

Minutes

Astley Parish Council

Date	Thursday 19 th September 2024
Time	19:00
Meeting called to order by	Chairperson : Councillor Spicer
Meeting closed	20:41

In Attendance

Councillor Spicer, Councillor Orton, Councillor Webber, Debra Spicer (Clerk)

Apologies

Councillor Hunter

Visitors

Helen Billington, Anthony Proctor

Absent

None

Approval of minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting (18th July 2024) were approved by the meeting and signed by the chairperson.

Matters Arising

No.	Minute details	Action
46-23	<p>Dog bin – It was agreed that we need to find out if NWBC will empty a dog bin if it is on the wall by the gate to the Castle. If it is possible, then we'll need to get permission from the Estate or Landmark Trust to have one there, which will require a wooden post.</p>	Councillor Spicer
73-22	<p>Duke of Suffolk Monument – Councillor Spicer has been in contact with Jeanette Sutton regarding the heritage open weekend next year, and possibly exploring the monument being incorporated in the weekend. Councillor Spicer has spoken with Adam Weaver, who confirms that the monument is being impacted by rabbits and would need funding to save or restore the monument, and it may need fencing off. Councillor Spicer wishes to build some energy around interest in the monument to save it. Historic England and Eddie Smallwood who is a local historian, are keen that we do something to save this significant monument. It was mentioned that a lot of visitors at the open weekend were asking about the monument. Councillor Webber mentioned that there is no public right away, and asked about the Estates feeling about visitors. It was mentioned that for Septembers heritage weekend, if it's summer crop, that will have been harvested and so shouldn't be a problem. Councillor Spicer said that the ideal would be to have a path to ensure safe passage to the site for visitors.</p>	Councillor Spicer
61-24	<p>Parking at the Nursery – No action has been taken on this as yet. It was suggested that it would perhaps be beneficial to invite them to a more formal meeting to discuss the issue. The issue was raised that it is a long-term issue, that resolves, and possibly staff change and then it occurs again. Councillor Webber offered to send an email to them to express the concerns and to invite them along to the next meeting.</p>	Councillor Webber
63-24	<p>Community Orchard – The clerk reported that there had only been one person who had responded, and whilst it was as positive response, it would need far more members of the community to actively move the project forward. Councillor Spicer talked about a natura survey that he had read about, and suggested that this may be something we get involved with. A suggested site for the orchard could be scrubland off Breach Oak Lane, or at the edge of some farmers land.</p>	
60-24	<p>Warwickshire Low Carbon Network – Councillor Spicer suggests that this can be something to be discussed at a later date, perhaps as part of a longer term strategy.</p> <p>Clerk role</p>	

Debra Spicer will be handing over the role to Hellen Billington from Friday 20th September. The Chair thanked Debra for her hard work and support for the last 2 years.

Councillor vacancy

It was agreed that for now, the position would remain vacant, and a further decision could be made at Novembers meeting. As there are still 4 councillors, the Parish Council remains quorate.

Parish Events

Anthony Proctor advised us that the Church raised £1,100 in the September weekend, so there was a good turnout. He feels that Landmark Trust need to do more to encourage more visitors, and it would be good to encourage that more.

Councillor Spicer said that the Estate mentioned back in 2022 about Astley Fair, and wondered whether it could be something we could look at doing again. He also suggested that we reach out to the neighbouring parish councils to see if we can become part of their newsletter and contribute to that.

It was agreed that Anthony would come to Novembers meeting, hopefully with Jeanette Sutton (Church Warden) to discuss parish events in more detail so that councillors can help to support the events going forward. The clerk will also talk to other clerks to find out how things work in other parish's with regards to village events and church fundraising.

Solar Farms

The Clerk has contacted the developers for Sole End Solar Farm to find out if there is an update on that build.

With regards to the Astley Gorse Solar Farm - Councillor Spicer and Webber attended the open day on 4th September. Councillor Spicer did ask if there was any chance of a community fund to support the village, however, the application was passed back in 2022, so as it is an historic agreement, and is told that this is very unlikely. However, as there is not yet a planning application for the extension, we may be able to question the proposal. The clerk has agreed to look into this and see if there is a new application.

The clerk read out the letter from chair of Fillongley Parish Council, asking for help and support to fight the solar farm in Fillongley. It was agreed that this would be added to Novembers

	agenda to discuss in more detail. A letter of objection could also be provided.	
64-24	<p>Finance</p> <p>The Clerk confirmed that the current bank balance is £559.11 on 16th September 2024, with the next precept of £1,000 due on 30th September.</p> <p>The council were happy to approve payments for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clerk for September 2024 - £120.00 • Clerk for printer ink and stamps - £23.20 	Clerk

65-24	<p>Councillors report and items for future agenda</p> <p>Updates on this month's minutes</p> <p>Any Other Business (AOB)</p> <p>Speeding – Councillor Webber reminded us that local police would be unable to do a speed check with the speed gun but would be coming along with the mobile speed van. This is due to happen in September, but nothing more has been communicated as yet. They need to come out ahead of the speed watch to see where to park and set up.</p>	
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Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 21st November 2024 at 19:00

Signed: _____

Dated: _____