

ASTON LE WALLS PARISH COUNCIL

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 13th October 2022 at 7:30pm in the Village Hall.

Attendees: Charles Lees **(CL)** - Chairman, Tom Boston **(TB)** Vice Chairman, Dick Stephen **(DS)**, Matt Hawkins **(MH)**, Graham Barnes **(GB)**, Debra Kirton **(DK)** Clerk

- 1) Apologies – John Funnell (JF)
- 2) Declaration of Interests – None.
- 3) The minutes of the previous meeting held on Thursday 29th September 2022 have been approved as a true record.
 - (a) There were no matters arising from the previous meeting held on Thursday 29th September 2022.
- 4) Correspondence to include Website and IT (DS)
 - a) The website is currently up to date. (DS) put forward a suggestion to only publicise relevant information from the Village Newsletter onto the Parish website. All Councillors agreed.
- 5) Financial Matters: Balances
Invoices Paid and Invoices presented for approval of payment


i) Balances @ 19th October 2022

Business Instant Account	£15,826.60
Treasurers Account	£165.09
TOTAL	£15,991.69
War Memorial Account	£459.91


Receipts / Payments / Invoices Approved from 29th September 22 – 13th October 22

Receipt/Payment	Details	Amount (Inc VAT)	Date Paid
Receipt	WNC Finance – Grass cutting grant for highway verge cutting	81.82	30.09.22
Payment by BACS	DK Reimbursement for Black Book of Condolence	40.80	03.10.22
Payment by BACS	E.ON Street Lighting Maintenance for year-ending September 2022	31.20	03.10.22
Approved for Payment	Clerk PAYE – Month 6	245.07	
Approved for Payment	Npower Business Solutions Electricity period 01.07.22 – 30.09.22	42.10	

- ii) The Clerk read out the financial matters, bank balances, invoices paid, and invoices for approval.


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- iii) The Chairman (CL) put forward a motion to add Cllr Tom Boston as an additional signatory for the signing of any financial documents. The motion was agreed and seconded by Cllr Matt Hawkins, Cllr Dick Stephen and Cllr Graham Barnes.
- 6) Councillor Vacancy – The vacancy for a new Parish Councillor has been registered with The Proper Officer at the Electoral Services Office West Northants Council. The vacancy notice is published on the Parish Council website and village notice board. Residents of Aston Le Walls are invited to apply in writing before the closing date Monday 24th October 2022. If no one applies for the vacant position the Parish Council must, as soon as practicable after the closing date, co-opt a person to fill the vacancy.
- 7) Dog Fouling – There was a full discussion by the Councillors regarding the installation of dog waste bins in the village, after the Parish Council received an email from a local resident who reported dog fouling problems. The Clerk presented the Councillors with estimates from three service providers. The installation and service cost will impact on the Parish Council's annual budget and future local taxpayers. Until recently dog fouling had not been a problem. The Councillors unanimously agreed that further information would be needed before going ahead with the installation of dog bins. It was also agreed that a polite notice to all residents to remind them of the importance of cleaning up after their dogs and to use their general domestic black wheely bin to dispose of dog waste.
- 8) Boundary Reviews – The West Northamptonshire internal boundary review is currently under consultation. It is almost certain that there will be a reduction in Councillors once the review has taken place in 2023. There is no suggestion as to how the boundaries will look in the future. There is also concern that rural communities in the countryside could become too large and could be overlooked. The 7th of November 2022 is the deadline for a response from the Parish Council.
- 9) Safe Keeping of the Book of Condolence – The Councillors discussed the best place to store the Book of Condolence. Ordinarily condolence books are stored at West Northants Records however, the Parish Council would like to keep the condolence book in Aston Le Walls village. As the book is loose leaf it could be used again to record messages when a future Monarch passes. The Councillors agreed that St. Leonard's church would be unsuitable as historic documents are eventually passed to the Diocese of Peterborough. The Parish Council agreed to approach the Village Hall Committee and ask if they would store the book of condolence.
- 10) Determine Council Representative to lay Wreath on Remembrance Sunday – Councillor Graham Barnes volunteered to lay the wreath on this coming Remembrance Sunday.
- 11) Village Maintenance
- a) Pocket Park (CL) – The pond is still empty of water; John Taylor has volunteered his services to provide diggers should the Parish Council decide to lay a new pipe however, this cannot be done until we know where the natural source of water comes from. (TB) said he could not say with certainty where to start to look. A solution to the empty pond could come from digging a deep channel along the side of the road towards the pond, this would allow surface water from the road to drain down into the pond.
- b. Millennium Garden (All) – (TB) will look at the Crab Apple tree as the branches are still bowing over. (CL) will organise the purchase of the grass seeds for sowing on the Millennium Garden. It was agreed not to pursue the right to acquire the land as the cost implications would be too great.



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- c. Streetlights (GB) – Cllr. Barnes has been away and will inspect all the street lighting now he has returned.
- d. Defibrillator (GB) – Nothing to report.
- e. Public Footpaths & Rights of Way (MH) – All open for walks. There was a comment made from a rambler who said the footpath behind the school was no longer there. (CL) checked the walk which is still there. (CL) cut back the overgrowth.
- f. Trees and general parish environment (TB) – Nothing to report.
- g. Winter Maintenance (JF) – The grit bin outside St. Leonard's Church is owned by Highways. The Clerk to contact Highways as the grit bin is empty and requires re-filling.

12) General Updates

- a) Welsh Road (CL - The Chairman received a response from Marc Nightingale of Kier regarding the VAS post installed under the tree along the Welsh Road. Kier said they are struggling to find an alternative position to site the post, this is due to them requiring local electrical power, the correct visibility for motorists, and the correct distance from the road. They will arrange for the tree to be cut back.
- b) HS2 Liaison (CL) - There will be a HS2 Liaison meeting held virtually on the 14th of October 2022. (CL) has read over the agenda and as the topics do not pertain to us there is no reason for our Parish Council to attend.

(CL) will be attending a meeting with Simon Davis Engagement Advisor HS2 on the 3rd of November to discuss the construction workers accommodation on the A361 Chipping warden compound. (CL) will also raise the further concern that not all the construction workers are using the service road.

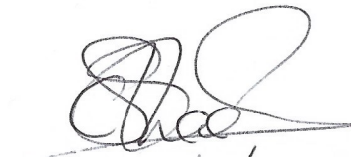
- c) Neighbourhood Watch (All) – Nothing to report currently.

13) Any Other Business – The full Electoral Register is produced annually in December. The Parish Council can apply for a full copy. This must be done by 19th of November 2022. The Clerk to add this item to the November agenda.

(DS) Announced that the Aston Le Walls Jubilee Tree is on the Queens Green Canopy map and located within 1 Kilometers from where it is planted.

14) Dates of Next Meetings to be held in the Village Hall – scheduled, 10th Nov 22, no meeting in Dec 05th Jan 23 and 9th Feb 23.

Meeting Closed at 9.10 pm



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