

## 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](mailto:clerk@astonlewallsparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Minutes of the MEETING of ASTON LE WALLS PARISH COUNCIL held on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2022 at 7:30pm in the Village Hall.

Attendees: Charles Lees **(CL)** - Chairman, Dick Stephen **(DS)**, Matt Hawkins **(MH)**, Debra Kirton **(DK)** Clerk


- 1) Apologies –. Graham Barnes (GB) Tom Boston (TB) Vice Chairperson, John Funnell (JF)
- 2) Declaration of Interests – None.
- 3) The minutes of the previous meeting held on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2022 have been approved as a true record.
  - (a) There were no matters arising from the previous meeting held on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2022.
- 4) Correspondence to include Website and IT (DS)
  - a) Village arrangements to mark the passing of HM Queen Elizabeth II was advertised on the Parish Council website and notice board. For reasons of protocol all Parish Council news apart from news pertaining to Her Majesty was updated after the official 10 days of mourning ended.
  - b) (DS) Noted a problem with uploading two agendas in the same month on to the Parish website. The original agenda reappeared after being replaced by the updated agenda. Something to be aware of for the future
- 5) Financial Matters: Balances  
Invoices Paid and Invoices presented for approval of payment

i) Balances @ 29th July 2022

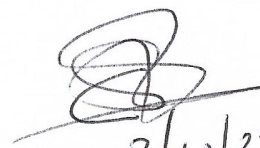
Business Instant Account	£15,826.05
Treasurers Account	£155.27
TOTAL	£15,981.32
War Memorial Account	£459.87

*Receipts / Payments / Invoices Approved from 14<sup>th</sup> July 22 – 29<sup>th</sup> September 22*

Receipt/Payment	Details	Amount (Inc VAT)	Date Paid
Payment by BACS	2Commune Website Hosting, Support & Annual License to 06/10/2023	342.00	18.07.2022
Cheque No.001387	Npower Business Solutions, Street Lighting	44.81	02.08.2022
Receipt	August – Interest from the bank	0.37	09.08.2022
Receipt	September – Interest from the bank	0.48	09.09.2022
Receipt	WNC Precept September 2022	4,625.00	29.09.2022
Approved for payment	Book of Condolence reimbursed to DK	40.80	
Approved for payment	Eon Energy Street Lighting Annual Maintenance for year ending Sept 2022	31.20	

  
13/10/22

- ii) The Clerk read out the financial matters, bank balances, invoices paid, and invoices for approval.  
The Councillors present agreed for the Clerks salary to be paid through HMRC PAYE basic tools. The Councillors present agreed the Clerks working days proposed by the Clerk can be on a Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday.
  - iii) An additional signatory for the signing of any financial documents will be discussed and agreed at the October Parish Council meeting when all Councillors are present.
  - iv) The Smaller Authorities Audit Appointments (SAAA) is responsible for appointing external auditors for Parish Councils. The 5-year contract with PKL Littlejohn is at an end and it is likely that PKL Littlejohn will be awarded a further contract. The SAAA wrote to all Parish Councils advising that if they still wish to remain opted-in then no action needs to be taken to respond to SAAA. The motion was carried unanimously to stay opted-in
- 6) Councillor Vacancy – The Parish Council has a vacancy since the departure of Julie Challenor. There is a process to follow, guidance and templates are available on the West Northamptonshire website. The Clerk to start the Councillor vacancy procedure.
  - 7) 6 Sutton Close – The Chairman (CL) wrote to 6 Sutton Close on the 9<sup>th</sup> of August 2022 after they had sent an inquiry to West Northants Council. The Chairman further explained that the trees on their property are their responsibility, however the land behind their property and the trees thereon it is the responsibility of highways and the parish Council. No further correspondence has been received to date.
  - 8) Village Maintenance
    - a) Pocket Park (CL) – The fence adjoining Washbrook Farm needs repairing, once fixed it will prevent dogs from entering from their side and fouling Pocket Park. (CL) is waiting for a price for this work to be done.  
  
The pond is empty of water and dry. Once the pond was fed from a natural spring along a pipe but, this natural source of water has stopped happening and the pipe is clogged. We can seek some advice from (TB) at the next meeting to ask what can be done, in the meantime we will temporarily cover the "Danger Deep Water" notice with a warning of deep mud.
    - b. Millennium Garden (All) – It's now the time of year to plant grass seeds. The fruit tree is overloaded, and the branches are bowing over. We need to seek advice to ensure the tree is safe.
    - c. Streetlights (GB) – The Chairman (CL) has emailed Matthew Barratt and is still awaiting a response regarding No.22 Street Light that was removed and replaced with a new one by Eon Energy. The question is who is responsible for the ongoing cost of the Street Light No.22 further discussions need to be taken to resolve this situation.
    - d. Defibrillator (GB) – Nothing to report.
    - e. Public Footpaths & Rights of Way (MH) – The BT manhole cover by the chicane on the Welsh Road has been repaired. All walks are open.

  
13/10/22

- f. Trees and general parish environment (TB) – There are trees that may need pollarding, it would be advisable to ringfence 2K from January's precept income as the costs of tree surgeons are approximately 1K
- g. Winter Maintenance (JF) – The grit bin outside the church is almost empty, the Chairman will inform the council. The grit bin in Appletree has been checked and is full.

9) General Updates

- a) Welsh Road – (CL) put up the VAS Units (Vehicle Activated Signs) along the Welsh Road two weeks ago, the information has yet to be downloaded to see the speed vehicles are travelling. (CL) is planning to put the VAS Units up along Main Street to measure the speed of traffic during the school run period.
- b) HS2 has announced that there will be a 4-weekend road closure along the A361 in October 2022 while the temporary Bridge is installed. Diversions are in place and all information can be found on the HS2 website.

- a. The Culworth Road by the Griffin Inn is now open after road closures by HS2 and Thames water.
- b. The temporary 4-way traffic lights situated at the HS2 compound are out of sequence. The traffic lights along the A361 are permanently at red until drivers approach the lights, they then go green. (MH) asked if the responsibility for the traffic lights sequence is with the site manager. It was suggested that the complaint should be directed by email to Chris James HS2


(CL) has spoken with Mr. Nightingale of Kier Group regarding the VAS posts that still have not been completed along the Welsh Road. One post has been erected under a tree. The Parish Council is awaiting a response.

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

- 10) Any Other Business – (DS) raised the topic of the Boundary Reviews. NCalc informed Parish Councils that there will be a review of the internal ward boundaries and comments should be emailed by 7<sup>th</sup> of November. (DS) has read the document and looked at the map, however there is no information on how the boundaries might change. This item to be taken forward to the October Parish Council meeting when all Councillors are present.

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

Meeting Closed at 8:50 pm



13/10/22