

Alnmouth Parish Council

Minutes

Parish Council Meeting

The Hindmarsh Hall, Northumberland Street, Alnmouth Tuesday 10th October
2023 – 7pm

Present: Cllrs Susanne Gair (Chair), David Denton, Simon Rushton, George Ternent, Shelley Straughan, Simon Walford.

In Attendance: Deb Still (Clerk), County Cllrs Martin Swinbank and Gordon Castle and two members of the public (both NCC officers).

The Meeting opened at 7 pm.

154/23 Apologies

Cllrs Ian Armstrong and Josie McDonough.

155/23 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of 12th September be AMENDED by deleting the second sentence of item 147/23/d Arts Festival. With this amendment it was RESOLVED that the Minutes be accepted as a true record of the meeting.

156/23 Declarations of Interest

None declared.

157/23 Public Participation

None.

158/23 Northumberland Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Partnership

This item was deferred to a future meeting as Sarah Winlow was unable to attend to give her presentation.

159/23 Planning Matters

a) Planning Applications

i)23/03556/NONMAT Land South Of Rosedale Lodge Foxton Road Alnmouth Alnwick Northumberland NE66 3NQ.

APC AGREED to make no comment on the Non-Material Amendment on approved application 22/03972/VARYCO.

ii)23/03592/TREECA The Grange 20 Northumberland Street Alnmouth Northumberland NE66 2RJ. Trees in a Conservation Area: T1 Sycamore remove and replace with 1 Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*), T2 Sycamore remove and replace with 1 Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*).

APC AGREED to make no comment on the removal and replacement of the trees.

Signed Dated 14th November 2023

iii) **23/03574/TREECA** 32 Northumberland Street Alnmouth Northumberland NE66 2RA. Trees in a Conservation Area application - Five Cherry trees to be removed. APC AGREED to make a NEUTRAL comment NOTING that it would be helpful if the applicant could provide evidence that supports and justifies the removal of the trees and that if permission is granted that replacement compensatory planting be sought from the applicant by the Planning Authority.

b) Update on Planning Decisions (for information only)

i) **23/03029/DISCON** Discharge of condition 3 (security glazing) on approved application 22/01616/LBC - Rescue Boat House Alnmouth Northumberland. NCC has confirmed that the planning condition can be discharged with the installation of 6.4mm laminated clear glass to the windows.

c) Other updates or applications received since drafting the agenda (for information only)

None.

160/23 Rescue Boathouse

Consideration is being given to dry-lining the internal walls rather than dusting/hacking off and sealing. Will update further at the next meeting.

161/23 County Council Matters

Item 163/23 (Shepherds Hill proposed layby for public parking) was discussed during this item. NCC has produced a written to the Shepherds Hill residents' objections stating that the proposed redesigned scheme would improve road safety; maintain much-needed parking; retain the protection of the underground utilities; and tidy up the entrance to the village. Specifically, NCC's report confirms that the revised feasibility design will:

- reduce the impact on existing utilities and ensure easy access by utility companies;
- be more aesthetically pleasing than the worn and muddy grass;
- not reduce the width of the existing footpath;
- lead to reduced speeds at all times, and not just when cars are parked here, due to the narrower carriageway;
- remove the parking obstruction to the highway, permitting free flowing, two-way traffic in this area (allowing emergency vehicles and buses to enter and exit the village);
- result in an overall loss of approximately 20m² of grass verge that could be replaced by plants to improve aesthetics on entering the village;
- reduce the current space for approximately 21 cars to park to 12 vehicles under the scheme between the existing parking restrictions which will significantly increase the visibility of the junctions and improve road safety.

NCC also confirmed that they do not intend to prevent parking on Shepherds Hill with double yellow lines.

Parish Councillors will share the NCC report with the residents of Shepherds Hill and discuss the redesign with them.

Road works (resurfacing) on the Wynd are due to be carried out from 6pm to 1am on Monday 13th November (this date may change) in order to minimise disruption to village life. The date will be confirmed in a letter to all residents from NCC and in the Alnmouth Newsletter. There will be traffic lights and stewards to direct traffic during the works.

County Cllrs Castle and Swinbank reported on the Boundary Commission's recommendations (not yet finalised) whereby it is proposed to split Alnwick into 2 wards (rather than the current one ward with two councillors). Alnmouth will no longer fall within Alnwick ward.

Public Toilets at Alnmouth – the next Local Area Council will be at Alnwick at the end of November and County Cllr Castle will put on the agenda an item about the refurbishment of the Northumberland Public Toilets.

A Community Support Officer from Northumbria police attended and confirmed they increased their patrolling on Alnmouth Beach from August to October 2023 following reports of anti-social behaviour. There were thefts of two outboard motors from Alnmouth over the summer.

162/23 Training

None.

163/23 Shepherds Hill – NCC Plans for Lay-by

See above under item 161/23.

164/23 Fred Bettess Fund

Cllr McDonough is waiting for a substantive response from Newcastle University.

165/23 Finance

a) It was **RESOLVED** that the following payments be approved:

DATE	PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT (incl VAT)	VAT
APC				
05 Oct 2023	Xero UK Ltd	Direct Debit for Inv 16739884 2.10.23 - 1.11.23	£ 36.00	£ 6.00
11 Oct 2023	Hindmarsh Hall	Inv 06 for September meeting	£ 24.00	
11 Oct 2023	PPD Printgroup Ltd	Inv 19011 October Newsletter	£ 113.00	
11 Oct 2023	The Alnmouth Gardener	Inv 35 Sept 2023	£ 64.00	
11 Oct 2023	Deb Still	Clerk's Expenses Oct 2023	£ 30.50	
11 Oct 2023	RBL Poppy Shop	Inv or Debit Card	£ 96.45	
11 Oct 2023	HMRC - PAYE	Estimate	£ 46.90	
11 Oct 2023	David Denton	Invoice Sept 2023	£ 206.75	
11 Oct 2023	G Ternent	Receipts for mower	£ 47.53	
16 Oct 2023	Safety Supply Company	Estimate for high viz jackets	£ 40.00	£ 8.00
22 Oct 2023	IONOS	Inv 203038438601 Oct 2023 Direct Debit	£ 16.80	£ 2.80
31 Oct 2023	Deb Still	Net Salary for APC October 2023	£ 464.00	
31 Oct 2023	Dynamic Fireworks	Agreed to increase APC contribution by £100 to total of £700)	£100	
Xmas Lights				
11 Oct 2023	Hindmarsh Hall	Xmas Lights Hire of Hall Sept 3 x 1.5hrs	£ 54.00	
11 Oct 2023	TLC (Southern) Ltd	Inv CW 557293 Xmas Lights	£ 71.29	£ 11.88
Arts Festival				
11 Oct 2023	HMRC - PAYE	Estimate	£ 36.10	
Retrospective Approval				
20 Sep 2023	Darran Ecclestone	Xmas Lights Equipment	£ 651.44	£ 108.58

- b) The finance report for September 2023 was NOTED.
- c) The Clerk reported on two amendments to the Accounting Statements agreed with the External Auditor and published on the APC website. APC has now received the External Auditor's Certificate confirming the completion of the Audit.
- d) The accountant is seeking advice from a specialist VAT practitioner.
- e) Spend against budget to end of September 2023. APC NOTED the spend and that it was broadly on track. The budget includes an amount of £3,400 transferred from the Community Fund to balance the budget. The winter servicing of the Alnmouth public toilets are a significant expenditure at £2000 pa. AGREED that the Clerk write to NCC about the future funding for the toilets.
- f) The Clerk has made the three yearly declaration to the Pensions Regulator.

166/23 Reports from Working Groups

a. Christmas Lights

Progressing well.

b. Village Maintenance

The RoSPA tailored checklist for the Playpark has not yet arrived – there is a delay of up to 8 weeks for receipt. The Clerk will endeavour to set up the free online application in the interim for completion on Cllr Denton's mobile phone to record weekly and monthly checks.

Signed Dated 14th November 2023

c. Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch

The free Xmas Lunch will be on Sunday 21st January 2024 for 80 people.

d. Arts Festival

The Committee is continuing to agree events for next year.

e. Climate Change

A decision whether to sign up and join the 132 MPs and 168 parish & town councils across the UK supporting the Climate and Ecology Bill was deferred to the next meeting.

167/23 Village Bonfire

a) The Event Action Plan was reviewed and is on track. Nine more marshals have been recruited by Cllr Straughan. APC is grateful to the Burgage Holders for increasing their contribution towards the fireworks to £1000 and NOTES its comment that donations collected this year could be put towards the purchase of fireworks for the following year.

c) Risk Assessments (Bonfire & Food) were approved.

d) Event Notification Form & Event Safety Plan that were submitted to NCC by the Clerk were retrospectively approved.

168/22 Remembrance Day

a) The Event Action Plan was reviewed as is on track.

b) Event Notification Form & Road Closure Order applications submitted to NCC by the Clerk were retrospectively approved.

c) Four Wreaths ordered will be ordered by the Clerk.

169/23 Update on Bike Racks

Cllr Walford reported that a site meeting took place on 6th October with County Cllr Swinbank and the NCC Cycling Officer and identified 6 potential sites. The officer will draw up suggestions for the best sites.

170/23 Longhoughton, Boulmer and Howick Neighbourhood Plan

The Clerk to send a letter from APC to the Chair of LBH Parish Council thanking and congratulating them on their hardwork producing the draft Neighbourhood Plan.

171/23 Any Other Business for Information

i) Cars driven by local residents are exceeding the speed limit of 20mph along Marine Road. A reminder about the speed limit will be put in the next newsletter.

ii) Cllr Denton wondered whether a way of slowing down children coming onto the pavement from the path by the bridge might prevent potential accidents. County Cllr Swinbank will raise it with Iain Robson of the AONB.

iii) The Hullabaloo on Bracken Hill was a great success and one or two residents have raised the issue of accessibility.

172/23 Confidential Matters

It was RESOLVED to exclude the public due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed (contract negotiations).

Date & Time of Next Meeting: - 14th November 2023 at 7pm, The Hindmarsh Hall, Northumberland Street, NE66 2RS.

Future Meeting Dates

12th December 2023

9th January 2024

13th February 2024

12th March 2024

Signed Dated 14th November 2023