

# ALSTONEFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

**Draft Minutes of a meeting of Alstonefield Parish Council was held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2022 at 7.00 pm in Alstonefield Village Hall.**

**Present:** Chair: G Campbell (GC), Vice Chair: R McIntyre (RM), A Hayes (AH), S Jeffery (SJ), C McIlroy (CM), C Osborne (CO), R Hignett (RH) and the clerk, M Jinks.

There was one member of the public in attendance.

## **22.9.1 Apologies**

None

## **22.9.2 Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting had been published and forwarded to members of the Council in advance of the meeting. These were confirmed as a true record of proceedings and signed by the Chairman.

## **22.9.3 Declarations of personal and prejudicial interest of councillors related to published agenda**

None declared.

## **22.9.4 Public speaking**

No member of the public wished to speak.

## **22.9.5 Items to/from the District Councillor**

None

## **22.9.6 Planning matters, decision notices and appeals**

The Clerk confirmed that he had responded with “no objections” to application NP/SM/0722/0960 for the renovation of Alstonefield Hall. It was pointed out by CO that the published sign(s) in the village also referred to application NP/SM/0722/0959. The Clerk confirmed that he had not been notified of this application. He was instructed to contact Peak Park to ascertain why we had not been advised of this application and what are the material differences from the other application.

The Council were also advised of a S53 application to upgrade public footpath 57 to a bridleway. Using the resources available, the Council was unable to identify footpath 57 and the Clerk was instructed to seek clarification.

Decision notices were received for:

- i. Chapel House Farm (NP/SM/0622/0748)
- ii. Top of Hope farm (NP/SM/0622/0819)

Both were approved subject to normal conditions

There were no appeals to note or discuss

## **22.9.7 Homestead Garden**

Nobody had come forward with a view to taking this on. SJ suggested we advertise it as an allotment rather than a garden – this was agreed. The Council would continue to advertise its vacancy and the clerk was asked to put up a suitable notice on the boundary. The lengthsman would be asked to continue its maintenance.

## **22.9.8 Financial matters - items of expenditure and income**

Car park monies had kindly been collected by AH in the sum of £92.91

The Clerk advised that an unidentified amount of £42 had been left in the Parish letter box; this amount was to be banked subject to further clarification.

An amount of £150 had been received from the bank holiday car boot hires.

The Chair had investigated the feasibility of a system for receiving contactless payments by debit card; he informed the meeting that it was not financially viable.

The following payment was approved:

Chq 1483	I Redfern	Lengthsman and mowing duties	£313.75
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After considering the above transactions, the Council had balances of £14,154 in the current account and £4,037 in the deposit account.

The Chair inspected and approved the Clerk's bank reconciliation as at 31 August.

It was mentioned that we do not ask for donations at the car park in Milldale. It was pointed out that the land is owned and managed by the Peak Park. They had previously raised the possibility of charging for this facility.

The Clerk was asked to obtain an update on this thought process.

#### **22.9.9 Bank account and signing mandate**

GC advised that he has managed to officially add RM, CM and RH as signatories. He needs to remove one further signatory (*from a retired Councillor*) then we would meet the requirements for a Community Account. At this stage, the Clerk would be added as an authorised user (not signatory) to have on-line access and to be able to set up payments for the Councillors to approve.

#### **22.9.10 Playing field bookings and use as a car park**

A booking enquiry had been received about a wedding hire; the Clerk had sent a "holding acknowledgement". RM had advised that, at present, she had not produced a draft hire policy for discussion as there was uncertainty about what hires should be allowed. There followed a lengthy discussion over the types of events that should be allowed. It was clear that there was significant disagreement between the Councillors over what they thought was desired. The Chair pointed out that this disagreement was exactly why we needed a policy, to prevent such matters recurring.

It was agreed to carry the matter forward and, in the meantime, the Chair would try and see what the deeds say (if anything) when the land was acquired from the Harpur Crewe Estate.

#### **22.9.11 Policies Update**

The Clerk had circulated a draft GDPR policy suitable for publishing on the website. It was agreed, subject to some typing errors, and would be published as soon as practical.

#### **22.9.12 Playing field boundaries**

It was agreed that the wooden fence in the SW corner was in a poor state of repair. As its original purpose was no longer relevant, it was agreed to have it removed; SJ to ask the lengthsman. The other wooden fences would be removed as and when they came into a state of disrepair. The fence by the children's play area would be retained and maintained.

The Clerk had corresponded with the cricket club about the repairs to the dry-stone walls. The club had responded promptly and positively accepting it was their responsibility and advising they would get the work done over the close season.

#### **22.9.13 Items for community magazine**

Amend the Homestead Garden advert to use the word allotment.

#### **22.9.14 Highway issues**

The clerk was instructed to chase Derbyshire CC about the gravel/scree issue at The Pinch.

#### **22.9.15 Correspondence and electronic communication**

It was noted that Karen Bradley MP had advised us of a "Community Volunteers Celebration Event" to be held in Leek in November. The Clerk was asked to share this with the Community magazine.

#### **22.9.16 Protection of dry-stone walls**

The Chair advised that he had contacted Peak Park over the apparent lack of protection for the area's iconic dry-stone walls. Sadly, he had received no response!

#### **22.9.17 Any other business and items for next agenda**

Councillor Osborne advised the meeting that she was resigning with immediate effect. The Chair, on behalf of the whole Council, thanked her for five years dedicated service and wished her well. The Clerk was instructed to advise the District Council and to put the relevant notices for the vacancy in the Parish Magazine and on the village notice boards.

CM advised that he had been approached by 2 members of the public in respect of the gravel area in front of The George and to advise that it was, in fact, a public highway. The Council do not believe that permission has been obtained for it to be effectively blocked off and subsumed into the The George's property. The Clerk was instructed to contact the County Council and advise them of the situation.

**22.9.18 Date of next meeting**

Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> October 2022 at 7.00 pm in the Village Hall

The meeting was declared closed 8.23pm

These minutes remain draft until formal approval at the next parish council meeting. Copies of previous minutes can be viewed at [www.alstonefield-pc.org.uk](http://www.alstonefield-pc.org.uk). Hard copies can be made upon request and upon payment of a charge.