**Minutes of a Meeting of Paston Parish Council**

Held on Thursday 6th July 2023 at 7.00 pm St Margaret`s Church, Paston.

**Present**: Nick Bardswell (Chairman), Boo Tumber (Vice-Chairman) Maggie Brett, Ashlee Cotter, Jessel Manricks, Denise McKeough, Dee Holroyd (Clerk), Cllr Ed Maxfield NCC, Cllr Pauline Porter NNDC, two members of the public

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**1** **Apologies for Absence**: Pip Clabon

**2** **Declarations of Interest**: NB item 8

**3** **Ed Maxfield** (NCC): had sent his report. He added that NCC were in the process of choosing a new leader. A decision on the completion of the Western link awaited confirmation of more government funding. EM urged the council members to look at the information he had circulated on the future of Social Adult Care. There is a consultation questionnaire which can be filled in on line.

**Cllr Pauline Porter:** was newly elected to the NNDC and had nothing yet to report.. PP confirmed she would be happy to offer any help needed to the PC.

**4** **Minutes** of the Meetings held on Thursday 27th April and 22nd May: were agreed and signed by the Chairman. Proposed JM seconded MB.

**5** **Matters Arising**:

Security Camera: had been moved from Pond Road, where the fluttering flag was setting it off, to the playground. NB would seek permission for the new owners of No 1 Dutch Cottages to continue to site it in their garden.

Backing for the notice board: was in place

Duck island: was in place.

Signs for footpaths: were in place..

Village gates: positions had been agreed with Highways. See item 6..

**6** **Parish Councillor`s Reports:**

MB reported there had been antisocial behaviour late at night in the form of noise and bright lights being shone in windows, due to young people parking cars in the Bears Road close and going into the playground where there was evidence of substance misuse. The Police had said that to intervene they needed evidence of an offence It was agreed that two combination locks should be purchased and the gates locked at night along with a sign saying the playground was closed (JM and MB agreed to do this, a rota was also suggested). Anyone ignoring the sign and entering the locked playground without permission would be breaking and entering and the police could be called. The combination could be given to legitimate users. Meanwhile PP would raise this at a forthcoming meeting with the police.

MB also reported a sign on the main road that had become hidden and the breakdown of the surface on the junction of Chapel Road and Hall Road. DH to report to Highways.

BT confirmed that positions of the gates had been agreed with Highways and circulated pictures showing these. Funding of £2,000 had been received from the gas terminal companies and a further £2,250 (?) was needed. EM would confirm next week whether he was able to provide this from his fund. Once paid for the gates would be made and put in place by Highways.

DM said she and MB had now raised £1,200 from their plant stall. DM would apply to the gas site for a grant to cover the cost of a plastic tunnel as so many plants were being destroyed by Muntjac deer.

BT reported that her husband Pete now had access to a PC for downloading information from the SAM 2 machine. She circulated a graph showing there had been minimal average speeding.

**7. Planning:** Poppy House (PF/23/0582): amended plans had been put in and were explained by the new owner, who had increased the turning area within the garden so cars could exit forwards via the layby onto the main road. Accommodation in the holiday let had been reduced by one bedroom. The PC agreed to support the revised plan, which would provide holiday accommodation for disabled people. The owner was congratulated by the PC on the tidying up of the site already carried out, which had been a village eyesore for many years.

**8** **Churchyard**  The grant money for the church reordering could not be spent on the churchyard and individual members of the PCC were paying for its maintenance. The churchyard being a village resource and amenity It was agreed that the PPC should make a £500 contribution to its maintenance.

**9** **Any Other Business:** A request was made for a Christmas tree to go by the pond. It was agreed that the PC would fund half the cost, the remainder coming from DM and MB`s plant fund. It was suggested the tree lights could be powered by solar panels.

Finance: Cash book, bank statement and reconciliation had been circulated (and agreed by the internal monitor) showing a current credit balance of £13,157 of which £2,000 was ring fenced for the gates.

**The Meeting closed** at 8.10 pm

Date of next meeting: Thursday 7th September, at the church.