

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 14th January 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 – JF – agenda item 9
3. Minutes – Minutes of the virtual Parish Council meeting held on 10th December 2020 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:-*

Instant Saving Account	£8,158.75
Treasurers Account	£266.37
Unpresented cheques	£17.00
NCC Grasscutting Grant 2020	+£81.82
War Memorial Account	£459.87

ii) *Invoices Approved for Payment:-*

1380	Eon	£61.66	Quarterly street lighting mtnce
1381	Eon	£282.20	Quarterly street lighting

Parish Councils were being encouraged to use internet banking in future, for which charges are made. No bank charges are currently charged with ALWPC bank accounts.

Budget 2021/22

Following the draft budget prepared by the Clerk at last meeting, final expenditure figures were discussed including provision for the May 2021 Local Elections and figures for a 2021/22 Budget agreed, unanimously accepted and circulated to Councillors.

6. Parish Precept 2021/22

It was unanimously agreed to increase the demand for Precept by £500 to **£9,250** for the financial year 2021/2022. Clerk will advise SNC by 22nd January 2021 deadline.

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7. Police Liaison Representative

The Parish Council unanimously felt that the current arrangement via Neighbourhood Watch was sufficient for residents to remain vigilant against crime in our small parish. NW updates and alerts about local criminal activities were circulated widely and residents reminded to dial 101 if they had information helpful to police. A Police Liaison representative would not be appointed at this time.

A Rural Crime Prevention guidance pack had been made available for use, WGT as NW representative would read through this.

8. Village Grasscutting 2021 Season

WGT informed the meeting that he would not be tendering for the village grasscutting this year. WGT was unanimously thanked for his sterling efforts over many years. JC advised she had received two enquiries, TB expressed the view "the more the merrier". Clerk was instructed to advise NCC the parish would undertake its own mowing, a tender invitation notice would be put on the main noticeboard, and tender packs prepared with NCC criteria and ALWPC specification details. All interested parties should contact the Parish Clerk in the first instance.

Action: All sealed tenders will be considered at the February meeting.

9. Planning Application

S/2020/2316/FUL – Use of land for the siting of 5 touring caravans for residential occupation by HS2 workers for a period of 2 years – Little Paddock Farm, Welsh Road, ALW.

Action: The Parish Council had no objections and no observations.

10. General Reports

a) Covid-19 Lockdown – community support.

Residents continued to support friends & neighbours following all Government coronavirus guidance. Voluntary collection of medical prescriptions was available from local surgeries and offers of bread making and takeaway food notified on social media.

b) Street Lighting – conversion to LED project progress report

JC had placed an order for 10 LED street lamps with Eon who had advised installation work would be undertaken by Christmas 2020. Work had yet to begin, JC had chased Eon for an update. Following receipt of the latest invoice, CL proposed a further two lights (no's 15 & 16) be added to the order to further reduce the quarterly EON charges for street lighting. This was unanimously agreed, JC to amend the order to 12 LED lamps, leaving only five lights to be converted to complete the project.

c) Commemorative Bench

JC has liaised with Buckingham Group who are generously paying for Memorial Bench for Aston le Walls village. The bench has been ordered at a total cost of £1,161 plus VAT which Buckingham Group will generously pay for directly. It was unanimously agreed the bench will be delivered to CL's address for safety until the concrete base is prepared in Main Street and it can be properly and securely fixed in its location. CL/TB volunteered to deal with this. Councillors



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had all checked and agreed the wording for the commemorative plaque. The Bench will be added to the insurance schedule once it has been installed.

d) All Other Updates

- i) VAS Unit – CL reported data had been downloaded and re-located. The Police speed camera van had attended the village last week. There was nothing to report on the Welsh Road Footpath and Traffic Calming application to HS2 Road Safety Fund.
- ii) Boddington Parish Council had invited interested parties to join a Cycle/Walkways initiative for rural areas scheme via HS2, Dept for Transport & Sustain. It was unanimously agreed Clerk to register ALWPC interest and await further information.
- iii) MH reported the Defibrillator had been checked, all OK.
- iv) JC reported grit bins are full for winter weather conditions.
- v) DS reported website is up to date, some public footpaths are very muddy!
- vi) WGT had received a lengthy **Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter** giving useful advice and contact details, including a poster for covid-19 guidance.

11. May 2021 Elections

CL asked Councillors for an indication of who would be standing for re-election in May. This would assist the publicity to residents to encourage those interested in standing for election and recruitment of Parish Councillors as necessary. ALWPC needed seven elected Councillors in total.

The **Parish Clerk** advised the meeting that it was her intention to retire at the end of March 2021. Following her appointment as Clerk, she had attended her first meeting on 13th April 1989.

12. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

12. Date of Next Meeting –Thursday 14th February 2021 at 7.30pm

The Meeting closed at approximately 8:45 pm.



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