

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 30th October 2013 at Alstonefield Village Hall.

Present: Cllr D Griffin, Cllr N Peat (Chair), Cllr C Reavy, Cllr N Bonsall, Cllr F Lipp, Cllr K Stockton and Liz Court (Clerk)

2 members of the public were also present.

45 **Apologies** Councillor Hignett

46 **Public Forum** – The matter of the undercutting of grass verges due to larger agricultural vehicles was raised – the clerk had had no response to the report and was asked to chase this matter.

Clerk to action

There was clarification sought on the removal of the Sunday skip service and this was discussed in some depth. This led to discussion over the recycling sites that can be used locally.

47 **Minutes of Previous Meeting** – agreed and signed

48 **Declarations of Interest** –Councillor Peat declared an interest in the matter of overhanging trees in Milldale. He took no part in the following discussion. Councillor Stockton declared interests in the matters of Homestead Gardens and the Oak Post opposite Green Farm. He took no part in those discussions. There were no other interests declared.

49 **Planning Matters** – Upper Hurst Farm, an application for an array of 40m x 8m ground mounted solar PV panels was discussed. The Clerk had extended the consultation date to take the date of the meeting into account. The Clerk was asked to respond with no material objections but a request that the development be kept to this size and number as per the application. **Clerk to action**

50 **Financial Matters – the quarterly batch of monthly bank statements were checked by the Council and accepted in preparation for the clerk’s meeting with the internal auditor in November.**

50.1 **Payments** – Clerks wages for 2nd Quarter £516.94 and Lengthsman’s wages and expenses £843.13 as ratified at the September meeting -**raised**.
Expenses for Councillor Reavy of £17.46 – **ratified and raised**
Ian Redfern – lengthsman’s invoice £124.00, mowing invoice £435.00 plus clarification of extra invoicing with regard to the Cricket Club of £86.25 – **ratified and raised**
Councillor Griffin’s expenses for postage – £17.70 – **ratified and raised**
Grant Thornton external audit fee £120.00 – **ratified and raised**

50.2 **Monies Received**

50.2.1 - Car Park Honesty Boxes

Playing Field Car Park - £31.34 Toilet Car Park- £47.92

50.2.2 –Car Boot Money**£70.00** banked from 18/8

50.2.3 – Income from Manifold Folk Festival use of playing field for camping **£140.40**

50.3 **Precepting meeting date agreed** as Monday 25th November 2013 at 7.00pm at Wesleyan House

51 **Playing Field Matters**

51.1 Play Area Safety Check Confirmation – The folder was noted to reflect that the play area is currently closed pending work on the surface.

51.2 Play area – surface and improving equipment for older children – following a site meeting, the Parish Council decided to replace the play area surface, which has reached the end of its useful life. Various options are being considered, including play bark, and to contain costs it is likely that working party sessions will be organised. After a hot summer, the cracking in the surface has become significantly worse and now represents a trip hazard. For this reason, the Play Area has been closed temporarily. The surface to be dealt with is approximately 100 x 25 feet and various quotations are to be sought. The Clerk was asked to contact PDNPA to ask if they had a supplier for play bark who could be approached. It was noted that there may be grant aid available through Councillor Edwin Wain towards this work.

51.3 Playing Field on-going maintenance folder - an entry will be made reflecting the short term closure.

- 51.3 Car Park – honesty box – report on any monies collected prior to October meeting
Playing Field Car Park - £17.18 Toilet Car Park- £46.12
£70.00 car boot hire for 29th September 2013
Clerk to bank

52 General Parish Matters

- 52.2 Feedback from Manifold Folk festival – Feedback from Councillors and Parishioners was received. The feeling seemed to be very positive about the event and the clerk was asked to write expressing the Council's thanks for the good organisation and the way that the event was handled.

52.3 Policies for review :

[Formal Complaints Policy Approved April 2009](#) - Cllr Hignett
[Freedom of Information Policy Approved April 2009](#) – Cllr Reavy gave to Clerk
[Risk Assessment appendix i Approved October 2008](#) - Cllrs Bonsall and Peat
[Risk Assessment – appendix-ii Approved October 2008](#)- Cllrs Bonsall and Peat
[Risk Assessment-appendix-iii Approved October 2008](#)- Cllrs Bonsall and Peat
[Risk Assessment – appendix-iv Approved October 2008](#)- Cllrs Bonsall and Peat
[Risk assessment – Overview Approved October 2008](#)- Cllrs Bonsall and Peat
[Financial Regulations Approved May 2009](#) – Cllr Reavy gave to Clerk
[Standing Orders – Approved May 2009](#) –Clerk has reviewed

The Clerk was asked to amend those three policies dealt with and the rest will be looked at in time for the next meeting.

- 52.4 Website Update from Councillor Reavy – it was agreed that the website Forum is to be removed with immediate effect following consultation and after inappropriate posts from outside the UK and the difficulties experienced with the registration plug-in. Councillor Reavy to action and to submit appropriate item for the newsletter to the Clerk. **Clerk to action**
- 52.5 Lengthsmans' duties for review - One of the Lengthsmen has now finished his role due to moving away from the area. It was proposed and agreed unanimously that Ian Redfern be approached to pick up some of the work, thus increasing his hours. The Chair offered to speak with Mr Redfern regarding this and to ask for a copy of his public liability insurance for the records and to then let the Clerk know what amendments should be made to his contract as a result. The Clerk was asked to write to Peter Frost to request a copy of his public liability insurance documentation. **Clerk to action**
- 52.6 Wall around Green Well – it was agreed that the Chair would ask Ian Redfern to do this work.
- 52.7 Homestead Garden– The tenant has notified the Council that he is looking to quit over the next 18 months or so. It was agreed that an advert would be placed in the next newsletter to see if there are any local residents who are interested in taking the plot on. Councillor Stockton offered to write the advert and forward this to the Clerk. **Clerk to action**
- 52.8 Oak Post on green opposite Green Farm – This was knocked down by a lorry on 20th September. The firm was traced and the repair has now been made with a contribution from the firm.
- 52.9 Overhanging trees in Milldale – Councillor Peat reported concerns over the tree branches now covering the full width of the residents parking area. There is a fear that falling branches could damage cars parked there. It was suggested that a working party should be arranged with advice from the tree officer sought in order to trim the trees appropriately. Councillor Peat offered to arrange this.

- 53 **Correspondence in** – Councillor Stockton offered to try to attend the Hartington Surgery Patient Group AGM, all other items were noted.

- 54 **Any Other Business** – The Clerk was asked to contact SCC to see if the self- set trees on the verges from Hopedale past the Watts Russell to Milldale could be cut back now and it was also noted that from Hulme End to Ecton needs doing too. **Clerk to action**

The Clerk was also asked to write to the National Trust at Ilam Hall to request the cutting back of overhanging trees towards The Pinch which have caused complaints as cars and especially larger vehicles must move into the middle of the road due to the branches. **Clerk to action**

Councillor Lipp reported concerns from residents regarding parking on bends in the parish. This was discussed in depth but no solutions put forward.

It was noted that during the recent heavy rains, there did not seem to have been any flooding issues at Hopedale or outside Wesleyan House now that the work has been done at those sites.

Councillor Stockton distributed menus and information from the Staffordshire Knot.

- 55 **Date of Next Meeting - Precepting meeting on 25th November 2013 and the next full Parish Council meeting on 11th December 2013.**