

ALSTONEFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of a meeting of Alstonefield Parish Council held on Wednesday 15th October 2025 at 7.00 pm in Alstonefield Village Hall.

Present: Chair: R Hignett (RH), Vice Chair: G Campbell (GC), A Haynes (AH) Charlotte Jordan (CJ), together with the Clerk, S Dartnell (SD). There were 2 members of the public present.

10 minutes are set aside at the start of the PC meeting for members of the public to speak and ask questions:
2 Parishioners were present but no items were raised.

Parish Council meeting then followed:

15.10.1 Apologies: Councillors C McIlroy, R Longdon, M Newman, District Councillor, Edwin Wain and County Councillor Charlotte Kelly asked to note their apologies.

15.10.2 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.

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

None

15.10.4 Clerk's Report and matters arising

Half Year Audit completed on 10 October 2025. Auditor flagged an omission from the website, LGA pay awards, considerations for draft budget ahead of sharing with Councillors. Clerk asked the Auditor for guidance on an operating account raised by GC – awaiting expert advice response.

Village Hall bookings confirmed to end of 2026 based on dates clerk previously circulated to councillors.

15.10.5 Items to/from the District and County Councillors

EW and C had sent apologies and no notices.

15.10.6 Planning matters, decision notices and appeals

a. Applications:

NP/SM/0925/0933 at Alstonefield Hall, Church Street, Alstonefield

NP/SM/0925/0938 at Alstonefield Hall, Church Street, Alstonefield

Variation of condition 1 of original planning application. Parish Council have no comment.

b. decision notices: None

c. Appeals: None

15.10.7 Financial matters - items of expenditure and income

The following <u>payments</u> were approved:	£	+VAT
a. Playing Field Mowing Sept/Oct	£400.00	
b. Clerk Salary October	£299.70	+£3.49 per month
c. Lengthsman invoice September – 22hrs (168 remain)	£352.00	
d. Domain Name fee Names.co.uk	£24.99	£5.00
e. Cookie Compliance software CIVIC (repay GC)	£45.00	£9.00
f. LGA clerk pay award backdated to April (estimated)	£58.24	
g. SPCA councillor training course	£40.00	£8.00
<u>Totals</u>	<u>£1223.42</u>	<u>£22.00</u>

Income: Carpark monies had kindly been collected by AH in the sum of £145.08

H2 Precept Payment received	£5,125.00
Lengthsman scheme payment received	£400.00
Car boot sale income for September received	£120
Interest on deposit account for September	£18.25

Agreed to transfer £1500.00 from current account to deposit account at this time.

After taking into account the above transactions the Council had balances of: £3922.31 in the current account and £21,346.91 in the deposit account.

GC had looked into digital payment system for the car park - Lopay carparking service. 0.79% per transaction – uses a QR code set up for an agreed fee. No set up cost and no monthly fee. Weekly payouts to the bank account. Councillors agreed that GC investigate further and open an account.

15.10.8 Publicising Parish Spending

GC suggested short articles focusing on descriptions to explain PC spending possibly in the newsletter each quarter. Could add a news article on the website and put it on the notice board. GC offered to draft a summary.

15.10.9 Items for Community Communication, Noticeboards and Website

The Chair asked to note the very sad losses of two Parishioners. Mr Pete Leason, an active member of the community has sadly passed away. Pete was the first person to mow the playing field as a volunteer. Also, Sir David Knox, who served as our MP. The PC expressed appreciation for the contributions that these men made to the Alstonefield Community.

CJ raised the issue of making good use of the 4 Parish notice boards, several need updating. CJ will take responsibility for all 4 notice boards (Playing Field, Milldale, Village Hall, Opposite Post Office). Councillors will pass keys to CJ. PC intend to replace the locks with a new lock that is the same for all 4 boards. It was noted that public notices should only be displayed on public notice boards so that they aren't deemed to have the endorsement of the PC.

15.10.10 Highways Issues

RH – The Pinch is being closed again 21 October 8-6pm. Clerk to add a notice on the news item of the website for the period.

GC had been approached in relation to 'upgrading' the footpath from Windledale Hollow through a private property to become a bridleway. GC has found that parts of the route being enquired about aren't actually a footpath. AH will make the relevant landowners aware.

15.10.11 Lengthsman Work 2025/6

Councillors approved the payment of Lengthsman Sept/Oct invoice against agreed hours. 168 Hours remain for the year ending 31 March 2026. SB has requested a plan of the village coloured to show which areas to cover. GC and AH have been preparing a map which GC will share with SB.

Village posts - AH had a quote for replacing the posts - £20.50 +VAT per post – 30 year guarantee. Quote for 40 (39 missing or need replacing). Replacement work will be added to the Lengthsman winter schedule.

15.10.12 RoSPA Playground Safety Report

RH preparing schedule of work. The Suppliers have been preparing quotes for spares. Some items may need to be replaced in their entirety.

15.10.13 Civility and Respect Pledge

Councillors agreed that this is a good thing and the PC should adopt it. GC will investigate training opportunities for Councillors.

15.10.14 Defibrillator Ownership and Maintenance

GC has investigated the ownership of the two items. Historically (2009) PC agreed ownership. Councillors agreed that new pads will be purchased following recent use – Clerk to confirm with the First Responder and ask for who is able to purchase the pads and who can give more clarification to the Parish Council about envisioned future requirements. Clerk to check with first responder when the defibrillators need to be replaced in their entirety and how much this will be so that a more informed decision can be made in relation to a future purchase and any necessary fund raising.

15.10.15 Correspondence

SPCA Martyns Law webinar 21 Oct – any councillors who wish to join can do so.

Parish Assembly 24 Nov 2026 – GC will attend

16.10.15 Any other business

None

15.10.16 Date of next meeting

Wednesday 26th November 2025 in the village hall at 7pm. No forward apologies for next meeting.

The public meeting was declared closed at 20.32.