

# ALSTONEFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of a meeting of Alstonefield Parish Council was held on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2025 at 7.00 pm in Alstonefield Village Hall.

**Present:** Chair: R Hignett (RH), Vice Chair: G Campbell (GC), C McIlroy, M Newman (MN), R Longdon (RL), District Councillor Edwin Wain (EW), together with the Clerk, S Dartnell (SD). There were no members of the public present.

**30.04.1 Apologies:** S Jeffery (SJ), A Hayes (AH) - attended to deposit the car parking money.

## **30.04.2 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.

## **30.04.3 Declarations of personal and prejudicial interest of councillors related to published agenda**

MN declared an interest in relation to decision for Lengthsman contract.

## **30.04.4 Clerk's Report and matters arising**

The Clerk reported back on the actions taken following the previous meeting:

Auditor meeting of 11 April and AGAR form completed successfully. Auditor report suggested setting aside funds for election costs. Councillors discussed and asked clerk to investigate.

## **30.04.5 Items to/from the District Councillor**

EW – Current discussions focus on Devolution of Local Government. EW gave some further information that the next election will be 2028. Likely to result in further workload for Parish Councils. Nothing further to report. EW mentioned that the Councillors Allowance is available for the PC to consider an application.

## **30.04.6 Planning matters, decision notices and appeals**

NP/SM/0425/0378 at Old Vicarage, Church Street, Alstonefield - Listed Building consent - Removal of first floor W.C, re-opening former doorway, adding shower room and associated works. Councillors discussed - No comment to make.

NP/SM/0425/0392 at Rose Cottage, The Rakes, Alstonefield –" Variation to granted planning permission for a garden room from painted timber to "Residence Collection R9" timber alternative UPVC product, shall be painted in a recessive colour to match the existing, and shall be maintained throughout the lifetime of the development." Councillors discussed and noted that the rest of the property is already UPVC and this elevation is at the rear and won't be seen. No objections.

There were no new decision notices or appeals to consider.

## **30.04.7 Financial matters - items of expenditure and income**

a. 2024/5 Financial Report had been circulated by the clerk and approved by auditor earlier in the month. Signed off by Chair, AGAR signed by Chair. Report from Auditor signed by chair.

First instalment of the Precept £5125 has been received.

The following payments were approved:	£	+VAT
April Clerk Salary (£299.70) and Expenses (£3.49)	£303.19	
May Clerk Salary (£299.70) and Expenses (£3.49)	£303.19	
SPCA 2025/26 Subscription	£95.51	
Ford Partnerships Payroll services 2023-4 and 2024-5**	£320.00	£64.00
Steve Billings Lengthsman Invoice April 14o of 280 hrs	£224.00	
Duncan Scroggs Playing Field mowing (6 cuts Mar/Apr)	£600.00	
Kim Squires Audit fee	£201.00	
	(1909.89)	

\*\* note this is for 2 years as it was not invoiced in 2023/4

Car park monies had kindly been collected by AH in the sum of £175.15 There were no other receipts in the period.

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

£3597.68 in the current account and £18,756.17 in the deposit account (*including interest of £21.10 for Mar, £18.79 for April*).

RoSPA have confirmed the play equipment annual inspection will take place in May at a cost £80 + VAT.

Insurance Renewal quote from Clear Councils £499.02 (up from £448 last year). Due in June – Clerk to seek additional quote for comparison and revisit cover required.

Clerk has chased Village Hall for room hire – no invoice in the last year and incorrect invoice received. Clerk has detailed what is believed to be owed (9\*£14 - £126.00) and awaiting updated invoice.

Clerk to investigate applying for Leaden Boot Grant and check Car boot sale dates with Cath.

Sale of unused parish machinery will be arranged by AH for auction on 15 June. RH to confirm details to AH in early June for cataloguing.

**Playing Field hire charges** which were discussed. The Lost in the Hills charge CIC will be £100 per day along with conditions that cars can be left overnight but no overnight sleeping.

Natwest Community Account Debit Card – GC suggested that this could be used to pay for small items rather than reclaim against a personal credit card. Clerk to check the dual authorisation and apply for one if possible.

**Website – cookie compliance software.** GC was talking to Richard Butler about the website cookie compliance system software. Maximum number of hits allowed for the free software has been exceeded and APC are now being asked to pay approx. £11.50 per month for this element of the website. Councillors discussed and agreed to pay this.

#### **30.04.8 Items for Community Magazine & Future of Parish Magazine**

Clerk submitted items in relation to reporting Potholes and the affordable housing at Hartington which were included in the April issue of the Parish Magazine

GC asked that the future of the village magazine be discussed. Current editor will be stepping down from June. Councillors discussed how communications may continue. Councillors were tasked with looking at what other parishes do to seek ideas for discussion at the June meeting.

#### **30.04.9 Highways Issues**

EW had discussed potholes SCC and it was noted that a large number have been filled. A retaining wall at Ecton is being repaired and there is a road closure.

*2 These Minutes remain draft until ratified at the next meeting*

#### **30.04.10 Village Green Registration Status**

GC escalated this to the Chief Executive of SCC and received a response in April which was shared with the Councillors. All records have been updated and there are 4 Village Greens registered in the Parish.

#### **30.04.11 Lengthsman Work 2025/6**

Responses to the invitation for the work were received from two applicants. The Council ratified the decision to place a new Lengthsman contract taken virtually at the start of the month.

Invoice for the £400 Lengthsman Grant for 2025/6 has been submitted by clerk to AES.

#### **30.04.12 Correspondence**

Councillors discussed the issue raised by a parishioner in relation to dog poo which it was noted happens everywhere. Some is also felt to be likely to be from wild animals. Chair will put up a new sign by the gate.

#### **30.04.13 Any other business**

**Sign re overnight camping** – clerk had a quote for £40 + VAT each. Councillors discussed whether these will be best use of community funds. People don't make take any notice of the existing signs so will not go ahead with this.

**Asset Register** - Archford moor tip – land registration. Haven't had any update. Clerk to chase.

#### **30.04.16 Date of next meeting**

Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> June 2025 7pm in the Village Hall – This will incorporate the Annual Meeting.

The meeting was declared closed at 20:27

