

ALSTONEFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of a meeting of Alstonefield Parish Council was held on Wednesday 2nd October 2024 at 7.00 pm in Alstonefield Village Hall.

Present: Chair: R Hignett, Vice Chair: G Campbell (GC), S Jeffery (SJ), A Hayes (AH), and the Clerk, M Jinks. There was also one member of the public present.

24.10.1 Apologies: M Newman (MN), C McIlroy (CM) and R Longdon (RL).

24.10.2 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.

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

AH advised that the planning application on the agenda was from his neighbour.

Nothing else was declared.

24.10.4 Clerk's Report and matters arising

The Clerk reported back on the action that he had taken following the previous meeting. In particular, he outlined the steps he had undertaken to formally note the PC's ownership of the land at Archford Moor with the Land Registry. He has been advised that, without documentary evidence, the PC must supply a signed Statement of Truth. GC had agreed to research this further by going through old PC records and speaking to Tim Eades (a previous PC Chair). In the interim, the Clerk had sent a "holding request" to the Registry.

A Parishioner, on behalf of the Alstonefield Educational Trust had written in and requested that, if the PC were to consider disposing of the land, it perhaps be offered to the local community first for charitable or community benefit. The PC reiterated its stance that it is NOT its intention to dispose of the property.

24.10.5 Items to/from the District Councillor

None

24.10.6 Planning matters, decision notices and appeals

Application NP/SM/0524/0474 at Aldwyn Cottage, The Rakes was discussed – there were no objections.

There were no decisions to notify.

There were no appeals.

24.10.7 Financial matters - items of expenditure and income

Car park monies had kindly been collected by AH in the sum of £128.68.

Other receipts were:

£220 for the car boot sales in August.

£120 for the car boot sale in September.

£400 grant towards the lengthsmens costs from Alliance Environmental

£4,250 second Precept instalment.

The following payments were approved:

Herbivore; mowing of playing field	£600.00, no VAT
Martin Jinks; reimbursement of Land Registry fees	£30.00, no VAT
Martin Jinks; quarterly net salary	£695.44, no VAT
HM Revenue & Customs; PAYE	£171.40, no VAT

After taking into account the above transactions, the Council had balances of £5,215 in the current account and £19,398 in the deposit account (*including interest of £23.86 for September*).

24.10.8 Renewal of Risk Assessment

Last year's assessment had been circulated beforehand. The Councillors confirmed that, subject to a minor change re the current lengthsman, it was still appropriate and valid. It was therefore unanimously agreed to adopt it for the current year. The Clerk was instructed to post the revised document to the website.

24.10.9 Items for Community Magazine

The Clerk advised that he was resigning from his role with effect from the end of the calendar year; the December meeting would, therefore, be his last. He was instructed to place a suitable advert in the magazine in an attempt to find a replacement.

24.10.10 Highways Issues

GC gave an update on the trenching and trunking work carried out by the contractors installing the Connect Fibre cabling. In places the work appeared to be quite poor with ditches filled in causing rainwater to run down the road and mud (*particularly at the bottom of Wetton Hill*) to spill onto the carriageway. As requested by Connect Fibre, he had reported these issues to them. Their response was indifferent!

24.10.11 Correspondence

SJ had attended the virtual AGM of PDRHA on the Council's behalf – there were no relevant matters to report.

A parishioner had written and commented about the lack of strimming and ditch cleaning along The Rakes. It was noted that the recent roadworks and temporary lights had not helped – but was not an excuse. It was also noted that such maintenance should be done twice a year. RH agreed to contact the relevant lengthsman.

Another resident had noted that all the public waste bins seemed to be at the centre of the village, with none at the extremities. It was pointed out that the provision, siting, emptying and maintenance of the bins is the responsibility of the Borough Council.

RH confirmed that he had now had a chance to speak with the Milldale lengthsman; he was aware of the work that was outstanding and would endeavour to “catch up”.

24.10.12 Any other business

AH had visited the memorial bench in the Homestead Garden; he advised that it was in a very poor state and was the ownership of the Council. He was requested to remove any plaque and then dispose of the bench accordingly. Nothing else to note

Date of next meeting

Wednesday, 13th November 2024 in the Village Hall.

The meeting was declared closed at 20:17pm

These Minutes remain draft until ratified at the next meeting.