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## ASTON LE WALLS PARISH COUNCIL

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Clerk: Debra Kirton, New House, Main Street, Aston Le Walls, Northants, NN11 6UF  
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Minutes of the MEETING of **ASTON LE WALLS PARISH COUNCIL** held on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at 7pm pm in the Village Hall.

Meeting opened at 7pm

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


Others: Cllr. Alison Eastwood Vice-Chair of the West Northamptonshire Council  
Mr. Charles Lees, Resident  
Mrs. D. Wincott, Resident

1. Apologies – None
2. Declaration of Interest – Cllr. Richard Burgess Item: 6.a  
Debra Kirton Clerk Item: 5.b
3. The minutes of the previous meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2024 have been approved as a true record and signed by Cllr. Harris, Vice Chair.
  - (a) There are no matters arising from the previous meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2024.
  - (b) Actions arising from the previous meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Actions	Owner	Status
Streetlights to be re-numbered	Cllr. LL	Ongoing
Discuss the management of the defibrillator with Head Teacher	Cllr. RH	Outstanding
Check the grit bin on Appletree Lane	Clerk	Completed
Write to Haidee Williams HS2 to arrange a community meeting	Clerk	Completed

Cllr. Harris to arrange a meeting with the Head Teacher at St. Mary's RC school to discuss using the school premises to hold the Parish Council meetings when the village hall is demolished. This could be in exchange for the donation offered by the school towards the cost of the new defibrillator. Cllr. Boston proposed and Cllr. Lewis second.

4. Correspondence to include Website and IT (RH) – There are no issues with the Parish website, there are three pending articles to be published. The clerk has been asked to email Cllr. Burgess with the instructions to set up his gov.uk email address. It was agreed that Councillors' headshot photo's would be included on the website, all Councillors to send their photo's to the Clerk at their earliest convenience. Additionally, Cllr. Hawkins, Chair has

  
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requested the clerk to arrange a meeting between himself, Cllr. Harris and the Clerk to discuss email/website related issues and solutions.

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

(a) Balances @ 14<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Business Instant Account	£17,051.03
Treasurers Account	£ 354.82
TOTAL	£17,405.85
War Memorial Account	£ 469.27

Receipts / Payments / Invoices Approved from 8<sup>th</sup> October 2024 – 14<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Receipt/Payment	Details	Amount (Inc VAT)	Date Paid
Receipt	Interest (Gross) Business Bank Account	12.57	09.10.24
Receipt	Interest (Gross) War Memorial Account	0.39	09.10.24
Payment	E.on Annual Street Light Maintenance	242.40	10.10.24
Payment	Npower Business Solution Final Invoice	89.69	10.10.24
Payment	Parish Online Website	311.00	10.10.24
Payment	Argos – Printer Ink Clerk Stationary	47.34	30.10.24
Payment	Clerk PAYE – Month 7	266.72	30.10.24
Receipt	Interest (Gross) Business Bank Account	15.57	11.11.24
Receipt	Interest (Gross) War Memorial Account	0.42	11.11.24

Authorisation of expenditure -

Invoice	Description	Amount	Approved
PAO Byfield	Remembrance Wreath	20.00	Yes
Burgess Contracting	Annual Grass Cutting	2,100.00	Yes
Parish Online	Mapping Software	48.00	Yes

(b) Clerk Pay Review – Pay award approved.  
Annual Salary of £3,403.11 back dated to 1<sup>st</sup> September 2024

6. Urban Highway Grass Mowing 2024 – Mrs. Diane Wincott, village resident, expressed her concerns about the appearance of the grass verges, which she believes have become less tidy since she moved to the village two years ago. She mentioned specifically the verge from Butlers Close along the Welsh Road, where the verge has overgrown, especially at the rear of resident's gardens, that some residents are unable to use their back gates. In response, Cllr. Burgess clarified that the current grass cutting contract only requires maintenance up to 1.5 meters from the road, which may account for the problem. Both Cllr. Burgess and Cllr. Hawkins, Chair, agreed to meet with Mrs. Wincott along the Welsh Road to look at the area of concern and to discuss a possible solution.

(a) Grass Mowing Tender Bids 2025 – The grass cutting contract is now up for re-tender. The Clerk will obtain three quotes and submit them to the Parish Council for review and agreement at the January 2025 Parish Council meeting.

(b) Preferred Contractor – It was discussed that the clerk will seek advice regarding our current reliable grass cutting contractor becoming our preferred contractor, as

*M. Hawkins*  
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our previous contractor was unreliable. In the meantime, the process of obtaining three quotations will continue.

Cllr. Hawkins, Chair, warmly welcomed Cllr. Alison Eastwood, who serves as the Vice-Chair of the West Northamptonshire Council and expressed her commitment to attending Parish Council meetings as regularly as work commitments permits. Cllr. Eastwood aims to support the parish with particular focus on issues pertaining to HS2 and local disruption. Cllr. Eastwood recently spoke with the Village Hall Committee to explore a financial donation from WNC for the much-needed village hall re-build, and she plans to discuss this further with Cllr. David Smith. Looking ahead, the Silverstone Ward will see four Councillors standing for re-election in May 2025.

- a. Pocket Park (RB) – Mr. Charles Lees provided an update on the ongoing maintenance of Pocket Park. He agreed that the willow tree requires pruning and that the Pocket Park team can manage the task. Mr. Lees inquired about the progress of the Pocket Park tree survey, Cllr. Hawkins, Chair responded that he has not yet received a reply from Haidee Williams and would follow up with her and Chris James. Cllr. Hawkins added that during the initial visit, Hadleigh Moorhouse suggested there were no immediate concerns regarding the trees. Mr. Lees also reported that the meadow had been cut back, and the park is looking tidy.
- b. Millennium Gardens (All) – The buddleia tree requires pruning. Cllr. Boston volunteered to do the task.
- c. Streetlighting (LL) – All working. Cllr. Lewis has begun replacing the streetlight numbers, however some of the numbers are not sticking adequately and will need further attention.
- d. Defibrillator (GB) – Cllr. Barnes is maintaining weekly monitoring checks.
- e. Public Footpaths & Rights of Way (GB) – No concerns, however gate No. 3 along the bridle path needs a new post.
- f. Trees and General Parish Environment (TB) – No concerns at present.
- g. Winter Maintenance (JF) – All grit bins are full, and ready for the winter months.

## 7. General Update

- a. Welsh Road – Thick mud along the Welsh Road was left behind by a farmer's tractor, this was made worse after heavy rain. Although the farmer tried to clean the road using brush cleaners, this made little difference. Motorists are veering into the middle of the road to avoid the mud, which is dangerous, especially due to the bend in the road. It has been suggested that if the problem continues to be reported it on Fix My Street.
- b. HS2 Liaison, Highways and Road Safety Update – Nothing to report
- c. Neighbourhood Watch – There is nothing to report currently.

*M. Hawkins*  
*Hawkins*  
*9/1/25*

8. Any Other Business.

Mr. Charles Lees mentioned that the school are leaving their "No Parking on Zigzag" signs on the main road at the end of the school day.

Mrs. Wincott raised her concerns about the speed of traffic on the Welsh Road, Cllr. Hawkins, Chair responded to say, that speeds have improved since the installation of the chicanes. Previously, the average speed was 37mph, but it has now reduced to 27mph. However, HS2 subcontractors have been seen speeding. Mr. Lees said he would put the VAS unit up again to monitor motorist speed and mentioned he would clean the road signs.

Cllr. Harris said motorists need to be careful of the deep potholes along the road through Wardington.

The Parish Council meetings will return to the normal start time of 7:30 pm from this meeting.

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

No meeting in December. 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024, 13<sup>th</sup> February 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.

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

**Actions**

Meeting with Head Teacher. St. Mary's RC School	Cllr Harris
IT meeting with Cllr. Hawkins, Cllr. Harris & Clerk	Clerk
Meeting with Mrs. Diane Wincott, Resident	Cllr. Hawkins
Tender for Grass Cutting Contract	Clerk

*M. Harris*  
9/1/25