

# ASTON LE WALLS PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the MEETING of **ASTON LE WALLS PARISH COUNCIL** held on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at 7:30pm 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. Richard Burgess (**RB**), Cllr. Lee Lewis (**LL**), Cllr. John Funnell (**JF**) Debra Kirton (**DK**) Clerk

1. Apologies – None
2. Declaration of Interest – None
3. The minutes of the previous meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2025 have been approved as a true record and signed by Cllr. Hawkins, Chair

(a) There are no matters arising from the previous meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2025

(b) Actions arising from the previous meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Actions	Owner	Status
Grit Bins to be re-filled. Noted – additional grit required.	Clerk	Completed

4. Correspondence to include Website and IT (RH) – The Parish website is current and up to date. At present, we have photo headshots of four Councillors on the site. The Clerk is waiting to receive the remaining Councillors photos to add to the website. Articles related to local community interests are regularly being posted on the website.

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

(a) Balances @ 20<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Commercial Instant Account	£14,087.31
Treasurers Account	£ 563.68
TOTAL	£14,650.99
War Memorial Account	£ 470.44

*Matt Hawkins*  
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Receipts / Payments / Invoices Approved from 9<sup>th</sup> January 2025 – 20<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Receipt/Payment	Details	Amount (Inc VAT)	Date Paid
Receipt	Interest (Gross) Commercial Instant Account	12.17	09.01.25
Receipt	Interest (Gross) War Memorial Account	0.40	09.01.25
Payment	Tomato Energy – Street Lighting Day	9.06	16.01.25
Payment	Tomato Energy – Street Lighting Night	50.20	16.01.25
Receipt	WNC – Grass Cutting Grant	552.56	17.01.25
Payment	Clerk PAYE – Month 10	283.59	31.01.25
Receipt	Interest (Gross) Commercial Instant Account	12.34	10.02.25
Receipt	Interest (Gross) War Memorial Account	0.41	10.02.25

Authorisation of expenditure - None

6. Chair, Cllr. Matt Hawkins

(a) Tree Felling on Railway Bridge & Repairs to Bridge – Cllr. Boston reported that Welsh Contractors, working on behalf of the Heritage Railways, are carrying out essential repairs to the bridge near Pocket Park and removing foliage. Several trees near the road have been identified to be felled. To safely carry out this work, approval from HS2 is needed, as the road will need to be closed during the tree felling. This is scheduled for the summer.

(b) Tree Maintenance Plan – Cllr. Hawkins, Chair was pleased to announce that Haidee Williams has successfully secured funding for a tree survey in Pocket Park. This is essential for the Parish Council to manage the growth of the trees over the next 20 years. The management plan will also include the trees along the boundary of St. Mary's RC School.

(c) St. Mary's School Boundary Fence – Cllr. Hawkins, Chair recently met with the Head Teacher at St. Mary's School to discuss the replacement/repair of some of the chain-link fencing at the school. This is a safeguarding concern, as some of the existing fencing is too low. This is scheduled for Autumn.

(d) Local & Parish Council Elections 1<sup>st</sup> May 2025 - Cllr. Hawkins, Chair, discussed the upcoming elections in May, which will include Parish Council elections. Cllr. Hawkins asked if any Councillors were considering resigning. All Councillors expressed their intention to continue their commitment to the community. There is a set timescale to follow: The Parish must advertise the election notice so that anyone in the community who wishes to stand as a candidate can contact the Parish Clerk for further information. Current Councillors wishing to re-stand must submit their nomination papers to the Clerk who will deliver them to WNC Daventry.

7. VAS Report – November 2024

The VAS unit was positioned on the post outside of Cllr. Boston's farm to monitor the traffic entering the village from the A361. The data collected showed that the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed was 30.0 mph. In addition, 4.46% of vehicles were recorded traveling over 35 mph, and 77.45% were traveling below 30 mph. It was disappointing to register a few vehicles travelling at high speed during the day. Overall, the results were positive.

8. Village Maintenance.

a. Pocket Park (RB) – Cllr. Burgess reported that some of the logs from the felled willow tree have been thrown into the pond, and the fence panel removed to allow access to the tree has

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MOS

now fallen down. There is a need to erect fencing along the boundary, the new fencing will be placed 1.5 meters away from the road. A total of 75 meters of fencing and rail is required for the project. It has been suggested to contact Haidee Williams at HS2 for possible funding support.

The Pocket Park mower requires servicing before the start of the mowing season, a cost of £130.00 plus VAT. Cllr. Lewis proposed the cost, and this was seconded by Cllr. Barnes-Moss.

- b. Millennium Gardens (All) – No concerns.
- c. Streetlighting (LL) – All working.
- d. Defibrillator (GB) – Cllr. Barnes maintains weekly monitoring checks. The Head Teacher at St. Mary's asked if the defibrillator would be moved and sited on the new village hall when re-built. It was agreed by all Councillors present to keep the defibrillator at the school.
- e. Public Footpaths & Rights of Way (GB) – No concerns.
- f. Trees and General Parish Environment (TB) – No concerns. Cllr. Burgess reported that potholes had been filled along Plowden Close.
- g. Winter Maintenance (JF) – Additional grit will be needed before the end of the cold snap.

9. General Update

- a. Welsh Road – Nothing to report currently
- b. HS2 Liaison, Highways and Road Safety Update – Cllr. Hawkins, Chair, reported that HS2 has requested approval for 24-hour working hours at the compound. This work will primarily happen in the tunnel, additionally backfilling around the exterior of the tunnel which requires layering and compressing. A large portion of the work on our side of the road is already underway. The realignment of the road over the tunnel is scheduled for April 2026.

There will be a 4-week road closure at Wormleighton to complete bridge work. Stoneton Lane will also be closed for 2 years while HS2 constructs the Stoneton Lane green overbridge.

- c. Neighbourhood Watch – The Parish Clerk also acts as the PLR (Police Liaison Representative) for the village. The role of the PLR acts as the primary point of contact with the local neighbourhood police officer.

8. Any Other Business. None

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

13<sup>th</sup> March 10<sup>th</sup> April 8<sup>th</sup> May 12<sup>th</sup> June 10<sup>th</sup> July, no meeting in August. 11<sup>th</sup> September 9<sup>th</sup> October, 13<sup>th</sup> November, no meeting in December.

There being no further business the Chair closed the Meeting at 8:20 pm

**Actions**

Nomination papers for the May Elections to be handed in at the March Parish Council meeting	All Councillors
Contact Haidee Williams – funding for fence and rail Pocket Park	Cllr. Hawkins

*M. Hawkins*  
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