

ALSTONEFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Alstonefield Parish Council was held on Wednesday 21st June 2023 at 7.00 pm outside Alstonefield Village Hall.

Present: Chair: R Hignett (RH), Vice Chair: G Campbell (GC), Alan Hayes (AH), Sarah Jeffery (SJ), R Longdon (RL), C McIlroy (CM) and the Clerk, M Jinks. There were 4 members of the public in attendance in addition to the District Councillor, Edwin Wain (EW).

23.06.1 Apologies

M Newman (MN) had sent his apologies.

23.06.2 Minutes of the previous meeting

The draft 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 Chair.

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

None declared.

23.06.5 Clerk's Report

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

23.06.6 Items to/from the District Councillor

There were no matters for or from the District Councillor.

23.06.7 Planning matters, decision notices and appeals

Application NP/SM/0623/0632 at Rose Cottage, Alstonefield was discussed and there were no objections. There were no decision notices to discuss.

It was noted that appeal APP/M9496/Y/22/3308555 regarding The Cottage, Alstonefield had been allowed.

23.06.8 Financial matters - items of expenditure and income

Car park monies had kindly been collected by AH in the sum of £154.15. The Clerk had also received a £75 donation from the Leaden Boot event and £220 in respect of the late May car boot sales.

The following payments were approved:

BACS	Ian Redfern – lengthsman and mowing duties	£476.33, no VAT
BACS	Playsafety Ltd – RoSPA report	£94.20, incl VAT
BACS	Martin Jinks – reimbursement of key cutting	£19.75 no VAT
BACS	Martin Jinks – Quarterly net salary	£788.84, no VAT
DD	HMRC - PAYE	£26.00, no VAT

After taking into account the above transactions, the Council had balances of £5,932 in the current account and £14,060 in the deposit account.

23.06.9 Items for community magazine

Nothing to report

23.06.10 Highway Issues

The Clerk had received communication from Staffs CC following a request to “*adding Back Lane as a restricted byway.*” As there is a dwelling on the corner of the lane, The Parish Council was under the impression that this was already a “*byway open to all traffic.*” The Clerk was instructed to respond accordingly.

Part of the retaining wall on Lode Lane had given way; The Clerk was instructed to advise SCC.

23.06.11 Correspondence

The Clerk had received a voting paper allowing the Council to vote for a **Parish Member for PDNP**. Following discussions with the Chair and the Vice Chair, the Clerk had submitted the paper in support of J Cantrell, who was defeated by A Gregory.

The Clerk further advised that he had been contacted by Paul Rushworth who was the Head of Legal at SMDC. Mr Rushworth stated that he had received a complaint about two Councillors from a member of the public. He followed this up by stating that he had responded to the complainant stating “*we are not intending to investigate this matter further for the reasons set out in the letter. Part of the complaint did allege that register of interest was not up to date, I would be grateful if you could remind Members in respect of the same matter.*” The Clerk duly did so.

23.06.12 Emergency action plan

SJ advised that she had found a template from central Government. This was clearly a one size fits all document and she would tailor it to Alstonefield’s situation for discussion at a later meeting. She would also look to see what funding might be available.

23.06.13 Lengthsmen’s contracts.

SJ confirmed that Ian was happy with the contract and RH confirmed that Peter was too. It was noted that Peter completes all the hours allocated to him. Ian, however, only works (and gets paid for) approximately half the hours allocated. There is always additional work that needs doing and so RH agreed to ask Ian if he was able or willing to work the extra hours allowed.

It was noted that the noticeboard opposite the old Post Office had fallen off the supporting posts. RH would approach Gilbert to see if he could repair and renovate it.

23.06.14 Collection of car park monies.

SJ suggested that it would be good practice for the monies to be collected by two people. GC referred to previous discussions about this topic and stated that he thought it was a malicious allegation towards AH who currently collects the monies. SJ replied that was not the case and the idea would be to protect whoever collects the receipts. The clerk pointed out that as long as the boxes only had one key, having two people collect would not eliminate any potential fraud. It was agreed that the current system would carry on as it was.

23.06.15 Registering The George as an Asset of Community Value (“ACV”)

CM advised that he had been requested by number of parishioners to head up a community application to register the ACV. He said that to be successful, the application needed 21 supporters. He had submitted the application with 60 supporters and had a further 4 subsequently express their support. The Clerk advised that he had received communication from Victoria Ellis, Communities Officer of SMDC acknowledging the application and asking for the Parish Council’s comments. The Clerk was instructed to respond that the PC supports the community’s application.

23.06.16 Membership of Peak District Rural Housing Association

Further to previous discussions, the Clerk had exchanged several e-mails with Richard Mugglestone, Company Secretary of PDRHA. Mr Mugglestone advised that, at their board meeting, Alstonefield’s share had been re-instated as the PC does have an interest in the Association that owns homes for local people in the parish. He advised that PDRHA’s next AGM was on 19 September. It was agreed that at least one Councillor would attend.

GC pointed out that the matter had come to light following a complaint made to PDRHA by SJ. The latter confirmed she had approached the association, but denied it was a complaint.

23.06.17 RoSPA Report

The report had been distributed and read by all; it was pleasing that there were no immediate action points noted. It was felt the only point with any real merit was the closing gap on the gate. RH agreed to meet with Ian Redfern to go through the report in detail. The Clerk was asked to look at the cost of new football nets; EW said there may be a grant available from SMDC.

23.06.18 Overnight parking on the playing field

GC pointed out that there are a small number of vehicles repeatedly parking overnight. The next step was to place leaflets on the vehicles (wording previously agreed), with the ultimate step to close and lock the gate. SJ stated that they had no choice as the owners had been instructed not to park on the road. As some of the vehicles belong to family members of SJ, CG stated she should have declared an interest in this item. Following a heated exchange, GC left the meeting. It was agreed by all that there were no parking restrictions on the road (within the 30mph signs) and that neither the PC nor anyone else could prevent people parking on the road (but not the pavement).

The idea of parish residents’ parking permits, for a fee, was discussed. The Clerk would try and consider any legal or insurance requirements that may be necessary, including any restrictions in the deeds.

The date and time of the next meeting was agreed to be 7:00pm on Wednesday 9th August.

The meeting was declared closed at 8.15pm

These Minutes remain draft until formal approval at the next parish council meeting.