

ASTON LE WALLS PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Mrs G Taylor, Timbercroft, Welsh Road, Aston Le Walls, Northants, NN11 6UD

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting (virtual) of ASTON LE WALLS PARISH COUNCIL held on Thursday 8th October 2020 at 7:30pm via the platform Zoom due to the COVID-19 restrictions.

Attendees: Charles Lees (CL) – Chairman, Julie Challenor (JC), Dick Stephen (DS), W Goffe Taylor (WGT), Tom Boston (TB), John Funnell (JF) and Gill Taylor (Clerk)

1. Apologies: Mark Hazelton (MH) – holiday.
2. Declaration of Interests - None
3. Minutes – Minutes of the virtual Parish Council meeting held on 10th September 2020 were signed as a correct record of proceedings, having been circulated to Councillors.
4. Matters arising from Minutes
There were none.

5. Financial Matters

i) *Balances:-*

Instant Saving Account	£9,658.59
Treasurers Account	£45.75
Unpresented cheques	None
War Memorial Account	£459.87
Half Year Precept 2020/21 Received to Bank a/c	£4,375.00

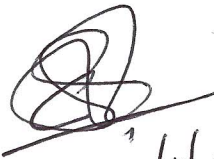
ii) *Invoices Approved for Payment:-*

Eon	£61.66	Quarterly Street Light Mtnce
Eon	£282.20	Quarterly Street Lighting

6. Parish Environment

a) Safety Issues at St Mary's Catholic Primary School – zig zag signage

CL reported receipt of an email from the school stating that child safety issues and ongoing local road closures/diversions had created inconvenience to parents dropping children off at the school. This had led to a serious incident and the Headteacher to pursue the possibility of zig zag safety lines being painted on Main St outside the school. Following the school's contact with NCC Highways for guidance, ALWPC had also been consulted (via the Chairman) for its views and the school had written to HS2 Ltd for possible assistance with funding.


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After a full discussion, the Parish Council agreed that children's safety was paramount and had no issues with the implementation of white zig zag lines in Main Street on safety grounds. However, it unanimously agreed that the school safety issue should not form part of its own ongoing bid to the HS2 Road Safety Fund which, despite meetings and constant dialogue between all parties and the various amendments, had already taken a considerable amount of time. No costings had been obtained and as the bid had not yet been given approval, unlike other local parish projects affected by HS2, it did not want further delays to jeopardise the project.

b) Poplar Trees on Chipping Warden Airfield

Various rumours on social media/community had resulted in concerns about the number of trees to be felled by HS2 during the construction of the tunnel for the new highspeed railway. CL had contacted Chris James (CJ) (Effiage Kier FB) for assurances, CJ had replied by email on 22/9/20 giving accurate information about HS2 proposals in respect of the trees. Some were unfortunately located near the construction entrance to the green tunnel, CJ will send drawings of the tree area affected. This latest information had been circulated to Councillors to pass on to members of the village community who had expressed concerns.

c) Neighbourhood Watch "No Cold Calling" Notices

Following renewal of SNAST membership, Clerk had been advised of the availability & cost of "No Cold Calling" Notices @ £16 each. It was unanimously agreed to purchase four new signs to be erected on lamp posts in various suitable locations in the village as a crime prevention measure and a reminder to residents not to open their doors to strangers.

7. HS2 Updates

a) Road Safety Fund: ALWPC still had not been notified of any progress or costings for its bid.

CL/DS will attend HS2 Liaison virtual meeting 9/10/20, hoping to speak to/hear from relevant parties and report back.

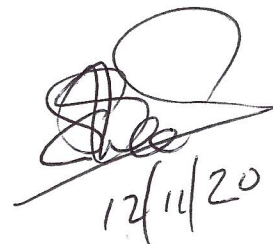
b) A361 Junction: After lengthy delays and much confusion, this was now open on ALW side, closure on Culworth side to continue until December due to ongoing negotiations re: location of the gas main. Woodland and hedgerow will be replanted in November and new grass verges have been seeded to replace old areas. New road signs had been erected.

WGT reported that recent heavy rain had created flash flooding in similar areas to the old road and noted drainage contractors had been called on site to deal with and hopefully resolve the problems.

c) HS2 General

CL reported Anglian Water would be undertaking works to connect the HS2 compound in November for 8 weeks, traffic control will be put in place.

CL reported that completion of CW Bypass is being held up due to a dispute between HS2 & Western Power about the removal of an electricity pole by the allotment site, unfortunately contractors Buckingham cannot proceed until this is resolved.



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d) JF asked if PC had any knowledge of a quarry being dug on the airfield to remove stone which would then be replaced by backfill & other spoil created during construction of the tunnel. CL was not aware of this information and would email CJ with this query.

8. Planning Application

S/2020/1558/FUL Location: Highfield Farm, Appletree, Northants NN11 6UG

Application for a new slurry lagoon at existing dairy farm. The proposal to meet the minimum requirement for storage following an increase in the amount of cattle head at the farm to 300.

"Aston le Walls Parish Council has no objections regarding the application and has noted the proposal will meet the minimum requirement for storage following an increase in cattle numbers."

9. a) Covid-19 restrictions – Community update

Community events continued to be affected as all village organisations were following the Government guidelines and coronavirus restrictions. Hopefully all residents remain safe and are following the latest advice – hands, face (masks) and space.

b) Remembrance Sunday – 8th November 2020

CL would contact the Churchwardens to confirm the arrangements for this year and will notify Councillors. Clerk will advise him when the Poppy Wreath has been delivered.

10. General Updates from all Delegated Responsibilities

Website - DS reported it is up-to-date and accessibility issues understood & dealt with.

Pocket Park – CL reported the old Hayter mower was still working and as it was the end of the mowing season, this was a relief.

Public Footpaths - DS had nothing to report. CL reported the vegetation on part of footpath AA8 was being cleared by HS2.

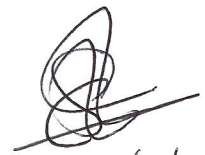
Street Lighting – JC confirmed no faults have been reported. Recent LED installations continue to reduce the cost of street lighting for the parish.

Clerk asked if, following its unsuccessful bid for grant funding, PC would consider purchasing some replacement LED lamps from its budget to further reduce the quarterly electricity bill and continue its project. JC volunteered to investigate costings for 3 or 4 lamps and report back. ***This item would be put on the November meeting agenda for discussion & decision.***

Defibrillator – MH had reported it was checked and all up-to-date (on circuit).

Highways – CL had taken down the VAS unit and would download the data since Welsh Road had been re-opened. It would be re-located near Hall Farm/Main St junction.

Neighbourhood Watch – WGT reported 2 latest Neighbourhood Watch notifications had been circulated, re: Tyre Safety Month with roadside checkpoints being set up in the County and another called Operation Journey launched to improve road safety in Northamptonshire.




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Village Trees: CL asked TB to check overhanging branches causing obstruction to the school/children sign in Main Street and another obstructing visibility near Butler's Close. TB will report back.

Grit Bins: JC reported these were full in readiness for the winter weather conditions.

11. Any Other Business – WGT asked if a commemorative bench could be considered for the village (to replace the broken one in Main Street) as ALW had been affected by the both World Wars and farm land in the parish requisitioned for the construction of Chipping Warden airfield. Clerk will investigate various types/prices of commemorative seats. *This item would be placed on the agenda for discussion & decision at the November meeting.*
12. Dates of Next Meeting – Thursday 12th November 2020.

The Meeting closed at 8:50 pm.



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