# MINUTES – Parish Council Meeting 7th November 2023

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:	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
1. Apologies for	Apologies were received from. Charlotte Bennett (CB)
absence	
2. Approval of the	The minutes of the meeting of 19th September 2023 were proposed as correct
Minutes of the meeting	by AT and seconded by JJ. The minutes were approved by the Members.
of 19th September 2023	
3. Matters arising from the minutes of 19 <sup>th</sup> September 2023	The following matters arising were discussed
3a. Village Sign – update	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.
3b. Defibrillator project - update	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 UKNP 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.
3c. Land next to 3,	The Clerk reported that the Planning Department have given an extension
Church Road	until 30th November for revised plans to be submitted.
3d. Churchyard	SW reported that the maintenance person who cut the grass in the
maintenance	churchyard had resigned and that she had not heard from the Probation
	Service team for a while. SW to pursue the Probation Service team.

	The Councillars were of the eninion that the shurshward could not be left in its
	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 13th
	January. This was to be notified to the parishioners in the forthcoming
0- 0 0	Aslacton newsletter
3e. Coopers Close	JJ reported that the Planning Officer concerned was still awaiting approval of
footpaths	the final drawings and they expected to be able to discharge this condition
	shortly.
3f. 20mph speed limit	AT reported that he had met with the resident who had proposed the speed
proposal	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.
3g. Verge alterations on	JJ reported that the Highways Department had said that they will continue to
Mill Lane	pursue the encroachment issues with the resident as required.
3h. Western Farm	LT reported that the Fire Brigade had been called to the latest black smoke
bonfires	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.
3i Western Farm	The Clerk reported that the previous Chairman had been told by the Planning
planning amendments	Officer concerned that a decision would be made in the next two weeks.
3j invoices for dog bin	The Clerk had challenged the previously issued invoices on the basis that the
emptying	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.
3k South village notice	JJ said that, as requested, she had pursued a carpenter to remodel the
boards	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.
31 River blockage,	LT reported that she had inspected the blockage caused by the collapse of a
Bunwell Road	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.
4. Clerk's Report	The following new planning matters were discussed:
4a. Planning matters	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
41 D 4 C	taken
4b. Payments &	The Clerk reported on the following payments and receipts:
receipts	

	Douments made
	Payments made
	First payment for churchyard maintenance 2023/24 £300.00
	Downsonto received
	Payments received
	Second precept payment for 2023/24 £1068.50
	First CIL payment for phase 2 Coopers Close £1912.67
	The Clerk reported that further payments would be due for the Cooper's Close
	development and that these were expected to total approximately £15,000
	which included a revised payment following the removal of the social housing
	tag from three properties.
	Invoices to be paid:
	Charge for dog bin emptying 2022/23 £ 178.56
	Charge for dog bin emptying 2023/24 £ 200.40
	These invoices having been reduced following an original overcharge by SNC
	The Members approved the new level of payments
4c. Forward financial	The Clerk brought to the attention of the Councillors that should the proposed
planning	development at the Eastern end of Church Road go forward, the Parish
	Council would be likely to benefit from approximately £60,000 in CIL
	payments, although these would be capped at a figure of £30,000 a year. It
	had, however, been noted that, should the Parish Council have a
	neighbourhood plan in place, the amount would be raised to £90,000 and the
	cap would not be operative. The Clerk asked whether the Councillors wanted
	to pursue a neighbourhood plan which may considerably increase the
	payments from any substantial development.
	It was the general opinion that the work necessary to complete such a plan
	and the time which would be taken to achieve the passing of the plan would
	be prohibitive to the good operation of the Parish Council over other matters
	and that there was no guarantee that either the development would go ahead
	or that a plan would be passed in time to benefit from the increased CIL
	payments. No further action was planned.
	At this point County Councillor Catherine Rowett joined the meeting
5. Report from	The Members acknowledged the Report dated 12th September which had
Footpath Warden	been circulated prior to the meeting. There was some discussion on the
	handrail necessary to complete the steps at the Western end of footpath
	FP11 and it was decided to continue to pursue the Highways Department to
	finish the job as the steps were currently unsafe. It was agreed that JJ would
	contact the Countryside Access Officer to request assistance.
6. Any Other Business	
6a. The Paddocks,	JJ confirmed that the planning Q application was still outstanding due to the
Wash Lane	problems of dealing with the nutrient neutrality issues.
6b. Aslacton Charities	JJ asked the question as to who owns the parish lands and under what
	authority does the income pass to Aslacton Charities. AT said that he had
	been discussing this with one of the members of Aslacton Charities and
	offered to continue discussions.
6c. 2024/25 precept	JJ said that it may be time to increase the precept paid by the parishioners to
OO. LULTILU PICCEPI	cover the costs being incurred by the Parish Council. The Clerk offered to
	prepare a draft budget before the end of November so that the Councillors
	were prepared to consider the level of the precept at the January meeting.
6d County Councillor	
6d.County Councillor	AT introduced Cllr Rowett and explained her interest in the 20mph speed limit

Discussion	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.
7. Date of next meeting	The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Tuesday 9th January 2024
	There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 9.15 pm.