

ALSTONEFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Alstonefield Parish Council was held on Wednesday 10th August 2022 at 7.00 pm in Alstonefield Village Hall.

Present: Chair: G Campbell (GC), A Hayes (AH), S Jeffery (SJ), C McIlroy (CM), C Osborne (CO), and the clerk, M Jinks.

There were no members of the public in attendance.

22.8.1 Apologies

Apologies had been received in advance of the meeting from R Hignett and R McIntyre.

22.8.2 Minutes of the previous meeting

The 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 the Chairman.

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

None declared

22.8.4 Public speaking

No members of the public were present

22.8.5 Items to/from the District Councillor

None

22.8.6 Planning matters, decision notices and appeals

New application NP/SM/0722/0960 for the renovation of Alstonefield Hall (Grade 2*) was discussed in depth. Whilst, at first glance, any development is likely to be an improvement, there are too many documents to go through in the time provided. All councillors agreed to look at the application in more depth and report back to the clerk. If applicable, the clerk will convene a special meeting; otherwise, he shall respond to the planning department with no objections.

Decision notices were received for:

- i. Renovations on The Cottage, Post Office Lane
- ii. Remedial work at Priory Farm

Both were approved subject to normal conditions

There were no appeals to note or discuss

22.8.7 Homestead Garden

Nobody had come forward with a view to taking this on. The Council would continue to advertise its vacancy and to look for suitable uses. The lengthsman would be asked to continue its maintenance.

22.8.8 Financial matters - items of expenditure and income

Car park monies had kindly been collected by AH in the sum of £76.66.

The Chair agreed to investigate the feasibility of a system for receiving contactless payments by debit card. Two amounts of £75 each had been received for playing field hire (*including the one chased up from the previous meeting*).

The following payment was approved:

Chq 1482	I Redfern	Lengthsman and mowing duties	£522.48
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After considering the above transactions, the Council had balances of £14,183 in the current account and £4,036 in the deposit account.

SJ suggested electric charging points for the toilet's carpark. It was pointed out that the land and toilets are actually owned and managed by the Peak Park.

22.8.9 Bank account and signing mandate

GC advised he is continuing to try and set up online banking for the Council.

22.8.10 Playing field bookings and use as a car park

No booking requests had been received.

In RM's absence, the matter of the Hire Policy is to be carried forward.

22.8.11 Internal and external audits

The clerk advised that Toplis Associates would carry out an interim internal audit in October. Apart from travelling expenses, there would be no additional cost. The clerk was authorised to book a room at the Village Hall for the meeting.

Following correspondence from **Smaller Authority Audit Appointments**, the council agreed to "opt-in" to the central procurement to appoint an external appointment for the next 5-year period.

22.8.12 Internal policies review

It was pointed out that, due to a clerk vacancy, the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations had not been reviewed and updated in May 2022. These documents were reviewed and updated with immediate effect.

In addition, it was pointed out that the current Data Protection policy was not available on the website. The clerk agreed to make this "web friendly" and get it published on the website.

It was further agreed that the other existing policies would be reviewed periodically, and the clerk was instructed to include one at each of the next few meetings.

22.8.13 Playing field boundaries

It was noted that the wooden fence in the SW corner was in a poor state of repair. Its original purpose was to prevent sheep from eating the new saplings. As the trees are now mature, and the sheep no longer graze there, it was thought the fence (and the corresponding NW corner) were redundant. The councillors agreed to look and make a decision at the next meeting.

It was also pointed out that the dry-stone wall boundaries needed some repair work. The boundaries on the North and East sides are owned by a member of the public and the clerk was instructed to write and remind him of his duties. The boundary to the South is owned by the Council; however, the Cricket Club had previously agreed to make repairs as it is their use that caused the damage. Again, the clerk was instructed to write and remind them.

22.8.14 Items for community magazine

GC to remind the publisher to withdraw the advertisement for the clerk's vacancy.

22.8.15 Highway issues

The clerk advised that, following the last meeting, he had contacted Derbyshire CC about the gravel/scree issue at The Pinch. A prompt response had resulted in little action. The clerk would send a reminder.

22.8.16 Correspondence and electronic communication

There were no new matters to discuss

22.8.17 Protection of dry-stone walls

The Chair had noticed some destruction of dry-stone walls in the area. He contacted the Peak Park and was dismayed to establish there is insufficient protection for this iconic sight. He agreed to express the Council's disappointment to Natural England and our District Councillor

22.8.18 Any other business and items for next agenda

None

22.8.19 Date of next meeting

Wednesday, 14th September 2022 at 7.00 pm in the Village Hall

The meeting was declared closed 8.24pm

These minutes remain draft until formal approval at the next parish council meeting. Copies of previous minutes can be viewed at www.alstonefield-pc.org.uk. Hard copies can be made upon request and upon payment of a charge.