

ASLACTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES – Parish Council Meeting 4th July 2023

Venue: St Michael's Church, Aslacton

Commencement: 7.30 p.m.

Clerk: Peter Robinson, The Old Rectory, Aslacton

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Present:	Louise Thurgar (LT), Charlotte Bennett (CB), Janine Jarrett (JJ), Keith Broomhall (KB), Sally Wilkinson (SW), Sue Bancroft (SB), Stephen Ridley (SR) (District Councillor), the Clerk and 9 members of the public
1. Apologies for absence	Apologies were received from Andrew Tempest (AT).
2. Approval of the Minutes of the meeting of 19th May 2023	The minutes of the meeting of 19 th May 2023 were propose as correct by KB and seconded by JJ. The minutes were unanimously approved by the Members.
3. Matters arising from the minutes of 19th May 2023	The following matters arising were discussed
3a. Village Sign – update	JJ reported that the cost of a suitable sign was expected to be in the order of £8,000. It was generally agreed that the sign should be placed on the triangle at the bottom of the church hill as the oldest part of the village and that it could be moved to any new 'village green' should this be created as part of the proposed new development at the other end of Church Road. JJ reported that the company which she had approached in respect of the manufacture had a forward order book for 12-15 months and it was decided to finalize the design without delay. The ownership of the triangle of land was queried by the Clerk and JJ said that she would contact the owners of The Manor to see if they had a claim on the land, if not it would be assumed that it belongs to the Parish. The Clerk said that he was hoping to be able to finance the purchase from CIL monies and that he would ask the relevant department at South Norfolk Council whether this was a suitable use of CIL monies. It was decided that the design and material to be used for the sign would be further discussed by e-mail before the next meeting.
3b. Defibrillator project - update	SB said that she had spoken to the couple who lived near the old telephone box site and reported that they would not be happy should a telephone box for a defibrillator be reinstated on the concrete base outside their house as it would cause an obstruction to their driveway. There was some discussion as to whether a defibrillator would be usefully placed on the Station Road/Sneath Road corner where there is a wide verge and JJ was tasked with contacting the electricity company to investigate how a defibrillator could be serviced at this position while CB was to investigate the price of a telephone box or a suitable substitute.
3c. 20 mph speed limit past the school – update	The Clerk confirmed that the posts for the signs were in place and that Norfolk County Council were waiting for the Parish Council payment before arranging for the completion of the installation. The Clerk confirmed that, following the failure of Barclays to honour the first cheque and now that the signatories had been changed after the elections, a replacement cheque could now be sent.
3d. Bridge Farm access road	The Clerk confirmed that the intended entrance to the new barn conversion was along the Eastern side, this being an existing driveway to the site. A

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	that he thought that old footpaths along field edges may not fall into this category as such portions of land had not been in agricultural production for many years and could no longer be called 'agricultural land'. The Chairman reported that new Aslacton footpath leaflets, produced by Aslacton Charities, were now available and copies were available in the church.
6. 20mph speed limit proposal	A report by a village resident calling for 20mph speed limits to be applied to the main village centre roadways had been circulated prior to the meeting. JJ proposed that the limit on the stretch of road from the Woodrow Lane council houses to the junction of Muir Lane with Pottergate Street should be reduced to 30mph and it was noted that one death had been recorded and a number of serious accidents had occurred. It was also suggested that Plantation Road through to Wash Lane also be restricted, as should the road along Low Common. It was noted that the Highways Department was always reluctant to reduce speed limits but that residents at the bottom of Pottergate Street had recently been successful in having speed limits approved along that road. It was agreed that the next edition of Aslacton News should carry a suitable article for consideration and comment by the residents.
7. Any Other Business	.
7a. East Anglia GREEN project	It was noted that a second 'consultation' had been set up by the project. The District Councillor said that he was sceptical of the worth of such public consultations and that the community may be better served by supporting South Norfolk Council in their campaign for an undersea route. It was also noted that the Environment Secretary had upported a petition against the proposed overhead route.
7b. South Norfolk House	Following the request by Long Stratton Town Council for support for a project to turn the old SNC buildings into an arts & community centre, the Members expressed concern as to the viability of the project, especially as the identity of the backers had not been made public. The Clerk was asked not to make further comment to the Town Council until further information was forthcoming.
7c. Maranello, Mill Lane	JJ reported that she was pursuing the Highways Department in respect of the changes which had been made to the ditch, verge and hedging at the top of Mill Lane. She reported that the Department had admitted that when making their previous judgment that the changes had not created any new dangers, they had been looking at the wrong road junction.
7d. Western Farm bonfires	JJ reported that there had been a number of bonfires on the land at top of the Western Farm driveway. It appeared that tyres, and in one instance a caravan, had been burnt. It was thought that this was an illegal activity and that a letter of objection should be sent to the company owner. The Clerk was asked to send such a letter by recorded delivery.
7e Changes to Parliamentary Boundaries	The District Councillor reported that, although the Parish Council boundaries would not be affected, in future parliamentary elections the parish would be included within the new constituency of Waveney Valley. This new constituency would extend from Stowmarket to Lowestoft along either side of the River Waveney.
7f. Election Complaints	The Chairman asked for it to be noted in the minutes that every member of the current Parish Council had received a written police warning owing to not having provided their address on their election information leaflets during the May election.
8. Date of next meeting	The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Tuesday 5 th September 2023

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	There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 9.09 pm.