
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 9th March 2023 at 7:30pm in the Village Hall.

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

- 1) Apologies – No apologies
- 2) Declaration of Interests – None.
- 3) The minutes of the previous meeting held on Thursday 9th February 2023 have been approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman (CL)
- 4) Correspondence to include Website and IT (DS)
 - a. Correspondence – No Mow May. West Northants are encouraging councils to stop mowing verges/grassy areas in May to encourage wildflower growth. Although this is ideal for park areas it makes mowing the verges in June difficult as the grass stems and weeds become dense and heavy and fall-down. The Councillors voted unanimously to cut the verges during May.
 - a) Website - The website is currently up to date. Cllr (DS) is looking into modifying the Councillors email addresses on the Parish Council website to pictures rather than a hyperlink to safeguard against fraudulent emails.

Chairman (CL) asked for the Parish Clerks address details to be updated by West Northants Council's planning department.

- 5) Financial Matters: Balances
Invoices Paid and Invoices presented for approval of payment.

i) Balances @ 9th March 2023

| | |
|--------------------------|------------|
| Business Instant Account | £15,044.08 |
| Treasurers Account | £222.15 |
| TOTAL | £15,266.23 |
| War Memorial Account | £460.50 |

Receipts / Payments / Invoices Approved from 9th February 2023 – 9th March 2023

| Receipt/Payment | Details | Amount (inc VAT) | Date Paid |
|-----------------|--|------------------|-----------|
| Receipt | Interest (Gross) War Memorial Fund | 0.23 | 09.02.23 |
| Receipt | Interest (Gross) Business Bank Instant | 6.79 | 09.02.23 |
| Payment BACS | Clerk PAYE – Month 10 | 245.07 | 09.02.23 |
| Receipt | EKFB Donation | 2000.00 | 22.02.23 |
| Approved | Microsoft 365 Annual Subscription | 59.99 | |

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| Approved | Mr Charles Lees – Maintenance Supplies for Pocket Park | 90.58 | |
| Approved | Clerk PAYE – Month 11 | 245.07 | |

- ii) The Clerk read out the financial matters, bank balances, invoices paid, and invoice for approval.
 - iii) The Parish Clerk (DK) asked the meeting to consider having a Parish Council Debit Card. The Card would be the responsibility of the Clerk. The Parish Council would agree a limit and the card would be used only when it is not possible to use BACS or a cheque. The Councillors approved unanimously.
- 6) Planning Application WNS/2023/0135/Ful at 19, Butlers Close Aston Le Walls – Chairman (CL) asked if all Councillors had read the planning application and documents. West Northants Council will have notified immediate neighbours at the same time of notification to the Parish Council. The plot of land is suitable for the size of the extension being built and the materials to be used are in keeping with the current materials. Windows at the side of the new extension are acceptable. The Parish Council have no knowledge of any letters being submitted by neighbours to the West Northants Council. The planning application was published on the village noticeboard and on the Parish Council website. The Council voted unanimously to approve. Clerk to notify West Northants Council – No objection.
- 7) Mr. Simon Escreet – A retired Property Lawyer has offered his services free of charge to advise on Parish Councils who maintain land with no deeds. The millennium garden was left over after the building of Sutton Close. The builders Reeve & Son's hold the deeds for this piece of land. Chairman (CL) has tried to get information about them but without success. The Parish Council maintains this small plot of land. The Council agreed unanimously not to go ahead with Mr. Escreet offer.
- 8) Village Maintenance
- a. Pocket Park (CL) – The maintenance of pocket park is on-going. The sign alerting to "deep water & soft mud" is erected. The whips have arrived and will be going into the ground on the 29th of March. The Chairman is speaking with Wickstead to replace the swing beam and the swing set. The Chairman (CL) was pleased to inform the meeting that the Parish Council has received the £2,000 donation from EKFB, and the Parish could now go ahead and purchase the picnic table and seating. In addition, EKFB will be donating to Pocket Park a 2-meter-tall oak tree, to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles 111, which will be planted on the sight of the old bonfire pit.
 - b. Millennium Gardens (All) – Cllr. (RH) suggested that the steps going up to the bench on the gardens should be H&S checked to ensure they are safe and prevent accidents. The steps were put in by the Parish Council and could become slippery in wet weather. (TB) mentioned that the bench is becoming weather worn. The Councillors agreed to remove the bench to prevent accidents and the steps will be inspected.
 - c. Streetlighting (GB) – All working. The Chairman (CL) informed the meeting that there is now a dialogue between the National Grid and Kier relating to streetlight 22 and ownership.
 - d. Defibrillator (GB) – All working. Cllr. (GB) mentioned that there are no child pads in the defibrillator box only adult pads. Cllr. (GB) will inquire into purchasing child pads to go into the box.

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- e. Public Footpaths & Rights of Way (MH) – Nothing to report to date.
- f. Trees and General Parish Environment (TB) – Nothing to report to date.
Cllr. (RH) mentioned that residents had spoken about the poor repair of the pathways after Gigaclear had completed their Fibre Broadband installation. Chairman (CL) asked the clerk to contact Councillor Alison Eastwood Silverstone Ward to ask who we should report this complaint to, West Northants Council or Gigaclear.
- g. Winter Maintenance (JF) – The grit bin outside of St. Leonard's church is empty once again. The Clerk (DK) had reported this to West Northants

9. General Updates

- a) Welsh Road (CL) – The built in Vas unit is still not connected, the delay is partly due to the work not being booked in at the same time as other works on Welsh Road. The connection work is under a new contract and Keir are awaiting a new price. However, we have been informed this should be completed in the near future.
- b) HS2 Liaison (CL) – The Chairman did not participate in the HS2 Webinar held on 24th February as the agenda wasn't applicable to our area. The minutes of the meeting will be emailed to everyone.
The Chairman (CL) asked Cllr. (RH) if she could provide dates after the 17th of April when the village hall would be available for (CL) to arrange a HS2 meeting for the local community.
- c) Neighbourhood Watch (All) – Nothing to report.

10. Any Other Business –

- a. Planning application for WNS/2023/0265/FUL The Barn, Blacksmiths Lane, Aston Le Walls for the installation of solar panels. This was discussed at the March meeting as the response needed by West Northants Council would be required before the next Parish Council meeting in May 2023.

The siting of the panels will be in the middle of the residents own field. Could these panels reflect light onto adjacent properties was discussed. The Parish Council agrees with Solar power as an energy for the future. The Council voted unanimously to approve.

Clerk to notify West Northants Council – No objection, the Councils only comment – the solar panels were in position at the time of receiving the planning notification.

- b. The meeting agreed to purchase the following items for Pocket Park from Marmax Recycled Products:

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|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| 1 x Brown Extended Top Picnic Table | £472.00 |
| 2 x Brown Sloper Chairs | £284.00 |
| Delivery | £100.00 |
| VAT @ 20% | £171.20 |
| Total cost | £1,027.20 |

- 11. Dates of Next Meetings to be held in the Village Hall: 13th April (Open Meeting), 11th May, 8th June, 13th July, No meeting in August.

Meeting Closed at 9.15 pm.

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M. Hawkins
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