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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 01379 677362 : aslactonparishclerk@outlook.co.uk

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Present: 1. Apologies for absence 2. Approval of the Minutes of the meeting of 19 th May 2023 3. Matters arising from the minutes of 19 th May	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 Apologies were received from Andrew Tempest (AT). 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. The following matters arising were discussed
2023 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

	second driveway to the West, onto a meadow currently included in the Bridge
	Farm curtilage, had been proposed in the submitted plans but this was
	unlikely to be pursued by the owners of Bridge Farm.
3e. Land next to 3,	The Clerk reported that he had sent the approved letter outlining the
Church Road	objections of the Parish Council to the proposed plans and SR reported that
	the proposers had, indeed, paid for a consultation with the South Norfolk
	Planning Department as to acceptable proposals for the site.
	SR also reported that there was still a lot of discussion needed before the
	proposal could be finalised. It was suggested that the Councillors should
	make their preferred solution to local planning issues clear to the Planning
2f Churchward	Officer concerned and that the Clerk should write accordingly.
3f. Churchyard maintenance	The Clerk reported that he had attended the last meeting of the PCC and that the PCC understood that it was the Church which held the responsibilities for
maintenance	maintenance. It was now up to the Parish Council to consider how best to
	assist the PCC in the financing of the works necessary to carry out these
	responsibilities. It was noted that the PCC had arranged for a brown bin to
	replace the failing compost facility, that they were currently arranging for
	some dead branches to be removed from the trees and that it was hoped to
	have the North boundary tidied up by planting a new hedge and replacing
	trees which had died in recent times. The Parish Council could assist in
	acquiring the plants for this from the Woodland Trust but the real work was in
	levelling the boundary to allow planting to take place.
4. Clerks 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. Barclays Issues	The Clerk confirmed that the new cheque signatories were in place although
-	he was pursuing a number of complaints about Barclays handling of the
	account over the last year or so. He asked for approval for reissuing the two
	cheques which Barclays had failed to honour due to cheques being
	misnumbered within the issued cheque book. This was approved by the
	Members.
4b. Coopers Close	The Clerk reported that he had again raised the matter of the outstanding
footpath	highways work in respect of footpaths along Church Road in the area of the
	new development with the Planning Department and was waiting for a reply.
	There was a report that the work was being done during the school summer
	holidays and a member of the public raised the issue of whether the plans
	were to cover not just the footpaths outside the development, which seemed
	quite clear cut, but also the footpath route from the development to the bus stop. The Clerk said that he would continue to pursue the matter.
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4c. Payments to be made & received	Coronation event £200.00
made & received	Insurance 2023/24 £329.65
	The Members approved the payment of these expenses
4d. Payments received	The Clerk reported that the following payments had been received:
	CIL payment (re: Halfway Farm) £168.10
5. Report from	A report had been received from the Footpath Warden and this was noted. It
Footpath Warden	was reported that the Highways Department had said that it was behind with
•	maintenance cutting but that they will be dealing with this area in the near
	future. A query was raised as to what constituted a path across agricultural
	land as these paths were the responsibility of the land owner. Paths across
	cropped areas obviously fell into this category but the District Councillor said

	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	A report by a village resident calling for 20mph speed limits to be applied to
proposal	The port by a vinage resident caning 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
project	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	JJ reported that there had been a number of bonfires on the land at top of the
bonfires	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
7e Changes to	asked to send such a letter by recorded delivery. The District Councillor reported that, although the Parish Council boundaries
Parliamentary	would not be affected, in future parliamentary elections the parish would be
Boundaries	included within the new constituency of Waveney Valley. This new
	constituency would extend from Stowmarket to Lowestoft along either side of
7f. Election Complaints	the River Waveney. 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 5th September 2023

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