

ALSTONEFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of a meeting of Alstonefield Parish Council was held on Wednesday 13th November 2024 at 7.00 pm in Alstonefield Village Hall.

Present: Chair: R Hignett, Vice Chair: G Campbell (GC), S Jeffery (SJ), A Hayes (AH), M Newman (MN) and R Longdon (RL) together with the Clerk, M Jinks and the District Councillor, Edwin Wain (EW). There was also one member of the public present.

24.11.1 Apologies: None received.

24.11.2 Minutes of the previous meeting

The draft minutes of the previous meeting had been published and forwarded to members of the Council in advance of the meeting. These were confirmed as a true record of proceedings and signed by RH.

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

None declared.

24.11.4 Clerk's Report and matters arising

The Clerk reported back on the action that he had taken following the previous meeting.

Having chased up the tenant of the Homestead allotment/garden, she had confirmed that she would not be renewing the lease. It was confirmed that no rectification work was required from her.

The Clerk had received information from Peak District National Park Foundation about the Community Nature Fund. He had forward this to ManiCan who had presented to the PC last month. It was noted that this may be useful for the PC going forward.

The Clerk also confirmed that, with GC's archive assistance, he had submitted a Statement of Truth to the Land Registry in respect of the land at Archford Moor – he is currently waiting to hear back.

24.11.5 Items to/from the District Councillor

EW expressed his disappointment at the new Governments spending strategies.

24.11.6 Planning matters, decision notices and appeals

Applications NP/SM/1024/1038 and 1046 for development at Upper Hurst caravan site were both discussed at length. The Council is concerned about the intensification and over-development of this site; furthermore, it is aware of the history of this site and the worrying trend for retrospective applications. As such, the Clerk was instructed to object to the applications.

Application NP/SM/1024/1133 at The Marsh was discussed. Subject to using matching/sympathetic materials, the Council has no objections.

There were no decisions to notify.

There were no appeals.

24.11.7 Financial matters - items of expenditure and income

Car park monies had kindly been collected by AH in the sum of £70.78.

There were no other receipts in the period.

The following payments were approved:

Herbivore; mowing of playing field	£300.00, no VAT
NamesCo; domain name renewal	£27.59 incl £4.60 VAT

After taking into account the above transactions, the Council had balances of £2,458 in the current account and £21,924 in the deposit account (*including interest of £25.67 for October*).

The Clerk advised that he was waiting for an invoice from the Alstonefield lengthsman.

24.11.8 Connect Fibre installation

Both EW and GC expressed their frustration at the lack of communication from Connect Fibre. GC produced several e-mails he had sent, to which he had little, if any, response. Of particular concern was the area on the road to Hulme End at the bottom of Wetton Hill. The trunking was clearly not buried low enough and had become damaged. In addition, there was waste/soil all over the road. He had managed to meet with representatives of SCC and the main contractor – they both agreed the work was inadequate and a “Works Order” had been raised.

RL advised that the contractors had, without permission, gained access to her land in an attempt to erect a pole.

AH stated his concern that the contractor may try and dig up Lode Bridge.

24.11.9 Items for Community Magazine

None

24.11.10 Highways Issues

The Clerk advised that the application to upgrade PF10 to a bridleway was to be heard on 15/11/24.

It was suggested that clearing the drainage ditch at Lode Bridge be added to the lengthsman’s duties.

24.11.11 Correspondence

The Council had been advised of a number of tree felling operations in the Milldale area.

A Parishioner had, again, noted the parking of cars on the road, opposite the toilets instead of using the pay & display space; he was concerned that eventually there would be an accident. The Council had already opposed this development, and the parishioner was encouraged to voice his objection directly.

The Council is being offered a Sakura Cherry Tree, to promote relations with Japan. It was suggested that one (or two) could be planted in the “*central reservation*” of the playing field car park. The Clerk was instructed to take up the offer.

GC and MN volunteered to attend a planning course held by PDNP

24.11.12 Christmas

Richard Butler had, once again, agreed to provide power for the Christmas Tree lights. The box where the tree had previously stood was no longer available – AH agreed to dig a hole and create a concrete sleeve for the Tree to stand in. GC suggested a Christmas Social for Councillors, partners and invited guests; he would explore further.

24.11.13 Any other business

GC advised that he had chased up the records office concerning his long-standing request about the registration of the Village Greens; he will visit them to progress this further.

It was agreed to purchase a new strimmer for the Alstonefield lengthsman.

It was reported that someone was dumping garden/agricultural waste on the Greenhill site. The Clerk was instructed to write to the relevant person asking him to desist.

Date of next meeting

Wednesday, 18th December 2024 in the Village Hall.

The meeting was declared closed at 20:31pm

These Minutes remain draft until ratified at the next meeting