

ALSTONEFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of Alstonefield Parish Council was held on Wednesday 9th March 2022 at 7.30 pm in Alstonefield Village Hall.

Present: Chairman, Mr G Campbell, Vice Chair Person, Mrs R McIntyre and councillors: Mr A Hayes, Ms C Osborne and Mr R Hignett, the clerk, Mrs S Hampson and District Councillor, Mr E Wain. There were two members of the public in attendance for part of the meeting.

22.3.1 Apologies and attendance register:

Apologies had been received in advance of the meeting from Cllr. N Bonsall. Councillors present completed the attendance register.

Resolved: to accept representations from a member of the public regarding a planning application to be discussed later in the agenda for the erection of a shed on the playing field. The member of the public then left the meeting.

22.3.2 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting had been published and forwarded to members of the parish council in advance of the meeting.

Resolved: To accept the minutes as a true record of proceedings with a few minor amendments. These were ratified by the Chairman, Cllr. G Campbell.

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

Cllr. Hayes and Cllr. Ms Osborne declared an interest in the planning application to be discussed regarding the erection of a shed on the playing field (for Alstonefield Cricket Club) but to make representations and remain in the meeting.

22.3.4 Public speaking

There was one member of the public in attendance for this section.

22.3.5 Items from District Councillor

The £300 monies from the District Councillor grant application, previously completed by the clerk, had now been received. As referred to in previous minutes, the grant will be used for defibrillator consumables. District Councillor, Mr Wain advised that he had a further £20 grant which the parish council could utilise. The grant form was partially completed by the District Councillor and further completed by the clerk in the meeting to assist with financial support for the parish clean-up day. District Councillor, Mr Wain reported that council tax will increase. Some concerns were expressed about people going into poverty.

22.3.6 Emergency Village Planning

Chairman, Mr Campbell had no further update for the meeting. Cllr. Ms Osborne provided some information from her research, including the availability of standard plans, down to parish level, and area resilience officers.

Resolved: Cllr. Ms Osborne to forward extracts of her research concerned with parish level. Cllr. McIlroy to carry out additional research to support emergency village planning and to report at the next meeting.

22.3.7 Planning matters and decisions

NP/SM/0222/0205 Erection of shed to store equipment and materials (for Alstonefield Cricket Club)
A notice 1 had been issued to the parish council and 2 supporting letters had been received from the cricket club. A further letter had been received from another resident raising the possible need for storage for other items on the playing field. This was discussed.

Resolved: to support the above application for the erection of the shed for the cricket club.

NP/SM/0222/0170 Priory Farm, The Rakes, Alstonefield
Listed building consent – stabilising works to secure the building fabric and structure.

Resolved: to support the above application

A planning decision notice was granted for Alstonefield Hall listed building consent, repair and reinstatement of the east gable.

22.3.8 Consultation - Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) on Affordable Housing for Staffordshire Moorlands District Council

Staffordshire Moorlands District Council (SMDC) is seeking comments on the above which will set out guidance on affordable housing, open space, education, health etc. Comments had been requested by 7th April 2022.

Resolved: to not forward any comments to the above item.

22.3.9 Financial matters (items of expenditure and income), lengthsman, the clerk, maintenance, car parks, Alstonefield Cricket Club, consideration of financial contribution to community newsletter/magazine

Resolved: Following clarification after the last meeting, to pay the sum of £50 to assist with the production the community magazine

Cq 1454	S Hampson	March clerk's salary	£199.95
DD	HMRC	Income tax	£50
Cq 1455	Community Mag.	Donation to production of magazine (Section 137)	£50
Cq 1456	S Hampson	Reimbursement for new file and postage	£8.39
Cq 1457	Mr I Redfern	Lengthsman duties (invoice 510)	£88
Cq 1458	Mr I Redfern	Mower service and parts (invoice 511)	£162.64

Mr Redfern had forwarded a communication advising that his hourly rate would increase in connection with mowing the playing field. There was no request to increase the hourly rate associated with lengthsman duties.

Resolved: to pay the increased hourly rate to Mr Redfern, as detailed above.

The NALC clerk's salary award had been received backdated to 1 April 2021 (in this case to the date of the start of the new clerk's contract). The clerk's pay awards are linked to NALC rates and terms and conditions.

Resolved: to accept the pay award as detailed above. This will be dealt with by the council's payroll company.

Car park monies had kindly been collected by Cllr. Mr Hayes in the sums of £45.62 and £39.28

22.3.10 Bank account signatories and arrangement of direct debits for regular items, including the website

Chairman, Mr Campbell and Cllr Bonsall had completed necessary sections on line to arrange for the addition of Vice Chairman, Cllr. Mrs McIntyre and Cllr. Mr Hignet as authorised signatories. Mr Hignet confirmed that he had received confirmation to become a signatory.

The clerk had previously advised members that she had successfully completed documentation with an organisation to receive £400 towards the lengthsman's costs back to March 2021. Precept documentation had been submitted to SMDC and will be received in 2 instalments after 1st April.

Chairman, Mr Campbell reported that he has now taken over the management of the domain name for the website. Cheques will not be accepted for payment. The invoice will detail the parish council's name.

Resolved: to reimburse Chairman, Mr Campbell for future payments associated with the website.

Section 137 limit has now been increased to £8.82 per elector.

22.3.11 Queen's Diamond Jubilee

Cllr. Ms Osborne questioned why the parish council was not taking the lead with celebrations to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Chairman, Cllr. Mr Campbell provided background to this and that Alstonefield Village Hall committee will be organising some events along with other village groups. The clerk had recently ordered a box of mugs to commemorate the jubilee and these had been received by the Chairman.

Resolved: Chairman, Cllr. Mr Campbell to attend a forthcoming jubilee meeting scheduled at the village hall, a few days after the parish council meeting and will report back at the April parish council meeting.

Correspondence had been received from The Royal British Legion regarding planting a tree as part of the Queen's green canopy and displaying a veteran-made plaque. Information on beacon events had also been received. Members discussed beacons, possible locations, limitations of land designated as Special Scientific Interest and health and safety issues. Cllr. Ms Osborne reported that Warslow Silver Band will play towards the end of June.

Cllr. Ms Osborne provided an illustration of a wooden bench, with a carved inscription to mark the Queen's Jubilee. Cllr. Ms Osborne advised that she intended to raise funds for this bench.

Resolved: to grant permission to site a commemorative bench on the playing field.

Resolved: to report information regarding the Queen's Jubilee at the next meeting.

22.3.12 Parish clean up day

This will take place on 26th March. A risk assessment had been prepared. Some areas for attention were discussed including pruning some over hanging trees.

Resolved: Chairman, Cllr. Mr Campbell to produce posters to publicise the event.

22.3.13 Benches

In addition to the jubilee bench referred to under agenda item 22.3.11, Cllr. Ms Osborne requested permission to site a memorial bench near Harpur Crewe Cottages on the grass verge. This is an existing memorial bench requiring alternative relocation. The parish council members had no objection as it was not a new memorial bench but acknowledged that the site referred to would require permission from the housing association. Mr Hayes advised that strimming/mowing around benches would take additional time.

Resolved: Cllr. Ms Osborne to make enquiries with the housing association.

22.3.15 War Memorial maintenance

Cllr. Ms Osborne had been in contact with the monumental mason who had previously undertaken work on the War Memorial. The contractor will revisit the memorial to provide a quote for repairs and will clean the memorial free of charge. The soft stone is difficult to clean. It not listed structure but lies within the curtilage of the church yard. Minor repairs have been undertaken by the church with bigger repair costs being shared between the church and parish council. Significant expenditure may require grant funding.,

22.3.15 Playing Field, Cricket fixtures, car boot sales, Leaden Boot Challenge, ROSPA inspection

The clerk had forwarded details of playing field bookings to date, including car boots sales and cricket fixtures. The Leaden Boot Challenge will take place this year on 22nd May and the clerk had received a request to use the playing field car park to provide parking facilities for the event. Details of insurance for the event had also been forwarded to councillors, in advance of the meeting. In addition, a request from a resident had also been received to use the field for wedding purposes, up to 23:00.

Resolved: to approve the use of the playing field car park for the Leaden Boot Challenge and the playing field for the private wedding celebration. The parish council to waive charges for the Leaden Boot Challenge due to the charitable nature of the event.

Resolved: to amend the playing field booking form to detail all events must cease by 23:00 with no overnight parking.

22.3.16 Future meeting dates

These had been prepared by the clerk and discussed by councillors.

Resolved: to publicise these on the website.

22.3.17 Items for the Community Magazine

Resolved: to place an article in the magazine advising that the Homestead Garden is to be let and for interested parties to see the noticeboard for details and to contact the parish council.

22.3.18 Highway issues, pot holes

The clerk had previously reported issues near Lode Mill to Derbyshire County Council (DCC). DCC had not attended to this matter by the time of the meeting. Cllr. Mr Hignet reported pot holes near the bridge too. A resident had reported overgrown hedging on both sides from Alstonefield, past Paddock Farm to Hulme End, causing visibility issues. Cllr. Mr Hayes reported that some of this issue had been attended to on the day of the meeting. A road closure will take place in Sheen.

Resolved: to contact DCC and Staffordshire County Council about the highway issues above.

20s plenty for Staffordshire information had been received and distributed to councillors in advance of the meeting.

Resolved: not to pursue parish council involvement with the 20s Plenty Campaign.

22.3.19 Correspondence and electronic communication

Details had been forwarded to members in advance of the meeting and items not already covered by the agenda included: SPCA Bulletins and training events including chairmanship training, SMDC planning applications committee, Redlynch Leisure playground improvements, SPCA bulletins, Fenny Bentley Parish Council regarding village planters, civility and respect project, Staffordshire Moorlands parish assembly, parish member vacancy on Peak District National Park Authority board. Chairman, Cllr Mr Campbell had investigated accessibility for the website following a point raised at the interim audit.

22.3.20 Any other business and items for next agenda

Website accessibility, model standing orders, internal audit, bank account, War Memorial. Additional items to be compiled by the clerk.

22.3.21 Date of next meeting

Wednesday, 20th April 2022 at 7.30 pm

Confidential items

There were no confidential items to discuss

The meeting was declared closed 9.30 pm

Mrs S Hampson
Clerk
Alstonefield Parish Council

12th March 2022

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