

ALSTONEFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of a meeting of Alstonefield Parish Council held on Wednesday 25th February 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), C McIlroy (CM), M Newman (MN), R Longdon (RL). There were 4 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 spoke about their planning application.

Parish Council meeting then followed:

25.02.1 Apologies: None. All present.

25.02.2 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.

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

CJ and RH declared an interest in the Paddock Farm planning application and therefore took no part in that discussion.

25.02.4 Clerk's Report and matters arising

The Sakura trees were picked up and are now available for planting. Site to be arranged. The Village Hall has been sounded out re planting in the garden.

25.02.5 Planning matters, decision notices and appeals

Applications:

NP/SM/1225/1291 (LBC) Stoneleigh, The Rakes, Alstonefield – There were no objections raised.

NP/SM/0226/0153 Hope Mount Farm, Hope Road – There were no objections raised.

NP/SM/0226/0137 Paddock Farm, Back of Ecton – There were no objections raised.

NP/SM/0126/0088 Old Vicarage, Church Street – There were no objections raised.

- a. Decision notices: NP/SM/1225/1288 Upper Hurst Farm – Granted conditionally
- b. Appeals: None

25.02.6 Financial matters - items of expenditure and income

Earmarked funds: It was agreed not to carry forward any earmarking of funds into financial year 2026/27

The financial risk register was discussed. It was agreed that RH and GC would review and circulate by email for ratification prior to the next meeting.

Appointment of the independent internal auditor for the next year was discussed. It was agreed that we continue using the current organisation.

Bank signatories and the Bankline access list are now up to date.

The clerk has requested that application for the new debit card be delayed until her return.

The following payments were approved:

- a. Clerk Salary February - £315.00

Income: Carpark monies had kindly been collected by AH in the sum of £42.21

Interest on deposit account for January - £15.61

25.02.7 Precept 2026/7

We have had confirmation that our precept application to SMDC has been accepted.

25.02.8 Assertion 10 compliance – Inc. IT and GDPR Policies

The requirement for policies to be updated was discussed. Also it was noted that we should seriously consider using Parish Online for our IT requirements such as replacing Microsoft 365 and our existing website. GC will put forward amended policies for approval by email in advance of the next meeting.

25.02.9 Lost in the Hills Festival 2026

It was agreed that the playing field would again be rented to the festival on the same terms as last year.

25.02.10 Community Communication, Notice Boards and Website

RH is finishing off the Milldale noticeboard prior to refitting. CJ suggested a local joiner could be used to short circuit this sort of repair in the future. It was agreed that CJ would approach him to get the noticeboard locks synchronised so only one key was required.

25.02.11 Highway Issues

See item 14.01.13 re the Pinch.

The accumulation of debris at the bottom of the Pinch was discussed. RH has reported this and has attended when DCC contractors arrived to attempt to remove without success.

25.02.12 RoSPA Playground Safety Report, maintenance

RH reported that a quote for repair is expected in a few days. The play area will be closed as of tomorrow until the repairs are complete.

AH mentioned that the goal post bases were also in need of repair.

25.02.13 Correspondence

- a. An email was received from a parishioner requesting the PC to contact Derbyshire Highways regarding the terrible state of the Pinch. Unfortunately we have no way of doing this other than using the public website reporting. RH has done this multiple times without any success as yet. We can only suggest that as many people as possible continue to do the same.
- b. An email was received from PDNPA Planning Dept asking for confirmation that the PC were owners of the Hermitage as they had received a notification from a member of the public alleging that unauthorised work was in progress. The Clerk replied to deny that we owned this building or any others, and that we had no knowledge of any such works.
- c. The parishioner who had previously requested signage regarding dog fouling of the playing field asked again for this to be done. RH will be fixing laminated signs tomorrow.

25.02.14 Any other business and items for the next agenda

- a. CM asked about the ownership of, and responsibility for, stiles and associated paraphernalia. The view was that the landowner owns the stile and has the legal responsibility of ensuring the stile is safe and not an obstruction and that the local authority often pays a percentage towards repair costs or provides materials free of charge.
- b. GC reported that Edwin Wain has kindly offered the PC £125 from his discretionary fund which we have accepted to put towards the play equipment repairs.
- c. Assertion 10 compliance to be added to the next agenda.

25.02.15 Date of next meeting

Wednesday 8th April 2026 in the village hall at 7pm. No forward apologies for next meeting.

The public meeting was declared closed at 20:38.