
ASTON LE WALLS PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Julie Challenor, Northfield, Welsh Road, Aston Le Walls, Northants, NN11 6UD

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Minutes of the **Monthly Meeting** of **ASTON LE WALLS PARISH COUNCIL** held on Thu 14th Oct 2021 at 7:30pm in the Village Hall.

Attendees: Charles Lees (**CL**) – Chairperson, Tom Boston (**TB**) – Vice Chairperson, Dick Stephen (**DS**), John Funnell (**JF**), Matt Hawkins (**MH**) and Julie Challenor (Clerk and Councillor)

Parishioners who joined the meeting – Mike Benton (**MB**), Goffe Taylor (**GT**), Robert Parish (**RP**), Cherry Parish (**GP**) and Jo Wilson (**JW**)

1. Apologies – Grahame Barnes
2. Declaration of Interests - None
3. Minutes 9th Sep 21 - All agreed and signed

Matters arising from the Minutes – *Point 8a* - Pocket Park - lower meadow now been cut. *Point 8b* - Millenium Garden - tree root now removed. *Point 8e* - HS2 have now trimmed back the hedging on the concrete track and the barrier on Appletree Lane also moved back to ease deliveries. *Point 8f* - status of hedgerow, TB has personally paid for it all to be trimmed back and he was thanked for resolving.

4. Welcome Cllr Alison Eastwood (Silverstone Ward). Cllr Eastwood introduced herself and informed that the Unitary Council proving to be a challenge, especially HS2. Any planning issues, she offered that we email, and she will assist. Bus Service – Cllr Eastwood informed who we can approach, Chris Wagg. Cllr Eastwood sits on HS2 liaison committee and again any support needed, please email her.
5. Welcome PC Mel Carter, Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) Brackley Police Station including PCSO, Danni Morgan. PC Mel Carter advised that they were aware South Northants unhappy with policing over the last few years and unfortunately this was due to cuts. Provision is now made to build up the number of officers and they cover our village. Their priorities are road safety, drugs and burglary and they will be looking into speeding in the village by sporadically checking. NPT made it clear that if ALW have any issues, we are to contact them, their details will be added to our website and are also available on the village noticeboard.
6. Correspondence to include Website & IT – DS reported all up to date.

7. Financial Matters:

i) *Balances @ 14th Oct 21*

Business Instant Account	£9,126.49
Treasurers Account	£32.71
TOTAL	£9,159.20
War Memorial Account	£459.85

ii) *Receipts / Payments / Invoices Approved from 9th Sep to 14th Oct 21*

Receipt/Payment	Details	Amount (Inc VAT)	Date Paid
RECEIPT	WNC OLD DDC Precept	+ £4,625	29Sep21
Pending Dispute	Priors Garden – Grass Cutting May 21	£165	Dispute
Pending Dispute	Priors Garden Ditto – Jun 21	£165	Dispute
To be Signed	Eon – Electricity 1Jul-31Aug 21	£80.23	Pending
To be Signed	Eon – Maintenance	£31.20	Pending
To be Signed	Npower Bus Solutions – Elect Sep 21	£14.13	Pending
To be Signed	Banbury Pest Control – Wasps Nest	£65.00	Pending

New electricity bill received from Npower Business Solutions, the Clerk advised due to the Parish changing all lights to LED's, our costs have significantly reduced, last invoice Apr – Jun 21 was £152 ie approx. £50 per month and latest bill for Sep 21 is £ 13.46 plus VAT.

Up-to-date Receipts and Payments spreadsheet given to all councillors, showing Income and Expenditure to date, including approx. spend for the rest of the year with balances (copy attached).

8. The Transport document for Planning No WNS/2021/766/MAF (27 pages) – CL informed that we have until 5th Nov 21 to submit any response, stating we do not support the transport document. The bund and all-weather cross-country course were approved at our July 21 meeting.

We feel if WNC approve planning application, we ALWPC can at least write a response document, highlighting where in their transport document, it is incorrect, it has been noted several observations within this document that are incorrect. Laura Bell who is the case officer on this informed CL that although the 21-day period is over, it is open until 5th Nov. This date has already moved once and if we submit our response before this date, there is a very high chance this date could be moved again as there is so much going on with this application.

All Councillors proposed putting forward our own points to try and mitigate against HGV's coming through the village and for them to use the SAR. Clerk to submit our proposal and then email Cllr Eastwood, who requested this needs to be done in the next 4-5 days.

9. Welsh Road – ALWPC have received five emails from MB re HS2 traffic on Welsh Road, Washbrook Farm Activity and Tilbrook Farm Activity.

CL explained the reasons for increase in traffic on WR is due to closing of Appletree Lane, unfortunately this might not change for four years until it is reopened. Also CL covered why HS2 use Welsh Road and it will continue until they build their bridge on the SAR over High Furlong Brook. CL stated that he liaises with HS2 on a weekly basis over various issues, ie signage etc and it is very time consuming.

CL who manages the VAS unit, presented the latest VAS report for Aug – Sep 21. It records one way – HS2 under 3.5t traffic starts from 7 am through to 6 pm. This report was given to MB. CL has for many years worn a “highways hat” and since 2012, he has been trying to resolve our traffic issues.

MB and GT reported trailer rattle on WR, both were asked to report potholes to street doctor.

Tilbrook Farm – original planning application to move their business from Woodford Halse went to Boddington PC. It was turned down by Boddington PC and South Northants Council. It went to appeal but it was withdrawn by the applicant. If they are operating a business from there, MB needs to talk to Boddington PC. ALWPC has no control over who uses Welsh Road and what is operating out of Tilbrook.

MB raised the point about the chicanes to be changed for the farmers. CL explained the reason was due to the size of their combine harvesters. CL still to receive confirmation of new plans and he will chase Matthew Barret for confirmation. Works are proposed to start towards the end of Nov 21 and being finished at the end of the year.

MB mentioned the tree outside his house, he reported on street doctor for 3 years – TB confirmed it is owned by highways and they are monitoring.

10. Village Maintenance

- a) Pocket Park – CL informed they would be laying the hedge and some help would be appreciated.
- b) Millennium Garden – ALWPC received email from Alex Blithe (Grandson of parishioners) who volunteered to help maintain the village. Councillors agreed his offer of help is welcome and although we have a contractor, help with Millennium Garden and Pocket Park would be most appreciated. There is still some clearing around the tree etc to be done and TB and CL volunteered to complete this work.
- c) Street Lighting – JC reported all satisfactory.
- d) Defibrillator – GB to add details on village newsletter. This should always be repeated to ensure all new parishioners are aware.
- e) Public Footpaths & Rights of Way – Nothing to report.
- f) Trees and general parish environment. Trees re Sutton Close - TB has again liaised with tree surgeons and received a report, which was forwarded to Councillors. It was reported that the semi mature trees appear to have good crown health and the height are appropriate for the site on which they are situated. In the next 3-4 years, consideration should be given to maintenance. TB also emailed Ralph Branston, Arboriculture Officer (Planning) at WNC and he agreed with the findings.

Grass cutting – tendering for the village, all Councillors agreed at some point, we would relook at the tender documents, and it should include bush cutting.

- g) Winter Maintenance – Nothing to report.

11. General Update

- a) HS2 Liaison, Highways & Road Safety – Chris James meeting, David Allen – send email to Cllr Eastwood to organise.
- b) Various suggestions were made about the route and possible changes and Cllr Eastwood asked if ALWPC would like to see HS2 representatives to discuss further and CL agreed this would be the best way forward to ensure all parishioners can be involved
- c) HS2 Liaison Meeting 17th Sep, CL sent apologies and DS attended.
- d) Neighbourhood Watch – Nothing to report, NPT as mentioned above will be more pro active in all rural villages in South Northants.

12. Any Other Business

Bus Transport – two residents in the village have spoken to CL about a bus service for the village, as currently we have no service, it would be helpful, even if just one day a week. CL was given a Petition signed by parishioners (3 pages). Cllr Eastwood suggested we liaise with Chris Wragg and hopefully he will have a solution. CL to submit a request.

Equestrian Centre - increased traffic from the events which includes, speeding and mobile use by drivers. We will be working more closely with PC Mel Carter, Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) and it was suggested that we invite the NPT to provide officer(s) to witness the traffic.

Remembrance Sunday – Laying of the wreath on Sun 14th November will be Matt Hawkins.

13. Dates of Next Meetings to be held in the Village Hall – scheduled 11th Nov 2021, 9th Dec, 13th Jan 22, 10th Feb 22 and 10th Mar 22.

The meeting closed at approximately 11pm.