

ALSTONEFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of a meeting of Alstonefield Parish Council was held on Wednesday 24th January 2024 at 7.00 pm in Alstonefield Village Hall.

Present: Chair; R Hignett (RH), Vice Chair: G Campbell (GC), A Hayes (AH), M Newman (MN), S Jeffery (SJ), R Longdon (RL) and the Clerk, M Jinks. There were zero members of the public present; however, the District Councillor, E Wain, was in attendance.

24.01.1 Apologies

C McIlroy (CM).

24.01.2 Minutes of the previous meeting

The Chair started the meeting by thanking GC for chairing the last meeting in his absence. 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 RH.

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

None declared.

24.01.4 Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported back on the action that he had taken following the previous meeting. Within this, he advised that he had placed two temporary signs on the "toilets" wall; one requesting no parking on the road, the other advising of alternative, free parking in the village. These were up for a few weeks, but the second sign had recently been removed. The Clerk was instructed to replace it at his convenience.

24.01.5 Items to/from the District Councillor

E Wain advised of various sundry matters at District and County level; none of which had any direct bearing on Alstonefield Parish.

24.01.6 Planning matters, decision notices and appeals

There were no new applications to discuss.

It was noted that application NP/SM/1123/1405 - Hope Villa had been approved.

There were no appeals.

24.01.7 Financial matters - items of expenditure and income

Car park monies had kindly been collected by AH in the sum of £47.61

The following payments were approved:

BACS	Colin Lovatt; Lengthsman duties	£690.77, no VAT
BACS	SPCA; 2023/24 membership	£102.58, no VAT

In addition, the PC had received £389.35 from the cricket club for reimbursed mowing expenses from last season.

After taking into account the above transactions, the Council had balances of £3,051 in the current account and £19,187 in the deposit account (*including interest of £22.08 for December*).

It was noted that GC needs to be reimbursed for the village Christmas Tree – he was waiting for a VAT receipt from the supplier.

The Clerk had previously circulated a draft budget for 2024/25. Various items were highlighted and discussed. E Wain suggested that it might be sensible to increase the Precept request by 5%. However, the Councillors unanimously agreed to adopt the budget, unchanged, and to keep the Precept amount at £8,500, the same as last year.

24.01.8 Items for Community Magazine

See item below regarding the Emergency action plan. Nothing else to note.

24.01.9 Highways Issues

The Clerk advised that, following the last meeting, he had contacted SCC regarding various S53 applications on behalf of the British Horse Society. Laura James had responded and advised that (in relation to Gratton Lane) the BHS were still to submit outstanding information. Until then, the matter would not be taken forward. If the matter is taken forward, all interested parties, including the PC, would be invited to comment.

The Clerk agreed to contact SCC regarding the sections of damaged wall between Lode Mill and Milldale.

The Chair expressed his continuing disappointment about the lack of any significant improvement to the debris accumulating at The Pinch.

24.01.10 Correspondence

The Clerk had received an e-mail from a concerned parishioner about camping and rubbish at Blunder Castle. The lengthsman had been instructed to tidy up as best he could. It was agreed that such instances are fairly rare and do not justify the expense of a sign or fence.

The PC had also received a letter, together with a poster, from the District MP advising of a coach trip to London and tour of Westminster. The Clerk was instructed to put the poster on display on the notice board.

24.01.11 Emergency action plan

SJ had circulated an initial draft of a template to be populated and circulated. There were one or two examples of “emergencies” included and during a discussion, others were identified for inclusion. One of the main tasks was to identify volunteers to undertake required roles in various situations. SJ agreed to publicise this via the community magazine and other social media.

24.01.12 Any other business

SJ advised that a small section of wall in the playing field carpark (adjacent to Hope Villa’s land) was in disrepair. Without further research, it was uncertain whose responsibility that wall was. As it was presumed to be a small task, it was therefore agreed, for this one instance, the lengthsman would be asked to make the necessary repairs. RH to contact him.

Date of next meeting

Wednesday, 13th March 2024 at 7.00 pm in the Village Hall.

The meeting was declared closed at 7:41pm

These Minutes remain draft until formal approval at the next Parish Council meeting.