
ASTON LE WALLS PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Debra Kirton, New House, Main Street, Aston Le Walls, Northants, NN11 6UF

Telephone: 01295 660879

Email: clerk@astonlewallsparishcouncil.gov.uk

Minutes of the MEETING of ASTON LE WALLS PARISH COUNCIL held on Thu 14th July 2022 at 7:30pm in the Village Hall.

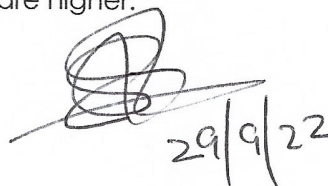
Attendees: Charles Lees **(CL)** - Chairperson, Dick Stephen **(DS)**, Matt Hawkins **(MH)**, Graham Barnes **(GB)**, Tom Boston **(TB)** Vice Chairperson, John Funnell **(JF)**, Debra Kirton – Clerk **(DK)**

Emily Chandler and Alex Blithe village residents in attendance.

- 1) Apologies – None, all Councillors present.
- 2) Declaration of Interests – None.
- 3) Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting - Thursday 9th June 2022 minutes.
 - (a) There were no corrections raised in the minutes of the last meeting 9th June 2022.
- 4) Matters arising from the previous meeting.

Item 13) Councillor (TB) queried why is there a Parish Council meeting planned for December 2022. Ordinarily there are no meetings in August and December. The council members agreed unanimously to remove the date in December. During the months of Aug and Dec ongoing or important issues will be discussed and agreed via email.

- 5) Appointment of the new Clerk to the Parish Council – Debra Kirton was warmly welcomed by the Councillors. Chairman (CL) presented (DK) with her letter of appointment which was duly signed by both parties. The reference from St. Mary's school has been received and will be held on file.
- 6) Correspondence to include Website and IT (DS)
 - a) The Parish Council website is being kept up to date regularly. Due to the website only able to have three visible items at one time, Councillor (DS) chooses useful and informative articles to display. It was also discussed and agreed that when HS2 force major road closures to display this information on the website for our villagers who travel out of area for work.
 - b) The volume of emails forwarded by the clerk has increased, this was foreseen, it is agreed going forward that Councillors will inform the clerk when they receive any unimportant emails.
 - c) The Parish Council have received the annual invoice from 2Commune for their website hosting, support, and license. Councillor (GB) asked if the members felt the amount charged was comparative to other web hosting providers. Chairman (CL) explained as a Parish Council we are an official Government Body and have a gov.uk web address so therefore our hosting costs are higher.



29/9/22

7) Financial Matters: Balances
Invoices for approval of payment


i) Balances @ 14th July 2022

Business Instant Account	£11,200.20
Treasurers Account	£542.08
TOTAL	£11,742.28
War Memorial Account	£459.85

ii) Receipts / Payments / Invoices Approved from 9th June 22 – 14th July 22

Receipt/Payment	Details	Amount (inc VAT)	Date Paid
Receipt	HMRC – VAT Reclaim for the year 2021/22	£1,116.89	14.06.2022
Paid	Neighbourhood Watch Membership	£25.00	14.06.2022
Paid	Aston le Walls Village Hall. Additional contribution for the Queens Jubilee celebrations.	£250.00	14.06.2022
Paid	BHIB Local Council Insurance renewal due on 01.06.2022	£394.69	23.06.2022
Paid	Playsafety Ltd annual inspection of Daisy Bank Pocket Park	£84.00	23.06.2022
Paid	Aston le Walls Village Hall hire charge for 10 occasions in 2022	£120.00	23.06.2022
Paid	NCALC Membership 2022/23	£258.74	23.06.2022
Approved	2Commune Website, Hosting, Support, and Annual License	£342.00	To Pay

- iii) The Clerk (DK) read out the financial matters, bank balances, invoices paid, and invoice for approval. The Clerk (DK) presented a hard copy of the financial matters for signature by the Chairman (CL) and Councillor (DS). It was agreed by all Councillors that at future meetings a hard copy of the financial matters will be given to each Councillor along with the agenda.
- iv) The Councillors raised a question as to how helpful NCALC is to Parish Clerk. Danny Moody is our first point of contact at NCALC West Northants, they provide support, information, and training.
- v) The Chairman (CL) informed the councillors that he has been talking with an accounting firm to undertake the payroll for the new Clerk, the cost quoted for quarterly payments and to set-up is reasonable. The Clerk (DK) asked if she could speak with HMRC to find out if it is legally possible to run the payroll herself.
- 8) Planning – Washbrook Farm, Equestrian Centre. A planning application to change the use of an agricultural field to an equestrian field has been received from West Northants also requesting comments from the Parish Council by 26th July 2022. Councillors had read the application papers especially the miscellaneous document. It should be noted 85% of the application is in Boddington Parish, the part in Aston le Walls Parish is a field just south of Highfurlong Brook. The council approve the change of use from agricultural to equestrian however, they hope there would be no increase in horse box traffic to the venue.
- 9) Sutton Close, matter of the tree – The Parish Council are awaiting an official response from the Tree Officer at West Northants Council.


29/7/22


10) Village Maintenance

- a) Pocket Park (CL) – The Parish Council has received their RoSPA report. All recommendations will be actioned; footpaths have been cleared, lock put on to the gate, brambles cut back to ensure there's a 3.7 distance from the swings. It was noted that the swing shackles were the wrong way round (this is believed to have always been this way), the pond sign will need to be replaced in due course and a repair to the gate at the Washbrook Farm end.
- b) Millennium Garden (All) – The roots, nettles and tree stump have now been pulled out. Grass seeds will go down in Aug/Sept time. The area is looking very nice.
- c) Streetlights (GB) – All streetlights are in working order.
- d) Defibrillator (GB) - A question was raised; would the Parish Council know if someone used the defibrillator. Answer: the ambulance crew informs the Parish Council, and the device would need to be checked for any replacement parts needed. Defibrillator in good working order.
- e) Public Footpaths & Rights of Way (MH) - The footpath by the crop field is still overgrown although (MH) reported the problem on Street Doctor. (MH) will report the problem again.
- f) Trees and general parish environment (TB) – The BT manhole on the Welsh Road has been damaged. (CL) will take a picture and report the damage.
- g) Winter Maintenance (JF) – Nothing to report. Grift bins are full.

11) General Updates

- a) Welsh Road – The following repairs have been completed; kerb fitted to the chicanes towards the entrance to Butlers Close and the wobbly sign fixed, and all looking much better. EON energy has removed streetlight 22 which the Parish Council installed last year and replaced it with a new one. This light is now owned by Highways, when the Chairman (CL) spoke with Ryan at EON, he was informed that the work was instructed by Balfour Beatty. The question was raised does the Parish Council continue to pay electricity for streetlight No. 22.
- b) HS2 Liaison, Highways and Road Safety Update (CL) – Village resident who was present at the meeting reported of two incidents at around 07.30am of HS2 employees racing down Welsh Road in their cars to beat villagers through the chicanes. On one occasion a HS2 employee gave a rude finger gesture. Unfortunately, the villager was too upset to take down the car registration. PC Mel Carter has been twice to the village to record the speed of cars passing through on the Welsh Road, on both occasions there was nothing to report. Chairman (CL) said he would report the offence to Simon Davis Engagement Manager EKFB, (CL) continued to say once the site access road is completed all HS2 traffic should use this route. The village resident also mentioned that coming into the village from the 361 the grass is overgrown and is obscuring visibility making it very difficult to see if there are any oncoming vehicles particularly as you reach the chicanes. Chairman (CL) said the grass should be cut and it is the responsibility of Highways however, we have a village grass cutting contract and the chairman (CL) will look to see if this can be included.
- c) Neighbourhood Watch (All) – We have a hot weather warning in place for next week. Please all be aware of our elderly and vulnerable villagers.

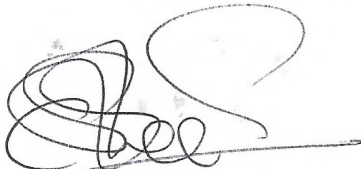
- 12) Any Other Business – (DS) mentioned training for the new Clerk. It was agreed that the Clerk (DK) can apply to go on the 2-day NCALC training course for new clerks.


29/9/22

Councillor (DS) attended an Asset Mapping course over 2 days. The course was free to attend, and you could sign up and become a member. Although the course was interesting it wasn't quite relevant to our village.

- 13) Dates of Next Meetings to be held in the Village Hall – scheduled, no meeting in Aug 8th Sep 22, 13th Oct 22, 10th Nov 22, no meeting in Dec, 12th Jan 23 and 9th Feb 23.

Meeting Closed at 8:45 pm



29.9.22