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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 11<sup>th</sup> January 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)**, Debra Kirton **(DK)** Clerk

Others: Mr. Lee Lewis and Mr. Charles Lees

### The meeting opened at 7:29pm

- 1) Apologies – Cllr. Richard Burgess **(RB)**, Cllr. Alison Eastwood **(AE)**  
Welcome to Mr. Lewis and Mr. Lees
- 2) Declaration of Interest – None
- 3) The minutes of the previous meeting held on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2023 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 9<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

### Action Points from the previous meeting held on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2023:

- i) Cllr. (RB) informed the meeting that he has received a quotation from Wicksteed for the supply only of a cradle swing £3,797.00 excluding VAT and delivery. The suggestion to install a slide has been halted due to safety concerns. Cllr. (RB) will continue to chase other suppliers for their costings.  
**Action: Add item to the February agenda**
  - ii) Report to Highways Weight Mechanism on Bridleway. **Completed**
- 4) Correspondence to include Website and IT

The Parish Council has been informed by 2Commune that they will no longer host the Parish Council website after 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024. Cuttlefish, who provided 2Commune with their technology, has decided to supply direct to Councils. Danny Moody at Ncalc is taking meetings with 2Commune, Cuttlefish and other website providers and is keeping Councils informed with daily updates. It is a statutory requirement that Councils must post all statutory public notices on a Council website and a decision to move providers will need to be made in the coming weeks. At this time, we have been advised by Ncalc to wait and not to make any firm commitments until we have received all the information.

- 5) 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 @ 11<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Business Instant Account	£14,351.24
Treasurers Account	£317.66
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£14,668.90</b>
War Memorial Account	£464.59

Receipts / Payments / Invoices Approved from 9<sup>th</sup> November 2023 – 11<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Receipt/Payment	Details	Amount (Inc VAT)	Date Paid/received
Payment Cheque	The Royal British Legion	20.00	09.11.23
Receipt	Interest (Gross) Business Bank Account	16.99	09.11.23
Receipt	Interest (Gross) War Memorial Account	0.51	09.11.23
Payment Debit Card	Tesco Stores – A4 White Paper	4.75	21.11.23
Payment BACS	Clerk PAYE – Month 8	267.44	30.11.23
Receipt	Interest (Gross) Business Bank Account	16.96	11.12.23
Receipt	Interest (Gross) War Memorial Account	0.53	11.12.23
Payment BACS	Clerk PAYE – Month 9	267.44	29.12.23
Receipt	Interest (Gross) Business Bank Account	15.11	09.01.24
Receipt	Interest (Gross) War Memorial Account	0.48	09.01.24
Mr. Grahame Barnes	Print cost, stapler, sticky numbers	41.47	
Npower Business Solutions	Electricity 01.10.23 – 31.12.23	52.56	

6) Parish Council Precept 2024 -2025 Return

All Parish Councillors were presented with a copy of the Precept Budget Plan, Receipts & Expenditure for Q1, Q2 and Q3 and Bank Balance Summary for 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023.

The precept budget plan was discussed and agreed. Concern was raised about the cost of tree maintenance in the village and especially in Pocket Park after the recent storms. The budget should include a sum to maintain trees.

Initial Draft Budget Proposal £9,675.00

Precept Budget set for 2024/25 £10,000.00 an uplift of 3.35%

7) Co-opting a new Parish Councillor

Cllr. (MH) Chair introduced Mr. Lewis to all Councillors present at the meeting. Mr. Lewis joined the meeting as he has an interest in the community and becoming a Parish Councillor.

8) Village Maintenance

- a. Pocket Park – Mr. Lees gave his report to the Council. The Parish of Aston le Walls holds the lease and as such is responsible for Pocket Park. After recent storms there have been four trees that required attention. Cllr. (TB) has pushed back two trees. One other tree has been chopped to make it safe. The fourth tree splayed towards the road and is laying on top of another tree which is a concern. The trees in Pocket Park need checking and action taken as needed. There is ivy climbing up the trees which is not helping, however this can be removed and contained by the Pocket park team. Beyond the pond adjacent to Nigel Taylors land the trees need pollarding or felled.

Unfortunately, the new beam for the swing is still waiting to go up, and the grass matting to be laid. This must be done before the ROSPO make their inspection in June 2024

- b. Millennium Gardens – The Buddleia requires cutting back.
- c. Street Lighting – Cllr. (GB) updated the Streetlighting Inventory, all columns with faded or torn numbers will be replaced with new stickers. There are two columns that do not sit plumb although no concern now Cllr. (GB) will monitor.  
  
Cllr. (GB) asked if there were dog mess stickers available to put up on the columns.
- d. Defibrillator – All in working order. Nothing to report.
- e. Public Footpaths & Rights of Way – The footpath sign has been chopped down by the person cutting the hedges Cllr. (GB) has reported it. Litter along the footpaths has been cleared.
- 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 – Nothing to report.
- b. HS2 Liaison, Highways and Road Safety Update  
Still no date when the road to Wormleighton will close.  
  
HS2 will be putting up 3-way traffic lights along the A361 these will be active 24/7 while road works are being conducted.
- c. Neighbourhood Watch – Nothing to Report

13) Any Other Business

Blacksmiths Lane will be closed between 20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> March to allow Anglian Water to complete a new connection. Cllr. (MH) Chair asked for Cllr. (RH) Vice Chair to inform the Head Teacher at St. Mary's RC School as the parents drive through Blacksmiths Lane at drop-off and pick-up times.

Village Newsletter

Cllr. (MH) Chair has agreed, the editorial/production of the newsletter will be split between the Parish Council and the Village Hall Committee, and the Parish Council will fund the cost of the printing.

Cllr. (MH) Chair will become the liaison representative between the Parish Council and the Village Hall Committee.

Action Points:

Action Item	Owner	Deadline
Cradle Swing Quotation move to the February Agenda	Cllr. (RB)	08.02.24
Community Funding criteria	Clerk	08.02.24

- 14) Dates of the Next Meetings to be held in the Village Hall: 8<sup>th</sup> Feb, March meeting to be decided, 11<sup>th</sup> April Open Meeting, 9<sup>th</sup> May AGM, 13<sup>th</sup> June & 11<sup>th</sup> July.

**Meeting Closed at 8.45PM**