

ALSTONEFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of a meeting of Alstonefield Parish Council was held on Wednesday 13 December 2023 at 7.00 pm in Alstonefield Village Hall.

Present: Vice Chair: G Campbell (GC) (who Chaired the meeting), A Hayes (AH), C McIlroy (CM), M Newman (MN) and the Clerk, M Jinks. There were four members of the public in attendance.

23.12.1 Apologies

R Hignett (RH), S Jeffery (SJ) and R Longdon (RL).

23.12.2 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 GC.

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

None declared.

23.12.4 Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported back on the action that he had taken following the previous meeting. Within this, he confirmed that he had made a retrospective application for a licence for the two benches in front of The George.

23.12.5 Items to/from the District Councillor

Nothing advised

23.12.6 Planning matters, decision notices and appeals

Application NP/SM/1123/1350 - Hope Farm was discussed – there were no objections to the application.

Application NP/SM/1123/1405 - Hope Villa was discussed – there were no objections to the application.

Application NP/SM/1223/1426 - Overdale was discussed – there were no objections to the application.

The Clerk advised that Applications NP/SM/0722/0959 and 0960 – Alstonefield Hall had been granted permission, but with significant conditions.

There were no appeals.

23.12.7 Felling Licence application

The application was discussed; no decision was required, and no further action would be taken by the PC.

23.12.8 Financial matters - items of expenditure and income

Car park monies had kindly been collected by AH in the sum of £16.98

The following payments were approved:

BACS	Martin Jinks; quarterly net salary	£913.64, no VAT
DD	HMRC; PAYE	£57.20, no VAT
BACS	Martin Jinks; reimbursement of Defib Pads	£61.20, incl VAT of £10.20

After taking into account the above transactions, the Council had balances of £3,454 in the current account and £19,165 in the deposit account (*including interest of £22.81 for November*).

The rate paid to the lengthsman was discussed. The hourly rate was increased from £11 to £12 with effect from 1 April 2023; at the same time, it was agreed to review this on an annual basis. It was agreed to increase the Lengthsmen's hourly rate to £15 from 1 April 2024. GC agreed to communicate this and, at the same time, seek confirmation that the new lengthsman had Public Liability insurance in place.

23.12.9 Items for Community Magazine

None; however, the Clerk would suggest to the Village Hall's Chair that he may wish to include the potential Folk Gathering – see 23.12.13 below.

23.12.10 Highways Issues

A number of Councillors and Parishioners had mentioned the increased roadside parking following the installation of chargeable parking at the toilets' car park. Sadly, this is an inevitable consequence and was pointed out to the County Council when the Parish Council objected to the original application. GC stated that after the anniversary of their installation he would seek a Freedom Of Information request to see what the receipts are compared to the installation costs (*including planning and consultation*).

It was mentioned that the finger post indicating the footpath from The Rakes towards Ash Tree Farm had fallen over. The Clerk agreed to advise SCC.

CM expressed frustration that the Derbyshire side of Lode Mill, up to the A515, remained treacherous in winterery conditions whilst the Staffs, side was cleared. It was pointed out that DCC had been advised on several occasions and they maintained it was "low priority." Concerned residents are reminded that the "easier" route is via Hartington.

23.12.11 Correspondence

A number of Parishioners had advised the Parish Council about a Section 53 Application to upgrade Gratton Lane to a Bridleway; the parishioners concerned were against the application. The PC had not yet received any official notification – although the original application dated back to 2020. It was understood that the PC would be consulted before any application was determined; The Clerk was instructed to write to SCC (Laura James) to obtain confirmation of this. It is known that SCC, and indeed all County Councils, are inundated with such applications.

23.12.12 Emergency action plan

In SJ's absence, this matter was held over until another time.

23.12.13 Folk Gathering on the Playing Field

The Chair of the Village Hall had petitioned the PC that they would like to resurrect the Folk Music Gatherings. It is unlikely that 2024 would be possible, but if the "village community" agreed, maybe from 2025. If it proceeds, the event could require the Playing Field for up to a week and would also require the use of the village hall and various surrounding campsites and fields. The PC was not opposed to the initial idea; The Clerk was instructed to send a copy of the standard hire contract together with an indication of terms for a "non-local, commercial organisation. These terms may be discounted if there is a charitable or local benefit.

23.12.14 Any other business

GC proposed a vote of thanks for Martin Snodin and his team following the final "Gig" at the Village Hall. These events had proved to be very successful, showing Alstonefield as *punching above its weight* and generating benefit for the whole community.

Date of next meeting

Wednesday, 24th January 2024 at 7.00 pm in the Village Hall.

The meeting was declared closed at 8.24pm

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