

ALSTONEFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of a meeting of Alstonefield Parish Council held on Wednesday 26th November 2025 at 7.00 pm in Alstonefield Village Hall.

Present: Chair: R Hignett (RH), Vice Chair: G Campbell (GC), A Haynes (AH), M Newman (MN) and Charlotte Jordan (CJ). There was 1 member of the public present.

10 minutes are set aside at the start of the PC meeting for members of the public to speak and ask questions:

A parishioner reported to the council that they had contacted PDNPA to tell them about the sorry situation in their car park at Milldale, where people have been urinating and worse. They were pleased, and surprised, to note that PDNPA had erected signage pointing the car park users to the public toilets in Milldale.

They also asked for an update on the progress of repairs to the Milldale noticeboard, which was given by RH.

Parish Council meeting then followed:

26.11.1 Apologies: Councillor R Longdon asked to note her apologies.

26.11.2 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.

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

None

26.11.4 Clerk's Report and matters arising

The clerk is working remotely and so was not in attendance at this meeting.

26.11.5 Items to/from the District and County Councillors

Our District and County Councillors were not in attendance and there were no issues to be brought to their attention.

26.11.6 Planning matters, decision notices and appeals

- a. Applications: None
- b. decision notices: None
- c. Appeals: The appeal relating to Land at the West of Alstonefield Road has been determined. It was rejected.

26.11.7 Financial matters - items of expenditure and income

The following payments were approved:

a. Playing Field Mowing Oct/Nov (last cut)	£100.00
b. Clerk Salary November	£307.60
c. Lengthsman invoice Nov	£288.00
d. Refund to GC of payments to Hu-manity (complete)	£81.05
e. Refund to GC of payments to Microsoft 365 (to 10/25)	£83.16
f. Refund to GC of payment to CIVIC (Hu-manity replacement)	£54.00
g. C & S Gould Ltd t/a G & R Leigh (40 posts for the greens)	£984.00
h. Alstonefield Village Hall (hire of hall till end of f/y)	£36.00

Totals £1933.81

Income: Carpark monies had kindly been collected by AH in the sum of £123.96

Interest on deposit account for November £15.57

After taking into account the above transactions the Council had balances of: £1,903.14 in the current account and £21,380.14 in the deposit account.

26.11.8 Precept 2026/7

The financial information supplied by the Clerk relating to the previous year's (and earlier) expenditure and income was discussed, with a view to determining the required income for the coming financial year. The stand-out issue was the potential cost of repairs to the play equipment.

The general view was that the PC would not want to apply an increase without being confident that maintaining the precept value from 2025/6 would not result in a significant overspend of the budget.

It was decided that further financial information on the current financial year was needed to enable that decision to be made. RH and GC will compile this and distribute prior to the January meeting.

26.11.9 Items for Community Communication, Noticeboards and Website

The Milldale notice board is undergoing reconstruction in RH's workshop.

AH asked if anyone knew if the Community Newsletter was to be resurrected. GC said he would email the parishioner who was considering taking it on and ask if this was to happen.

26.11.10 Highways Issues

It was noted that there will be a road closure at Hopedale Hollow between 5th and 16th January for services to be supplied to a holiday let.

26.11.11 Lengthsman Work 2025/6

The councillors expressed their satisfaction with the work of our lengthsman.

26.11.12 RoSPA Playground Safety Report

RH is in the process of establishing the work required to repair/replace playground equipment.

26.11.13 Christmas Tree and lights

GC reported that a tree had been ordered from Proctors Nurseries (£220 inc del) and that the lights had been given the OK for another year. AH said that was organising the installation.

26.11.14 PDNPA car parks' 1st year financial results – Fol request

GC had requested of PDNPA financial information on the newly chargeable car parks across the Peak District and specifically the car park in the centre of Alstonefield. This was dealt with as a freedom of information request.

He was informed that taking into account all set up and running costs, the first year profit was £127,000 on a total income of £194,000. The figures for the Alstonefield car park were £2,125 profit on a total income of £6,897.

The councillors expressed some astonishment at the unexpectedly low set up costs.

26.11.15 Civility and Respect Pledge

GC had previously suggested the PC might wish to sign up to this pledge that is being championed by NALC and SPCA. He was asked to investigate further and specifically find out what training was available.

He reported that he had contacted three councils that were shown on NALC's website as having signed up to the pledge. One said they signed up a few years ago and had done nothing since and had no training program. Another said they had done the Code of Conduct training but nothing bespoke. The third said "Don't bother".

In the light of this, it was decided not to sign up to this pledge as it seemed to have little meaning beyond the Code of Conduct which we are signed up to.

26.11.16 Defibrillator ownership and maintenance

There was previously some uncertainty regarding the ownership of the defibrillators. However, the two defibrillators appear to have been donated to the PC and therefore the PC are the owners.

It was decided that we would continue funding the occasional required replacement of parts until the units ceased to be useable. At that point, interested parties would be contacted to discuss funding replacements, if that was considered necessary.

26.11.17 (Duplicate)

26.11.18 Correspondence

Parishioners have contacted the PC with a proposal for a Well Dressing project to take place in June 2026. They budget £750, £250 of which has been secured, and they are asking the PC to match with a donation of £250. The general consensus was that as there is both no historical context for well dressings in Alstonefield, and no real well, then this probably is not a project that the PC would want to support. RH will reply to the correspondent.

16.10.15 Any other business

None

26.11.16 Date of next meeting

Wednesday 14th January 2026 in the village hall at 7pm. No forward apologies for next meeting.

The public meeting was declared closed at 20.48.