

ALSTONEFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of a meeting of Alstonefield Parish Council was held on Wednesday 13th March 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), and the Clerk, M Jinks. There was one member of the public present in addition to Ms Abby Chillingworth.

24.03.01 Apologies: C McIlroy (CM), S Jeffery (SJ), R Longdon (RL) and the District Councillor, E Wain

24.03.2 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 RH.

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

None declared.

24.03.4 Clerk's Report

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

24.03.5 Presentation by Abby Chillingworth, Volunteering and Community manager of The National Trust

Ms Chillingworth attended to introduce herself as a point of contact and to present the Trust's draft ideas for improvement at the Stepping Stones car park at Ilam. This clearly impacts on locals and visitors to Dovedale.

24.03.6 Items to/from the District Councillor

None advised

24.03.7 Planning matters, decision notices and appeals

The following applications were individually discussed; there were no objections to any of them:

- Rose Cottage, The Rakes – NP/SM/0124/0101
- Ash Tree Farm – NP/SM/0124/0041 and 0042
- Old Vicarage – NP/SM/0224/0130 and 0133
- Priory Farm – NP/SM/0124/0117

There were no decisions to report.

There were no appeals.

24.03.8 Financial matters - items of expenditure and income

Car park monies had kindly been collected by AH in the sum of £81.87

The following payments were approved:

Cheque Peter Frost; Lengthsman duties	£1,390.25, no VAT
BACS G Campbell; reimbursed IT expenses and Xmas Tree	£287.06 incl £47.85 VAT
BACS NamesCo Ltd: Managed WordPress and 2 Domain names renewal for two years	£478.55 incl £79.76 VAT

After taking into account the above transactions, the Council had balances of £2,333 in the current account and £19,234 in the deposit account (*including interest of £25.15 for Jan and £22.13 for Feb*).

The Clerk had been advised by the Village Hall committee that their rental prices were going up by approximately 20%; this would not apply to existing bookings.

24.03.9 Items for Community Magazine

None to be advised

24.03.10 Highways Issues

GC reported his extensive and frustrating communications with SCC and Gill Heath in respect of the flooding and road surface on Lode Lane. He was making some progress and is hopeful it will be sorted in a couple of months. There was general discussion about the poor road surfaces and numerous potholes in the parish and surrounding areas – it is all very frustrating (and proving expensive for some).

24.03.11 Correspondence

The Clerk advised of a Freedom of Information request he had received; this concerned the PC's finances for 2022/23 which were already publicly available.

Parish Councils throughout the country are being offered a framed portrait of King Charles III; it was agreed to take up the offer and then donate this to the Village Hall.

Balfours, on behalf of Lichfield Diocese, had e-mailed to advise that they would be removing approximately 20 trees infected with Ash Dieback along Hopedale Road to protect the safety of the public.

24.03.12 Any other business

The Clerk advised that, in May, RoSPA would be undertaking the annual survey of the play area. RH agreed to ensure he had examined it before then.

RH would ask the lengthsman to cone off the damaged area of the playing field car park until it was repaired.

AH had been contacted about an apparent ban on catering sales at the regular car boot mornings. It was agreed that the PC had NOT imposed any ban of catering activities – as long as they fulfilled the usual health and safety conditions and to leave everywhere clean and tidy.

Date of next meeting

Wednesday, 17th April 2024 at 7.00 pm in the Village Hall.

The meeting was declared closed at 8:08pm

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