

Alnmouth Parish Council

Minutes

Parish Council Meeting
The Hindmarsh Hall, Northumberland Street, Alnmouth Tuesday 12th
September 2023 – 7pm

Present: Cllrs Susanne Gair (Chair), Ian Armstrong, David Denton, Josie MacDonough, Shelley Straughan, Simon Walford.

In Attendance: Deb Still (Clerk), County Cllr Martin Swinbank.

The Meeting opened at 7 pm.

134/23 Apologies

Cllrs Simon Rushton, George Ternent and County Cllr Gordon Castle.

135/23 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of 8th August 2023 be accepted as a true record of the meeting.

136/23 Declarations of Interest

None declared.

137/23 Public Participation

None.

138/23 Northumberland Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Partnership

This item was deferred to the October meeting.

139/23 Planning Matters

a) Planning Applications

i) 23/03157/FUL Erection of oak framed orangery to the rear - Shepherds Cottage Mount Pleasant Foxton Road Alnmouth Alnwick Northumberland NE66 3BY

It was AGREED to submit a NEUTRAL response to this application. APC is concerned about potential unacceptable light pollution that may be contrary to the Northumberland Local Plan.

ii) 23/03029/DISCON Discharge of condition 3 (security glazing) on approved application 22/01616/LBC - Rescue Boat House Alnmouth Northumberland – APC has sought written approval from NCC of the type of new security glazing to install in line with its listed building status and is awaiting the outcome.

b) Update on Planning Decisions (for information only)

None

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

None.

140/23 Rescue Boathouse

When the Xmas lights have been taken out and there is more space opinion will be sought on options for the walls ie dusting off/hacking off/sealing.

141/23 County Council Matters

Preliminary designs have been prepared for the new signage for the 40mph speed limit on the Foxton Road and will be discussed initially with the AONB and at a site visit. Works are due to start at the end of January 2024.

County Cllr Swinbank has not had a response to the enquiry about the refurbishment of the public toilets. The Clerk will write to NCC.

142/23 Defibrillators in the Village

Cllr Rushton reported there are four in the Village and all are registered with the Circuit. There are two at Hipsburn Primary School and one is public access although is not showing available on the Circuit and the School are arranging to update this. The other two are at the Red Lion and the Alnmouth Village Golf Club.

143/23 Training

None.

144/23 Shepherd's Hill – NCC Plans for Lay-by

NCC has responded in writing to objections raised by residents and the Clerk will obtain a copy of the document that can be shared with residents. Cllrs Gair and Armstrong will have initial discussions with the residents concerned.

145/23 Fred Bettess Fund

Cllr MacDonough has written again to Newcastle University in answer to their questions about making the Bettess Collection more accessible.

146/23 Finance

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

Date	Payee	Description	Amount incl VAT	VAT
APC				
16 Aug 2023	Hindmarsh Hall	Inv 04 for June Meeting (retrospective approval)	£ 24.00	£ -
05 Sep 2023	IONOS	Inv 203037963195 Sept 2023 Direct Debit	£ 16.80	£ 2.80
11 Sep 2023	Xero UK Ltd	Direct Debit for Inv 16411321 2.9 - 1.10.23	£ 33.60	£ 5.60
13 Sep 2023	PPD Printgroup Ltd	Inv 18849 September Newsletter	£ 113.00	£ -
13 Sep 2023	Deb Still	Clerk's Expenses September 2023	£ 35.00	£ -
13 Sep 2023	The Alnmouth Gardener	Inv 34 Aug 2023	£ 80.00	£ -
13 Sep 2023	Viking UK Ltd	Inv 2973180 7.9.23 Paper & Ink	£ 44.34	£ 7.39
13 Sep 2023	RoSPA	Inspection Playpark Checklist for Pease's Park	£ 36.00	£ 6.00
30 Sep 2023	Deb Still	Net Salary for APC September 2023	£ 412.10	£ -
Arts Festival				
13 Sep 2023	Hindmarsh Hall	AAF HHall hire deposit for event 24.2.24	£ 50.00	£ -
30 Sep 2023	Deb Still	Net Salary for AAF April to August 2023	£ 317.14	£ -

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- b) The finance report for August 2023 was NOTED.
- c) The Clerk has applied to open an account with TLC who supply most of the Christmas Lights equipment.
- d) The External Audit has not yet been received but the Clerk has discussed it with Mazars, the external auditor, who identified two anomalies on the accounting statements (an incorrect figure copied from the previous year and an incorrect total figure for the value of assets that have been amended by the Clerk and will replace the Accounting Statement on the website when received back from Mazars). No other issues were identified.
- e) Report on AAF Finances – the balance in the AAF fund is around £9,500 although there are still some invoices to pay and income/donations to receive.

147/23 Reports from Working Groups

- a. **Christmas Lights**
Progressing well.

- b. **Village Maintenance**
It was AGREED to order a tailored template checklist from RoSPA for £30 and look at a free online application that could be downloaded for completion on Cllr Denton's mobile phone to record weekly and monthly checks. Cllr Denton has been carrying out remedial work on equipment. Cllr Denton has strimmed around the Park's edge and along Lovers Walk.

- c. **Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch**
The recent coffee morning raised £426 and the Burgage Holders have agreed to donate £500. On 24th October there is also a fundraising Wine & Cheese Film Night at Hindmarsh Hall showing a unique collection of films from the locality. The Xmas Lunch will be on Sunday 21st January 2024 for 80 people.

- d. **Arts Festival**
Meetings are continuing to agree events for next year.

- e. **Climate Change**
Cllrs Armstrong and/or Rushton may attend the AONB Partnership hosted climate change workshop for parish and town councillors on the 12th of October from 1pm to 4pm at Longhoughton Community and Sports Centre.

148/23 Village Bonfire

- a) Cllrs Straughan and Denton AGREED to jointly lead as Event Manager/Coordinators (Cllr Straughan may not be able to attend the event itself)
- b) Event Safety Plan and Event Action Plan – Clerk to update.
- c) Risk Assessments – Clerk to update
- d) Event Notification Form to be submitted by Clerk.

149/22 Remembrance Day

- a) Cllr Rushton to lead as Event Manager/Coordinator
- b) Event Notification Form & Road Closure Order application to be submitted by Clerk.
- c) Action Plan to be updated by Clerk
- d) Wreaths – the same number of wreaths to be ordered by the Clerk as in 2022.

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e) Invitations to RAF Boulmer and the local churches to be sent by Clerk and Cllr Rushton.

150/23 Town & Parish Council Conference

The 7th Annual Town and Parish Council Conference will take place on Thursday 5th October in the Council Chamber at County Hall. The deadline for booking (up to two) places is Friday 29th September. Cllr MacDonough may attend this (work permitting).

151/23 Correspondence

i) Litter/anti-social behaviour on the beach near the Estuary – Cllr Gair spoke to one of the Community Police Officers about this. The Police do find such behaviour is a seasonal problem but they will carry out more patrols (in season) to monitor and discourage and any underage drinking can be dealt with by contacting parents.

ii) Campervans Parking on Riverside Road – NCC Highways have responded that they would 'not be seeking to implement a legal Order permanently banning these types of vehicles in a certain on-street location as this simply pushes parking elsewhere'. NCC further stated that they 'do not have the resources to be enforcing streets with overnight restrictions in place, meaning they are likely to be abused and rendered ineffective.' APC would not be able to put up signage discouraging parking as they do not own the land and would not be able to enforce it.

iii) Request for Bike Racks in Alnmouth – Cllr Walford will try to identify some potential sites in the village. County Cllr Swinbank would then be able to contact the NCC Cycling Officer for a site visit and may be able to use some of his County Cllr monies to fund the purchase and installation.

152/23 Any Other Business for Information

It was AGREED to send a letter of congratulation and appreciation to Gillian Castle in recognition of her achievement in being the first person with a stoma to swim solo across the English Channel raising awareness of birth trauma and the stigma associated with wearing a stoma bag.

153/23 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: - 10th October 2023 at 7pm, The Hindmarsh Hall, Northumberland Street, NE66 2RS.

Future Meeting Dates

14th November 2023

12th December 2023

9th January 2024

13th February 2024

12th March 2024

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