**Report of the Parish Council Chairman for the Annual Parish Meeting to be held on Wednesday 11th June 2025**

Councillors who served Alstonefield Parish Council in the last year are as follows:

Rupert Hignett, Gordon Campbell, Alan Hayes, Charlie McIllroy, Sarah Jeffery, Mike Newman, Rebecca Longdon.

The last annual Parish Meeting was held here on Thursday 30th May 2024.

There have been some changes in our Lengthsmen team this year. Sadly, Peter Frost is no longer able continue with his duties following two lengthy spells in hospital. Colin Lovatt has also relinquished his position. We have now taken on the services of Steve Billings from Leek who will take on both roles. Duncan Scroggs will continue to mow the playing field.

The play area continues to receive repairs and maintenance over the year. It has recently undergone its annual inspection by ROSPA which has highlighted some repairs needed.

The Playing Field is also well used by groups and individuals for events such as cricket matches, car boot sales, cycling events and the Leaden Boot which took place on Sunday 18th May this year. The Chair and Councillor Hayes completed the challenge in slightly easier conditions than last year.

The village website continues to be well used and thanks are due to the administrators.

Sadly, the village newsletter has ceased being published as from the end of May due to no one wishing to take on the role of editor. Our thanks go to Tricia for all her efforts over the years in keeping the parishes informed on all matters. If there is anyone willing to take on the job, I’m sure it would be much appreciated.

The Village Hall continues to host events such as concerts, dances etc as well as being a “warm hub” in the winter months.

The Alstonefield Educational Trust continues to support local youngsters with grant aid towards education.

Councillor E Wain of SMDC has attended out Parish Council Meetings when possible and offer his help and support for much of our work. As you may be aware, there is a proposal to merge our local authorities into one based in Stoke. We are monitoring this closely as it may result in greater responsibilities at Parish level.

A summary of the Parish Council’s receipts and payments will be discussed as part of the audit paperwork.

I would like to thank Gordon Campbell for his hard work as Vice Chair. I would also like to thank my fellow Parish Councillors for their assistance and input over the last year.

**Rupert Hignett**

**June 2025**