

# 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 7<sup>th</sup> August 2013 at Alstonefield Village Hall.

Present: County Councillor Gill Heath (arrived at 7.40pm) Cllr D Griffin(Chair), Cllr N Peat, Cllr K Stockton(arrived at 7.50pm), Cllr R Hignett, Cllr C Reavy, Cllr F Lipp and Liz Court (Clerk)

1 member of the public was also present.

23 Apologies - Councillor Bonsall

24 Public Forum – nothing was raised by the public present

25 Minutes of Previous Meeting - agreed and signed

26 Declarations of Interest – nothing was declared

27 Planning Matters – nothing received

28 Financial Matters

28.1 Payments

28.1.1 Playsafety Limited – RoSPA Annual Inspection - £68.00 plus £13.60 VAT totalling £81.60

28.1.2 Ian Redfern – Lenthsmen's wages and expenses £177.50 wages plus £14.19 sundries

Clerk to action

28.2 End of month reconciliations for April, May and June were checked and signed off. The Clerk reported that she will make an interim claim for VAT once the cost of the new mower clears through the bank account.

Clerk to action

28.3 Monies Received

28.3.1 - Car Park Honesty Boxes

Playing Field Car Park - £Nil Toilet Car Park- £42.31

Playing Field Car Park Honesty Box now repaired and both boxes' doors have been re-inforced.

28.3.2 – Car Boot Sales 2x £70.00 from 30<sup>th</sup> June and 28<sup>th</sup> July to be banked

Clerk to action

29 Playing Field Matters

29.1 Play Area Safety Check Confirmation – last checked on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2013

29.2 Playing Field on-going maintenance folder - checked. Nothing new had been added. It was agreed that the recent work to the car park honesty boxes would be entered into the record.

29.3 RoSPA Play Area Safety Inspection report dated 28<sup>th</sup> May 2013 – findings and recommendations were reviewed. It was agreed that the caps and other small items would be dealt with as they are held in stock. The other items were noted – much of which was related to the wet pour surface condition.

29.4 Car Park – honesty boxes – report on any monies collected prior to August meeting  
Playing Field Car Park - £5.00 Toilet Car Park- £32.77

Clerk to bank

Discussion followed regarding the positioning of the boxes and the potential to trim back the area around the box at the playing field to improve visibility. It was felt that this may reduce the potential for vandalism.

30 General Parish Matters

30.1 Local PC Contact sheets were distributed by the Clerk

30.2 Forum on the website. After discussion, it was agreed that a request would go into the next newsletter for anyone who wishes to come forward to monitor this element of the website due to recent spamming of the facility with advertising. The forum is not well used and if there is no public wish to keep it, this section of the website will be discontinued at the end of the year. However, if there is local demand to retain it, perhaps a re-launch and some promotion would increase usage.

30.3 Meetings dates for 2014 were decided as 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 5<sup>th</sup> March, 16<sup>th</sup> April, 28<sup>th</sup> May, 9<sup>th</sup> July, 3<sup>rd</sup> September, 15<sup>th</sup> October and 26<sup>th</sup> November 2014. There will be an additional

precepting meeting held in November 2013 as usual - date to be confirmed in due course. The Clerk was asked to book the above dates with the Village Hall. **Clerk to action**

**30.4 Updates on Highways works** - flooding issues and resurfacing were given. The work that has been completed was discussed and the quality felt to be good. The Council were grateful for the recent work done resurfacing and clearing drains. There was a query regarding some of the work done on Lode Lane which had been carried out on private land without the consultation of the landowner despite a request for the land owner to be contacted when the work was scheduled. Councillor Gill Heath apologised for this oversight and said that she would speak to the officer concerned.

Councillor Heath offered to pass on a report regarding potholes from Wesleyan House towards the village and towards Hulme End. Issues with drainage at The Pinch where heavy rain caused flooding which was washing the path away was reported and the Clerk was asked to report this to the Eaton and Alsop Parish Council. **Clerk to action**

**30.5 Community Skip Service** – Councillor Heath gave background on the current service and the cost of this. Staffordshire County Council will be ceasing meeting the cost of this service from the end of August in order to cut costs. Only two villages in the county have this service currently – Alstonefield on a weekly basis and Longnor fortnightly. The weekly service costs £424 per week for Alstonefield and therefore has a direct cost of over £20,000 per annum which is currently cross charged by SMDC to SCC. SCC then dispose of the waste free of charge. Since this service was introduced, the recycling facilities county wide and the household collections have increased in their scope. The opening hours at the recycling centre at Leek have also increased. It was agreed that this cost could not be met by the Parish Council as it would require a tripling of the precept charged to residents – not all of whom use the service. The Council had concerns regarding the potential for fly tipping and making sure that local residents are aware that the service will be ceasing from the end of August. Councillor Heath will look into the advertising and to ask about the provision for CCTV should fly tipping become a problem. It was noted that additional bins for residents can be purchased for a one off cost. Longnor have also decided to cease their service but to hold the offer made by SCC for free disposal if they decide at a later date to pay for a skip. It was suggested that Alstonefield accept the same offer for the future if required. The Clerk was asked to clarify some of the details regarding additional bins and to write a piece for the next newsletter. Councillor Heath thanked the Parish Council. **Clerk to action**

**30.6 Updates on Highways Issues (wish list) from Councillor Heath** – Councillor Heath gave the council information regarding the items that had been discussed some months ago with Angela Nutter of SCC. Added to the maintenance listing are issues with signage including the replacement of damaged chevrons and the removal of redundant posts on Lode Lane. Councillor Heath has added the provision of dragons' teeth markings on the road and the cutting back of the vegetation around the 30 mph markers on the Lode Lane Road to her DHP and this work will be scheduled. The NHT is due to attend the parish and the clearing on the drains from Lode Mill down to Milldale will be added to their job sheet if possible. There was a discussion regarding Millway Lane and the request for signage to deter vehicles from following SatNav routes down this lane. There was discussion regarding additional signage such as the lorry with a red line through it. Councillor Heath will request this for the Parish but there may be a wish to avoid roadside clutter or sign proliferation from SCC Highways.

Councillor Heath asked if there was any update regarding the parking place by the Old Cheese Factory, An update was given by Councillor Lipp – a meeting with the planning officers is awaited.

**31 Correspondence in** – all noted

**32 Any Other Business** - Newsletter copy was requested by 23<sup>rd</sup> August - Councillor Reavy will prepare a piece regarding the forum and the Clerk will write regarding the changes in the skip service.

Councillor Lipp gave an update regarding the Manifold Folk Gathering. Toilet facilities have been arranged and the Clerk confirmed that a formal booking form had been sent to the organisers regarding the use of the playing field.

The Clerk reminded the meeting that the policies are due to be reviewed. It was suggested that a list of the policies be put onto the next Agenda and these will be allocated across the Councillors to check and put forward any suggested updates at the following meeting in order to meet the requirements as noted by the auditor. **Clerk to action**

**33 Date of Next Meeting - 18<sup>th</sup> September 2013**

Apologies were noted from Councillors Lipp and Griffin.