

ASTON LE WALLS PARISH COUNCIL

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

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting (virtual) of ASTON LE WALLS PARISH COUNCIL held on Thursday 13th August 2020 at 7:30pm via the platform Zoom due to the COVID-19 restrictions.

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

1. Apologies: None

2. Declaration of Interests - None

3. Minutes

4. Matters arising from Minutes

TB noted apologies from the Chairman had not been received at the meeting but recorded in the minutes. CL apologised and confirmed he had submitted apologies to the Clerk immediately the next morning which had then been included in the minutes.

5. Financial Matters

i) Balances:-

Instant Saving Account	£6,783.30
Treasurers Account	£130.70
Unpresented cheque	£82.20
War Memorial Account	£459.83
VAT Reimbursement 2019/20	£518.73

ii) Invoices Approved for Payment:-

S N A S T South Northants Area Support Team (Neighbourhood Watch)	£20.00	Annual Subscription
Village Grasscutting	£159.00	July/August all areas
F N Pile & Sons	£37.64	Repair to P/Park mower
2 Commune Ltd	£342.00	Website host, support & annual licence fee

iii) The Financial Accounts 2019/2020 had been submitted for External Audit.

6. Parish Community Activities Update – Covid-19 Restrictions

It was understood that Northampton, Kettering, Wellingborough areas were being closely monitored due to the high number of cases of coronavirus being recorded.

Local lockdown restrictions were being monitored and followed, with minor changes being allowed in respect use of the Pocket Park and local Doctor surgeries enforcing their own restrictions.

SNC had provided one food parcel which had been delivered in the village to a resident with no transport. Local community helpers had collected prescriptions, shopping, meat, fruit & vegetables and baked bread. These efforts have been much appreciated by the Parish Council and everyone in the village who has made use of them.



The Village Hall had been closed throughout lockdown but was hoping to re-open on 1st September for its first community coffee morning, following all hygiene & social distancing rules. It was understood the Management Committee had been preparing plans for submission to HS2 for a Community Enhancement Funding Grant for major update and refurbishment of the current premises.

7. Grant Application re LED Street Lighting Update

CL had submitted the application after obtaining a quotation for the cost of each LED lamp and clarification with Eon of current street lighting locations and updates to LED (already undertaken by the Parish Council) to provide SNC Grants Committee with an up to date schedule for the village. The SNC panel would be meeting on 24th August.

The meeting unanimously expressed its thanks to CL for his efforts.

8. HS2 Update & Welsh Road Feasibility Update

i) CL had discussed with Chris James (CJ) (HS2/Effiage/Kier) current progress & track building proposals. CL had requested that any new contractors be asked to SLOW DOWN in the village and keep to the speed limit at all times to ensure safety for residents during construction. CL understood Appletree Road will be closed for about 3 years and there will be some temporary re-routing of Public Footpath AA8 (near Valley Farm) while the tunnel is built, due to commence early 2021. Some old ordnance found near the airfield is being exploded during September.

HS2 are moving over to virtual meetings during the current Covid-19 situation.

DS queried the statement that HS2 Liaison Committee was "*not a decision-making committee*" in some recent meeting notes.

There will be an Archaeology Team meeting at the end of August to exhibit the findings of a Roman settlement locally.

CJ (HS2/Effiage/Kier) reported it is anticipated that up to 500 lorries per day will travel from the M40 to the compound at Chipping Warden. Other routes, including the B4525 (Greatworth) and A423 (Southam Road) will also be involved.

A resident living in Welsh Road had already expressed on social media grave concerns about the volume & speed of traffic using the Welsh Road. CL had responded outlining ALWPC awareness & its efforts to date to get help with safety issues in Welsh Road.

ACTION: It was unanimously agreed that CL will write to CJ (HS2) to express the Parish Council and community concerns about any increases in the level of HGV/construction traffic and send a strong message to HS2 that they prioritize ALWPC request for safety improvements in Welsh Road.

ii) Following the on-site meeting with Matthew Barratt (MB) & his colleague from NCC/Kier on 29th January 2020, no positive information had been received regarding the feasibility study by Northamptonshire Highways or ALWPC proposal for a pedestrian footpath along Welsh Road (leading out of the village towards A361) and other safety issues discussed. CL had again chased them for a response following their drawings proposing chicanes to assist traffic calming. PC has been informed that they are still in the process of redesigning and obtaining quotes. NCC will then need to submit project costs to HS2 for approval.



Handwritten signature and date: 12/9/20

The Parish Council unanimously recorded its extreme disappointment that ALW appeared to be gaining so little from the current disruption & road closures and any proposed increases in HS2 construction traffic when other local parishes had either had mitigation work done or approval & commencement dates agreed.

ACTION: It was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council will continue to put pressure on NCC to resolve this long-standing safety issue.

9. Pocket Park

Daisybank Pocket Park – A copy of the annual ROSPA report had been circulated to Councillors for information. CL reported that the PPMG would be addressing & prioritizing the issues raised, some having been dealt with at a recent volunteers working party session.

CL had met Carley & Pat from Fusion and expressed thanks for the signs & boards they had recently provided. CL was still hopeful his request for funding for a new mower would be considered favourably. The idea of a new fence along an area of boundary by Washbrook Farm has now been replaced by proposed planting of a mixed hedge to encourage additional wildlife to the area.

10. General Updates from all Delegated Responsibilities

Website - DS and MH reported it is up-to-date.

Councillors unanimously agreed to have their ALWPC email addresses put on the website
MH had checked security issues in respect of the website.

Trees – TB had discussed the village trees with a local tree surgeon following a recent inspection, who advised no maintenance was required at the present time.

It was proposed that any nuisance from low hanging wispy branches/leaves be trimmed by pedestrians, two main culprits were the willow tree and an unknown tree outside Hill View overhanging the footpath, ownership of both being in question.

Footpaths - DS has continued to clear overgrown vegetation from entrances to some footpaths.

Defib – MH reported all up-to-date (on circuit).

Highways – CL reported the VAS unit had been in situ during the recent equestrian events. Downloaded data would hopefully assist Welsh Road safety issues and record volume of traffic experienced on route during these events.

Some pothole repairs had been undertaken by NCC/Kier within the parish, particularly around Appletree. CL reported a new signpost had been installed at the top of Main Street.


Neighbourhood Watch – WGT reported tools had been stolen from a van owned by contractors working at the village school in Main Street. Everyone should remain vigilant against opportunist thieves.

It was noted that some vehicles using Appletree Road during the diversions should slow down and show consideration for others using this narrow rural road.

11. Any Other Business – None

12. Dates of Next Meetings – Thursday 10th September 2020.

13. The Meeting closed at 8:45 pm.


16/8/20
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