

# ASLACTON PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES – Parish Council Meeting 7<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Venue: St Michael's Church, Aslacton

Commencement: 7.30 p.m.

Clerk: Peter Robinson, The Old Rectory, Aslacton

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<b>Present:</b>	Louise Thurgar (LT), Andrew Tempest (AT), Janine Jarrett (JJ), Sue Bancroft (SB), Keith Broomhall (KB), Sally Wilkinson (SW), the Clerk and 9 members of the public
<b>1. Apologies for absence</b>	Apologies were received from. Charlotte Bennett (CB)
<b>2. Approval of the Minutes of the meeting of 19<sup>th</sup> September 2023</b>	The minutes of the meeting of 19 <sup>th</sup> September 2023 were proposed as correct by AT and seconded by JJ. The minutes were approved by the Members.
<b>3. Matters arising from the minutes of 19<sup>th</sup> September 2023</b>	The following matters arising were discussed
<b>3a. Village Sign – update</b>	JJ said that as there had been no response from the residents at World's End Farm in respect of the use of the triangle of grass at the end of the access road to their property, it may be necessary to look at other places in the village for the sign. Although the construction and ideas for the sign had been previously agreed, JJ proposed that the signmakers be asked to put forward a final design idea in order that the Parish Council have something to present should fund raising for the sign be necessary. The cost of this was £160 but this would be deducted from the final invoice should the signmakers be asked to make the sign for the village. This was unanimously supported and the design cost approved.
<b>3b. Defibrillator project - update</b>	JJ had sent a report to the Councillors prior to the meeting but there were two key issues which needed attention before moving further on as there was a difficult position to be overcome before being able to present a final estimate of costs as UK Power Networks (UKPN) will not finalise their supply costs before knowing the chosen electricity supplier and the electricity supplier need a MPAN number which will not be issued by UKPN until we have an agreement with them. To date UKPN had provided a quote for £1827 + VAT to provide an electricity supply from their pole to a feeder cabinet, to which the defibrillator can be connected. JJ proposed that the Parish Council enter into an agreement with the Unmetered Supplies Operator (UMSO) – part of UKPN – to secure the MPAN number such that the final supply costs can be assessed. This was unanimously agreed by the Councillors. To obtain the ongoing electricity cost it will be necessary to finalise a defibrillator to be used. The Clerk agreed to liaise with CB to find out which defibrillator was recommended.
<b>3c. Land next to 3, Church Road</b>	The Clerk reported that the Planning Department have given an extension until 30 <sup>th</sup> November for revised plans to be submitted.
<b>3d. Churchyard maintenance</b>	SW reported that the maintenance person who cut the grass in the churchyard had resigned and that she had not heard from the Probation Service team for a while. SW to pursue the Probation Service team.

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	The Councillors were of the opinion that the churchyard could not be left in its current untidy state and decided to organise a 'work-in' to take place on 13 <sup>th</sup> January. This was to be notified to the parishioners in the forthcoming Aslacton newsletter
<b>3e. Coopers Close footpaths</b>	JJ reported that the Planning Officer concerned was still awaiting approval of the final drawings and they expected to be able to discharge this condition shortly.
<b>3f. 20mph speed limit proposal</b>	AT reported that he had met with the resident who had proposed the speed reductions. Following this, contact had been made with the County Councillor for our area, who had been supportive. She was, however, aware of a number of similar schemes being proposed and although the Aslacton scheme was not sufficiently far forward to be immediately considered, one of her ideas was to alter County Council strategy on speed limits for the future. AT had also contacted Starston Parish Council, who had been successful in achieving a speed reduction through the village. Although this had taken 20 years to achieve, they had provided a useful summary of how it had been achieved. It was considered that the scheme requires a reasonable support from the parishioners and there had been discussions on how the villagers can be polled once specific proposals for the different roads had been considered.
<b>3g. Verge alterations on Mill Lane</b>	JJ reported that the Highways Department had said that they will continue to pursue the encroachment issues with the resident as required.
<b>3h. Western Farm bonfires</b>	LT reported that the Fire Brigade had been called to the latest black smoke fire at Western Farm and they had found an apparently legal bonfire where tree prunings were being burnt. They had confirmed that if any parishioner had any concerns about toxic fumes and smoke being generated they should ring the Fire Brigade.
<b>3i Western Farm planning amendments</b>	The Clerk reported that the previous Chairman had been told by the Planning Officer concerned that a decision would be made in the next two weeks.
<b>3j invoices for dog bin emptying</b>	The Clerk had challenged the previously issued invoices on the basis that the original request was for a once a week emptying service and this had been accepted by the Council. Credit notes had been issued for the excess charges and these were to be considered under item 4b.
<b>3k South village notice boards</b>	JJ said that, as requested, she had pursued a carpenter to remodel the existing notice board but to no avail. She had, however found a metal framed, Perspex fronted notice board for outside use which should suit the purpose at a cost of approximately £700. The Clerk asked for this matter to be shelved for the time being.
<b>3l River blockage, Bunwell Road</b>	LT reported that she had inspected the blockage caused by the collapse of a bridge structure near Bridge Farm. The Clerk was asked to write letters to the landowners of the land on either side of the bridge asking them to clear the obstruction.
<b>4. Clerk's Report</b>	The following new planning matters were discussed:
<b>4a. Planning matters</b>	The Clerk reported that the only mid-meeting planning matter was that of an application for a new farm building to be erected behind New Farm on Plantation Road (2023/2842). Details of this application had been circulated and as there had been no objections from the Members, no further action was taken..
<b>4b. Payments &amp; receipts</b>	The Clerk reported on the following payments and receipts:



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<b>Discussion</b>	proposals, not just in Aslacton, but throughout the county. Cllr Rowett explained her interests in making it easier to change village speed limits but said that the main problem on her current agenda is the flooding issue throughout the area. The Councillors explained the sewage flooding problems being experienced in Aslacton and Cllr. Rowett recommended that the flooding issues are reported through the County Council website as often as possible, this enabling the County Council to put pressure on Anglian Water.
<b>7. Date of next meeting</b>	The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> January 2024
	There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 9.15 pm.