

**Minutes of the Meeting of Aston le Walls Parish Council held on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.**

1. **Apologies:** All Councillors in attendance: J Challenor (JC), T Boston (TB), C Lees (CL), M Hazelton (MH), W G Taylor (WGT), D Stephen (DS) and J Funnell (JF) together with the Parish Clerk.
2. **Councillor Declaration of Interest:** There were none.
3. **Minutes** of the meeting held on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2020 were signed as a correct record having been circulated to Councillors, there were no amendments
4. **Matters arising from the Minutes:** All outstanding matters would be dealt with through the agenda.  
**Correspondence:** A list of correspondence had been circulated electronically with the draft Minutes of the January meeting.  
**Website** - MH confirmed the website was up to date.  
CL queried whether the Minutes could be filed in order, with the latest meeting first to enable quick reference, DS will amend this.

5. **Financial Matters.**

**Balances:** Clerk circulated bank reconciliation spreadsheets which reported receipts and payments to date (with all cheques cleared).

Instant Savings a/c £6506.72 and Treasurer's a/c £41.94

War Memorial a/c £459.71.

**Payments approved:** Parish Council Expenses £55.10

6. **Local Government, Police & Parish Elections 2020**

Elections take place on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2020. ALWPC to publicise election via noticeboard, website, social media using recommended text.


Prospective candidates are to be encouraged to contact SNC website for guidance.

**RESOLVED**

7. **Street Lighting:** It was unanimously agreed to replace 4 LED street lamps - No's 1 & 2 Plowden Close and No's 3 & 4 Main Street at £265 each + VAT from EON. Other groups of lights will be replaced at intervals when affordable.

**RESOLVED**

CL will ring Dave Mooney at Eon to double check the price of each LED lamp and advise their lighting schedule for our parish still lists some fibreglass columns which have been replaced. CL will confirm price information with Clerk who will then place the order. Western Power will need to be notified of these changes to their ALW parish lighting schedule. **RESOLVED**

 12/3/20

**8. Grasscutting 2020 Season**

An invitation to tender notice will be put on the main village noticeboard. A short discussion took place re specification areas for mowing. Clerk will notify NCC that ALWPC will continue to mow its own village grass areas for which the Highways grant remains at £81.82 towards the cost, based on NCC criteria. **RESOLVED**

Grand Union Housing had undertaken an audit of their green areas adjacent to Plowden Close, Clerk will respond to the enquiry as necessary.

**RESOLVED**

**9. HS2 Update**

The HS2 Liaison meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2020 had not revealed any additional information.

Various HS2 works, Chipping Warden ring road and at the A361 crossroads was progressing slowly, seriously hindered by the wet weather. Some delays were inevitable due to traffic lights and forthcoming closures at CW whilst specific "joining up" to the main A361 tasks were undertaken. Delays were also taking place in Wardington whilst "pinch point" works were being done to accommodate future increases in construction traffic.

CL/WGT attended a feasibility meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> January with M Barratt & a colleague from NCC/Kier to discuss the bid for a footpath, improved bus shelter & traffic calming measures in Welsh Road. It was felt to have been a constructive and positive meeting but there had been no response from them since.

Councillors were made aware of some negative comments on social media concerning the ongoing liaison between ALWPC and HS2 in relation to grant bids in mitigation for the construction of HS2 nearby. ALWPC has been working hard in this regard with a sound and worthy bid and was in constant communication with HS2. It had no control over the rumours of local grant awards being made to neighbouring parishes.

CL agreed respond on PC's behalf to set the record straight.

**RESOLVED**

**10. Pocket Park**

CL had met with Carley Richards & Patrick Howard (Fusion) to request assistance with Pocket Park maintenance equipment (a new mower) and help to facilitate improved disabled access and other minor repairs. This would be requested through the Community Enhancement Fund.

New signs and bird boxes had been already been donated by Fusion.

It was suggested that some additional bark chippings would make the footpaths less slippery, but these would be monitored once the weather improved but old timber provided good habitat for wildlife.

CL will complete the relevant application forms on behalf of ALWPC.

**RESOLVED**

 12/3/20

**11. General Reports & Updates for Delegated Responsibilities**

**Highways:** CL - VAS Unit data will be downloaded, circulated and then relocated at Blacksmiths Lane/Main Street junction.

Some residents had reported that the ditch in Appletree Lane was overflowing with water running down towards Blacksmiths Lane.

Some potholes had been repaired in Blacksmiths Lane.

A loose manhole cover in Main Street had been reported to NCC Highways. SNC email enquiry to ascertain whether the parish wanted an electric plug in point.

**Street Lighting:** JC was thanked for her sterling work investigating supplier and costs of upgrading the parish street lighting, the information received had been interesting and informative and had enabled ALWPC to reach its decision quickly.

**Defibrillator:** MH had checked this routinely, he advised a new battery & pads were now required. MH will investigate suppliers, costs & delivery and report back to the next meeting. **RESOLVED**

**Footpaths:** DS reported public footpaths continued to be extremely muddy due to wet weather.


**Neighbourhood Watch:** WGT advised that reports of scams & bogus house callers were continuing, vulnerable/elderly residents should not open the door to cold callers.

**Open Meeting** - Clerk proposed a speaker from Ability (Community Transport could be invited to the April meeting to outline how it operates, it was understood other local parishes seem to have adopted the scheme.

**12. Any other Business - None**

**13. The next Meeting** will be held on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at 7.30 pm.

The meeting closed at approximately 9.00pm

  
12/3/20.