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## ASTON LE WALLS PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the MEETING of ASTON LE WALLS PARISH COUNCIL held on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February 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)**, Debra Kirton **(DK)** Clerk

- 1) Apologies – Alison Eastwood WNC Silverstone Ward **(AE)**
  - Absent - Graham Barnes **(GB)**,
- 2) Declaration of Interests – None.
- 3) The minutes of the previous meeting held on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2023 have been approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman (CL)

(a) Matters arising from the previous meeting 12<sup>th</sup> January 2023

The Parish Council received a letter from a member of the public pertaining to the planning application No. WNS/2022/2399/FUL and the decision outcome of the Parish Council to approve with no further comments. The individual was invited to attend this meeting but did not attend or respond to our invitation.

Counsellor Hawkins (MH) said, having given the comments made by the individual, do we want to do anything differently going forward.


The Chairman (CL) said, there are many comments the Parish Council receives about planning applications which it cannot consider as a reason to object. The Chairman (CL) continued to read out a list of points that were taken into consideration when approving this planning application.

- 4) Welcome to our newly co-opted Parish Councillor - The Councillors warmly welcomed Ms. Rhiannon Harris as the newly co-opted Councillor.

#### Letter of Resignation from the Chairman

The Chairman informed the meeting of his Intention of Notice to resign as Chairman of the Parish Council Aston Le Walls at the AGM meeting in May 2023. The Chairman handed his letter of intent to the Parish Clerk. All Councillors expressed their gratitude for his hard work, time, dedication, and commitment to the village of Aston Le Walls. Mr. Charles Lees became a Councillor in July 2007 he was made Vice Chairman in May 2008 and Chairman in May 2012.

- 5) Correspondence to include Website and IT (DS)
  - a) The website is currently up to date. Occasional comments are missing, and I am always happy to be informed. There had been attempts by a scammer to scam some of the Parish Councillors and Parish Clerk. Fortunately, they had been unsuccessful. Councillor Stephen will change all email addresses to an image.



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


i) Balances @ 9<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Business Instant Account	£13,337.29
Treasurers Account	£167.22
TOTAL	£13,504.51
War Memorial Account	£460.27

*Receipts / Payments / Invoices Approved from 5<sup>th</sup> January 2023 – 9<sup>th</sup> February 2023*

Receipt/Payment	Details	Amount (Inc VAT)	Date Paid
Receipt	Interest (Gross) Business Bank Instant	5.86	09.01.23
Receipt	Interest (Gross) War Memorial Fund	0.20	09.01.23
Payment BACS	NCALC – VAT Recovery	2.00	17.01.23
Payment BACS	Npower – Electricity 01.10.22 – 31.12.22	53.49	17.01.23
Approved	Clerk PAYE – Month 10 for 01.01.23 – 31.01.23	245.07	

- ii) The Clerk read out the financial matters, bank balances, invoices paid, and invoice for approval.
- iii) The Chairman (CL) referred to the outstanding issue regarding streetlight 22 which was removed by E-on under the instructions of Balfour Beatty, we no longer have responsibility for streetlight 22, but to date the Parish Council is still paying the electricity cost. The clerk has asked for a contact's name to further investigate and resolve this issue.
- 7) NCALC Time – The Chairman (CL) spoke with NCALC and West Northants Council as the Parish Council is in ownership of 12 crates of Parish Council documents dating back to 1894 the first recorded Parish Council meeting. West Northants Council will carefully store and preserve documents of historical interests and the less important documents can be shredded.
- 8) Parish Council (Open) meeting in April and Attendees –  
The Chairman (CL) asked the Parish Clerk to send an invitation to all the village groups, local school and churches inviting them to attend the Parish Council Open meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> of April 2023. The Parish Clerk will notify the village residents of this meeting on the community Facebook, Parish Council website and Village website.
- 9) Village Maintenance
- a. Pocket Park (CL) – The maintenance of pocket park is on-going. The cost of replacing the swing set is in the region of £8,500. The ROSPA report drew attention to the wooden picnic set which is rotting away. Alison Eastwood emailed EKFB on our behalf regarding a grant. The Chairman (CL) wrote to Elena Gonzalez EKFB and they have agreed to a direct financial contribution of £2,000 towards a picnic set. This is excellent news allowing the Parish Council to seek the best price. This donation would be better spent on a recycled plastic set in keeping with the current picnic set. The Chairman (CL) asked the Parish Clerk to email Ms. Gonzalez the Parish Councils details. The Pocket Park team are meeting again on the 19<sup>th</sup> of February 2023.
- b. Millennium Gardens (All) – (TB) said the reseeded of the gardens has now been completed. The area is looking attractive with daffodils coming up.
- c. Streetlighting (GB) – All working

  
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- d. Defibrillator (GB) – All working
- e. Public Footpaths & Rights of Way (MH) – (MH) said there was nothing to report except for a lot of littering he spent time picking up (MH) continued to say someone has been fly tipping of old tyres on Watts of Byfield Farm. (TB) to inform the farmer as he knows him. The Clerk informed the meeting that West Northants Council are helping farmers with the cost of removing fly tipping up to £1,000.
- f. Trees and General Parish Environment (TB) – Nothing to report apart from a large bunch of branches that had been seen left on the pathway. (RH) informed the meeting that she had seen Japanese Knotweed growing opposite Daisy Bank. The Parish Clerk asked if Councillor Harris could send photo evidence and the Clerk will report the weed to West Northants Council. The Chairman (CL) said Japanese Knotweed had been seen growing on the Airfield and it was reported at that time to EFKB Environmental department, unfortunately to our knowledge the problem is unresolved.
- g. Winter Maintenance (JF) – The grit bin outside of St. Leonard's church is empty once again. (DS) said he would speak with a resident who lives on Blacksmiths Lane in case he may know who is using the grit. The Chairman (CL) ask the Clerk to please arrange for the grit bin to be refilled by West Northants Council.

#### 10. General Updates

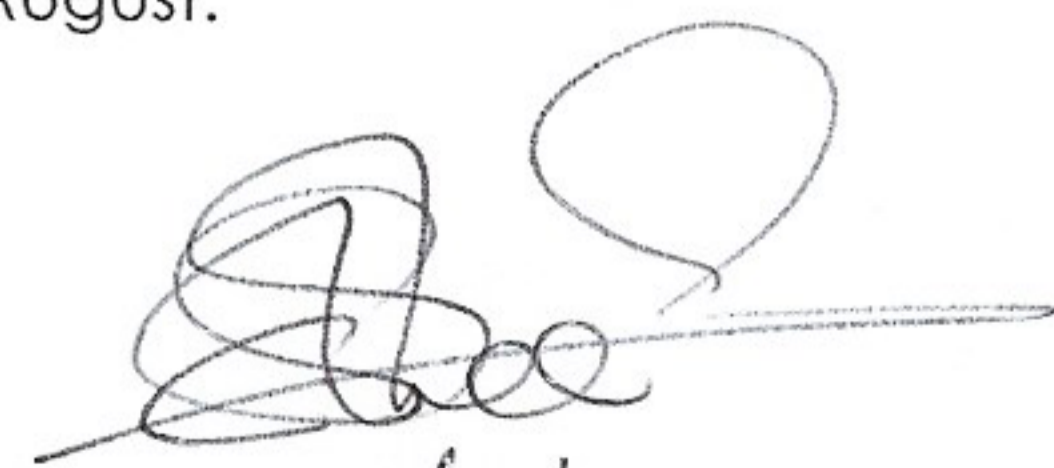
- a) Welsh Road (CL) – The Vas post is still not wired in. The Chairman (CL) will send a further email to Matthew Barratt to push this matter along.
- b) HS2 Liaison (CL) – HS2 has informed residents of their updated working hours being 7 days a week ongoing.
- c) Neighbourhood Watch (All) – Police Alerts and Neighbourhood Watch advices are published on the village website, parish website and Facebook. There will be a Police Drop-In Surgery on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> February from 9 – 10:30 am for residents to discuss any issues or concerns.

#### 11. Any Other Business –

- a. The Parish Council received a letter from St. Mary's RC School informing the Council of their proposal to introduce a pre-school level from September 2023. The Parish Council discussed the proposal in full and unanimously agreed that before they could provide a definitive answer the Council would like to know how they propose to include these children. Parish Clerk to reply.
- b. The Parish Council received a letter from St. Mary's RC School informing the Council of an RTA involving a car driving up Main Street who hit an open car door of a parent who was putting their child/children into their car. Thankfully no one was hurt. The Parish Council discussed the traffic issues on Main Street at drop-offs and pick-up times. The Parish Council will continue to use the VAS system to monitor motorist's speeds and ask for the school to reinforce the use of the one-way-system. It was also mentioned that parents are using resident's driveways to reverse their cars. The Parish Clerk to reply.

12. Dates of Next Meetings to be held in the Village Hall: 9<sup>th</sup> March, 13<sup>th</sup> April (Open Meeting), 11<sup>th</sup> May, 8<sup>th</sup> June, 13<sup>th</sup> July, No meeting in August.

Meeting Closed at 9.15 pm.



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