
ASTON LE WALLS PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Debra Kirton, New House, Main Street, Aston Le Walls, Northants, NN11 6UF

Telephone: 01295 660879

Email: clerk@astonlewallsparishcouncil.gov.uk

Minutes of The General Meeting held on Thursday 11th May 2023 at 7:30pm in the Village Hall.

Attendees: Cllr. Charles Lees **(CL)** - Chairman, Cllr. Tom Boston **(TB)** Vice Chairman, Cllr. Dick Stephen **(DS)**, Cllr. Matt Hawkins **(MH)**, Cllr. Rhiannon Harris **(RH)**, Cllr. Alison Eastwood WNC Silverstone Ward **(AE)**, Debra Kirton **(DK)** Clerk

1) Election of Chair

Cllr. Charles Lees handed in his letter of intention to resign as Chairman and Councillor to the Parish Council at the AGM in February 2023. Cllr. Matt Hawkins was proposed and elected by all Councillors in attendance as the New Chair of the Parish Council. Cllr. (MH) thanked his fellow Councillors and said his intentions would be to serve for a period of three years. Mr. Charles Lees said he would be happy to assist and support the New Chair.

Cllr. Alison Eastwood greeted the New Chair. She expressed the importance of keeping in touch with the villages in her ward. Cllr. (AE) would be happy to attend any meetings when invited. Contact with Villages is pivotal, especially with on-going HS2 work. There is a newly assigned WNC HS2 Marshall Mr. Gary Pettit.

Apologies and Declaration of Interest

a. Apologies from Cllr. John Funnell (JF) Cllr. Funnell attended the meeting at 8:30pm. Declaration of Interest – None.

Election of Vice Chair

b. Cllr. Tom Boston stood down as Vice Chair and Cllr. Rhiannon Harris was proposed and elected Vice Chair by all Councillors in attendance. Cllr. Harris duly accepted the position. Cllr. (DS) notified the Council that he will stand down as a Parish Councillor in the Autumn thus allowing a period of time to hand over the IT and website responsibilities to Cllr. Harris.

Delegated Responsibilities

c. The Chair Cllr. (MH) reassigned delegated responsibilities to the new Parish Council.

Confirmation of Adoption of Financial Regulations and Financial Risk Assessment

d. The Chair Cllr. (MH) signed the Financial Regulations and Risk Assessment document in the presence of the Parish Councillors and Parish Clerk.

Adoption of Standing Orders/Code of Conduct

e. The Chair Cllr. (MH) signed the Adoption of Standing Orders/Code of Conduct in the presence of the Parish Councillors and Parish Clerk.

Confirmation of Election of Internal Auditor

f. The Parish Council has appointed Mrs. Julie Challenor Independent Examiner as The Internal Auditor.

2. Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting held on Thursday 9th March 2023. Have been approved as a true record and signed by the Chair Cllr. (MH)

a. Matters arising from the previous meeting held on Thursday 9th March 2023.
None.

3. Correspondence to include Website and IT – Cllr. (DS) will modify the Councillors email addresses to an image. The Clerk's email address will remain the same. The website is up to date with the latest information being The Government's action to stop Freeview TV services. The Chair Cllr. (MH) asked if it would be possible to automatically forward (CL) emails to Cllr. (MH). Cllr. Stephen and Cllr. Harris will find out.

4. 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 @ 11th May 2023

Business Instant Account	£16,804.75
Treasurers Account	£185.96
TOTAL	£16,990.71
War Memorial Account	£461.27

Receipts / Payments / Invoices Approved from 9th March 2023 – 11th May 2023

Receipt/Payment	Details	Amount (Inc VAT)	Date Paid
Receipt	Interest (Gross) Business Bank Instant	6.69	09.03.23
Receipt	Interest (Gross) War Memorial Fund	0.22	09.03.23
Payment BACS	Clerk PAYE – Month 1	245.07	10.03.23
Payment BACS	Charles Lees Reimburse Costs Pocket Park	90.58	10.03.23
Payment BACS	Marmax Products Furniture for Pocket Park	1027.20	13.03.23
Payment BACS	D.Kirton Reimbursement Microsoft annual subs	59.99	17.03.23
Payment BACS	Burgess Contracting – Fencing for Pocket Park	500.00	27.03.23
Receipt	Marmax Change of order. Received refund	12.00	28.03.23
Payment BACS	Clerk PAYE – Month 12	245.07	30.03.23
Payment BACS	Charles Lees Reimburse Costs for Pocket Park	49.95	30.03.23
Receipt	Interest (Gross) Business Bank Instant	8.33	12.04.23
Receipt	Interest (Gross) War Memorial Fund	0.29	11.04.23
Payment BACS	D Kirton Reimburse – Office Supplies	27.75	24.04.23
Payment BACS	Npower Business Solutions – Steet Lighting	55.22	24.04.23
Payment BACS	NCALC – Annual Subscription	278.04	25.04.23
Payment BACS	ALW Village Hall – Donation to Coronation	500.00	25.04.23
Payment BACS	Eon – Repair of Column to Street Light	57.77	27.04.23
Receipt	WNC – Payment 23/24 Precept 1st Part	4,837.50	28.04.23

Authorisation of expenditure

Invoice	Description	Amount	Approved
CPRE	The Countryside Charity Annual Subscription	36.00	Yes
ALW Village Hall	Annual charge for hall hire x 10	120.00	Yes
Mrs Julie Challenor	Internal Audit Accounting Year 22/23	100.00	Yes
Clerk PAYE – Month 1	01.04.23 – 30.04.23	245.07	Yes

b. AGAR 2022/23 Certificate of Exemption for Smaller Authorities was signed by the Parish Clerk and Chair Cllr. (MH). The certificate will be published in accordance with the AGAR Regulations on the Parish Website before 1st July 2023.

c. The Draft Annual Accounts 2022/23 were signed by the Chair Cllr. (MH). The Draft Annual Accounts will be published in accordance with the AGAR Regulations on the Parish Website.

The Independent Audit Statement signed by the Independent Examiner dated 04/05/23 was presented to the Chair Cllr. (MH). The Internal Audit Report 2022/23 will be published on the Parish Website.

- d. The Parish Council VAT 126 return for the period 01.04.22 – 30.04.23 was completed by the Parish Clerk and presented to the Chair Cllr. (MH) before sending it off to HM Revenue and Customs.
- e. The Council approved the request by the Parish Clerk to draw her salary at the end of each calendar month.
- f. The Council agreed that the annual subscription for CPRE membership should remain at the normal rate of £36.00.

5. Review of the Annual Parish (Open) meeting held on Thursday 13th April and any issues

The Open Meeting was well represented by the village groups, school, and church. No issues raised. A presentation by HS2 was held in the village hall on Thursday 20th April 2023.

6. Village Maintenance

- a. Pocket Park - The final item on the ROSPA report is the replacement of the top beam of the swing set. (CL) presented a quotation for the replacement beam and junior swing seats. Cllr. (RH) raised the question of having a toddler swing. The Council agreed to forward the item onto June's agenda for further discussion. The Council agreed to pay the reimbursement of £55.90 for Field Grass Matting purchased by (CL) for Pocket Park.
- b. Millennium Gardens – No concerns. The bench has been removed. The treads on the steps going up the grassy bank are in good repair.
- c. Streetlighting – All working. The repair to the column on streetlight 23 has been completed. The Parish Clerk to enquire whether the Parish could claim against our insurance.
- d. Defibrillator – All in working order. (GB) will enquire with East Midlands Ambulance Service whether the Council should purchase paediatric pads along with adult pads for the village defibrillator.
- e. Public Footpaths & Rights of Way – Nothing to report.
- f. Trees and General Parish Environment – Nothing to report.
- g. Winter Maintenance – Grit bins outside St. Leonard's and on Appletree are full.

7. General Updates

a. Welsh Road

Heavy lorries are travelling down the Welsh Road to the Equestrian Centre for the construction of the bund.

b. HS2 Liaison, Highways and Road Safety Update

(CL) informed the Council that he did not attend the last liaison meeting as the agenda related to other villages affected by HS2. The impact on our village is the knock-on effects of the tunnel construction, such as traffic, noise, and dirt. The New Chair Cllr. (MH) will be designated HS2 Liaison for the Council.

c. Neighbourhood Watch

Cllr. (RH) said she had been told of farm break-ins in the area. (DK) asked for any information to be forward to the Clerk to go onto Facebook.

8. Any Other Business

a. Cllr. Harris asked if we could have a dog bin in the village. The Council explained that they had investigated the cost v benefit of having dog bins in the village and the outcome was that the cost of purchasing new bins and the service agreement was too expensive. There was also concern among residents as to the location of the bins.

West Northants Council are putting Dog Fouling notices up in villages. Additional signs can be obtained on request.

The Clerk to ask for additional Dog Fouling signs to be erected in the following locations:

- Pedestrian passageway by the School
- Blacksmiths Lane
- Apple Tree Lane by Budd's Farm Caravan Site
- David Frushers Public Footpath

b. The Parish Clerk (DK) informed the Council of a complaint from a resident regarding the high-pitched noise coming from the Equestrian Centre. (DK) to respond to the resident and investigate the matter.

10. Dates of Next Meetings to be held in the Village Hall: 22nd June, 13th July, No meeting in August, 14th September, 12th October, 9th November, No meeting in December.

Meeting Closed at 9.30 pm.