ALSTONEFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Alstonefield Parish Council Meeting - 7pm Wed 30th September 2026Alstonefield Village Hall.

Present: Chair: C Jordon(CJ), Vice Chair: G Campbell (GC); Parish Councillors: A Hayes (AH); C McIlroy (CM), M Newman (MN); Wilby (NW). Parish Clerk, Sally Dartnell (SD). 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:

30.09.1 Apologies:
County Councillor Charlotte Kelly, District Councillor Edwin Wain and Parish Councillor R Longdon.

30.09.2 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 CJ.

30.09.3 Declarations of personal and prejudicial interest of councillors related to published agenda
None declared.

30.09.4 Clerks Report and matters arising

- VAT reclaim submitted and repayment received.
- The clerk had chased an update on the issue of the damage to a stone will in Milldale raised at the August meeting by parishioners. No further response at this time.
- National Pay Award has been applied and backdated for clerk. Normal monthly pay going forwards is £319.63
- Clerk has started 2026/7 budgeting process. Awaiting SMDC Election invoice so full financial situation is clear then draft will be circulated for discussion and action at 4 Nov meeting.
- Half yearly independent audit will take place on 17th Nov.
- Historic documents for the county archive are starting to be prepared.
- Additional Bank signatories – RL and CJ to do final registration.
- FOI guidance update received from ICO - clerk to add to published policy update.
- Milldale Defibrillator battery replacement - clerk has chased for confirmation that this is in hand.
- Clerk has chased payment for the Playing Field hire from the Lees Trust School 17th July again. They mixed up their payment with their village hall booking for the same date - ongoing.
- CJ completed Chair training with SPCA this month. NW scheduled for new councillor training in October.
- Parishes Day 10th October - NW volunteered to attend.
- Clerk to attend Staffordshire Local Council Conference Mon 23 Nov in Uttoxeter.

30.09.5 Items from/for the District Councillor and County Councillors
Chair thanked CK, County Councillor for the Community Fund donation of £275 as a contribution towards the playing field equipment maintenance.

30.09.6 Planning matters, decision notices and appeals - Appendix A

a. Applications: None for consideration at this meeting
b. Decision notices: None received
c. Appeals: None received
d. SPCA had shared the Checkley Parish Council Motion in relation to Planning for Councillors to consider. GC found that the law change doesnt apply to National Parks so this motion is not relevant to Alstonefield.

30.09.7 Financial matters - items of expenditure and income - Appendix B
The payments on Appendix B were approved by all.

Chair wished to give particular thanks to the Leaden Boot Committee for their donation of £3000 towards the playground refurbishment costs.

Estimated Year End position is likely to be up to £8000 less than the closing balance at the end of the previous Financial Year. Clerk to share draft budget ahead of 4th Nov meeting.

Income since the previous meeting was detailed on Appendix B. In addition, car park monies had been kindly collected by AH totally £120.23.

Bank Reconciliation approved.

30.09.8 Community Communication, Notice Boards and Website
The old website has now been decommissioned. A news item on the new website reminds parishioners 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.

Leaden Boot Event page update - clerk will update when information is shared from the Leaden Boot Team.

Key holder for Milldale notice board - NW will hold a key for this notice board.

Expectations for Public Engagement - clerk will add line in relation to the PC Standing Orders to the agenda for future meetings.

30.09.9 Highway Issues
Awaiting update from County Councillor in relation to the Milldale Highways issue.

30.09.10 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. Expect very little additional work to be done over the winter months.

30.09.11 Playground
Clerk had shared the most recent PC Risk Assessment. Councillors agreed to review the RoSPA report again now that the maintenance work has been completed. To be discussed and any actions agreed at 4th Nov meeting. Staffordshire Local Councils meeting 23 Nov in Utoxeter has a session on playgrounds. Clerk will attend to investigate and query any additional issues.

30.09.12 Cricket Shed Correspondence
Chair will prepare a response letter.

30.09.13 Armed Forces Covenant
Councillors discussed and agreed they support the covenant. GC will prepare a supportive statement for the website for discussion and agreement at the Nov meeting.

30.09.14 Correspondence
A parishioner has suggested the PC consider a volunteer wildfire response team. Clerk will ask the parishioner to investigate with Staffordshire Fire Service the feasibility of this idea.

GC had received correspondence in relation to First Responder Training which has been canceled twice. Clerk to contact West Midlands Ambulance Service to query. The PC are keen to promote the First Responder scheme as a remote Parish.

AH raised that a wall has fallen out of the Green Well into the field. AH talk to Jon Faulkner about maintenance.

30.09.15 Items for the next agenda
Precept and Budget for agreement.

30.09.15 Date of next meeting
Wednesday 4th November in the village hall at 7pm. Subsequent meeting provisionally Wed 16th December at 7pm

The public meeting was declared closed at 20:27pm