

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 11th February 2021 at 7:30pm via the platform Zoom due to the COVID-19 restrictions.

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

1. Apologies - None
2. Declaration of Interests - None
3. Minutes – Minutes of the virtual Parish Council meeting held on 14th January 2021 were signed as a correct record of proceedings, having been circulated to Councillors.
4. Matters arising from Minutes / Correspondence
No matters arising, all topics will be dealt with within the agenda.
All correspondence received electronically had been circulated.

5. Financial Matters

i) *Balances:-*

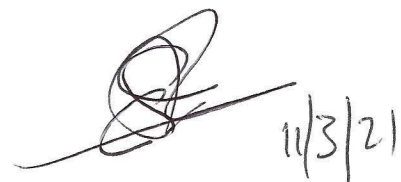
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|------------------------|-----------|
| Instant Saving Account | £7,658.89 |
| Treasurers Account | £367.33 |
| War Memorial Account | £459.87 |

ii) *Invoices Approved for Payment:-* None

Clerk reported no bank charges are currently charged by Lloyds Bank on the three bank accounts which ALWPC hold. Cheques had always required any two of three signatories following approval of expenditure at meetings and Clerk transferring funds from Savings a/c to Treasurer's a/c as the authorised proper officer. The War Memorial a/c was held as a contingency fund to enable the cost of any refurbishment should it be required. Parish Councils were being encouraged to use internet banking in future, JC assured the meeting this was straight forward and there would be no problem with payments to local suppliers or services.

6. Village Grasscutting 2021/22

Clerk had posted invitation to tender notice on the main village noticeboard as instructed and prepared Tender specification packs. Interested parties should contact the Parish Clerk in the first instance. It was confirmed that JC had received three electronic responses sent direct to her and she had discussed the specification pack with those parties.



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Following a full discussion on the submitted prices, **TB** expressed the view that it was vital to have site of the £5million public liability insurance and **WGT** also confirmed the importance of having site of their risk assessment and confirmation of their use of appropriate safety clothing (high viz) & signage due to the danger from speeding vehicles in some areas of the village.

It was unanimously agreed to accept the quotation from **Priors Garden Services** at a cost of **£1,590** for the season.

Action: *JC authorized to confirm acceptance of the tender price, seek proof of the relevant £5million public liability insurance level documentation and a risk assessment for pc files. JC to notify unsuccessful applicants and thank them for their interest. All copies & correspondence to be forwarded to Parish Clerk for pc file.*

7. Planning Applications – for information only

S/2021/0178/NA – Neighbouring Authority Consultation – for new agricultural track OS Parcel 147 adjoining road north of dismantled railway, Boddington Rd, Claydon

S/2021/0158/PC – NCC Consultation – Change of use of storage & industrial yard at Old Prisoner of War Camp, Boddington Rd, Byfield NN11 6XU

Action: *The Parish Council had no observations to make on either application.*

8. a) HS2 Road Safety Fund Update

CL had received confirmation (via Esme Cushing) that all parties had now agreed to grant acceptance of **ALWPC** bid for improved traffic calming measures in Welsh Road (new VAS units/chicane & priority traffic signage), a pedestrian footpath to the edge of the village for safety of all pedestrians, and a new bus shelter with dropped kerb / disabled access. **WGT** reminded the meeting that it was some twelve months since **he & CL** had held a site meeting with **HS2** representatives, he thanked **CL** for his continued communication to ensure **ALW** was not forgotten and that this scheme would hopefully result in greater safety for the whole village community. It is understood work will commence in the spring/summer following any minor tweaks to the scheme.

Action: *CL will communicate excellent news of ALWPC successful bid to the HS2 Road Safety Fund via its own website, the village website/newsletter & social media.*

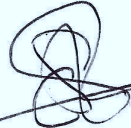
b) New LED Street Lighting - Update

JC confirmed the majority of the new LED streetlamps had been fitted with the exception of No's 9 & 12 and the cowl ordered for lamp 25. **Western Power** had been advised to update the parish schedule of lighting to ensure correct invoices were raised.

Action: *JC will chase David Mooney at Eon to ensure completion of the order.*

c) Commemorative Bench – Progress Report

JC reported that the bench was being manufactured and she would ensure the correct wording was included on the plaque. **CL/TB** to inspect its location site in Main Street and deal with the construction of the concrete base as soon as possible after delivery.

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9. a) Parish Clerk Recruitment

CL had sought advice from Danny Moody at NCALC and received various documentation on recruitment. A short advert had been put in the village Newsletter.

Action: It was unanimously agreed that CL/MH/JC will form a committee to deal with the recruitment of a new parish clerk.

b) Parish Council Elections – 6th May 2021

NCALC were encouraging Parish Councils to start a recruitment campaign and various advertising posters & notices were available to assist with this, Clerk will put "WANTED" poster on main village noticeboard. CL will arrange for appropriate publicity to be posted on pc/village websites & social media. Closing date for nomination papers is 8th April 2021. CL/JC reported names of 3 residents who had indicated their interest in standing for election.

Action: Clerk will distribute nomination packs to any interested parties as soon as they are received from SNC.

c) Census – 21st March 2021

All Households in the UK will receive a Census form in the post, residents should be encouraged to complete & return these as per the instructions.

10. Definitive Map Modification Order – AA4 & AA5

Parish Council had received notification via NCALC of county footpaths which were converted in 2016 into highway footpaths, in our village AA4 & AA5 are affected. NCALC suggested a collective response from parish councils by 31st March.

Action: DS to draft a response letter to protect the safety of these footpaths.

11. Boddington PC – Cycleway & Footpaths Project

CL had joined a zoom virtual meeting to hear initial discussion & proposed routes. CL expressed the view that he supported the proposals under consideration. More information will follow.

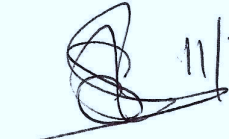
12. a) Village Hall

CL reported that an application was being made by the Village Hall Committee to the HS2 Community Grant Fund for funding to enable a total refurbishment of the hall. The Committee required support from the Parish Council as part of the application, CL will draft an appropriate response for submission.

b) Millennium Garden

CL expressed the view that the Millennium Garden needed some general maintenance to improve the site. The Parish Council did not own the site, but felt it was an important open green space for residents to enjoy.

Action: Councillors were asked to give some thought as to how the space can be improved and bring ideas to a future meeting.

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c) A361 Mounting Stone

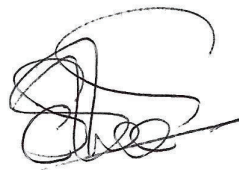
Following completion of the lengthy road works at the A361 junction, the mounting stone situated on the verge had been removed for safekeeping. This had created some concern on social media by a few ALW residents about the loss of a historical monument. It is understood from local knowledge that the stone has been re-located over the years due to earlier road improvement schemes. The Parish Council is aware that the stone is actually located in Chipping Warden parish.

Action: It was unanimously agreed that CL will speak to the Chairman of CW Parish Council to assess their views and report back.

13. Any Other Business: None

14. Date of Next Meeting –Thursday 11th March 2021 at 7.30pm

The Meeting closed at approximately 9:15 pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D. Lee' or similar, written in a cursive style.

11/3/21