

ASLACTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES – Parish Council Meeting 2nd September 2022

Venue: St Michael's Church, Aslacton

Commencement: 7.30 p.m.

Clerk: Peter Robinson, The Old Rectory, Aslacton

01379 677362 : aslactonparishclerk@outlook.co.uk

Present:	Geoff Gamble (Chairman); Keith Broomhall (KB); Louise Thurgar (LT); Charlotte Bennett (CB); Janine Jarrett (JJ) and 4 members of the public
1. Apologies for Absence	Cheryl Shulver (CS)(Vice-Chairman); Christine Kinge (CK)
2. Minutes of the Meeting of 1st July 2022	The minutes of the meeting of 1 st July were approved by the Members.
3. Matters arising from the Minutes of 1st July 2022	The following matters were discussed.
3a. Western Farm appeal	<p>The Chairman reported that both the Parish Council and SNC have submitted their appeal objections to the Planning Inspectorate and that those involved are now waiting for an inspector to be appointed to the case. He said that there was a current backlog and that this may take a year or more.</p> <p>LT asked what the situation was in respect of the '4-year rule', to which the Chairman replied that as this appeal was in respect of a change of use and not a new development, the relevant time for acceptance of any unauthorised development in place was 10 years. He added that the appeal process 'stopped the clock' until the appeal had been decided.</p>
3b. Village Sign	<p>LT reported that she had not yet received any designs for the village sign and that she would contact the headmistress at the school to see if they would like to submit any ideas.</p> <p>JJ reported that there had been a design idea put forward by a parishioner and the parishioner outlined the idea of having a metal sign with the final design cut out of a solid sheet and mounted on a wooden base/post. This found favour with the Members and the Chairman asked for an estimate of the cost of such an idea to be available for the next meeting.</p>
3c. Request for 20mph speed limit sign past the school	<p>The Chairman reported that two quotations had been obtained for the proposed signs but that NCC Highways Department would only give a grant under the Parish Partnership Scheme for the supply by Wescotec as they were the preferred supplier. He felt confident that he could obtain a 50% grant from Highways for this project and was looking for further grant money from other sources.</p> <p>JJ pointed out that the Parish Partnership Scheme allowed for other improvements to be considered, such as a footpath along Church Road, and suggested that the Members consider the wider implications of the Parish Partnership Scheme and discuss any options at the next meeting. This was agreed.</p> <p>The question was asked whether, if all roads outside schools in Norfolk were going to be subject to a 20mph limit in the near future, a cost of between £6,000 and £8,000 would represent good value for money, even if a 50% grant were available, and whether the PC should wait to see if they actually needed to spend parish money on signs now. Any decision on the matter was</p>

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	deferred until the next meeting.		
3d. Defibrillator project	<p>CB had e-mailed a copy of a quotation from Traineeast/East of England Ambulance Service, the preferred supplier, to all Members which showed an initial cost of £2231.96. Questions was raised as to installation and ongoing maintenance costs and it was pointed out that although the school was happy with the installation on their wall, the installation would have to be done in line with their requirements and possibly using their approved contractors. CB was asked to speak with the headmistress at the school and to obtain a final overall cost for consideration.</p> <p>LT pointed out that the nearest defibrillator was currently at the Tibenham Community Hall, having been moved from The Greyhound public house.</p>		
3e. Highways Issues, Maranello, Mill Lane	Both the Chairman and the Clerk reported that it had been difficult to reach anyone at Highways with which to discuss this and the Clerk confirmed that he will continue to attempt to find out what can be done.		
3f. Parish Rangers work in July	JJ reported that she had noticed that the grass had been cut under certain signs but that there had been no sign cleaning. The Clerk confirmed that he had asked Highways to carry out works as discussed at the last meeting but that the request process seemed to be more difficult than expected. He said that he would try to find out whether any work had actually been scheduled.		
3g Hedges and verges on Low Common and outside Downlands	The Clerk reported that he had contacted Highways and that they only seemed to be bothered about immediately dangerous situations. He had recently walked the relevant sections of road and, in his opinion, the hedges, although becoming overgrown, were not unreasonably over-reaching the road. He said that the problem outside Downlands was created because the bus stop had been cut out of the narrow verge and was on the apex of a bend without footpaths either side, which created the potentially danger. JJ said that she would speak to the two bus companies concerned to discuss moving the bus stop. KB said that he would speak to the owner of Beckwith Farm to ask for his hedges on Low Common to be cut back.		
4. Clerk's Report	In order that actions which had been taken since the last meeting were reported to the Members, the Clerk reported on the following matters:		
4a. Planning 2022-1365 The Stables, Plantation Road	The Clerk reported that there had not been any objections when the planning information had been circulated to the Members and that he had therefore not sent any comments to SNC. LT said that the application had been approved.		
4b. Fly tipping at the ford, Steeple Lane	The dumping of 7 or 8 car wheels and tyres in the ford at the bottom of Steeple lane had been reported to SNC and these had been cleared.		
4c. New wind turbine at Rookery Farm Barns	This appeared to be over the permitted height and would therefore require planning permission. The Chairman reported that this was known to the Planning Department and that they would be sending an enforcement officer to check when their new staff member was fully in post.		
4d. Churchyard maintenance and payment	The Members agreed that a half yearly sum of £300 could be paid to MRD Gardening Services in respect of the churchyard maintenance.		
4e. Payments made	<p>The Clerk reported outgoings of:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 80%;">BHIB insurance</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£296.59</td> </tr> </table>	BHIB insurance	£296.59
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4f. Receipts	<p>The Clerk reported receipts of:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 80%;">Refund of insurance premium</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£10.27</td> </tr> </table>	Refund of insurance premium	£10.27
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4g. Representative for the Coronation Hall Committee	The Clerk reported that it was necessary to renew the notification of the PC representative to the Coronation Hall Committee. It was agreed that the current arrangement of LT and JJ sharing the duties should continue for the		

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	next year
5. Planning application 2022-1503 The Paddocks, Wash Lane	The Chairman explained that this was not a standard application but an application to determine permitted development of a change of use from agricultural to residential under the Q Regulations and that the application would receive approval unless there were any technical reasons for refusal.
6. NCC proposed speed limit changes	The proposed extension of the 30mph limit along Church Road to the Muir Lane crossroads and the proposed new 30mph limit on the Northern end of Pottergate Street were noted and although it seemed incongruous that the middle of Pottergate would be at 40mph and not 30mph, the Chairman said that the Highways officer had told him that there was no justification for a 30mph along this stretch of road.
7. Report on village footpaths	A report on the village footpaths had been sent to the Chairman and he suggested that this should be forwarded to the Members along with a copy of the footpath map such that the Members could comment by e-mail before the next meeting. LT suggested that the footpaths should be walked by the members and offered to organise this while the Clerk was asked to send the report and the maps to each Member for comment..
8. Adoption of bio-toilet	The Chairman reported that when the bio-toilet had been installed in the churchyard it had been funded by Aslacton Charities and Charities believed that they had given it to the PCC. The PCC apparently do not have any recollection of this although they have been organising for the toilet to be unlocked/locked and cleaned. As the Parish Council now had an excess of 'insurance cover for such assets, Charities had proposed that the PC should adopt the toilet and deal with ongoing maintenance when necessary. JJ asked what the costs of ongoing maintenance were likely to be and it was pointed out that the PCC was currently dealing with the normal maintenance tasks and that if this stopped, the costs were not expected to be onerous. The Chairman proposed that: 'Aslacton Parish Council adopt the bio-toilet in the Churchyard and look after it from a financial point of view'. This was seconded by LT and unanimously agreed.
9. Reimbursement to Aslacton Charities for the school Jubilee postcards	When these were proposed, Aslacton Charities actually made payment although the Parish Council had asked each of the three parishes which send children to Aslacton school to contribute. The PC were now in profit over the arrangements and it was thought that the correct procedure would be for the PC to reimburse Charities for the original purchase. The Members agreed that the £324 should be reimbursed to Aslacton Charities.
	There being no further business the meeting closed at 20.52