
ASTON LE WALLS PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the MEETING of ASTON LE WALLS PARISH COUNCIL held on Thursday 12th January 2023 at 7:30pm in the Village Hall.

Attendees: Charles Lees **(CL)** - Chairman, Tom Boston **(TB)** Vice Chairman, Dick Stephen **(DS)**, Graham Barnes **(GB)**, Matt Hawkins **(MN)**

Welcome to Alison Eastwood **(AE)** WNC Silverstone Ward

- 1) Apologies – John Funnell **(JF)**, Rhiannon Harris **(RH)**
Debra Kirton **(DK)** - clerk, (DS) to take Minutes in Debra's absence.
- 2) Declaration of Interests – (DS) has an interest in agenda item 8b. Declaration book filled in with more details of this.
- 3) The minutes of the previous meeting held on Thursday 10th November 2022 have been approved as a true record and signed accordingly by (CL) with no additional comments.

(a) There were no matters arising.
- 4) The welcome to our new Co-opted Parish Councillor Rhiannon Harris has been postponed until next month since she is not present.
- 5) Correspondence to include Website and IT (DS)

a) The website is currently up to date. Councillors were reminded that if (DS) had not put an article on the website that they thought was relevant to ALW, they should request (DS) to add it.
- 6) Financial Matters: Balances

a) Balances @ 5th January 2023

Business Instant Account	£13,331.43
Treasurers Account	£222.71
TOTAL	£13,554.14
War Memorial Account	£460.07

Invoices Paid and Invoices presented for approval of payment were signed by (CL) & (DS). (DK) had circulated all financial records by email prior to the meeting.

Receipts / Payments / Invoices Approved from 10th November 22 – 5th January 23

Receipt/Payment	Details	Amount (Inc VAT)	Date Paid
Receipt	Interest (Gross) War Memorial Fund	0.05	09.11.22
Receipt	Interest (Gross) Business Bank Instant	1.66	09.11.22
Payment by BACS	Burgess Contracting Grass Cutting 16.04.22 – 03.10.22 (10 cuts)	1,400.00	11.11.22
Payment by BACS	Clerk PAYE – Month 7 for 01.10.22-31.10.22	245.07	11.11.22

Payment Cheque 001388	British Legion – Wreath for Remembrance Service Sunday 13 th November 2022	20.00	21.11.22
Receipt	Interest (Gross) War Memorial Fund	0.11	09.12.22
Receipt	Interest (Gross) Business Bank Instant	3.17	09.12.22
Payment BACS Pending	Clerk PAYE – Month 8 for 01.11.22-30.11.22	245.07	31.12.22
Payment BACS Pending	Clerk PAYE – Month 9 for 01.12.22 – 31.12.22	245.07	31.12.22
Approved for Payment	NCALC Recovery process related to VAT	2.00	
Approved for Payment	Npower Business Solution INV 057666844	53.49	

- b) The Chairman read out the financial matters, bank balances, invoices paid, and invoices for approval.
- 7) Parish Precept 2023 -2024 Return
- a) A projection of the likely expenditure and income for 2023-24 had been prepared by (DK) and was shared at the meeting. Each item was discussed in detail. Although a 9.5% increase had been suggested, this was felt to be too much in the current economic climate. After much discussion (MH) proposed a compromise increase of 4.6% and this was seconded by (TB) and agreed by all.
- 8) Planning
- a) Application No. WNS/2022/2399/FUL Two Storey Side Extension, 15 Plowden Close NN11 6UE. All councillors had viewed the application online before the meeting. A full discussion ensued with (GB) querying whether the extension would create a shadow over next door. The councillors agreed for (DK) to approve the application with no further comments to make.
- b) Application No. WNS/2022/2436/FUL New Dwelling on existing agricultural land adjacent to the village confines under custom & self-build plot. (DS) withdrew from the discussion. All councillors had viewed the application online before the meeting. A full discussion followed commenting on the very modern design and materials to be used. (TB) did note that the transport analysis was peculiar in that Highways had made a decision on the site entrance being safe because the road was so lightly used. The ATC Survey was taken in the school holidays (August) and while the route to nearby Appletree trading estate is closed by HS2 for 4 years. The traffic is a concern. The traffic flow is far greater than that recorded. Our own VAS unit was placed close to the proposed site entrance Jan 12th until 20th 2023 inclusive and finds these figures, in the 8 days of recording, 706 vehicles travelling one way were recording using the road. When the Appletree Lane is reopened by HS2 the commuter traffic will greatly increase the flow, there being shift changes at 6.00am, 2.00pm and 10.00pm. The site also does have previous planning applications contrary to the paperwork submitted. It was agreed that a summary of these concerns will be shared between councillors (except (DS)) then submitted by the Clerk (DK) as comments for an Approval of the application.
- 9) WNC – Draft Budge 2023/24 Consultation.
- a) Councillors unanimously agreed not to comment on this consultation.

- 10) Deployable CCTV Cameras.
- a) Councillors discussed the suitability of more cameras in ALW. (GB) & (MH) thought there were plenty door cameras already. All councillors agreed that more were not needed nor wanted.
- 11) Village Maintenance
- a) Pocket Park (CL).
- 1) R Burgess still has to install the fence. The pond is now full. The 25-year-old swing is being considered for renewal and the Wickstead quote for a new one is very expensive. The Community Enhancement Fund from HS2 was going to be a source of potential money for a new Village Hall (VH) CL will discuss with the VH Committee where they are now. It may be possible for the Parish Council to apply for funding of a swing or possibly new picnic tables.
- b) Millennium Garden (All).
- 1) The grass seed from (JF) has been provided and spread by TB. A short discussion about the ongoing use of the garden as a memorial took place. No action will be taken on this issue – particularly as the land is not ours.
- c) Streetlights (GB).
- 1) All are thought to be working well at the moment.
- d) Defibrillator (GB).
- 1) This has been checked again and is working properly.
- e) Public Footpaths & Rights of Way (MH).
- 1) There are no known issues at the moment.
- f) Trees and General Parish Environment (TB).
- 1) A number of residents in Sutton Close don't seem to like the trees behind them on the highway as it blocks their view towards the reservoir. Some are now trimming their own trees instead of the PC ones. Regarding a recent concern from the 8 Sutton Close resident concerned about the overhanging branches into her garden, DK will respond to say the overhanging sections can be trimmed back by the resident.
- g) Winter Maintenance
- 1) (JF) Both (CL) and (DS) had recently checked the grit bin on Blacksmith's Lane behind St Leonards. Both agreed it had been recently topped up by WNC.
- 12) General Updates
- a) Welsh Road
- 1) (CL) reported that when Matt Barratt (Highways) had been asked why the new VAS units had been installed but not wired up, he responded to say he thought they were already working. Matt will also look into why we don't have a new cul-de-sac sign on Plowden Close. Mark Nightingale has

confirmed the VAS facing towards Lower Boddington cannot be moved from the canopy of a tree, this unfortunately means the canopy will need trimming year on year, a wholly unsatisfactory solution in the view of the Parish Council..

b) HS2 Liaison, Highways and Road Safety Update (CL).

- 1) All of the recent documents for this had been circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting. The usage of the SAR for the construction of Nigel Taylor's bund was discussed again at length. (AE) expanded on the full story. Nigel has now drafted a letter to request using the SAR, via HS2 & EKFB. The suggestion is to delay Nigel's start date for his bund until EKFB have finished working at ALW. Then the SAR will be almost free of traffic so more suitable for use by Nigel's lorries.

c) Neighbourhood Watch (All).

- 1) No comments were made.

13) Any other Business –

- a) This morning's crash between a Volvo and VW Beetle at the A361/Welsh-Road junction was discussed. There were 2 police cars, and an ambulance in attendance and the Culworth Road had been closed.

Dates of the Next Meetings to be held in the Village Hall: 9th Feb, 9th March, 13th April, 11th May, 8th June,

Meeting Closed at 9.10 pm