
ASTON LE WALLS PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the MEETING of ASTON LE WALLS PARISH COUNCIL held on Thursday 9th November 2023 at 7:30pm in the Village Hall.

Attendees: Cllr. Matt Hawkins **(MH)** Chair, Cllr. Dick Stephen **(DS)**, Cllr. Grahame Barnes **(GB)**, Cllr. Richard Burgess **(RB)**, Cllr. Tom Boston **(TB)**, Debra Kirton **(DK)** Clerk

Others: Mr. Richard Holden

- 1) Apologies – Cllr. Rhiannon Harris **(RH)** Vice Chair, Cllr. John Funnell **(JF)**
- 2) Declaration of Interest – None
- 3) The minutes of the previous meeting held on Thursday 12th October 2023 have been approved as a true record and signed by Cllr. (MH) Chair.
 - a) There are no matters arising from the previous meeting held on Thursday 12th October 2023.

Action Points from the previous meeting held on Thursday 12th October 2023:

- i) Cllr. (RB) informed the meeting that he has received a quotation from Wicksteed for the supply only of a cradle swing £3,797.00 excluding VAT and delivery. The suggestion to install a slide has been halted due to safety concerns. Cllr. (RB) will continue to chase other suppliers for their costings.
Action: Add item to the January agenda
- ii) Due to the absence of Cllr. (RH) the action to explore further funding options will be carried forward to the January meeting. **Action: Add item to the January agenda.**
- iii) Definitive Map for Bridleway. **Completed**

Resignation of Cllr. Dick Stephen

Cllr. (DS) submitted his resignation as a Parish Councillor to the Chair.

Cllr. (MH) Chair thanked Cllr (DS) for his commitment to the Parish for many years and especially his IT skills and knowledge in the management of the Parish Website. Cllr. (DS) said he would be available if required over the following months to offer advice and support to Cllr. (RH) who will be taking over the management of the Parish Website.

- 4) Correspondence to include Website and IT

The website is up to date. The post referring to the closure of the Wormleighton Road will need to be amended on the Parish website as HS2 have recently announced a change in date.

5) 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 @ 9th November 2023

Business Instant Account	£14,902.18
Treasurers Account	£277.29
TOTAL	£15,179.47
War Memorial Account	£463.07

Receipts / Payments / Invoices Approved from 12th October 2023 – 9th November 2023

Receipt/Payment	Details	Amount (Inc VAT)	Date Paid/received
Payment	Burgess Contracting – Grass Cutting	2,100.00	16.10.23
Payment	Npower – Street Lighting	41.70	16.10.23
Receipt	WNC – Grass Cutting Reimbursement	81.82	24.10.23
Payment	Clerk PAYE – Month 7	267.44	30.10.23
Payment	Eon – Annual Maintenance for Street Lighting	249.60	06.11.23
The Royal British Legion	Poppy Wreath	20.00	

6) Bench

The Council resolved not to go ahead with the donated bench due to possible legal consequences.

7) Village Newsletter, Website & Facebook

Cllr. (MH) Chair discussed the future of the Village Newsletter, Website, and Facebook with Steve Neville. The Council thanked Sue and Steve Neville for their commitment and financial support. The Parish Council resolved to maintain the bi-monthly publication of the Village Newsletter, recognising its importance for the community. The Village website will not be renewed by the Parish Council and instead, a dedicated Village Page, along with a calendar, will be integrated into the Parish Website. The Village Facebook page will continue, as there is currently one administrator, and the Parish Council will seek to find a further administrator.

Cllr. (GB) offered to print the Village Newsletter if the Parish Council just provided the paper.

8) HS2 Community Drop-in Session Feedback

The meeting was attended by a small number of villagers. Mr. Holden a village resident said the meeting was informative and fed back that The HS2 trains would be non-freight and carry passengers only.

9) Village Maintenance

- a. Pocket Park – Mr. Charles Lees kindly sent a progress report on Pocket Park. The Pocket Park management team is now on top of the Park maintenance. The annual cutting of the meadows has been completed and the lower meadow hedge trimmed. The pond has once again filled due to the rainfall we have had. We have sown Yellow Rattle seed into all the meadows, this seed is a natural way of controlling weeds. The area around the pond has been lightly strimmed and the lower path towards Lower Boddington has had any overhanging growth cut

back. We are going to maintain a mow through the winter, as this year it took us some months to clear last winter growth. The Stiga machine will be sent to Piles for a service in January, as already advised to the PC. We are hopeful the Swing will be repaired with the new parts soonest.

- b. Millennium Gardens – No concerns to report.
- c. Street Lighting – No concerns to report. The streetlights are timed to come on at night.
- d. Defibrillator – All in working order. Nothing to report.
- e. Public Footpaths & Rights of Way – Cllr. (MH) Chair, Cllr. (GB) and Cllr. (TB) walked the bridle path from ALW to Byfield to investigate the reported problem of the bridle gate. WNC are legally responsible for the maintenance of the bridle gates they install, and the Council could be liable if we tried to amend the mechanism. The Council instructed the Clerk to report the fault to highways.
- f. Trees and General Parish Environment – Cllr. (TB) will do a walk-around check.
- g. Winter Maintenance – Grit bins are full.

9) General Updates

a. Welsh Road

There is a build-up of leaves and dirt on the Welsh Road surrounding the Chicanes that need clearing away. Cllr. (MH) Chair offered to clear the area by Butlers Close and Cllr (RB) offered to clear the area by Plowden Close.

b. HS2 Liaison, Highways and Road Safety Update

Cllr. (MH) Chair thanked Mr. Holden for his feedback from the HS2 Drop-in meeting and asked the Councillors present and Mr. Holden if they would like him to arrange another tour of the HS2 site in the New Year. The Council agreed.

c. Neighbourhood Watch – Nothing to Report

13) Any Other Business

No other business.

Action Points:

Action Item	Owner	Deadline
Report to Highways Bridle Gate	Parish Clerk	30.11.23
January Agenda - Cradle Swing Quotation to January Agenda	Parish Clerk	11.01.24
January Agenda - Funding Options	Cllr. (RH)	11.01.24

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

Meeting Closed at 8:30pm