
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 22nd June 2023 at 7:30pm in the Village Hall.

Attendees: Cllr. Matt Hawkins **(MH)** – Chair, Cllr. Rhiannon Harris **(RH)** Vice Chair, Cllr. Dick Stephen **(DS)**, Cllr. Tom Boston **(TB)**, Cllr. Graham Barnes **(GB)**, Cllr. Richard Burgess **(RB)**, Cllr. Alison Eastwood WNC Silverstone Ward **(AE)**, Debra Kirton **(DK)** Clerk

Mr. Charles Lees resident in attendance.

- 1) Apologies – Cllr. John Funnell
- 2) Declaration of Interest – None
- 3) The minutes of the previous meeting held on Thursday 11th May 2023 have been approved as a true record and signed by the Chair Cllr. Matt Hawkins.
 - a) There are no matters arising from the previous meeting held on Thursday 11th May 2023. The Chair Cllr (MH) thanked his fellow Councillors for agreeing to move the date of this meeting.
- 4) Welcome to our newly Co-opted Parish Councillor
The Councillors warmly welcomed Mr. Richard Burgess, who is an active member of the community as the newly Co-opted Parish Councillor. The Declaration of Acceptance of Office was duly signed by Mr. Burgess. All other mandatory documents to be followed up by the Clerk.
Cllr (DS) will add Cllr (RB) name and contact details onto the Parish Council website.
- 5) Correspondence to include Website and IT (DS)
The website is up to date.
All financial documents for the accounting year ending 2023 are on the website in accordance with the AGAR regulations. Cllr (DS) will arrange a suitable time to meet with Cllr (RH) to begin the process of IT hand-over.
- 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 @ 22nd June 2023

Business Account	Instant	£16,015.06
Treasurers Account		£64.09
TOTAL		£16,079.15
War Memorial Account		£461.56

Receipts / Payments / Invoices Approved from 11th May 2023 – 22nd June 2023

Receipt/Payment	Details	Amount (Inc VAT)	Date Paid/received
Receipt	Interest (Gross) Business Bank Instant	8.15	09.05.23
Receipt	Interest (Gross) War Memorial Fund	0.26	09.05.23
BACS Payment	Clerk PAYE – Month 1	245.07	12.05.23
BACS Payment	Julie Challenor Internal Auditor	100.00	12.05.23
BACS Payment	ALW Village Hall – Hire Charges	120.00	12.05.23
BACS Payment	Charles Lees – Grass Matting Pocket Park	55.90	12.05.23
BACS Payment	CPRE ORG – Annual Membership	36.00	12.05.23
BACS Payment	BHIB Council Insurance	418.75	26.05.23
Receipt	HMRC VAT 126 Refund for Accounting year 22/23	298.92	26.05.23
BACS Payment	Clerk PAYE – Month 2	245.07	31.05.23
Receipt	Interest (Gross) Business Bank Instant	10.31	09.06.23
Receipt	Interest (Gross) War Memorial Fund	0.29	09.06.23
Approved for Payment	Clerk PAYE – Month 3	245.07	

b) Bank Mandate for the removal of Mr. Charles Lees from the Parish Council bank account was signed by Cllr (DS) and Cllr (TB)

c) Bank Mandate to be completed by Cllr (MH) Chair and Cllr (RH) Vice Chair to add them both as signatories to the Parish Council bank accounts

7) Annual Pay Review for the Parish Clerk
An uplift of £1,925 (pro rata) per annum was agreed by all Councillors present at the meeting. The pay review is in line with the local Government pay offer for 2023 and will take effect from the 1st of September 2023.

8) Replacement of the Top Beam on the swing set in Pocket Park
The quotation from Wicksteed for the replacement of the wooden beam and chains for the swing set in pocket park comes to the sum of £1,261.86. The Parish Council received a donation from EKFB of £2,000 towards the cost of a new picnic set and bench. The balance will be used to fund the cost of replacing the wooden beam.
ROSPA are due to inspect the park early June. The Parish Council is awaiting their report and it is expected that the report will raise the issue surrounding the condition of the swing beam again.

At the last Parish Council meeting Cllr (RH) asked whether a toddler seat could be considered, after deliberation it was agreed not to replace one of the junior seats with a toddler seat but to remain the same. Cllr (RB) said he had previously explored play equipment for Pocket Park such as a log climber with a slide. Cllr (AE) said that there is Community Grant funding for up to 15K for such projects that enhance community well-being, the Parish would need to put together a plan and three quotations and then send the information to her. As with all projects there are constraints with regards to the height of equipment which need to be under 3 meters high otherwise you will need to apply for planning permission.

It was agreed that Cllr (RB) would lead on exploring additional play systems for Pocket Park and to liaise with Cllr (AE) for funding opportunities.

The go ahead with the purchase of the new beam and chains for the swing set in Pocket Park was proposed by Cllr (TB) and second by Cllr (GB)

9) High Traffic Volume affecting Trees along the A361 and Welsh Road.

Cllr (MH) Chair received a complaint from a resident regarding the trees planted by HS2 along the Welsh Road highway that are failing to thrive due to not being cared for properly. The resident emailed his complaint to HS2 only to be told to contact Highways. Highways then informed the resident the responsibility for the upkeep of the trees is currently with HS2. Cllr (AE) suggested that the Parish Council write to Simon Davis Engagement Manager EKFB. Cllr (MH) Chair will email Mr. Davis to establish who is responsible for the trees.

10) Local Area Partnerships (LAPs)

Northants CALC and WNC are holding a briefing session for Parish/Town Councils on Zoom Monday 26th June 7pm-9pm for two delegates preferably the Chair and Clerk.

Cllr (MH) Chair and (DK) Clerk will attend the meeting. LAPs bring organisations together to work on local priorities in the community to address underlying health and social well-being issues.

11) Village Maintenance

- a. Pocket Park – Mr. Charles Lees said the matting purchased for beneath the swing has not yet been laid as the weather has been too hot. The optimum time to lay the matting is when we have rain to allow the grass to grow through.

Cllr (MH) Chair put forward to Cllr (RB) as he is part of the team who regularly manage and maintain Pocket Park would he take on the delegated responsibility duty for the Parish Council. Cllr (RB) accepted the role.

- b. Millennium Gardens – No concerns.

- c. Streetlighting – All working. The Chair asked the Clerk to enquire with the National Grid the current situation pertaining to the ownership of streetlight 22.

- d. Defibrillator – All in working order. At the last meeting Cllr (GB) mentioned that there are no paediatric pads, only adult pads in the defibrillator. Cllr (GB) spoke with East Midlands Ambulance Service who advised that adult pads may be used if paediatric pads are not available. The pads in the defibrillator are halfway through their life span and will need replacing in 2 years.

There are up-to-date defibrillator machines that use Adult/Paediatric dual pads. Cllr (MH) Chair asked Cllr (GB) to please investigate the cost and delivery of purchasing a new defibrillator in the event we should need to replace the current defibrillator.

Cllr (RH) has access to a First Aid Trainer who would be happy to deliver First Aid training for small groups. It was agreed that a census of how many residents would like to attend a First Aid training event if organised by the Parish Council and delivered in the village hall. Cllr (RH) to take the lead.

- e. Public Footpaths & Rights of Way – All ok. The overgrown foliage along Stoney Bump and the pathway in the adjacent field has been cut back.

(DK) Clerk reported that the fence erected by HS2 that runs along the back of Valley View Farm has not been pushed back to make the path wider, the foliage along the path is also overgrown and needs cutting back. Cllr (MH) Chair asked the Clerk to email Simon Davis Engagement Manager EKFB and to CC in Haidee Williams.

- f. Trees and General Parish Environment – Nothing to report.

- g. Winter Maintenance – Nothing to report.

12) General Updates

a. Welsh Road

The outstanding work along the Welsh Road is now completed.

There is still frustration for residents concerning the temporary traffic lights on the A361 opposite the HS2 compound. The traffic light signal can be on Red (Stop) even when there is no traffic coming out of the compound. Cllr (RH) said she has witnessed motorists driving through red lights.

Cllr (MH) Chair said he had raised this matter with HS2 at the community meeting back in April. The temporary traffic lights are there as a matter of safety for their vehicles leaving the compound and turning right and crossing the path of oncoming traffic.

b. HS2 Liaison, Highways and Road Safety Update

Nothing to report.

Cllr (MH) Chair will write to Simon Davis Engagement Manager EKFB and introduce himself.

c. Neighbourhood Watch

Clerk (DK) has a Police Liaison Representative PLR Meeting on zoom Tuesday 27th in the evening.

13) Any Other Business

Cllr (RH) made a visit to St. Mary's RC Primary School to introduce herself to Laura Concannon Head Teacher as the designated Parish Council point of contact. The school has plans to open a pre-school entry and this will have no impact on accommodating these children as the school plans to absorb the pre-school children within the current school. Work will begin to tidy up the flower garden at the front of the school.

The Parish Council received a planning application for Appletree Farmhouse ASL for the Erection of Portal Frame Barn for Livestock Feeding and Hay Storage. The deadline for comments fell before the next Parish Council meeting so an extension was requested. The response from WNC responded by saying, due to the nature of this application as a Prior Notification, they were unable to extend the deadline. Additionally comments from the Parish Council would not influence the application as the decision will be based on permitted development legislation.

14) Dates of the Next Meetings to be held in the Village Hall: 13th July, No meeting in August. 14th September, 12th October, 9th November, No meeting in December.

Meeting Closed at 9.10 pm.