

ALSTONEFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of a meeting of Alstonefield Parish Council held on Wednesday 14th January 2026 at 7.00 pm in Alstonefield Village Hall.

Present: Chair: R Hignett (RH), Vice Chair: G Campbell (GC), A Hayes (AH) Charlotte Jordan (CJ). There were no 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:
No members of the public were present.

Parish Council meeting then followed:

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

14.01.2 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.

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

None

14.01.4 Clerk's Report and matters arising

- a. The long running application to the Land Registry to confirm the Parish Council as owners of title to Archford Moor Quarry is still ongoing. GC has provided another tranche of documents for their consideration.
- b. SMDC has informed the clerk that the trees for the Sakura Tree Project were expected to be delivered to their Stafford office on 12th January. We are now awaiting further advice regarding our allocation.

14.01.5 Planning matters, decision notices and appeals

Applications:

NP/SM/1225/1290 Stoneleigh, The Rakes, Alstonefield – There were no objections raised.

- a. decision notices: None
- b. Appeals: None

14.01.6 Financial matters - items of expenditure and income

The following payments were approved:

- a. Clerk Salary November - £300.00
- b. Payment to Wetton & Alstonefield First Responders for defibrillator pad replacement - £64.74
- c. Reimburse Richard Butler for website software purchase - £65.33

Income: Carpark monies had kindly been collected by AH in the sum of £49.72

Interest on deposit account for December - £18.36

It was unanimously agreed that Martin Jinks would be removed from the NatWest Bank Mandate and that Sally Dartnell be added.

It was also unanimously agreed that Martin Jinks would be removed from the NatWest Bankline access list.

It was also agreed that a debit card be requested on the current account for making small online and over-the-phone purchases and it to be controlled by the Clerk.

14.01.7 Precept 2026/7

Councillors discussed likely expenditure for the following year and also took into account the longer term context. The decision was made to request £12,450 which equates to an increase in the household band D precept charge of 5.2% which equates to £3.06 for the year.

14.01.8 Assertion 10 compliance – Inc. IT and GDPR Policies

GC informed the other councillors of the requirements of Assertion 10 which is a new clause in the Practitioner's Guide 2025. He has put together a folder of documents for the council to consider ensuring that it is compliant before the start of the 2026/7 financial year. This will be discussed again at the next meeting.

14.01.9 Community Communication, Notice Boards and Website

RH reported that he is drying out and stabilising the notice board temporarily removed from Milldale in preparation for reconstruction and final finishing.

14.01.10 Highways Issues

None reported

14.01.11 RoSPA Playground Safety Report

RH is approaching the original supplier of the equipment for advice on repairs.

14.01.12 Correspondence

A parishioner asked us to note that Lode Lane is getting an increase in use by large coaches. RH said that he knew of an occasion late last year when 4 coaches from the same school drove in tandem up Lode Lane presumably to visit Alstonefield on a school trip. Thankfully, this was probably a unique occurrence.

14.01.13 Any other business and items for the next agenda

Assertion 10 compliance to be added to the next agenda. No other business.

14.01.14 Date of next meeting

Wednesday 25th February 2026 in the village hall at 7pm. No forward apologies for next meeting.

The public meeting was declared closed at 20:37.