

ALSTONEFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of a meeting of Alstonefield Parish Council was held on Wednesday 20th September 2023 at 7.00 pm in the Alstonefield Village Hall.

Present: Chair: R Hignett (RH), Vice Chair: G Campbell (GC), Alan Hayes (AH), Rebecca Longdon (RL) and the Clerk, M Jinks. There were also 3 members of the public in attendance in addition to the District Councillor, Edwin Wain (EW).

23.09.1 Apologies

C Mcilroy (CM) and S Jeffery (SJ) had sent their apologies.

23.09.2 Minutes of the previous two meetings

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.

The draft Minutes of the meeting on 21 June 2023 had not been ratified at the last meeting; SJ had indicated she wanted a few amendments. Subsequent to this meeting, she had e-mailed the Clerk to confirm she was now in agreement.

The Clerk would therefore arrange for both sets of Minutes to be signed by the Chair.

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

RL advised that she was the neighbour of the planning applicant NP/SM/0823/0928 and had briefly discussed the matter with her. As she had no financial or family interest, this was noted, and RL was allowed to participate in the discussion and vote.

23.09.4 Clerk's Report

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

23.09.5 Items to/from the District Councillor

EW advised that he had available a discretionary grant of £150 should the PC find a suitable project.

It was also advised by EW that Leek town centre would now have a maximum speed limit of 20mph

23.09.6 Planning matters, decision notices and appeals

Application NP/SM/0823/0928 for a barn conversion at Hope Farm was discussed and there were no objections.

It was noted that application NP/SM/0423/0445 for solar panels at Lower Hurst Farm had been refused.

It was noted that application NP/SM/0323/0310 for the renovation of Priory Farm, Narrowdale had been approved.

There were no appeals to note.

23.09.7 Financial matters - items of expenditure and income

Car park monies had kindly been collected by AH in the sum of £105.53. The Clerk had also received £220 in respect of the two August car boot sales in addition to an £800 grant from Alliance Environmental towards the Lengthsmens' costs.

The following payments were approved:

BACS	Ian Redfern – lengthsman and mowing duties	£460.39, no VAT
BACS	Martin Jinks – quarterly net salary	£788.84, no VAT
DD	HMRC – PAYE	£26.00, no VAT

After considering the above transactions, the Council had balances of £5,093 in the current account and £14,104 in the deposit account (including £16.77 interest for the month).

23.09.8 Items for community magazine

Removal of Lengthsman advert (*see below*)

23.09.9 Highway Issues

AH had assisted the Clerk to identify the part of the retaining wall on Lode Lane that had given way; the Clerk would advise the DC accordingly.

Due to weather conditions, the Chair had been unable to take pictures of the underside of Lode Bridge where it appeared to be giving way. When conditions permit, he would look further, take some pictures and advise the Clerk.

23.09.10 Correspondence

An email had been received from a couple of residents of Milldale, complementing the work of the Lengthsman there and supporting the way the verges and paths had been kept.

23.09.11 Emergency action plan

In SJ's absence, discussion was held over until another date.

23.09.12 Alstonefield Lengthsman

Following Ian Redfern's resignation, the Council equipment had been collected and now relocated (currently, mainly in the Chair's garage).

Following the advert, the Clerk had received one interested party who was willing to undertake the work on a fully commercial basis via his company and employees.

The Chair advised that he had discussions with Colin Lovatt, a resident of the Parish, who was interested and willing to take on the role. It was agreed unanimously that the Chair was authorised to discuss this further with a view to a contract for services being signed.

Once the new lengthsman was in place, the Chair would ask him to ensure the equipment was serviced over the winter (and any old machinery was disposed of).

23.09.13 AGM of Peak District Rural Housing Association

The Chair advised that he had attended the AGM of PDRHA; this was purely a functional meeting to approve the accounts, re-election of officers and appointment of auditors. There was no discussion of any other matters and certainly the issue with Alstonefield was not mentioned. It was interesting to note that Alstonefield was the only one of the 40+ Parish Council members in attendance; there also appeared to be no apologies! (for which Alstonefield's membership was temporarily revoked).

23.09.14 AOB

CM, via email, had pointed out that he had not yet heard back from the DC regarding the community application to register The George as an ACV.

In the same email, CM had also advised that he had been asked by "several parishioners" about the increased overnight parking on the playing field car park. This increase had been noted and agreed; GC would print some copies of the warning notices, which he would make available to the Councillors to place on windscreens.

GC mentioned that a member of the public had enquired about any update on the "lost highway" that had become part of The George's frontage. He advised that the CC was aware of the matter, but they had not yet had a chance to look into it. The Clerk advised that the playgroup had agreed to renew their lease of the Homestead allotment for a further 12 months.

The date and time of the next meeting was agreed to be 7:00pm on Wednesday 8th November.

The meeting was declared closed at 7:44pm

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