Hawkins, Cllr. Harris & Clerk	Clerk	Postponed
Meeting with Resident Mrs. DW	Cllr. MH	Pending
Tenders for Grass Cutting Contract	Clerk	Completed

4. Correspondence to include Website and IT (RH) – There are no issues with the Parish website. Cllr. RH has asked for headshot photos of all Councillors to be emailed to the Clerk for the Parish Council website.

5. Financial Matters: Balances. Invoices paid and invoices presented for approval of payment.

(a) Balances @ 14th November 2024

Commercial Instant Account	£14,062.80
Treasurers Account	£ 353.97
TOTAL	£14,416.77
War Memorial Account	£ 469.63

Receipts / Payments / Invoices Approved from 14th November 2024 – 9th January 2025

Receipt/Payment	Details	Amount (Inc VAT)	Date Paid
Payment	Burgess Contracting Ltd	2,100.00	16.11.24
Payment	Parish Online – Mapping Software	48.00	18.11.24
Payment	Clerk Salary – Month 8 + increase & Backpay	401.68	30.11.24
Payment	Sainsbury's – Printer Paper	5.00	29.11.24
Payment	British Legion – Remembrance Wreath	20.00	27.11.24
Receipt	Interest (Gross) Commercial Instant Account	11.77	09.12.24
Receipt	Interest (Gross) War Memorial Account	0.36	09.12.24
Payment	Tomato Energy – Street Lighting Day	20.92	30.12.24
Payment	Tomato Energy – Street Lighting Night	121.66	30.12.24
Payment	Clerk Salary – Month 9	283.59	30.12.24

Authorisation of expenditure -

Invoice	Description	Amount	Approved
Tomato Energy	December Streetlighting Day	9.06	Yes
Tomato Energy	December Streetlighting Night	50.20	Yes

6. Parish Council Precept 2025 – 2026 Return

Cllr. MH Chair presented the Parish Council's projected expenditure for the financial year 2024 – 2025 and the forecasted budget for 2025 – 2026. The budget was discussed, and it was agreed that the Precept for 2025 – 2026 would be set at £10,000 no uplift on the previous year. Proposed by Cllr.GB and seconded by Cllr. TB.

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7. Urban Highway Grass Mowing Tender Bids 2025

The Clerk presented three anonymous quotations for the Parish Grass Cutting contract 2025. All three companies were asked to quote for 15 cuts.

- A. £2,163.00
- B. £3,300.00
- C. £16,500

The Council agreed to proceed with contractor A. Cllr JF proposed, and his was seconded by Cllr. LL.

8. VAS Report November 2024 – Mr Charles Lees - It was agreed to move this item to the February meeting.

9. Village Maintenance

- a. Pocket Park (RB) – No concerns.
- b. Millennium Gardens (All) – No concerns.
- c. Streetlighting (LL) – All working, no concerns.
- d. Defibrillator (GB) – Cllr. Barnes maintains weekly monitoring checks. Cllr. Barnes has asked the Clerk to provide further supplies of the check list.
- e. Public Footpaths & Rights of Way (GB) – No concerns.
- f. Trees and General Parish Environment (TB) – No concerns at present.
- g. Winter Maintenance (JF) – The grit bins are half full except for the grit bin along Apple Tree Lane. The Clerk, to contact the Council to restock the grit bins or provide grit for the bins that the Parish Council are responsible for.

10. General Update

- a. Welsh Road – Nothing to report.
- b. HS2 Liaison, Highways and Road Safety Update – Nothing to report.
- c. Neighbourhood Watch – A van was broken into recently. Cllr. RH, Vice Chair will put a post on the Parish website on Burglary Prevention, and information on the Faraday Box.

11. Any Other Business.

HS2 has offered free of charge tree saplings to Parish Council's. Cllr. MH, Chair, will discuss with Mr. Charles Lees whether to accept this offer.

Cllr. GB asked how to obtain the thermal imaging camera. This is available for hire from Boddington Parish Council. The Clerk will advertise this in the next village newsletter due Feb/March

20/11/25

9. Dates of the next meetings to be held in the Village Hall:

13th February 13th March 10th April 8th May 12th June 10th July, no meeting in August.

There being no further business and the Chair closed the Meeting at 8:30pm

Actions

Grit Bins to be re-filled	Clerk
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