

MINUTES OF THE AILSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON MONDAY 20th MARCH 2023

at the Cedar Centre, Castor

Present were Councillors: Dr M Ellershaw, Mr R Moon, Mrs A Perkins (Vice-Chairman), Mrs J Pickett (Chairman) and Mr M Stalley and **Clerk** Miss J Rice

Members of the public present: Mrs S Nash (Climate Action Group), Amy O'Boyle (Village Celebrations Group)

22/138	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE. To receive and record apologies sent to the Clerk. Apologies were received by the Clerk from Cllr Samways and Cllr Langston-Jones, plus Mr J Hodder.	
22/139	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST To receive all declarations of interest under the Council's Code of Conduct related to business on the agenda. (Members should disclose any personal, prejudicial or pecuniary interests in the business to be discussed and are reminded that the disclosure of a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest will require that the member withdraws from the meeting room during the transaction of that item of business). There were no declarations of interest made.	
22/140	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION Arrangements will be made for the public to join the meeting and a shared maximum of 15 minutes will be permitted for members of the public to address the meeting on any item on the agenda. Miss O'Boyle outlined the forecast spend and budget for the forthcoming village Coronation celebrations, as had been requested from the last meeting. She explained the difference in costs from previous Jubilee events and the cash flow issue experienced with payments up front and unknown ticket sales. She further stated the outcome of a National Lottery grant is not yet known either. The Clerk re-iterated the need to know how a Parish Council donation is spent and that they cannot support subsequent profits being put back into an unknown pot. The budget was outlined to Miss O'Boyle and she stated the group would be very appreciative of any donation or "underwriting" and understanding of the Council's situation. It was explained a decision will be made later under the relevant item on the agenda. Mrs S Nash outlined the latest, shortened Climate policy for agreement, which had been seen by Councillors and discussed at the recent joint parish councils meeting. It was explained Castor has agreed a version that does not include the word emergency and is just headed Climate Change, although the group prefer to keep the urgency in the policy. It was explained this will also be decided later in the meeting.	
22/141	MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING (previously circulated) and matters arising To confirm as correct the record of the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 20th February 2023, Chairman to sign, previously circulated. Motion: to agree accuracy of minutes and sign. The minutes were agreed as a true record (with the amendment of 128.1 to say CIL monies <i>could</i> be used rather than can be used) and will be signed at the next meeting as no copy was available. <i>Action Clerk/Chairman</i>	
22/142	GOVERNANCE, FINANCE AND TRAINING	
	142.1	To receive and note current finance report to end of February 2023 to inform expenditure decisions, herewith. The report was received and noted with no queries raised. The same int. auditor was agreed.
	142.2	To note bus shelter payment due and resolve to ask for an expenses form signed by resident and agree max. amount of payment. (To note Chairman allowance not in budget) It was agreed to pay £200 for expenses, as advised, and ask for a relevant form to be signed. <i>Action Clerk</i>
	142.3	To receive feedback from planning training attended and agree any new bookings. Cllr Stalley gave feedback from the planning training and, whilst it was useful, it was a different trainer at the last minute and more strategic than expected.
22/143	ALLOTMENTS, PARISH LAND MANAGEMENT GROUP PLMG (Cllr Ellershaw, Cllr Samways, Cllr Moon, Cllr Pickett and Cllr Stalley)	
	143.1	To receive and note revised terms of reference of PLMG and agree. The revised T of R were received, noted and agreed.
	143.2	To note report and proposal from PLMG and resolve a way forward including possible cessation of tenancy of Station Road field allotment. Advice notes circulated. (To note half yearly payment of tenancy of field allotment ordinarily due Mar 23 to Sept 23.)

Signed by Chairman _____ Date _____

		The proposal was received and noted and discussed. The Clerk had circulated some legal topic notes from NALC that referred to tenancies and giving notice to quit, and although it is still not clear what the total legal position is, it was agreed that the current tenancy terms are not being adhered to and need to change to a more sustainable arrangement, for which different options are being explored. The Clerk stated that a firm alternative and a budget/business case need to be produced before the tenancy is ceased. It was agreed that the group will firm up the options and produce a costed proposal, and the rent for the forthcoming six month period will be requested, whilst explaining the situation to the current tenant. It was further agreed to aim to have a proposal agreed by September 2023. Action PMLG/Clerk
	143.3	To receive and note update from Nature Recovery Group and agree expenditure from budget. Cllr Stalley outlined the latest action and purchases within budget for six fruit trees and stakes. He updated the council on a volunteer working group at M’Lady’s pond recently, which in turn resulted in help offered for the water harvester – see agenda item below.
22/144	FUTURE/SALE OF METHODIST CHAPEL/MEETING VENUE	
	144.1	To receive and note update on the sale of the Chapel and resolve any action. The Clerk had circulated an email that confirmed that the application for the chapel to be listed as an asset of community value had been recently approved by Peterborough City Council and that she expected to hear more from them on how this will affect the sale process.
22/145	PARISH PROJECTS	
	145.1	To receive and note quotes for play equipment/project and agree contractor(s), herewith, and also contribution from Parish Council reserves. To further note requirements regarding Augean grant agreement. The Clerk had circulated a summary of the various quoted, as required for the Augean grant, explaining a trim trail could now be included with the budget allocated, as an alternative cableway has drastically reduced the overall cost. After discussions, it was agreed to accept the Playscape quote <i>if</i> they can substitute the trim trail they suggested to a Wicksteed or similar one and if it is under 12k, as per the Wicksteed one. If they cannot do this, it was agreed to get Wicksteed to just do the trim trail. Action Clerk
	145.2	To receive and note details of a new “water harvester” at the allotment site and resolve to implement or not. Cllr Stalley. Cllr Stalley circulated details of an amount of money available from the John Clare Countryside (JCC) via PECT for a water harvester if it is agreed/purchased before the end of March 2023. This was agreed. It was further agreed that it will need enclosing for safety and security reasons but will be similar to the one recently installed at Peakirk. It will be installed initially in the recreation ground near the trees but hopefully moved to the allotments at some point. Action Clerk/Cllr Stalley.
	145.3	To receive and note update on new notice board. Cllr Stalley explained that permission has been given by PCC for the siting of this board near the other one opposite the coffee shop and will progress this with the agreed maker. Action Cllr Stalley
22/146	VILLAGE GROUPS	
	146.1	To receive more detailed information regarding budget for grant application from Celebrations Group as requested and resolve decision on a donation/amount, circulated. The information circulated was received and noted, plus further explanations in public time. It was decided to donate the remainder of the donations budget before the end of this financial year, nearly £600, and then donate or underwrite a further £1400 from next year’s budget, depending on the sales/profit outcomes. Action Clerk
	146.2	To receive and note update from the celebrations group liaison Councillor. The update has been received in previous items.
	146.3	To discuss The Big Help Out volunteering day of Monday 8/5/23 and decide on Parish Council involvement. It was agreed to defer this item to April although it is anticipated that a village spring clean could take place. Action Clerk
22/147	PARISH LIAISON/COMMUNITY/JOINT	
	147.1	To receive feedback from the recent JPLG meeting on 16/3/23 and agree any actions, including date of Woodlands village meeting on 22/3/23. The notes were received and noted and the latest JCAP agreed also. The date of the public Woodlands meeting was also noted. It was agreed to change the climate policy to Climate Crisis. Action Cllr Stalley

Signed by Chairman _____ Date _____

	147.2	To receive and note feedback from the bus strategy meeting, circulated. Cllr Perkins gave feedback from the latest meeting, where it had been noted that Castor and Ailsworth, Wansford and Wittering were the only villages in the area without a service, although a charge of £12 pp is included in council tax. It was noted that the next meeting is 13/4/23 and the Ward Councillors will be attending.	
	147.3	To note Highways A47 consultation meeting with residents 27/3/23, circulated. This was noted and Cllr Stalley said he would attend. Action Cllr Stalley	
	147.4	To receive and note feedback from Parish Council Liaison meeting on 8/3/23. Cllr Perkins gave an update from this meeting on the new, local plan and consequent delay in Neighbourhood Plan review and the appointment process of Councillors to Rural Scrutiny Committee positions.	
	147.5	To discuss and agree the format of the annual <i>parish</i> meeting on 17/4/23. The Clerk suggested inviting local village groups to give updates, or a speaker to attend, however it was agreed to make it 15 minutes and just the minimum Chairman’s report and finance report plus groups’ reports, plus inviting residents to attend to raise any parish issue. Action Clerk	
22/148	PARISH MAINTENANCE ISSUES		
	148.1	To receive and note tree survey and report and any feedback from Councillor in attendance and resolve action required. It was agreed to defer this item due to the time.	
	148.2	To receive and note any other issues and resolve action, including Helpston Road parking issue raised. The Clerk explained she had received a request to increase parking hard standing along Helpston Road near the “Donkey Paddock” and that she was awaiting photos to assess the situation.	
22/149	PLANNING; TO NOTE LATEST APPLICATIONS AND RESOLVE RESPONSES TO NEW ONES. The following was noted.		
	149.1	23/00080/CTR Fell Fir tree and replace with Acer at The Steadings, Main St. Permitted 21/2/23	
22/150	CLERK APPRAISAL AND INCREMENT/HOURS a) To agree one incremental scale point rise due from 1/4/22, as proposed by staffing committee. The one scale point was agreed as proposed and will be backdated to April 2022. b) To agree hours of work in response to change in A/L payments. Proposal is 26pm (currently 25) but 42.7 hrs pa to be taken instead of paid for, so pay/hours reduced. The Clerk explained the historic arrangement to pay extra for annual leave was not correct and that a proposal to change the monthly hours to 26pm will reduce the Clerk pay but less hours will be performed as annual leave will be taken from normal hours.		
22/151	CLERK REPORT/CORRESPONDENCE: To receive and note any correspondence and decide whether to bring to future meeting. a) Newsletter deadline 17/3/23 and submitted. It was noted that the article was submitted by the Clerk. b) Rural Estate newsletter, circulated. This was received and noted. c) Climate Conference 29/3/23. More details will be circulated when available.		
22/152	ORDERS FOR PAYMENT; To note and agree payments/ transfer to be made and already made as follows; The following payments were agreed to be paid.		
	152.1	Clerk new pay £391.27 (includes A/L) plus home office £26 – PAYE £78.40 payable plus back pay £85.70 due if agreed	£338.87 £85.70
	152.2	Reimburse ink shared pm J Rice paid March	£5.80
	152.3	Clerk mileage Feb/Mar	£22.50
	152.4	Employer HMRC payment for March to be deducted from salary	£78.40
	152.5	Cedar Centre for meetings	£30
	152.7	Donations	£568.52
	152.8	Wave water bill, actual reading	£15.16
	152.9	M Stalley for trees from Nature Recovery budget	£195.59
	152.10	CAPALC training courses	£80
	152.11	R Peace tree survey	£250
22/153	INCOME	None	
22/154	DATE OF NEXT MEETING It was noted that the next meeting is the Annual <i>Parish</i> meeting on Monday 17 th April 2023 at 7pm, followed by the normal, monthly council meeting held at 7.30pm, venue Cedar Centre, Castor.		

Signed by Chairman _____ Date _____