

ALSTONEFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

The Clerk to the Council- Liz Court, tel. no: 01538 702077

c/o The Village Hall, Alstonefield, Ashbourne, Derbyshire. DE6 2FR

Councillors: Nick Bonsall (310262). Dot Griffin (310249).
Frank Lipp (310302). Noel Peat (310000). Cathy Reavy (310125).
Kevin Stockton (310347) Rupert Hignett (310389)

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 21st May 2014 at Alstonefield Village Hall.

Present: Cllr D Griffin (Chair), Cllr C Reavy, Cllr R Hignett, Cllr F Lipp, and Liz Court (Clerk)

3 Members of the public were also present.

Apologies: Cllr N Bonsall, Cllr N Peat & Cllr K Stockton – received and accepted

AGM Agenda

1 Election of Chair and Vice Chair Councillor Lipp nominated Councillor Griffin as Chair – this was seconded by Cllr Reavy and carried unanimously. Councillor Griffin accepted the post. Councillor Peat was nominated by Councillor Hignett and seconded by the Chair, carried unanimously and he has subsequently accepted the post of Vice Chair.

It was noted that the workload of these two posts could be shared amongst other members and whilst the Chair and Vice Chair are happy to remain in post for the coming year, that some items should be delegated and succession planning undertaken for a change of personnel next year.

2 Election of Officers - all other officers remained the same

3 Apologies – none

4 Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held on 15th May 2013 –ratification on 26th June 2013 was noted

Chairman's Report

Council Membership has again remained constant over the last twelve months with a full Council.

Liz Court continues to support the Council in her role as clerk, which is greatly appreciated by Alstonefield Parish Council

We currently have two lengthsmen, who put in considerable effort to keep the Parish looking good; I know we all appreciate the work they do.

The Accounts for year ended 31st March, 2014 have been approved and signed off by Alan Toplis our Accountant.

SCC Highways Team work helps support our lengthsmen and gets extra jobs done around the Parish.

Community Paths Scheme and Peak Park Ranger Service- both these services help maintain and improve our footpaths in the Parish.

The allotment part of Homestead Garden has been a success over the past few years, with new tenants taking over from the start of April this year.

The Play Area has been successfully re-surfaced by volunteers, also some repairs to the slide have been carried out, this work was completed in time to re-open the Play Area in April.

Playing Field – A new mower was purchased at a cost of £3,500.00 exc. VAT which has proved to be invaluable in keeping the Playing Field well maintained. The Cricket Club are contributing financially to assist with additional mowing cost. Various events like the car boot fairs, cricket matches, annual wakes celebrations, additional parking for Leaden Boot and Manifold Folk Gathering use the Playing Field.

Honesty Box income for the last financial year was in total £234.58 made up as follows:-

Toilet Car Park (half share with Peak Park) = £154.13

Playing Field Car Park £80.45 down on last year due to vandalism, only back in place from September, 2013 onwards.

Last year's Honesty Box total income was £295.74 so down by £61.16

Website – Continues to provide a valuable service covering Community Events, Groups and Clubs and listing local Businesses and local services.

Over the past year The Village Hall has installed a good sized commercial cooker and ventilation system in the kitchen area. The main hall, kitchen and lobby have been re-decorated. The biggest events of the year to benefit the Village Hall were – Manifold Folk Gathering last September and another successful Leaden Boot Challenge.

Newsletter- Continues to provide an excellent service to our community.

Leaden Boot Challenge – This event continues to be very successful, generating money for our Parish.

Alstonefield Educational Trust – Young people in the Community can apply each year to the Trust for grant help towards their education.

Council meetings are open to the public. Members of the public are also entitled to see the reports presented, if these are not subsequently published as part of the minutes and therefore automatically in the public record. Minutes and reports can be viewed by appointment with the Clerk and copies made, upon request, on payment of a charge.

Alstonefield St Peter's Bell Ringers and Alstonefield Newspaper Club, these are just two of the many groups the late Brian Ross gave us a report on each year, he was always happy to give us a report on behalf of the groups he was involved in, keeping us up to date on each group's progress over the past twelve months. Brian was also employed in the past as lengthsmen to the Parish Council, a job which he did with much enthusiasm, he will be greatly and sadly missed by the Parish Council.

As there was no other business, the meeting was closed at 7.18pm and was followed by the May Parish Council Meeting.

Parish Council Meeting

1. **Public Forum** – A member of the public present spoke regarding plans to change the electrical supply at the Lode Mill end of the village. The previous system is not sufficient to supply the properties and therefore Western Power are looking to take the power cable underground. This work will require some work to the road below Lode House and will necessitate some road closures – the timing and duration of which will be notified in due course. Plans will be submitted to PPPA and will come to the Parish Council in due course. There were some questions regarding technicalities, but it was agreed that full consideration will be given to the plans when they are submitted. The member of the public was thanked for all the information that he had given.
2. **Minutes of Previous Meeting** – agreed and signed. One matter arising was raised by the Clerk who had received quotations for the renewal of the insurance cover. The cheaper quotation was submitted by Aon and it was agreed unanimously to move the policy to Aon once the proposal was checked to ensure appropriate coverage and to raise the appropriate cheque under Finance later in the same meeting.
Clerk to action
3. **Declarations of Interest** –. There were no interests declared.
4. **Planning Matters** –Town End Farm, Lode Lane, Alstonefield – resubmission of the application for the replacement of existing residential caravan with permanent agricultural workers dwelling –whilst there were no objections to the development concerns were raised regarding access and egress due to the lack of passing places and intensification of traffic on the lane which is also heavily used by pedestrians as well as the 11 landowners who access their property using this route currently. The Clerk was asked to pass on these concerns and to request that Highways are informed. It was also requested that this application go to committee rather than being decided under delegated powers to ensure full discussion.
Clerk to action
5. **Financial Matters**
 - 5.1 **Audit** –The Clerk reported on the Audit completed on 19th May with Alan Toplis. All paperwork was completed for the external Audit and with some date amendments to the documents. This was checked by all Councillors present. The Clerk will distribute final copies once the incorrect dates are changed and the full paperwork submitted to Grant Thornton. **Clerk to action**
 - 5.2 **Payments** – Clerks wages for 1st Quarter - **£545.90**
Aon insurance (as above) - **£320.12**
 - 5.3 **Monies Received**
 - 5.3.1 - Car Park Honesty Boxes
Playing Field Car Park - £22.85 Toilet Car Park- £46.81
6. **Playing Field Matters**
 - 6.1 Play Area Safety Check Confirmation – this has restarted but the paperwork was not available for this meeting.
 - 6.2 Car Park – honesty box – report on any monies collected prior to May meeting.
Playing Field Car Park - £38.41 Toilet Car Park- £48.53
£75.00 Car Boot Sale Hire for 27/4 was also received.
Clerk to bank
7. **General Parish Matters**
 - 7.1 Website training – Cllr Reavy reported that two dates have been set for sessions in Village Hall on the evening of 11th June and the afternoon of 12th June. She reported that this training would allow local groups to update their own sections on the website. It was noted that there were increasing technical issues with the website and that a budget should be set as part of the next year's precept calculations to allow for additional technical support as required or a review of the current set up.
 - 7.3 Community Paths Initiative bids for 2014/15 – It was agreed that there were no major projects identified. The work at Pen Close is still ongoing and some new stone is need for a stile on Gratton

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Lane. It was also noted that much work had been done through direct conversations with Rose Clark as ranger.

7.4 Width Restriction Sign for Millway Lane – a copy of the signage ordered was discussed. It is expected to be delivered shortly and the Chair will put the invoice for £141.80 through at the next meeting.

7.5 Policies for review :

[Formal Complaints Policy Approved April 2009](#) - No amends required

[Freedom of Information Policy Approved April 2009](#) – amended

[Risk Assessment appendix i Approved October 2008](#)

[Risk Assessment – appendix-ii Approved October 2008](#)

[Risk Assessment-appendix-iii Approved October 2008](#)

[Risk Assessment – appendix-iv Approved October 2008](#)

[Risk assessment – Overview Approved October 2008](#)

[Financial Regulations Approved May 2009](#) – amended

[Standing Orders – Approved May 2009](#) –amended

It was noted that this work is still ongoing and that this will be discussed again at the July meeting.

8 Correspondence in – All items were noted.

9 Any Other Business

Councillor Reavy reported that the cow parsley on the verge of the A515 is obstructing the view for drivers exiting Green Lane towards Ashbourne. The Clerk was asked to report this to DCC and ask that it be cut back as soon as possible. **Clerk to action**

Car Boot Sale signs were also discussed.

Congratulations were passed on to the Chair and the Clerk on their completion of the Leadenboot Challenge the previous weekend. The success of the event was noted.

Councillor Reavy gave her apologies for the next meeting.

Date of Next Meeting – 9th July 2014