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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 13<sup>th</sup> June 2024 at 7:30pm in the Village Hall.

Meeting opened at 7:30pm

Attendees: Cllr. Matt Hawkins **(MH)** Chair, Cllr. Rhiannon Harris **(RH)** Vice Chair, Cllr. Tom Boston **(TB)**, Cllr. John Funnell **(JF)**, Cllr. Richard Burgess **(RB)**, Cllr. Lee Lewis **(LL)**  
Debra Kirton **(DK)** Clerk

**The Parish Council paused to honor Mr. Percy Taylor, who sadly passed away earlier this week.**

1. Apologies - Cllr. Grahame Barnes
2. Declaration of Interest – None
3. The minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2024 have been approved as a true record.

(a) There are no matters arising from the previous meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2024.

(b) Actions arising from the previous meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2024.

i. Arrange with HS2 inspection of trees in Pocket Park – Cllr. (MH) Chair will reschedule the meeting with Haidee Willaims on a suitable date and time.

ii. Report to Simon Davis & Sam Simons damage to the curb on Welsh Road – Completed.

4. Correspondence to include Website and IT (RH)

(a) The website is currently up to date.

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

(a) Balances @ 13<sup>th</sup> June 2024

Business Instant Account	£15,480.32
Treasurers Account	£ 218.20
TOTAL	£15,698.52
War Memorial Account	£ 467.12

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(b) Receipts / Payments / Invoices Approved from 8<sup>th</sup> May – 13<sup>th</sup> June 2024

Receipt/Payment	Details	Amount (Inc VAT)	Date Paid
Receipt	Interest (Gross) Business Bank Instant	15.97	09.05.24
Receipt	Interest (Gross) War Memorial Fund	0.50	09.05.24
Payment BACS	Julie Challenor – Internal Auditor	100.00	09.05.24
Payment BACS	CPRE ORG – The Countryside Charity	36.00	09.05.24
Payment BACS	Northants CALC Ltd	282.09	09.05.24
Payment Debit Card	Main Line Timber – Post for Pocket Park	42.12	17.05.24
Payment Debit Card	Post Office Counters – Stamps Stationary	5.40	20.05.24
Payment Debit Card	Tesco Stores – A4 Paper Stationary	9.50	20.05.24
Payment BACS	Wicksteed Leisure – Pocket Park	125.59	20.05.24
Receipt	HMRC – VAT Reimbursement for 2023/2024	469.92	22.05.24
Payment BACS	Zurich Municipal – Parish Council Insurance	366.00	28.05.24
Payment BACS	Clerk PAYE – Month 2	266.72	30.05.24
Receipt	Interest (Gross) Business Bank Instant	17.87	10.06.24
Receipt	Interest (Gross) War Memorial Fund	0.53	10.06.24

Authorisation of expenditure

Invoice	Description	Amount	Approved
ROSPA	Pocket Park Annual Inspection	93.60	Yes
ALW Village Hall	Hall Hire for 2024	150.00	Yes

6. New Website Host for the Parish Council

Cllr. (RH) reviewed both website providers and expressed a preference for Parish Online over Cuttlefish. The reason being its user-friendly interface. Cllr. (RH) suggested an onboarding session with Parish Online to discuss the migration process should the Council decide to proceed. Cllr. (TB) formally proposed the motion which was seconded by Cllr. (RB). All Councillors were in favour of moving the Parish website to Parish Online.

7. Planning Application Reference: 2024/2317PND at Budds Farm, Main Street, Aston Le Walls NN11 6UF. Comments to the planning department by 15/06/2024

Cllr. (MH) Chair asked if all Councillors had reviewed the planning application from Budds Farm. Cllr. (MH) Chair explained the proposed involved replacing the dilapidated outbuildings with a new green barn. Cllr. (MH) Chair said there would be no impact on the village and that the resident near the site has now been notified. As there has been no objections from the community, the Councillors unanimously agreed to give their approval with no objections to WNC planning department.

8. VAS Unit

Cllr. (RB) read out the report from Mr. Charles Lees informing the Council of the recent VAS report which showed a decrease in vehicle speeds coming through the village. He pointed out that the VAS unit is now old and if the Council wished to continue using it, it would require new batteries. The Councillors collectively agreed that with the installation of chicanes and activated speed signs the VAS unit has become redundant. It was unanimously agreed to discontinue using the VAS unit and possibly reselling it. Cllr. (MH) Chair wished for it to be duly recorded, the Council's gratitude to Mr. Charles Lees for introducing the VAS system

*M. A. Smith*  
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which paved the way for the introduction of the newly installed traffic calming measures along the Welsh Road.

9. Tree at the end of Main Street causing a blind spot

A local resident had reported a tree with bushy growth coming from its trunk is causing a blind spot when driving a tractor. The tree is in a private garden. Cllr. (MH) Chair will investigate.

10. Village Maintenance

a. Pocket Park – (RB) Cllr. (RB) reported that he has now received two quotations from Wicksteed for the Basket Swing. Supply and fit £9,000 or supply only £4,000. The Council agreed to wait until there has been a tree inspection before proceeding with any further expenditure.

ROSPA Play Safe inspection has been completed in Pocket Park. Cllr. (RB) ran through the report:

- Pond – Algae and requires cleaning out
- Gate – Sticking and requires adjustment
- Bridge – Timber is decaying, replace affected parts
- Bird Signage – Supports are loose, needs re-setting
- Swing – Chain, remove excess links

b. Millennium Gardens (All) – No concerns.

c. Streetlighting (LL) – All working. Cllr. (LL) will speak with Mr. DT to ask if he would object/happy to have a No Dog Fouling sign erected near the gate entrance at the side of the turkey farm.

d. Defibrillator (GB) – All in working order.

e. Public Footpaths & Rights of Way (GB) – Nothing to report

f. Trees and General Parish Environment (TB) – Cllr. (TB)

Cllr. (RH) raised three issues to the Council. Firstly, a resident has inquired about the possibility of removing a tree on the grass verge along the Welsh Road, as it obstructs their view. The Council clarified that the responsibility for the trees along this green verge lies with the Parish Council. The tree in question has already been pruned back and is just beginning to regrow. If it is left to develop, it will eventually form a canopy that can be managed over time. Secondly, residents whose gardens back onto the Welsh Road have reported that brambles are encroaching into their gardens and have requested their removal. Cllr. (RB) mentioned that controlling the brambles would require a brush cutter and regular maintenance. Lastly, Japanese Knotweed is growing by the bridge opposite Pocket Park entrance on Welsh Road, which requires urgent attention.

A request from the Parish Clerk to trim back the overgrowth along Blacksmiths Lane.

Cllr. (MH) Chair mentioned he would speak with Mr. DF regarding storing the logs from the willow tree currently in Pocket Park. In addition, it would be necessary to also speak with Mr. NT and ask if he would allow us to access his property in a pick-up truck to manually transport the logs over the fence and then back to the village.

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11. General Update

Cllr. (MH) Chair showed the Council slides from the latest HS2 Liaison meeting. These showed the progress being made on the backfilling of the green tunnel. He also mentioned the delays with the new Banbury Road overbridge is due to construction problems

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

July 11<sup>th</sup>, no meeting in August, September 12<sup>th</sup>, October 10<sup>th</sup>, November 14<sup>th</sup>, no meeting in December.

Meeting Closed at 8:29pm

**Actions**

Email Parish Online to arrange onboarding	DK
Email WNC planning department – no objections	DK
VAS Unit – contact TWM Traffic	DK
Tree causing blind spot	Cllr. MH
Dog Fouling Sign	Cllr. LL
Report Japanese Knotweed	DK
Logs in Pocket Park	Cllr. MH

*M. Smith*  
11/7/24