

ALSTONEFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of a meeting of Alstonefield Parish Council held on Wednesday 8th April 2026 at 7.00 pm in Alstonefield Village Hall.

Present: Chair: R Hignett (RH), Vice Chair: G Campbell (GC), Charlotte Jordan (CJ), C McIlroy (CM), M Newman (MN). There was 1 members 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 member of the public raised the issue of stone from the wall between Lode Mill and Milldale has fallen onto the footpath, forcing people to walk in the road. Also the member of the public asked about progress on the Milldale noticeboard.

RH then announced that he would be standing down as both Chair and as a councillor as of the end of the meeting. Several councillors thanked him for his service as a councillor, which he has been for approx. 14 years, and as Chair, which he has been since February 2023.

Parish Council meeting then followed:

08.04.1 Apologies: R Longdon, A Hayes.

08.04.2 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.

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

None.

08.04.4 Clerk's Report and matters arising

A letter has been received from the Land Registry refusing title to Archford Moor Quarry. GC will follow up and try to understand their logic.

08.04.5 Planning matters, decision notices and appeals

- a. Applications: None
- b. Decision notices: NP/SM/0226/0137 Paddock Farm, Back of Ecton – Granted conditionally
- c. Appeals: None

08.04.6 Financial matters - items of expenditure and income

- a. Financial Risk Register: It was agreed that the existing document would be adopted for the 2026/2027 financial year. It was noted that the Clerk may want to amend this on her return.
- b. The following payments were approved:
 - i. Names.co.uk £22.99 for annual domain registration has been paid
 - ii. Names.co.uk £27.99 for monthly Managed Wordpress
 - iii. Herbivore £200.00 for 2 cuttings of the playing field
 - iv. Steve Billings £448 for 28hrs lengthsman work in Jan and Feb
 - v. Clerk's salary for March of £306.70
- c. £125 has been received from Edwin's Community Initiative Fund – Thanks Edwin!

Income: Carpark monies had kindly been collected by AH in the sum of £117.70

Interest on deposit account for March - £16.56

08.04.7 Assertion 10 compliance – Inc. IT and GDPR Policies

CJ and GC had produced a draft IT, GDPR and BYOD policy that was briefly discussed and it was agreed that this would be emailed to all councillors for their consideration. This would be adopted if all were satisfied with it.

08.04.8 Community Communication, Notice Boards and Website

RH is finishing off the Milldale noticeboard prior to refitting. CJ is still getting a quote from a local joiner to replace the locks on 3 noticeboards.

08.04.9 Council's IT services

It was agreed that we will move our Microsoft 365 and PC website to Parish Online's system and that GC would arrange this as soon as possible. This will give us a host of benefits, including automatic WCAG 2.2 AA website compatibility, PC email and storage accounts for all councillors, gov.uk domain.

08.04.10 Highway Issues

A parishioner has pointed out that a house on Lode Lane has a large amount of trees and bushes that are encroaching on the road causing difficulty when driving past large vehicles. CJ offered to speak to the owners of the property to enable a solution.

08.04.11 RoSPA Playground Safety Report, maintenance

GC reported that he had contacted a local person who has agreed to do the necessary work and that it will be commencing in the next 2 weeks. Hopefully it will be possible to do the most urgent work first to enable reopening as soon as possible.

08.04.12 Correspondence

- a. An email has been received questioning why the minutes and agendas are not being posted in the noticeboards.
- b. An email was received asking for permanent signs asking dog walkers to pick up their dog's excrement. This will be done.
- c. The letter received from the Land Registry mentioned above.

08.04.13 Any other business and items for the next agenda

The Council would like to express its thanks to Duncan Scroggs for doing a considerable amount of clearing of road gutters of rotting leaves and other detritus recently.

08.04.14 Date of next meeting

Wednesday 20th May 2026 in the village hall at 7pm. No forward apologies for next meeting.

The public meeting was declared closed at 20:03.