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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

Telephone: 01295 660879

Email: [clerk@astonlewallsparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@astonlewallsparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Minutes of the ANNUAL OPEN MEETING of ASTON LE WALLS PARISH COUNCIL held on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at 7:30pm in the Village Hall.

### Present:

**Councillors:** Matt Hawkins **(MH)** Chair, Rhiannon Harris **(RH)** Vice Chair, Tom Boston **(TB)**, Grahame Barnes **(GB)**, Richard Burgess **(RB)**, Lee Lewis **(LL)**, Debra Kirton **(DK)** Clerk

Mrs. Debbie Brimson:	St. Mary's RC Primary School
Mrs. Susan Fagg:	Secretary & Treasurer St. Leonard's Church
Mr. Chris Wilson:	Chairman, Aston Le Walls & Appletree Village Hall
Mrs. Jo Wilson:	Aston Le Walls & Appletree Village Hall
Mr. Charles Lees:	Friends of Pocket Park
Mrs. Lizzie Barnes-Moss:	Aston Le Walls Arts & Crafts Club
Mrs. Nadine Hassan:	Aston Tots & Toddlers Group

### Apologies

Cllr. John Funnell	Aston Le Walls Parish Council
Cllr. Alison Eastwood:	Silverstone Ward
Mrs. Gina Burgess:	Fitness & Wellbeing Instructor
Mrs. Vicki Lewis:	Pilates Instructor

### Absent

Fr. Jose Marie	Sacred Heart & Our Lady RC Church
Neighbourhood Police	Brackley Police Station

### Introduction and Welcome

The Chair of the Parish Council Cllr. Matt Hawkins welcomed everyone present to the Annual Open Meeting.

1. Approval of the minutes  
The minutes of the Parish Council Open meeting held on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2023 were approved by the Council as a true record and signed by the Chair Cllr. Matt Hawkins.
2. Matters Arising  
No matters arising.
3. **Cllr. Matt Hawkins Chairman's Report**

It would be safe to say that when I joined the Parish Council in May 2022, I did not anticipate that just 2 years later I would find myself at the Annual General Meeting having just been elected as Chair.

With the words of Councillor Alison Eastwood ringing in my ears, namely that following on from Charles Lees long tenure I had some very big shoes to fill I duly set about getting to grips with the role.

Looking back on my first year as Chair, in preparation for this evening I have revisited some of the many emails I've received in the past 12 months.

Four themes feature strongly:

Firstly, HS2

We have continued to be affected by the works going on around us, with road closures, temporary traffic lights, extended working hours and delayed projects such as Wormleighton Bridge it has been a busy year. Thankfully, we have maintained a good relationship with the engagement manager Simon Davis and whilst we cannot change the project, we are able to raise our residents' concerns as they arise.

Members of the council were given a tour of the construction site in October; the sheer scale of the project goes some way to explaining the delays, with construction expected to finish in 2026 before track laying begins.

Secondly, changing of the guard:

Charles Lees stepped down in May 2023, closely followed by Dick Stephen in November, having advertised both vacancies I'm pleased to say Richard Burgess and Lee Lewis volunteered to join the Parish Council and we have maintained our full complement.

Thirdly, highways:

After many years of work by my predecessor our traffic calming chicanes were completed.

In 2017 the average speed through the village was 32 mph with the 85th percentile at 39 mph. Post chicane average speed was a legal 26 mph with the 85th percentile at 31 mph, statistics aside the chicanes appear to be effective by forcing motorists to take note of their surroundings and other vehicles rather than rolling through the village above the speed limit. Whilst the reduction in vehicle speed is welcomed our local roads are in a terrible state following a very wet winter and increased demand as a result of road closures and we intend to make use of the new JCB Pothole Pro recently purchased by WNC.

Finally:

As we look ahead to the coming year, we are facing the difficult task of managing the many trees in the village on a limited budget. We have already authorised the felling of a large willow tree in pocket park as a priority, and we have approached HS2 for assistance in mapping the remaining trees and monitoring their health.

With the sterling help of our Parish Clerk, we continue to deal with many issues from West Northants Council ranging from Web site provision, local transport planning, local Area Partnership and planning applications as well as taking on the responsibility of producing the Village Newsletter following the sad death of Sue Neville.

I look forward to reporting on another busy year at the next open meeting.

**End of Report.**

4. Summary of the Parish Council Accounts 2023/2024 (unaudited)

The financial statement was read by Debra Kirton (Clerk). The full report will be made available on the Parish Council website.

The opening balance for the period beginning 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 was £13,067.06

The Parish Council received a total income of £10,212.36 with a total expenditure of £9,693.97 leaving a balance of £13,585.45 as of the 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2024.

The Parish Council Precept for 2024/25 is £10,000 an increase of 3.359%

5. Reports from:

The report for Aston Le Walls Arts & Craft Club was read by Lizzie Barnes-Moss.  
The full report will be made available on the Parish Council Website.

The report from Cllr. Alison Eastwood Silverstone Ward was read by Cllr. Matt Hawkins.  
The full report will be made available on the Parish Council website.

The report from South Northants Neighbourhood Teams Annual Report March 2024 was read by Cllr. Matt Hawkins.  
The full report will be made available on the Parish Council Website.

The report from St. Mary's RC Primary School was read on behalf of Mrs. Laura Concannon by Mrs. Debbie Brimson.  
The full report will be made available on the Parish Council Website.

The report for Aston Le Walls & Appletree Village Hall was read by Mr. Chris Wilson Chairman.  
The full report will be made available on the Parish Council Website.

The report for St. Leonard's Church was read by Mrs. Susan Fagg Secretary & Treasurer.  
The full report will be made available on the Parish Council Website.

The report on Pocket Park was read by Mr. Charles Lees.  
The full report will be made available on the Parish Council Website Park.

The report for Aston Tot's & Toddlers was read by Mrs. Nadine Hassan.  
The full report will be made available on the Parish Council Website.

6. Questions and Resolutions from the public

Mr. Charles Lees raised concerns about the extended working hours of HS2 and possible increased traffic during early and late hours through the village. Cllr. Hawkins Chair noted that the newly extended hours of operation from 6am – 10pm have understandably raised concerns about traffic and noise and Cllr. Hawkins will be discussing both concerns with Mr. Simon Davis.

Cllr. Hawkins continued to say noise disturbances had been reported, originating from the concrete batching plant as early as 5.30am. The noise from the heavy earth moving equipment will decrease as construction moves further away. The weekend work will take place primarily within the tunnel. Cllr. Hawkins will continue to have regular communications with HS2 to address concerns from the community.

7. Any other business

Mrs. Debbie Brimson asked the Chair who to speak to regarding the fading zigzag parking restriction markings outside St. Mary's school. Mrs. Brimson was advised to report the problem on the West Northants website called FixMyStreet.

Cllr. Matt Hawkins Chair presented Mr. Chris Wilson Chair of the Village Hall Committee a portrait of King Charles II to be hung in the village hall.

The Chairman thanked all those who attended the meeting and those who spoke at the meeting.

The meeting closed at 20:30.

Signed.....

Date.....