

ALSTONEFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of a meeting of Alstonefield Parish Council was held on Wednesday 30th November 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), S Jeffery (SJ) and the Clerk, M Jinks.

There were five members of the public in attendance.

22.11.1 Apologies

The District Councillor, Edwin Wain, had sent his apologies together with his festive good wishes.

22.11.2 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.

22.11.3 Declarations of personal and prejudicial interest of councillors related to published agenda

None declared.

22.11.4 Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported back on the action that he had taken following the previous meeting

22.11.5 Items to/from the District Councillor

Nothing advised

22.11.6 Vacancy for Councillor

The Chair advised that he is aware of someone who has expressed some interest. The interested party had been advised to contact the Clerk directly.

22.11.7 Planning matters, decision notices and appeals

Application NP/SM/1022/1303 was discussed. The applicant was present at the meeting and responded to a few questions. The Council then agreed that they had no objections to the application and the Clerk was instructed to advise the planning department.

There were no decision notices to note or discuss

There were no appeals to note or discuss

22.11.8 Homestead Garden

The Clerk asked about the locked shed on the allotment. It was thought that the previous tenant had erected the shed, but no-one had any idea where the key might be!

22.11.9 Financial matters - items of expenditure and income

Car park monies had kindly been collected by AH in the sum of £52.31

The following payments were approved:

Chq 1485	M Jinks	Reimbursement of "Tommy" Silhouette	£201.00, incl VAT	
Chq 1486	G Campbell	Reimbursement for Christmas Tree	£115.00, incl VAT	Chq
1487	I Redfern	Grass cutting and lengthsman duties	£424.36, no VAT	

After taking into account the above transactions, the Council had balances of £17,391 in the current account and £4,039 in the deposit account.

RH was asked to make contact with the Milldale lengthsman for an update report and to receive his invoice for work done.

The Clerk had previously circulated a budget he had prepared for the 2023/24 financial year. No questions arose and the budget was accepted. The Clerk was therefore asked to request a precept of £8,500, which was the same amount as the current year.

22.11.10 Bank account and signing mandate

The Chair advised that he believes the necessary forms have been successfully completed. Both he and RM had received the necessary card, PIN and reader from the bank. The Chair was to use these to authorise two other Councillors and the Clerk to have access. Once this was in place, the Clerk suggested moving £10k from the current account to the deposit.

22.11.11 Playing field bookings and use as a car park

Following the previous meeting, the Chair had produced a multi-tiered charging system (*depending on whether the applicant was local or not, and whether the use was personal, charitable or commercial*). This was generally approved as a guideline, though each case would continue to be based upon its own merits - particularly for multi day events.

There followed a lengthy discussion about the hiring of the field for a wedding in 2024. The two applicants (who were not local but had local connections) were in attendance and answered various questions. It was eventually decided to allow the event on a vote of four in favour, one against and one abstention. The Clerk was instructed to write to the couple with the contract, terms & conditions and quotation.

The Clerk was also asked to ensure the Ts&Cs state that there is a public footpath running through the playing field which cannot be closed off.

22.11.12 Policies Update

The Clerk had circulated a draft Asset Register; extracts of which should be published on the website. It was agreed that the following parcels of land were owned by the council, yet there was no documentary evidence: Archford Moor quarry, Waste site at Greenhill, Lode quarry, Green Well, "The Bog". The Chair agreed to do some addition work to confirm the ownership.

There were a couple of obsolete items that the Clerk was advised to delete from the schedule.

22.11.13 Items for community magazine

No new matters arose

22.11.14 Highway issues

Staffordshire CC advised that the lane in front of The George is privately owned and not their responsibility. The Chair agreed to do some addition work to confirm the ownership.

There appeared to be no further action in respect of the debris at The Pinch. RH now advised that there were two additional potholes, just where the bridge meets the road.

22.11.15 Correspondence and electronic communication

- The Clerk was instructed to write to Peak Park and object to their proposals for charging at the "Toilets" car park. He was advised to use the Village Hall's excellent response as a guide.
- There had been no update regarding Village Greens
- SMDC had written to the council offering courses on inspecting playgrounds; it was agreed that RoSPA's annual inspection is adequate.
- The Council had been invited to apply for membership of CPRE Staffordshire; it was felt that being in the Peak Park, and under their guidance, was more than adequate.

22.11.16 Bad Weather Action Plan

SJ's request to have a Bad Weather Action Plan was well received. It was felt that it must be based in, and around, the Village Hall. She was requested to liaise with them and offer whatever support we could. In particular, a major part of the plan would involve the purchase of a capable generator; the Council agreed, in principle, to provide some financial support for this.

22.11.17 Date of next meeting

Wednesday, 11th January 2023 at 7.00 pm in the Village Hall. The Clerk would also set provisional dates for every 6 weeks thereafter.

The meeting was declared closed 8.42pm

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. Hard copies can be made upon request and upon payment of a charge.