

Minutes

Astley Parish Council

Date	Thursday 20 th March 2025
Time	19:00
Meeting called to order by	Chairperson: Councillor Spicer
Meeting closed	20:53

In Attendance

Councillor Spicer, Councillor Hunter, Councillor Orton, Helen Billington (Clerk)

Apologies

Councillor Webber, Councillor Proctor

Visitors

Debrah Spicer

Absent

None

Approval of minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting (16th January 2025) were approved by the meeting and signed by the chairperson.

Matters Arising

No.	Minute details	Action
61-24	<p>Parking at the Nursery – Cllr Proctor recently reported there is worsening damage to the grass due to inappropriate parking by visitors. It was suggested bollards could be put in place to prevent vehicles accessing the area. Check with Adam Weaver if he has spoken with the nursery manager and if that area is under highways or Estate land.</p>	Clerk
75-24	<p>Parish Events-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Astley Open Day dates confirmed as 27th-29th June and 12th-14th September. Landmark Trust have confirmed The Sudden Impulse Company will be performing on the Friday and Saturday night dates in June. • Cllr Spicer to meet Ruth Bagley from Landmark Trust to discuss details of the events and upgrade existing signage on 24th March 2025 • Parish Councillors are happy to volunteer their services to support these events. • Following the June event, a planned joint meeting ?11th August will be held to debrief/plan for September- Cllr Spicer to confirm with Jeanette • There was a discussion about how best the Parish Council can support a Parish event whilst the Church committee fundraises for the church tower renovations. Residents could be provided with free tea/cake and visitors could be charged. Clerk to ask Fillongley clerk to understand how they combine church and Parish events. 	<p>Cllr Spicer</p> <p>Cllr Spicer</p> <p>Clerk</p>
36-21	<p>Solar Farms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community fund letter from Innova (Sole End Solar Farm) was discussed. Innova have requested confirmation in writing regarding the annual payments (£5000 annually for 10 years). Councillors reported that this sum was less than had been discussed at the meeting in 2023, however the agreement sent in 2023 and again in 2025 does specify £5000 a year to the total value of £50,000. • Clerk reported she has been advised that the community fund can be made into the Parish account. However, WALC have advised that the agreement should be reviewed by a solicitor before signing. The solicitor suggested by WALC has not so far responded to a request to quote for this work, and Councillors suggested there may be a local resident who could do it instead. 	Cllr Proctor/Cllr Spicer

16-19	<p>Defibrillator maintenance</p> <p>Cllr Orton confirmed that he monitors and checks the defibrillator every three months, ensuring it is properly maintained.</p> <p>Cllr Spicer thanked Cllr Orton for the work on this which was echoed by all other attendees.</p>	
46-23	<p>Dog bin</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New bin is ordered, Pete Richards will install it on behalf of NWBC, paid for by Astley PC. • Cllr Spicer suggested an “opening ceremony” as a fun community event and to help raise awareness to use it. 	
64-24	<p>Finance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Clerk confirmed the current bank balance was £853.56 on 18th March 2025 • Once current cheques have cleared, end of year balance will be £140.50. Clerk is to reclaim VAT for last two years which will add to this balance. <p>The council were happy to approve payments for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clerk salary to January 2025 - £128.50, plus reimbursement for green bin £45, printing and laminating £5.70- £179.20 total • WALC Clerk training £42 • Richard Fellows for 2023-24- bunds outstanding payment due • Clerk reimbursed for dog bin purchase £321.85 	
81-25	<p>Devolution Meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Spicer updated the Council on recent meetings regarding Devolution plans. The Clerk attended a Zoom meeting and reported that WCC will be creating an outline proposed plan by March, with greater detail by November 2025. At this point it does not seem that there is much influence that can be exerted at a Parish level. Any updates will be reported at future meetings. • Cllr Spicer suggested a meeting of other local Parish Councils to share information and concerns might be helpful. Clerk to investigate interest in meeting. 	Clerk

82-25	<p>Signage and Noticeboards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillors looked at possible options for installing village name signs as you enter the village. Once the Community Fund has been received, it could finance purchase of suitable signs. Installation would need to be approved by either highways or Arbury Estate- needs to be checked • It was noted that there is no concealed junction sign as you approach Castle Drive off Nuthurst Lane- notify highways • There is concern about parking of lorries near to the Castle Drive junction, which may be linked to the Woodyard on Nuthurst lane. • A letter will be sent to the business expressing concern, copying in Cllr Webber who has had some input into this issue previously 	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Cllr Spicer/Clerk</p>
83-25	<p>Website review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Parish Councils will be required to move to a .gov website soon. This has significant benefits for the Council, Councillors and the residents. The current system is due for renewal and a new provider could now be sourced. • After discussion, the council approved the decision to apply for a .gov.uk domain name • Debs Spicer offered her expertise, pro bono, to help support this move, which was gratefully accepted by the Clerk and Cllr Spicer. 	
65-24	<p>Councillors report and items for future agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No items raised for future agenda other than those already discussed (specifically parking at the nursery) 	
	<p>Any Other Business (AOB)</p> <p>Future meeting date confirmed: AGM and Parish meeting Thursday 15th May 2025</p> <p>Then provisionally the 3rd Thursday in July/September/November, TBC at next meeting.</p>	

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The meeting closed at 20:53

Next Meeting

The AGM and next meeting will be held on Thursday 15th May 2025 at 19:00

Signed: _____

Dated: _____