

Alnmouth Parish Council

Minutes

Parish Council Meeting
The Hindmarsh Hall, Northumberland Street, Alnmouth Tuesday 14th
November 2023 – 7pm

Present: Cllrs Susanne Gair (Chair), Ian Armstrong, David Denton, Josie McDonough
Simon Rushton, George Ternent, Shelley Straughan.

In Attendance: Deb Still (Clerk), County Cllr Martin Swinbank, Iain Robson (AONB Chair)
three members of the public.

The Meeting opened at 7 pm.

The Chair gave a big Thank You to Cllrs Straughan and Rushton for leading on the Bonfire
Event and Remembrance Day Service. Both events were very successful and could not
have taken place without the enthusiastic support of the many volunteers who helped out.

173/23 Apologies

Cllr Simon Walford, County Cllr Gordon Castle.

174/23 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of 10th October 2023 be
accepted as a true record of the meeting.

175/23 Declarations of Interest

Cllr McDonough declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 178/23/a/ii and Cllr Gair
declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 178/23/a/iii.

176/23 Public Participation

None.

177/23 Northumberland Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Partnership

Iain Robson (Northumberland Coast AONB Manager) and Adrian Hinchcliffe
(representing Parish Councils in the South of the AONB area) attended in place of
Sarah Winlow who was unable to attend.

Northumberland Coast (NC) AONB confirmed they will continue to support the
project to repair the wall below Church Hill subject to securing funding. The works
were costed at around £350-400k and were part of a recently rejected large funding
bid. Northumberland Estates had also offered to put monies towards the project.

Signed Dated 12th December 2023

From 22nd November AONBs across the country will be rebranded as National Landscapes ie Northumberland Coast National Landscape. The legal designation will remain AONB.

NC AONB is consulting Parish Councils on the reviews of the existing Conservation Area Character Appraisals. The Alnmouth review will be circulated to the Parish Council for comment by end of January 2024. Once adopted the review can be publicised and used in planning responses.

The annual AONB forum will be held at Hindmarsh Hall on 8th December 2023.

178/23 Planning Matters

a) Planning Applications

i) 23/03711/FUL Demolition of small outbuilding (outbuilding 5) to west of 5 Northumberland Street, Alnmouth 5 Northumberland Street. An application to remove a small shed in the yard behind one of the cottages opposite the Hindmarsh Hall.

APC RESOLVED to make no comment.

ii) 23/03720/LBC|Listed Building Consent 7 Lovaine Terrace. For construction of small porch extension to rear, internal alterations to enlarge utility room, relocate ground floor WC and form second floor shower room. Full refurbishment of existing property including damp proofing work using Newlath damp proofing membrane. APC RESOLVED to make no comment.

iii) 3/04021/FUL The Old School House, Foxton Road, Alnmouth. Refurbishment and extension of existing dwelling house, including extended entrance hall to North and new garden room to South. New external door opening and replacement windows. Conversion of outbuilding to bedroom/work area with shower room as part of dwelling house. Alteration to existing garage to create car-port. Addition of stepped and level approach and garden patios. Demolition of outdoor stores to be replaced with new outdoor store and bins/ASHP enclosure. Tree felling due to unsuitability and condition.

APC RESOLVED to request a condition be attached that ensures the converted outhouses and garage will only be used as ancillary accommodation in connection with the use of the main property as a single private dwelling house and shall at no time be converted to a self-contained unit and/or Holiday Let.

iv) 23/04050/FUL 4 High Buston Main Street High Buston Northumberland NE66 3QH. Timber framed lean-to extension.

APC RESOLVED to make no comment.

b) Update on Planning Decisions (for information only)

i) 22/04782/FUL Rosedale Lodge, Foxton Road, Alnmouth.

Change of use from one dwelling (C3) to one dwelling (C3) (Rosedale Chalet) and one holiday let (sui generis)(Rosedale Lodge) by sealing connecting door.

Permission GRANTED by NCC.

APC is concerned about aspects of this decision and the NCC Officer's Report. A meeting has been arranged with NCC's Neighbourhood Planning Team to explore the possible implications for the Alnmouth Neighbourhood Plan Policy 1.

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

23/03157/FUL Erection of oak framed orangery to the rear. Shepherds Cottage Mount Pleasant Foxton Road Alnmouth Alnwick Northumberland NE66 3BY. Permission GRANTED by NCC.

179/23 Rescue Boathouse

The Clerk will obtain quotes for the work and explore options for any grant funding.

180/23 County Council Matters

Foxton Road 40mph

The 40mph signage on Foxton Road is due to be completed in January 2024.

Public Toilets

APC has written to NCC about funding for the winter servicing of the public toilets and invited NCC to revert to the arrangement prior to 2016 whereby NCC funds the opening and servicing of the toilets in the winter.

Public toilets will be on the agenda of the Local Area Council Meeting chaired by County Cllr Castle on 30th November in Alnwick.

Issues with the toilets can be reported to NCC during office hours on 0345 600 6400 or at https://online.northumberland.gov.uk/citizenportal/form.aspx?form=Public_Wc

Bike Racks

County Cllr Swinbank will bring a full report back to the next meeting.

Resurfacing Works

The works are proceeding well and NCC has confirmed that thinner, paler yellow double lines, suitable for conservation areas, will be painted on the road.

181/23 Training

None.

182/23 Shepherds Hill – NCC Plans for Lay-by

Cllrs Gair and Armstrong visited Shepherds Hill on 11 November and discussed the NCC improved plans of 15 September with those residents at home who had objected to the original NCC scheme presented to them by NCC in May 2023. Residents were also invited to the APC meeting (ie 14th November) to raise any issues (all residents are welcome to attend any APC meeting). APC AGREED that they would recommend to NCC that the NCC improved proposals for the Shepherds Hill Lay By as detailed in their communications of 15 September be implemented. A summary of the key points arising from the APC consultation of 11 November will be sent to NCC.

183/23 Fred Bettess Fund

Cllr McDonough has heard back from Newcastle University and will discuss options for the project with one of the lecturers and report back.

184/23 Schooner Inn

The Schooner Hotel Bar and Restaurant remain closed due to a “rodent infestation and risk of food contamination which is an imminent risk to public health” in respect of which NCC obtained a Prohibition Notice. NCC are monitoring the position and APC are in contact due to residents’ concerns. The Hotel itself remains open.

185/23 Hullabaloo

The Burgage Holders are exploring other more accessible options for the annual Hullabaloo and have requested whether it could be held in Pease's Park. APC AGREED it has no objections.

186/23 Street Lights in Alnmouth

Consideration of improvements to street lighting in Alnmouth (report circulated in advance). This item was deferred.

187/23 Finance

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

APC				
08 Nov 2023	Shelley Straughan	Napkins and Cups for Bonfire Booker paid cash	30.78	0.00
13 Nov 2023	Shaun Whyte	Expenses for Bonfire Night	10.39	0.00
15 Nov 2023	IONOS	Inv 203038917298	28.80	4.80
15 Nov 2023	RoSPA	Inspection Playpark Checklist for Pease's Park	36.00	6.00
15 Nov 2023	The Alnmouth Gardener	Inv 36 October 2023	64.00	0.00
15 Nov 2023	Dynamic Fireworks	Inv 23-77678 13.10.23	2,019.60	336.61
15 Nov 2023	Hindmarsh Hall	HH-2023-18	24.00	0.00
15 Nov 2023	Mazars	Inv 2255010 12.10.23	300.00	50.00
15 Nov 2023	Xero UK Ltd	Inv-17100500	36.00	6.00
15 Nov 2023	PPD	Estimate (inv not yet received) larger due to NCC	300.00	0.00
15 Nov 2023	Deb Still	Clerk's Expenses Nov 2023	39.50	0.00
30 Nov 2023	Deb Still	Nov 23 Net Salary	449.00	0.00
Xmas Lights				
15 Nov 2023	Hindmarsh Hall	HH-2023-22	42.00	0.00
15 Nov 2023	Hindmarsh Hall	HH-2023-11	72.00	0.00
Senior Citizens Xmas Lunch				
15 Nov 2023	Greatsteaks Ltd	Market Tavern 27.10.23	134.33	22.40
Arts Festival				
15 Nov 2023	Hobberlaw PLants	Inv 2023058	562.68	93.78
Retrospective Approval or amended amounts				
12 Oct 2023	Darran Ecclestone	Inv 194770 11.10.23 (Xmas Light)	76.80	30.83
14 Oct 2023	RBL Poppy Shop	Inv 12001629962 (APC)	79.96	0.00
18 Oct 2023	Safety Supply Company	Inv 90871111 17.10.23 (APC)	38.03	6.34
13 Nov 2023	Shelley Straughan	Morrisons, Lidl, HHall receipts paid cash (SCXL)	129.64	0.00

b) The finance report for October 2023 was NOTED.

c) Report on VAT

HMRC has confirmed that APC is now registered for VAT pursuant to VAT Notice 749 for local authorities. A VAT Working Group met on 10th November to look at income received by APC to classify VATable income. APC will employ a specialist VAT consultant to advise and assist.

Signed Dated 12th December 2023

d) APC payment for winter servicing of Public Toilets

This item was discussed at 180/23

e) First Consideration of Budget for 24-25

Councillors will consider whether there are any items they want to include or remove for the next financial year. It was NOTED that the Precept has been set at £14,500 since the financial year 2016-17 and the budget for ordinary spend in 23-24 (including the winter servicing of the public toilets) was just over £20,000.

188/23 Reports from Working Groups**a. Christmas Lights**

Progressing well.

b. Village Maintenance

The RoSPA tailored checklist for the Playpark has arrived and Cllr Denton has started to use it. Cllr Denton will fix the fence at Dr Joy's Garden. Cllr Denton has reported to NCC the sea wall opposite Riverside Road that needs repairing.

c. Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch

The free Xmas Lunch will be on Sunday 21st January 2024 for 80 people. Invitations will go out soon. Any willing volunteers to contact Cllr Straughan.

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.

189/23 Village Bonfire

The event was very successful and led by Cllr Straughan. Attendees donated a net sum (after expenses) of £1084.67. The free event was supported by APC (towards the cost of the fireworks); the Burgage Holders (a donation of £1000 towards the cost of the fireworks); and the Whittling House for food donations. The Fireworks Team organised a fantastic display of fireworks. Volunteers were numerous and helped out with the bonfire, car parking, serving food, marshalling, tidying and bucket shaking. The monies collected as donations on the night will be put towards the cost of the fireworks for next year. The Clerk to send formal thank you letters to relevant people on behalf of APC.

190/22 Remembrance Day

The Service was well attended and successfully organised by Shaun Whyte and Cllr Rushton who led on behalf of APC.

The bugler's playing was very moving and the Curate's address was successfully delivered without the use of a PA system. Wreaths were laid by representatives from the village, APC, Alnmouth WI, the Royal Navy, the British Army, the RAF, the

Police and the Scouts, Beavers and Squirrels. The Clerk to send formal thank you letters to relevant people on behalf of APC.

191/23 Bike Racks in Alnmouth

This item was dealt with under item 180/23.

192/23 Correspondence

i)An email was received concerning damage to the beach ramp near the Boathouses following Storm Babet. The ramp and access to the beach is managed by the Burgage Holders and the beach owned by Northumberland Estates. APC notes that it is now difficult in places to access the beach due to the erosion of sand.

ii)The Council wrote to the AONB re a potential road safety issue where the footpath joins the pavement near the Duchess Bridge. The Council will write to NCC Highways as suggested by the AONB.

193/23 Any Other Business for Information

It was NOTED that the Train Ticket Office Closures are not going ahead as originally proposed.

194/23 Confidential Matters

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

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.

Date & Time of Next Meeting: - 12th December 2023 at 7pm, The Hindmarsh Hall, Northumberland Street, NE66 2RS.

Future Meeting Dates

9th January 2024

13th February 2024

12th March 2024

Signed Dated 12th December 2023