

# ALSTONEFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

**Draft Minutes of a meeting of Alstonefield Parish Council was held on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2022 at 7.00 pm in Alstonefield Village Hall.**

**Present:** Chair: G Campbell (GC), Vice Chair: R McIntyre (RM), A Hayes (AH), C McIlroy (CM), R Hignett (RH) and the Clerk, M Jinks.

There were three members of the public in attendance, together with the District Councillor, Edwin Wain (EW).

## **22.10.1 Apologies**

An apology for absence had been received from S Jeffery (SJ).

## **22.10.2 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.

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

None declared.

## **22.10.4 Public speaking**

One member of the public disclosed that he had received a courtesy letter informing him of an intention to convert a nearby agricultural barn into a dwelling. The Council had not received any notice of a planning application and confirmed it would consider it if/when it was received.

Another member of the public asked what we were doing about the “lost” highway outside The George. The Clerk advised that the matter had been notified to Staffordshire County Council. EW advised that he would raise the matter with his contacts in the Highways Department

No other member of the public wished to speak.

It was agreed, in future, to move this item to the start of the meeting so that it did not form part of the agenda.

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

Nothing further

## **22.10.6 Vacancy for Councillor**

The requisite notice had been published asking the public to make representation if they wanted an election; none had been received. Consequently, the Clerk had published notices advising of a casual vacancy to be filled by co-option. To date, no interest had been received.

After a suggestion, it was decided NOT to impose any maximum term for the position of Chair. The fact that it is voted on each year is considered sufficient.

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

The Clerk had received clarification over the two applications for The Hall; one was the planning application and the second was the listed building consent – both broadly the same. It was confirmed that the Council had no objections.

The Clerk had also discovered further information about a S53 application to upgrade public footpath 57 to a bridleway. It was confirmed that the Council had no objections.

Decision notices were received for:

- i. Narrowdale (NP/SM/0422/0548)

It was approved subject to normal conditions

There were no appeals to note or discuss

### **22.10.8 Homestead Garden**

The Clerk advised that he had completed a lease with a new tenant for the Homestead allotment. The tenant has paid the £50 annual charge and will use it in conjunction with the Parent and Toddler group in the Village Hall. The Council agreed that, at the end of the lease, it would consider a donation to the group, dependent upon the state of the property.

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

Car park monies had kindly been collected by AH in the sum of £107.82

Other amounts received were:

Reimbursed mowing fees from the cricket club - £231.86

2<sup>nd</sup> Precept instalment of £4,250

Two amounts of £75 each for playing field hire

£50 for the allotment lease

The following payments were approved:

Chq 1484	M Jinks	Clerk's 1/4ly net salary and reimbursed expenses	£814.62
DD	HMRC	PAYE	£50.60

After considering the above transactions, the Council had balances of £17,971 in the current account and £4,037 in the deposit account.

### **22.10.10 Bank account and signing mandate**

GC advised that he is still trying to get the necessary online forms processed,

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

After further discussion, it was agreed that it is not possible to have a general policy that would cover all situations and circumstances. It was therefore decided that each enquiry would be looked at based on its own merits – though preference would be given to local people and organisations. The Chair also said he would create a new, two-tier charging schedule to be discussed at the next meeting.

Correspondence had been received requesting dates for the monthly car-boot sales in 2023; it was agreed to accept these, but the fee going forward would be £120 per time.

### **22.10.12 Policies Update**

The Clerk had circulated an updated, draft Risk Assessment policy suitable for publishing on the website. It was agreed, subject to some minor alterations, and would be published as soon as practical.

As part of the assessment, it was agreed that all documents going forward should be scanned and saved digitally – specific detail to be discussed as, and when, it arises. All existing hardcopy paperwork would continue to be stored in the Village Hall

### **22.10.13 Items for community magazine**

The Clerk was instructed to remove the advert for the Homestead allotment and to include a new advert for the vacant Councillor position.

### **22.10.14 Highway issues**

The clerk had received a response from Derbyshire CC about the gravel/scree issue at The Pinch; they said that they would send a crew to clear the debris.

### **22.10.15 Correspondence and electronic communication**

- Invitations to Civility Workshops had been previously circulated
- Peak Park had advised that charging for their car parks was still being considered. Parish Councils would be invited to take part in the consultations in due course
- GC had previously received and circulated a response from Peak Park about the protection of dry-stone walls.

- GC advised that he is still chasing various government departments to ascertain the extent and ownership of the Village Greens. These departments seem to be at odds with each other. It also appears that some of the village's Greens may, in fact, be property of Highways as they are extended verges or "rural roundabouts".
- Royal British Legion wrote asking about sales of "Tommy" silhouettes. The Council agreed to purchase one at a cost of £175 plus delivery. This will be displayed on the green opposite Fynderne House over the Remembrance period.

#### **22.10.16 Bad Weather Action Plan**

SJ had requested that we discuss a Bad Weather Action Plan. In her absence, it was agreed to defer this to the next meeting.

#### **22.9.18 Date of next meeting**

Wednesday, 30<sup>th</sup> November 2022 at 7.00 pm in the Village Hall

The meeting was declared closed 8.33pm

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.