

ALSTONEFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Alstonefield Parish Council Meeting - Wednesday 12th August 2026, 7.15pm in Alstonefield Village Hall.

Present: Acting Chair (Vice Chair): G Campbell (GC); Parish Councillors: A Hayes (AH); C McIlroy (CM), M Newman (MN); Wilby (NW) District Councillor Edwin Wain and Parish Clerk, Sally Dartnell (SD). There were 3 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:

Two parishioners raised the ongoing issue of the damage to a stone wall in Milldale that they initially raised in April. The issue is worsening and causes pedestrians to have to walk in the road which is dangerous, may result in traffic accidents and there is potential for livestock to get onto the road. Clerk requested that they send the What3Words location for the site and reference number from logging with SCC so that the clerk can also log and ask the County Councillor to chase for a response.

A member of the Village Hall team flagged the new Village Hall website which has the opportunity for all local groups to add a link to their own sites/communications details. The clerk will promote the link on the new parish council website.

12.08.1 Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Clerk welcomed Nicola Wilby as newly elected Councillor which means that all seats on the Parish Council are now filled. Councillors had been asked for nominations for the roles of Chair and Vice Chair. Charlotte Jordan was elected unanimously by all present along any votes received by email. Similarly, Gordon Campbell was elected unanimously to the role of Vice Chair. The remainder of the meeting was chaired by Vice Chair, GG.

12.08.2 Apologies:

County Councillor Charlotte Kelly and Parish Councillors C Jordan and R Longdon sent apologies.

12.08.3 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 GC.

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

None declared.

12.08.5 Clerks Report and matters arising

Matters Arising:

- New Biodiversity Policy. A draft based on a template supplied by Staffordshire Parish Council Association had been circulated previously and was agreed and adopted unanimously. This policy is published on the website.
- An updated Information Request Policy based on a template supplied by Staffordshire Parish Council Association with input from the Information Commissioners Office had been circulated previously and was agreed and adopted unanimously. This policy is published on the website.
- Clerk had received email confirmation from County Councillor Charlotte Kelly that the PC will receive the £275 applied for from County Community Fund to contribute towards playground equipment. Funds not yet received.
- Leaden Boot Secretary confirmed that they will make a contribution towards the playground equipment.
- VAT reclaim to be made as soon as the final invoice for the playground equipment is paid.
- Playground maintenance work has been completed.
- Historic documents to be prepared for the county archive as soon as time allows.

- Additional Bank signatories – CJ and RL have now been added.
- Milldale Defibrillator battery replacement - AH had spoken with Jamie Tomlinson who understood that the AED Donate charity in Leek may be able to replace the battery needed. Clerk to contact JT to check on the situation.
- Clerk has chased payment for the Playing Field hire from the Lees Trust School 17th July.
- News items have been posted following correspondence with parishioners in relation to bonfires, Lode Bridge Safety and a Drone Survey.
- Clerk had responded to SCC in relation to Grit Bins
- Clerk to support NW in lodging declaration forms and arranging new councillors training with SPCA.

12.08.6 Items from/for the District Councillor and County Councillors

EW said that the Clerk could apply to the District Community Fund for items for the Parish but that funds may not be available.

12.08.7 Planning matters, decision notices and appeals - Appendix A

- a. Applications: NP/SM/0726/0754 - Church Farm extension to dwelling and detached car port.

Councillors had no objections to this application.

- b. Decision notices: None received
- c. Appeals: None received

CM left the meeting at this point.

12.08.8 Financial matters - items of expenditure and income - Appendix B

The payments on Appendix B were approved by all (Clerk was asked to contact Playdale in relation to some of the work undertaken first - AH to supply photographs)

Income since the previous meeting was detailed on Appendix B. In addition, car park monies had been kindly collected by AH totally £121.80

12.08.9 Community Communication, Notice Boards and Website

Old site to be decommissioned from September. Clerk has published a news item on the new website to let parishioners know that they can submit news items for the home page and that clubs, groups and societies associated with the parish resulted in a few requests which have been actioned. This is an ongoing open invitation. Any councillors able to do so will use their links to community WhatsApp and Social Media channels to amplify news items with links to the PC website to raise awareness.

12.08.10 Highway Issues

The issue reported in relation to the Lode Bridge is a Derbyshire CC issue and so outside the formal remit of the PC, however, given the ongoing safety concerns, GC had continued to chase DCC for a response to the Urgent issue.

12.08.11 Lengthsman work 2026/7

No response as yet to application for AES lengthsman grant for the year - clerk has chased.

GC hasnt yet been able to meet with Lengthsman who has had health issues.

12.08.12 Playground

Playground now open following maintenance work.

Awaiting an invoice from JF for his work.

A parishioner has raised an issue with the gate posts to the playground which AH had addressed immediately.

Clerk to share the most recent Risk Assessment in relation to the playground with all councillors for discussion and update at the September PC meeting.

12.08.13 Correspondence

- a. FOI Response took in excess of 18 hours and was published on the website along with a note about the impact of this type of request on parish time and resources and a request to raise any concerns at the time when they can be addressed without such financial impact.
- b. Lode Bridge - see item 12.08.10. News item had been posted on the website
- c. Bonfires - news item posted on website
- d. Drone survey - news item posted on website
- e. Playground gate posts - AH has addressed this

12.08.14 Any other business and items for the next agenda

Playground Risk Assessment

12.08.15 Date of next meeting

Wednesday 30th September in the village hall at 7pm. Subsequent meeting provisionally Wed 4th November at 7pm

The public meeting was declared closed at 20:13pm