

ALSTONEFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of a meeting of Alstonefield Parish Council held on Wednesday 11th June 2025 at 7.00 pm in Alstonefield Village Hall.

Present: Chair: R Hignett (RH), Vice Chair: G Campbell (GC), M Newman (MN), R Longdon (RL), District Councillor Edwin Wain (EW), together with the Clerk, S Dartnell (SD). There were 6 members of the public present.

Annual Parish Meeting 2025 - Prior to the start of the Parish Council meeting the Annual Parish Meeting was held and the Chair gave a report into the parish activities of the previous year, [published on the website](#).

10 minutes are set aside at the start of the PC meeting for members of the public to speak and ask questions:

2 parishioners who are neighbours of the planning appeal mentioned on agenda item 7.c spoke about this application. Since the original refusal of the planning application, the applicant has been on site undertaking activities including removal of trees and attempting to widen the access. They requested support from the PC in objecting to the appeal (which didn't previously come to the PC as it was refused by Peak Park prior to the PC meeting). They outlined a range of concerns including visibility of the proposed barn which would be situated higher up and be larger than anything existing nearby.

Parish Council meeting then followed:

11.06.1 Apologies: C McIlroy and District Councillor Edwin Wain. S Jeffery was not in attendance.

11.06.2 Election of Chair and Vice Chair for 2025-6

RH was proposed as Chair by RL and seconded AH. GC was proposed as Vice Chair by MN and seconded AH. Both RH and GC were thanked by other councillors for their service in the previous year and both accepted the positions. There were no additions or changes to the Register of Interests forms since the previous year.

11.06.3 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.

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

None declared.

11.06.5 Clerk's Report and matters arising

The Clerk reported back on the actions taken following the previous meeting: AGAR form completed and lodged successfully. All documents published on the website including Exercise of Public Rights notice.

Clerk had investigated setting aside funds for election costs as suggested by auditor. It was suggested that, based on web-based research of other similar sized parishes for a single seat election, £3000 set as a provision for any future election requirement. Councillors discussed and agreed to make this provision which will be noted in the accounts.

Councillors gave their approval to the appointment of external auditors for the 2025/6 year to continue with the services of Kim Squires.

Grant Application had been made to the Leaden Boot committee in relation to maintenance and repair of playing field equipment.

11.06.6 Items to/from the District Councillor

EW sent apologies. Community Grant of £200 available. Councillors discussed and agreed that this would be helpful towards the repair and maintenance of playground equipment once costs are known.

11.06.7 Planning matters, decision notices and appeals

- a. Applications: none
- b. Decision notices: none
- c. Appeals: APP/M9496/W/25/3366274 - Land west of Alstonefield Road, Hulme End

GC had done significant investigation into this appeal and reported back to the Council. GC has visited the site in person as had a few other Councillors. Councillors' objections are summarised: Environmental Impact – Curlews and Skylarks are noticeable in that area. Water run-off is a concern – the location is such that all the water will run to the same point on the field. Highways – concerns about lack of adequate access for entrance and widening which could only be done via someone else's land. Also concerns about activity undertaken without permission which must be reinstated. Impact on local amenities and services – owners of Paddock House offer a local service (business includes a young local person who is vulnerable or out of school to be involved in the farm – SMDC gave a UKSPF grant for this use) and this development will impact these young people. Development on a Green Field site as per the original refusal. Councillors all voted to object and share these comments as above formally with the Planning Authority.

11.06.8 Financial matters - items of expenditure and income

The following <u>payments</u> were approved:	£	+VAT
RoSPA Playground check and report	£84.00	£16.80
Alstonefield Village Hall hire 2024/5	£126.00	
Zurich Insurance policy 2025/26	£500.00	
Duncan Scroggs Mowing and Weed treatment	£453.00	
June Clerk Salary (£299.70) and Expenses (£3.49)	£303.19	

Income: Carpark monies had kindly been collected by AH in the sum of £ 155.57

Car boot sale income for April and May received from Kath – £440. 00

Leaden Boot car park hire - £100.00

Creative Peaks car park hire (Into The Hills event) - £200.00

£2000.00 transferred to the Saving.

After taking into account the above transactions, the Council had balances of:

£854.69 in the current account and £20,773.61 in the deposit account (*including interest of £17.44 for May*).

Car boot sale dates for the year are – 21 Apr (cancelled), 27 Apr, 5 May, 25 May, 26 May, 29 June, 27 July, 25 Aug, 31 Aug, 28 Sept.

Natwest Community Account Debit Card – Clerk investigated this as a possibility, however, there is no provision for dual authorisation. Councillors agreed this is therefore not an option.

Sale of unused parish machinery will be arranged by AH for auction on 15 June.

Clerk to begin VAT refund process for the previous year.

11.06.9 Items for Community Communication

GC reported a call with a local person who has expressed interest in taking on the Community Magazine. Hopeful of a positive outcome to this discussion.

11.06.10 Highways Issues

Connect Fibre work teams have caused issues with throwing rocks from their trenches into neighbouring fields. Ongoing pothole concerns.

11.06.11 Lengthsman Work 2025/6

Councillors pre-approved the payment of Lengthsman May and June invoices against agreed hours. Request for the £400 Lengthsman Grant for 2025/6 has been submitted by clerk to AES.

11.06.12 RoSPA Playground Safety Report

RH has been to look at the playground in relation to the report. RH will do a schedule of work against this and then look to plan the funding of necessary work.

11.06.13 Correspondence

Tree pack from woodland trust - Councillors agreed there is no current need.

Parish Assembly - Annual Appointments & Parish/Town Representatives – GC will represent Alstonefield.

Jamie Tomlinson – Playing Field Hire enquiry. Clerk to confirm availability and costs.

Parish Online Mapping Software - £38.40 - Clerk to Cancel subscription as service is no longer used.

Land At Brown Knoll, Hulme End, Buxton – Land Registry – GC will respond (this has been referred to as Archford moor tip in previous minutes).

11.06.14 Any other business

Clerk received notice of the resignation of Sarah Jeffrey from the Council during the meeting. Councillors will seek to advertise the opportunity to join the council within the community.

Sal 19th July MN wishes to hire the playing field for a local non-commercial event.

Next agenda items – a request has been received for the Council to discuss a change to the Parish Boundary.

11.06.15 Date of next meeting

Wednesday 30th July 2025. 7pm in the Village Hall. RL and MN asked to note their apologies for that date.

The meeting was declared closed at 20:16

