

ALSTONEFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

The Clerk to the Council- Liz Court, tel. no: 01538 702077

c/o The Village Hall, Alstonefield, Ashbourne, Derbyshire. DE6 2FR

Councillors: Nick Bonsall (310262). Dot Griffin (310249).
Frank Lipp (310302). Noel Peat (310000). Cathy Reavy (310125).
Kevin Stockton (310347) Rupert Hignett (310389)

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 20th May 2015 at Alstonefield Village Hall.

Present: Cllr N Peat (Chair), Cllr C Reavy, Cllr R Hignett, Cllr K Stockton (co-opted at the start of the meeting), and Liz Court (Clerk)

7 Members of the public were also present.

Apologies: Cllr N Bonsall, Cllr D Griffin & Cllr F Lipp– received and accepted

AGM Agenda

1 Election of Chair and Vice Chair Councillor Reavy nominated Councillor Griffin as Chair – this was seconded by Cllr Hignett and carried unanimously. Councillor Griffin had previously indicated that she would be happy to accept the post. Councillor Peat was nominated by Councillor Stockton and seconded by Cllr Reavy, carried unanimously and he subsequently accepted the post of Vice Chair.

It was noted that the role and responsibilities currently carried by the Chair and other officers would be discussed later on the full Parish Council Agenda.

2 Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held on 21st May 2014 –ratification in July 2014 was noted
3 Chairman's Report

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – Wednesday 20th May, 2015 held at Alstonefield Village Hall 7pm

Chairman's Report

Lengthsmen – We are fortunate to have two dedicated lengthsmen who work hard over the year to keep the Parish looking good, which we appreciate greatly, and thank them for their work.

SCC Highways Team – Have recently trimmed overgrown bushes along Gypsy Lane and also cut back self-set trees at Hopedale.

Trees – A safety Survey of Trees around the Parish has been carried out by local tree surgeon as a result of this any necessary work has been carried out.

Homestead Garden – There has been a change of tenant on the allotment area, so they have just completed their first year and are happy to continue this season.

Play Area – The rubber chippings covering the Play Area surface have been successfully topped up. Also all the swings seats and chains have been replaced with new ones.

Playing Field – Continues to be a great asset to the Parish and is well used by various groups/individuals, like wakes celebrations, cricket matches, car boot fairs, Leaden Boot and Manifold Folk Gathering.

Speedwatch – The Speedwatch project has 7 or 8 volunteers in place for training with funding of £1200 being offered by County Council towards equipment and training.

Honesty Box Income – Honesty Box income for the period April 2014 to March 2015 was in total £337.74 this was increase of £42.00 on last year's total of £234.58

This year's figure is made up as follows:-

Playing Field Honesty Box income - £184.21

Toilet Car Park Honesty Box Income – (half share with Peak Park) £153.53

Precept – No change from last year.

Website – Twelve additional administrators have been trained. Website software reviewed and updated. Over £300 earned from sales. The website keeps us all upto date with the latest community events and information on all the groups/clubs plus local businesses and local services, so thank you to all who make this possible.

Newsletter – Thanks to the Newsletter team, which continues to provide an excellent service to our community.

Village Hall – Now fully refurbished provides an excellent venue for many events during the year, including The Leaden Boot Challenge and Manifold Folk Gathering. Thanks goes to all who help at the Village Hall to make it such a valuable asset to the community.

Leaden Boot Challenge – Thanks to the dedication of LB Team, the Leaden Boot Challenge is now in it's 5th year and continues to be very successful, generating money for our Parish.

Alstonefield Educational Trust – Young people in our Community can apply each year to the Trust for grant help towards their education.

Councillors & Clerk – Thank you to you all for your support during the past year.

As there was no other business, the meeting was closed and was followed by the May Parish Council Meeting.

Parish Council Meeting

- 1 **Public Forum** – Nothing was raised.
- 2 **Minutes of Previous Meeting** – agreed and signed
- 3 **Declarations of Interest** – There were no interests declared by those present. The Clerk noted that both Cllrs Griffin and Lipp had been approached by the applicant of a planning application and therefore their comments regarding this application would need to be disregarded.
- 4 **Planning Matters** –
Planning applications - Upper Hurst Farm – Variation of conditions 7,8,10,12 &14 on NP/SM/0711/0677 and NP/SM/0612/0622 to increase the number of total caravan and tent pitches, extend the season by 2 months and allow for a warden's pitch for 10 months **-The Council had no objections to this application but requested that the screening growth continue to be monitored.**
The Clays – Construction of new access drive including associated landscaping – **The Council were unanimously in support of this application which was in line with comments made after the previous application. Appropriate screening was also discussed.**
Planning Decision – Proposed conversion of outbuilding to self catering holiday unit, Crewe & Harpur Cottage – **permission granted**
- 5 **Financial Matters**
 - 5.1 **Payments** – **N&G Tomlinson** – tree work - £500
PDNPA – half of Toilet car park honesty box takings - £153.53
AON Insurance – renewal of Council Insurance - £320.13
The Ford Partnership – payroll administration - £108.00 - **all ratified and paid**
 - 5.2 **Monies Received**
 - 5.2.1 - Car Park Honesty Boxes
Playing Field Car Park - £22.27 Toilet Car Park- £30.32
 - 5.2.2. **SMDC and SCC Lengthsmans' grants for £400 and £699** received and banked - **noted**
 - 5.2.3. **Car Boot sales income £75.00** (receipt of booking form and copy insurance to was noted). It was agreed that after the next Car Boot sale at the end of May, payment would be requested by cheque as per the booking agreement in order to reduce the work for members of the Parish Council who currently collect the payment on the day of each Car Boot Sale – **Clerk to action**
 - 5.3 **Grant Thornton Audit** – Internal Audit meeting set for 4th June 2015. In order to meet the deadlines, the Clerk asked the Council whether they were happy to approve the annual accounts and the Annual Return card subject to internal audit at this meeting - they unanimously agreed to this and the Chair of the meeting completed the appropriate paperwork. **Clerk to action**
7. **Playing Field Matters**
 - 7.1 Play Area Safety Check Confirmation – date to be checked at the next meeting as not present
 - 7.2 Playing Field on-going maintenance folder - nothing additional to note
 - 7.3 Car Park – honesty box – report on any monies collected prior to May meeting
Playing Field Car Park - £43.41 Toilet Car Park- £60.58
8. **General Parish Matters**
 - 8.1 Roles and Responsibilities allocated:
Post collection – Clerk to have planning applications posted to her home address. Other post can be sorted at Parish Council meetings.
Honesty Box Monies - Clerk to collect on the way to the meetings – to ask Chair for keys.
Car Boot Takings – Cllr Reavy to collect at the end of May. Clerk to write to Mr Allen to request that he forwards a cheque in future within a week of the date of the event as per the hire agreement. It was suggested that perhaps consideration should be given to putting this event out to tender at the end of the season.
PC Brown bins to be prepared for emptying – It was agreed that the Lengthsman could do this.
Treating Japanese Knotweed – Cllr Bonsall has taken over this duty
Hosting the Precept Meeting – it as suggested that this meeting could take place at the Village Hall
Organising the Village Spring Clean – Cllr Reavy offered to advertise this for 2016
CPI Scheme – being followed up by Cllr Peat at the moment
PC Representative on Educational Trust – Cllr Griffin to continue this role
Annual Report for the APM – Clerk to prepare this
Highways issues and signage – Cllr Hignett offered to take on this role
Lengthsman – It was suggested that Cllr Lipp co-ordinate the work and any paperwork required

Council meetings are open to the public. Members of the public are also entitled to see the reports presented, if these are not subsequently published as part of the minutes and therefore automatically in the public record. Minutes and reports can be viewed by appointment with the Clerk and copies made upon payment of a charge.

- 8.2 Vote of thanks to Kevin Stockton – **Cllr Stockton noted that he hoped that someone would come forward to take his place on the Parish Council shortly.**
- 8.3 Co-option procedure details – **noted – Mr Mark Hambleton put his name forward for co-option**
- 8.4 Update on the green bins at the Playing Fields Recycling Site –**removal noted**
- 8.5 Councillor Training Courses available – 27th May and 17th June - **noted**
- 8.6 Japanese Knotweed Treatment – done by Councillor Bonsall **noted and thanks expressed**
- 8.7 Items reported to BT regarding cleaning of the telephone box and the damaged exchange door – **noted. Cllr Peat to let Clerk have the number of the phonebox at Milldale so that broken pane and need for repair can be reported. Clerk to action**
- 8.8 Clerk's wages –**it was reported that the Clerk's pay level would be raised to SCP25 with effect from 1st April 2015. This would mean an hourly rate of £11.185. The Clerk expressed her thanks.**
- 8.9 Meeting of Chair and Vice Chair with Chris Watts – Peak Park Ranger re footpath at Milldale – **Cllr Peat reported that the Peak Park would use volunteers to do the work as appropriate, diverting the path slightly whilst the work was carried out. The work is due to start shortly.**
- 8.10 Paypal Community Account – **transfer of the balance of £261.98 had been allocated as £190.51 to the Church, £26.85 to the First Responders. £26.85 to the Village Hall and £17.77 to Cllr Lipp to reimburse postage costs. Thanks were expressed to Cllr Reavy for her work.**
- 8.11 Visit from Highways Team on 17th April – **work carried out to trim back overgrown bushes on Gypsy Lane and self set trees at Hopedale was noted as was recent work to the potholes in the centre of Alstonefield.**
- 8.12 Village Hall Committee representative for the coming year – **reconfirmed as Cllr Lipp**
- 9. **Correspondence in** – all noted
- 10. **Any Other Business** - The Clerk asked for any newsletter items in time for the deadline at the end of the week – the date of the next meeting was the only thing suggested at that point.
Cllr Stockton reported the progress regarding Speedwatch. It was agreed that the grant funding should be received by the Parish council and that they would use this money to pay for the equipment and any other resources needed such as venue for training and so on. There are around 8 volunteers signed up for the training due to take place on 27th June at the Village Hall.

Date of Next Meeting – 1st July 2015