

MINUTES OF THE AILSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON MONDAY 18th MARCH 2024 AT 7.30PM

at the Cedar Centre, Castor

Present were **Councillors:** Dr M Ellershaw (arrived 20:20, 172.4), Mr S Langston Jones, Mr R Moon, Mrs A Perkins (Chairman), Mrs J Pickett (Vice Chairman) and Mr M Stalley. **Clerk** Miss J Rice

Members of the public present: 3 Mr Neil Boyce (Chairman, Castor Parish Council), Mr John Hodder (Neighbourhood Plan and Joint Parish Liaison Group) and one other resident.

23/166	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE. To receive and record apologies sent to the Clerk. There were apologies from Cllr Ellershaw who will arrive late.	
23/167	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	
	To receive all declarations of interest under the Council's Code of Conduct related to business on the agenda. Reminder to members to update their register if necessary. (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.	
23/168	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION	
	Arrangements will be made for the public to join the meeting and a maximum of 15 minutes will be permitted for members of the public to address the meeting on any item on the agenda. The member of public stated they were there about the future of New Close field and in reference to the email she was aware of sent from another resident, raising the alternative option of the field being rented to the tenant of the field next to it. They detailed the benefits to the village to reduce flooding, provide much needed land for local horse owners, hedges for wildlife, more bees and controlling dangerous plants. Concerns were raised that an outside company would possibly not be as good at field management. Cllr Perkins explained that a site visit with the City Council was due soon to discuss flooding to try to address it and thanked the resident for coming. Items 177.1 and 177.2 were then covered with agreement from all.	
23/169	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 26th February 2024, Chairman to sign, previously circulated. The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a true record and duly signed by the Chairman.	
23/170	FINANCE, GOVERNANCE AND TRAINING	
	170.1	To receive and note finance situation to end of February for any monetary decisions, herewith. The latest position was circulated, received and noted, with no concerns raised. The bank balance was £29875 and the basic budget 92% spent at 92% through the year.
	170.2	To receive any applications for co-option to Parish Councillor position and resolve appointment/recruitment action plan. There had been no applications received by the Clerk and Cllrs agreed to approach people who might be interested and follow up previous interest. Action Cllrs
	170.3	To note training opportunities and agree any new bookings. The newest training opportunities will be circulated. Action Clerk
	170.4	To note Annual Parish Council meeting date agreed as THURSDAY 23/5/24. This was noted as agreed.
	170.5	To consider and agree date and format of Annual Parish (residents) meeting. Provisional 15/4/24. The date was agreed as the same date and to precede the usual April meeting, with village groups being invited. Action Clerk.
	170.6	To note use of whatsapp group could be subject to a SAR or FOI request and to limit/watch content. The Clerk re-iterated the careful and limited use of Whatsapp for informal PC business is essential.
23/171	BUS SHELTER	
	171.1	To agree payment for opening/locking bus shelter, £220 in budget. The payment was agreed as £220. Action Clerk
23/172	PLANNING; TO NOTE LATEST APPLICATIONS AND RESOLVE RESPONSES TO NEW ONES	
	172.1	To receive applications between issuing agenda and date of meeting and decide if can agree response. There were none.

Signed by Chairman _____ Date _____

	172.2	23/01464/FUL Change of use of field to dog walking area, including parking area and fencing. Deadline extended due to new parking plans being submitted. Decide response. No new plans have been submitted and so it was decided to send a response of support for the idea of a dog walking area however with concerns over the bridleway alongside, the parking and access, as already highlighted and stipulated by Highways. Action Clerk
	172.3	To note planning change of use for retail storage at 109 Peterborough Rd runs out 31/3/24 (3 months from 31/12/23 to restore to former condition) and receive any feedback on progress and consider contacting Conservation Officer. It was noted that progress is hopefully being made by all parties and that the Planning Enforcement will be contacted to raise the issue of the expired deadline to revert the retail storage building back next door and say however the PC will look favourably on an extension of the deadline if it means progress will continue. Action Clerk
	172.4	23/00299/CTR Alder trees raise crown 4-5m and reduce back from building by 2m, deadline 28/3/24. Decide response. It was decided to support this application. Action Clerk
	172.5	23/00240/LBC and 204/HHFUL Various external and internal works to 44 Main St, deadline 20/3/24. Decide response. It was decided to support this application as there is no negative impact externally. Action Clerk
23/173	ALLOTMENTS, PARISH LAND MANAGEMENT GROUP PLMG (Cllr Ellershaw, Cllr Moon, Cllr Pickett and Cllr Stalley) and NATURE RECOVERY GROUP	
	173.1	To receive and note report on options for New Close field rental, herewith, with recommendation from the PLMG and agree option, taking on board any public views. The report was received and noted. The options considered in the report were outlined, with option 1 (lease land to PECT) meeting more objectives of the parish land management survey feedback and strategy, assuming that all objectives carried equal weight and also with secure income and the least management input for the Parish Council. A Cllr raised some concerns over the “less management” angle, as Station Road ideas presently carry <i>more</i> management, and that the trees grown will not all be for the village community. Another Cllr raised that residents should maybe get priority over land use than external companies. The pros and cons were further discussed, with concerns raised over the proposal put forward by the resident in terms of increased numbers of horses near footpaths and access arrangements. It was re-iterated that environmental benefits were of more importance to residents from the survey in 2021, and that community engagement will be included in the terms of the lease for education and involvement in planting of trees and wildflowers. It was mentioned that there is a CPC field available for let – Thorolds Paddock in Castor. It was decided by a majority vote that the New Close field will be leased to PECT initially with heads of terms as Castor Parish Council’s at £400 rent pa. Action Clerk to confirm to PECT
	173.2	To receive and note update from Nature Recovery Group and agree any new expenditure, including water harvester and risk assessment. An update was provided including positive comments received for the recreation ground and that more bark will be purchased at approx. £65, plus more expenditure of £289.95 within budget agreed for water harvester.
	173.3	To note rent due from Station Road field allotment hire agreement, ends Dec24 and discuss plans. This was noted. The options explored to date were relayed, including a draft outline proposal from Nene Park Trust. Further discussion is to be had with Nene Park Trust and liaison will also continue with Langdyke Trust. The Clerk stated a resident had informally mentioned an interest in renting the field too. The existing tenant could be asked if they would be willing/interested to continue, if necessary, but a decision will first aim to be made in July 2024, with interest and feedback encouraged at the Annual Parish meeting in April.
	173.4	To note requests from allotment holders and agree response/action. a) to cease use of pesticides on allotments. It was agreed to remind tenants of the terms and conditions of the tenancies. Action Clerk b) access with mini digger for raised beds. It was agreed to refuse this request in case of damage to paths and other allotments, plus query the use of a large water container there. Action Clerk
23/174	PARISH COUNCIL DEVELOPMENT ACTION PLAN AND CIL MONIES	
	174.1	To agree the revised 24/25 action plan and discuss investigating opportunities for CIL monies projects. It was noted that Cllr Perkins is dealing. Action Cllr Perkins

Signed by Chairman _____ Date _____

23/175	PLAY AREA/RECREATION GROUND	
	175.1	To receive and note tree report, circulated, and agree works to be done. The report was received and noted with agreement that a late summer survey will be organised.
	175.2	To consider changes/proposals for notice boards. Proposals are bring looked at Action Cllr Pickett
23/176	VILLAGE GROUPS / UPDATES	
	176.1	To note village group donations budget remaining and consider any new requests. a) Event group submitted form – funds needed by May 2025, bank details to come, agree £1000. It was confirmed to pay this now. Action Clerk b) Pre-School submitted form – C/F to April. This was noted. c) NHW request agreed by Ward Councillor for signs from CLF. Agree via PC if needed. This was noted and agreed if needed.
	176.2	To receive and note update from the Climate Action Group and meeting on 7/3/24 and agree actions. It was agreed to carry this forward.
23/177	PARISH LIAISON/COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/JOINT MEETINGS	
	177.1	To note feedback from Joint Parish Liaison Group meeting on 29/2/24 and next meeting 20/6/24 at 7.30pm. The notes of the meeting were received and agreed, and date of the next meeting noted for Cllr attendance. The Parish Liaison meeting was noted as 21/3/24 at 6pm, with the Police and Crime Commissioner in attendance and recent fly tipping plus graffiti will be discussed. Action All Cllrs
	177.2	To receive and agree the draft latest JCAP, circulated. The latest JCAP was agreed including a Parish Walk and litter pick idea at a future date. Footpaths and Rights of Way were discussed, and residents are to be encouraged to report any issues and maps were received from Cllr Pickett. Action Clerk.
	177.3	To receive and note feedback from Castor Parish Council meeting, Cllr Pickett, and resolve any actions. The following was reported back, the police drop in event was noted as 11/4/24 6-8pm at the church and will be advertised, Woodland progress and Assets of Community Value – the Clerk reported she has queried the previous applications again to no avail. Action Clerk
23/178	PARISH MAINTENANCE ISSUES	
	178.1	To check defib rota in progress. Checker for April is Cllr Langston Jones. This was noted and is in hand, including fitting of a new battery. Action Cllr Langston Jones
	178.2	To note feedback re site meeting with PCC re. flooding in Holme Close/horse field. This is yet to be agreed.
	178.3	To note further incidents of graffiti around villages and reported to the police. Also, discuss flytipping in Helpston Road and option for trail camera. See 179 (c). This was noted and also the meeting, see above 177.1.
	178.4	To note any new maintenance issues and resolve action/contractors. To note risk assessment done for bench installation. This was noted.
23/179	CLERK REPORT/CORRESPONDENCE: To receive and note correspondence and decide any actions. a) To note communication re potential planning issue on Main St and any feedback/action. Feedback on this was initially reported as an unadopted road, however later changed to needing planning permission and Clerk to send follow up information received from Highways. b) To note communication re trail camera for activity on Helpston Road and decide action. See 177.1. c) To note NHW crime prevention seminars all week w/c 18/3/24, Zoom. This was noted.	
23/180	ORDERS FOR PAYMENT; Payments were approved as follows:	
	180.1	Clerk pay 26 hours pm £395.46 plus £26 home office less tax/NI £342.46
	180.2	Clerk; Reimburse ink shared pm J Rice paid in February £4.22
	180.3	Clerk; mileage Feb/Mar £9.90
	180.4	HMRC employer/ee payment for March £79
	180.5	Cedar Centre for meetings room hire £60
	180.6	Bus shelter payment to T Mc Ginn, resident £220
	180.7	Wave water bill standing charge £17.32
	180.8	Water harvester – reimburse M Stalley £289.95
	180.9	Donation to K900 event, previously agreed £1000
23/181	RECTS	None

Signed by Chairman _____ Date _____

23/182	DATE OF NEXT MEETING It was noted that the next meeting is the 15th April 2024 at 7.30pm to be held in the Cedar Centre, Castor, with the Annual PARISH meeting beforehand at time tbc.
---------------	---

Signed by Chairman _____ Date _____