
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 12th October 2023 at 7:30pm in the Village Hall.

Attendees: Cllr. Rhiannon Harris **(RH)** - Vice Chair, Cllr. Dick Stephen **(DS)**,
Cllr. Grahame Barnes **(GB)**, Cllr. Richard Burgess **(RB)**, Debra Kirton **(DK)** Clerk

Others: Mr. Charles Lees

- 1) Apologies – Cllr. Matt Hawkins **(MH)** – Chair, Cllr. Tom Boston **(TB)**, Cllr. John Funnell **(JF)**, Cllr. Alison Eastwood **(AE)**
- 2) Declaration of Interest – None
- 3) The minutes of the previous meeting held on Thursday 14th September 2023 have been approved as a true record and signed by the Cllr. (RH) Vice Chair.

a) There are no matters arising from the previous meeting held on Thursday 14th September 2023.

Action Points from the previous meeting held on Thursday 14th September 2023:

- i) HS2 Heras fencing rolled back. **Completed**
 - ii) Report to Highways overgrown hedges and trees along Welsh Road. Email Equestrian Centre. **Completed**
 - iii) Fly Tipping removed. **Completed**
 - iv) Liaise with Resident and inspect donated Bench. **Pending**
 - v) Arrange drop-in session for HS2. **Completed**
 - vi) Post on PC website Noise App. **Completed**
- 4) Correspondence to include Website and IT
- Cllr. (RH) Vice Chair posted on the Parish Council website, The Mature Drivers Roadshow Daventry Course and The Household Support Fund Application for 2023/2024. Cllr. (RH) also completed the email alterations for each Councillor on the PC website.
- Cllr. (DS) Posted on the PC website The Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) relating to dog control and smoking in public spaces and the article from the Rural Bulletin - BT Switch Off 2025.
- 6) Financial Matters
- a) Balances & Invoices for approval of payment. The Clerk read out the financial matters, bank balances, invoices paid, and invoice for approval.

Balances @ 12th October 2023

Business Instant Account	£17,402.18
Treasurers Account	£354.21
TOTAL	£17,756.39
War Memorial Account	£463.07

Receipts / Payments / Invoices Approved from 14th September 2023 – 12th October 2023

Receipt/Payment	Details	Amount (Inc VAT)	Date Paid/received
Payment	Wicksteed Leisure	1,514.23	18.09.23
Receipt	West Northants Council – 23/24 Precept Final Payment	4,837.50	29.09.23
Payment	Clerk PAYE – Month 6	267.44	02.10.23
Receipt	Interest (Gross) Business Bank A/C	13.81	09.10.23
Receipt	Interest (Gross) War Memorial A/C	0.43	09.10.23
Npower Street Lighting	Invoice period 01.07.23 – 30.09.23	41.70	
Burgess Contracting	Grass Cutting	2,100.00	Presented in the meeting
E.on	Street Lighting Maintenance	249.60	Clerk to provide more details on this charge.

6) Community Funding for Community Projects

Cllr. (RB) reported that the swing/slide project in Pocket Park is ongoing. The representative from Playdale was too unwell to make a site visit. Wicksteed Leisure have quoted for a cradle swing, supply only approximately £4,000. Installation would be a further £3,000 and delivery is £500. Cllr. (RB) is still awaiting confirmation of a site visit from Playforce.

Cllr. (RH) Vice Chair requested a full breakdown for the cost of the cradle swing and to include additional materials required for installation. Cllr. (RH) will compose a Community Funding support letter.

7) ALW Village Newsletter

It was agreed that the Village Newsletter should continue being published as it is a great source of information along with the Village Website. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact Steve Neville for further information.

8) Village Maintenance

a. Pocket Park

Mr. Charles Lees reported to the meeting that the Pocket Park team have worked hard, and seed has now been laid. Mr. Lees requested that the Council reserve funds of approximately £ 150.00 for the servicing of the Mulching Mower next year. The ROSPA report raised the repairs required to the bridge over the brook. This is estimated to be a cost of approximately £50.00.

b. Millennium Gardens – No concerns to report. Cllr. (GB) asked the Clerk to provide the details of the resident who has offered to put his own bench on the site.

c. Street Lighting – No concerns to report.

d. Defibrillator – All in working order. Our defibrillator is registered with the National Defibrillator Network.

- e. Public Footpaths & Rights of Way – A resident from Byfield has concerns over a bridle gate that has a weight mechanism put in by WNC in the field from Aston Le Walls to Byfield. The resident complained that maneuvering space on her horse was difficult as there are ditches on either side plus the gate closes too quickly hitting the back of the horse before they're though. It was agreed that Cllr. GB would ask Cllr. (MH) Chair for the Definitive Map to check whether the gate is within our boundary and to further investigate. The Clerk to update the resident of the PC actions.
- f. Trees and General Parish Environment – Cllr. (RH) Vice Chair reported there is an overhanging branch along the alleyway from Main Street to Butlers Close.
- g. Winter Maintenance – No concerns noted.

9) General Updates

a. Welsh Road

Mr. Charles Lees presented the Traffic Report from the Vas Unit put up along the Welsh Road from 13th September to 4th October. In the reporting period, total vehicles: 8500, motorist average speed: 25.8 MPH, highest speed: 57.0 MPH. Mr. Lees explained this is an improvement from statistics taken in 2017. Cllr. (RH) Vice Chair asked if Mr. Lees could email the 2017 data for comparison.

b. HS2 Liaison, Highways and Road Safety Update

Cllr. (RH) Vice Chair reported on the HS2 Site Visit as being interesting and informative. There could be more tours arranged in the future.

HS2 will be having a drop-in session in the village hall on Wednesday 8th November between 5pm – 7pm.

c. Neighbourhood Watch - It was reported that there has been a farm theft of 20 liters of fuel.

13) Any Other Business

a. The Parish Council received an email from Dame Andrea Leadsom's Office attaching a petition. Residents in South Northamptonshire have complained that road closures have been uncoordinated and at short notice. The Clerk posted on the Village Facebook page that the petition was available to sign at the Clerk's office (New House). Cllr. (RH) Vice Chair suggested we use Microsoft Forms as a poll to gather information. Pending decision.

b. Reported water leak along Blacksmiths Lane. The Water Board is currently fixing the problem.

c. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact Mrs. Thorneycroft to organise the wreath for Remembrance Sunday. Cllr. (GB) has volunteered to lay the wreath this year.

Action Points:

Action Item	Owner	Deadline
Itemised breakdown for a new Cradle Swing	Cllr. (RB)	09.11.23
Further Funding Options to be explored	Vice Chair Cllr. (RH)	09.11.23
Definitive Map for Bridleway	Cllr. (GB)	09.11.23

- 14) Dates of the Next Meetings to be held in the Village Hall: 9th November, No meeting in December. 11th Jan 2024, 8th Feb, 14th March, 11th April, 9th May, 13th June, 11th July.

Meeting Closed at 8:42pm