

**Minutes of the Meeting of Aston le Walls Parish Council held on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.**

1. **Apologies:** Councillor J Funnell (personal commitment), all other Councillors in attendance: J Challenor (JC), T Boston (TB), C Lees (CL), M Hazelton (MH), W G Taylor (WGT), D Stephen (DS) together with the Parish Clerk.
2. **Councillor Declaration of Interest:** WGT - Agenda Item 8.
3. **Minutes** of the meeting held on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2020 were signed as a correct record having been circulated to Councillors, there were no amendments
4. **Matters arising from the Minutes:**  
Four new LED street lamps had been installed (1 & 2 Plowden Close and 3 & 4 Main Street) as ordered. CL would check that the parish schedule was updated between Eon & Western Power to ensure correct billing.  
All other matters would be dealt with through the agenda.

**5. Financial Matters.**

**Balances:** Clerk reported bank balances:

Instant Savings a/c £6407.01 and Treasurer's a/c £168.66


War Memorial a/c £459.71.

<b>Payments approved:</b>	Parish Clerk's Salary	£647.67
	EON (Purchase of 4 LED Lamps)	£1272.00
	Microsoft (Office 365 subscription)	£59.99
	South Northants Community Responders (Defibrillator consumables)	£50.00

**IT Update** DS/MH had checked the details and the Microsoft Office 365 subscription had been renewed for a further twelve month period, it will be due for renewal 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

6. **Defibrillator** MH had undertaken an extensive check on defibrillator records. The consumables currently required had been ordered from South Northants Community Responders (SNCR) who would attend this week to supply battery & pads. Their invoice of £50.00 was approved for payment.

Physio-Control (as recommended by EMAS in 2017) had been taken over by Stryker and the current model Lifepack CR/CR Plus had been discontinued, however the 8 year warranty was being honoured and parts still available.

  
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MH proposed PC increase the budget allocation for the defibrillator spares annually to create a contingency fund towards the cost of a new defibrillator when required. **RESOLVED**

**Pads and Charge Pak require replacement by - 06/05/2022 (unless used sooner)**

**Defibrillator requires replacement ~ May 2025**

MH confirmed that the defibrillator is currently fully registered up to date and available for use if required.

The Parish Council unanimously thanked him for his thorough and diligent efforts as the delegated community emergency responder.

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

- a) Parish Elections are due to place on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2020. ALWPC had publicised the parish council election extensively, inviting residents to step forward. Clerk advised that Nomination papers were now available and would be handed to those wishing to stand for election.
- b) Annual Parish (Open) Meeting - it was agreed the usual invitations would be extended to County & District Councillors and village organisations. Recent schemes had been introduced to provide community transport to rural villages. A speaker from ABILITY Community Transport

8. **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**

**9. 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**

**10. HS2 Update**

  
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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 aware of some negative comments on village social media concerning the ongoing liaison between ALWPC and HS2 in relation to grant bids and 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**

**11. 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**

**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 to ascertain future electric plug in points in the district.

**Street Lighting:** JC was thanked for her sterling work investigating supplier and costs of upgrading the parish street lighting, the information received

  
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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.

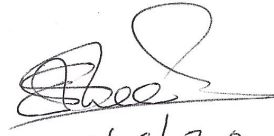
**Neighbourhood Watch:** WGT advised that reports of scams & bogus house callers were continuing, vulnerable/elderly residents should not open the door to cold callers.

**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

  
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