

## ASLACTON PARISH COUNCIL

### DRAFT MINUTES – Parish Council Meeting 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Venue: St Michael’s Church, Aslacton

Commencement: 7.30 p.m.

Clerk: Peter Robinson, The Old Rectory, Aslacton

01379 677362 : aslactonparishclerk@outlook.co.uk

<b>Present:</b>	Louise Thurgar (LT), Andrew Tempest (AT), Janine Jarrett (JJ), Sue Bancroft (SB), Keith Broomhall (KB), Charlotte Bennett (CB) the Clerk and 9 members of the public
<b>1. Apologies for absence</b>	Apologies for absence had been received from Sally Wilkinson (SW)
<b>2. Approval of the Minutes of the meeting of 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024</b>	The minutes of the meeting of 9 <sup>th</sup> January 2024 were proposed as correct by JJ and seconded by AT. The minutes were approved by the Members.
<b>3. Matters arising from the minutes of 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024</b>	The following matters arising were discussed
<b>3a. Village Sign – update</b>	JJ reported that she had sought some finance from the District Councillor’s fund but without any success. There was a discussion on the costs of the sign and the sources of funding for the project before JJ proposed: ‘That the quotation from The Village Sign People is accepted’ This was seconded by AT and unanimously approved.
<b>3b. Defibrillator project - update</b>	JJ confirmed that the PCC was not keen on having a defibrillator in the church porch as it may affect the internal plasterwork on the grade 1 listed building. The PCC have suggested that a defibrillator could be fixed to the posts on the church boundary to which the previous notice board was fixed with the electricity supply being supplied from the church. It was recognised that there may be issues with this supply and the Clerk was asked to contact a local electrician to ask for a specification and quotation for the necessary work.
<b>3c. Land next to 3, Church Road</b>	The Clerk reported that the owner had not submitted any further plans for consideration by the Planning Department
<b>3d. Coopers Close footpaths</b>	JJ reported that she had contacted the Estate Development Department at South Norfolk Council and had been told that the Council solicitors are in discussion with the developers’ representatives. A member of the public said that he had spoken with the site manager and had been told that the developers had hoped to carry out the works in April but that they were having difficulty in contacting the owners of the land on the opposite side of the road where part of the footpath had been planned.
<b>3e. 20mph speed limit proposal</b>	AT reported that he had been in talks with County Councillor Rowett who is going to take the Aslacton plan forward to the County Council. The plan details have been sent to Cllr. Rowett and she and her photographer have met with the Aslacton team so that the project can be reported in Cllr. Rowett’s next newsletter. AT is to contact the District Councillor to ask him to also support the project.
<b>3f Western Farm planning amendments</b>	It was reported that all the offending caravans have been removed although it is understood that the company will be appealing the decision not to grant planning permission for living vans to be situated on the site..
<b>3g. South village notice</b>	The Clerk said that he had not had time to pursue the possibility of making

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<b>board</b>	alterations to the existing board.
<b>3h. Land next to Claylans, Sneath Road</b>	The Clerk confirmed that he had written to the Planning Department asking for more information and JJ reported that she had received a letter from the Ecology Department saying that the pond in the front garden had been identified as an "ancient pond" and had been referred to in the first Ordnance Survey map, therefore, a biodiversity alternative was necessary. It had been suggested to the Planning Department that the letter from the Parish Council should be passed on to the Ecology Department.
<b>3i. Development of O'Sullivan's Butchery, Great Moulton</b>	The Clerk confirmed that he had sent a letter to the Planning Department complaining at the further increase in the sewage loading on the sewers which would be the result of the eight new houses being built.
<b>3j. The Paddocks, Wash Lane</b>	JJ reported that the Planning department were asking for plans for dealing with the nutrient neutrality issues relating to the proposed development. It was also reported that Highways were asking for further provisions relating to turning space and visibility splays which needed to be addressed and revised site plans submitted.
<b>3k. Parish land footpath</b>	The Clerk confirmed that he had sent a letter requesting the intentions of the landowners towards the footpath maintenance and had received a reply which had been circulated to the Councillors. AT said that he had helped in the maintenance last year but that it had been expected that the bark would need regular replenishment. A member of the Aslacton Charities who was in attendance said that a site meeting of the trustees had been planned for later in the week to discuss the footpath and its maintenance.
<b>3l. Village flooding</b>	LT confirmed that Anglian Water had installed flow monitors into the sewers to try to understand the overloading. The Clerk confirmed that he had sent letters to Natural England and to the Environmental Agency to ask for support in the matter although it was understood that there would not be a quick solution to the problem and that the PC would have to keep up the pressure on Anglian Water. A member of the public asked that the flooding at the Muir Lane/Church Road crossroads be addressed. The Clerk said that he would again report the flooding to the Council. It was mentioned that similar sewage flooding issues were being encountered in Tibenham, Bunwell and Tivetshall and the Clerk was asked to contact each Clerk to discuss tactics for making complaints
	County Councillor Rowett joined the meeting at this point
<b>4. Proposals for adopting policies when considering planning applications</b>	Having circulated details for consideration prior to the meeting, JJ put forward two policy proposals to be considered and applied when commenting on planning matters  1) In view of the current Nutrient Neutrality requirements and the current effluent flooding difficulties being suffered in the village, Aslacton Parish Council will object to planning applications which may negatively affect the current issues or bring about any further flooding until the applicant has provided full details of waste and surface water disposal arrangements. 2) In view of the current and soon to be current Biodiversity Mandatory legislation on development, Aslacton Parish Council will object to planning applications (whole or in part i.e. extensions) that do not incorporate the required 10% Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) for the site in question.

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	The two proposals were seconded by SB and unanimously agreed by the Councillors																
<b>5. Clerks Report</b>																	
<b>5a. Payments &amp; receipts</b>	<p>The Clerk reported the following receipts and payments</p> <p>Receipts</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 80%;">AM Link final fund distribution</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£ 951.77</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Payments made</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Donation towards Aslacton Village News</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£ 339.92</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Data Protection renewal fee (paid by D/D)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£ 40.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Invoices to be paid:</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Village Sign People for coloured sign design</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£ 150.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Charges for use of church for meetings 2023/24</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£ 60.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Clerks Wages for 2023/24</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£ 114.00</td> </tr> </table> <p>The Councillors unanimously approved the payment of the outstanding invoices..</p>	AM Link final fund distribution	£ 951.77	Payments made		Donation towards Aslacton Village News	£ 339.92	Data Protection renewal fee (paid by D/D)	£ 40.00	Invoices to be paid:		Village Sign People for coloured sign design	£ 150.00	Charges for use of church for meetings 2023/24	£ 60.00	Clerks Wages for 2023/24	£ 114.00
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<b>6. Report from Footpath Warden</b>	A brief report had been forwarded prior to the meeting.																
<b>7. Any Other Business</b>																	
<b>7a. Tas catchment meeting</b>	AT reported that there was a meeting at Forncett about the TAS catchment area and proposed actions to protect the land further downstream. The Chairman said that she intended to attend the meeting but added that it was thought that the problems stemmed from the lack of river maintenance whereby the river had been allowed to silt up and trees and vegetation had been allowed to block the river. It was also stated that for 28 out of the last 40 days raw sewage had been allowed to run from the sewer in The Street and into the Tas, which was not good for the river either in Aslacton or further downstream.																
<b>7b. Use of litter bins for dog pooh</b>	A resident had asked what can be done about dog pooh being put into general litter bins and JJ confirmed that this was allowed under current litter rules and that she thought that the cost of supplying any further special dog litter bins could not be justified.																
<b>7c. Dumping and highways issues in the village</b>	JJ confirmed that she had reported the dumping of a fridge freezer in Muir Lane and also the disappearance of the Mill Lane signboard at the Muir Lane junction .																
<b>7d.Village litter pick</b>	JJ asked the Councillors whether there should be an organised litter pick day for the village. This was approved and JJ was asked to advertise this in the Aslacton news.																
<b>7e. Balfour Beattie vehicle nuisance</b>	It was reported that Balfour Beattie vehicles which were being employed on a project on Tibenham Airfield had been driving through the small village roads instead of using the wider and more suitable route along Plantation Road to the B1134 and outward to their base at Swainsthorpe. The Clerk was asked to write to Balfour Beattie asking them to reroute their transport to avoid the village.																
<b>7f</b>	AT reminded the Councillors about the ongoing GREEN pylon project. It was rumoured that a 4 acre hardstanding was being arranged for Bunwell Hill and the Chairman said that she would investigate. Cllr Rowett confirmed that the County Council was opposing the project and that farmers in Gissing were combining to try to prevent their lands being used.																
<b>9. Date of next meeting</b>	The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Tuesday 14th May 2024, the																

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	Parish Council meeting being preceded by the Annual Parish Meeting. The start time was set at 7.00 am.
	There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 8.59 pm.