

ALNMOUTH PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 10TH FEBRUARY 2025

Minutes

Present: Cllrs Shaun Whyte (Chair), George Ternent, Lorna Pringle, Harriett McHugh, Simon Rushton, David Denton

In Attendance: Jacqueline Brewster (Clerk), County Councillor Wendy Pattinson

The Meeting opened at 19:00

235/26 Apologies – Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr S Wilson, Cllr J Wilson, Cllr Sim

236/26 Declarations of Interest. None declared.

237/26 Public Participation – A member of the Alnmouth Village Golf Club (AVGC) attended to report to APC that a resolution had been passed at their committee meeting on the 27th January to address coastal erosion in Alnmouth. The resolution would address erosion affecting the 5th Green. The plan was to erect brushwood fencing and plant native marron grasses which, when established, will help to retain the sand. It is an affordable, temporary solution which didn't require AVGC to heavily invest. The fencing if blown away can easily be replaced. This would provide AVGC with 3-5 years grace to prepare and establish an alternative 5th Green. AVGC and the Burgage Holders have also finalised a new 28 year license and the club now have a legal basis for occupation. Thanks were extended to Alnmouth Parish Council for their support and patience.

238/26 Minutes of the Previous Meeting - RESOLVED: The minutes of the meeting held on January 13th 2026 were accepted as a true record. Clerk to add that Cllr Denton was present.

239/26 Finance

- a. The invoices and expense claims received prior to, or during the meeting (circulated in advance) were **APPROVED**.
- b. The monthly finance reports (circulated in advance) were **RECEIVED**.
- c. The transfer of £1752 from the Bettess Fund to Pease's Park Development Fund was **APPROVED**.
- d. The appointment of councillors to the internal audit team was DEFERRED to the next meeting.
- e. The balance of £35,653.10 was recorded as the balance of funds in Santander's Savings Account prior to the commencement of fundraising for the new play park.

240/26 Standing Item - County Council Matters

- a. The December report from County Cllr Pattison (circulated in advance) was **RECEIVED**.
- b. Cllr Pattinson advised that a consultation on Mobile Library Services would commence on the 16th February and asked if APC could advocate for the service to be every 3 weeks instead of 6 and request consideration be given to the inclusion of a Saturday service.
- c. Cllr Pattison advised that all library members can take out up to 20 books in total which wasn't widely known and could help if mobile visits were extended to 6 weekly.

241/26 Standing Item - Northumbria Police Report

Signed Dated.....

- a. The report from Northumbria Police (circulated in advance) was **RECEIVED**.

242/26 Standing Item - Reports from Working Groups

a. Village Maintenance:

- i. **Harbour Wall.** Cllr Whyte advised that NCC have now securely cordoned off the vulnerable section of the wall. Whilst Northumberland Estates have agreed to owning the land they refute ownership of the wall. The matter has been passed to NCC's legal team to ascertain who is legally responsible for the wall.
 - ii. **War Memorial:** Following a meeting with NCC and Arriva at the war memorial a proposal was made to move the two 20mph signs back from the memorial to create more space for buses to manoeuvre. The two cost estimate for repairs of £150 and £1,500 were discussed. Cllr Denton advised that the works were not complicated as no stones were damaged and remedial work should involve simply re-bedding stonework without the need for steel rods. **RESOLVED:** Cllr Denton obtaining another quote and to Cllr Whyte requesting an amended quotation with the dowel work removed.
 - iii. **Village Toilets:** No issued to report at present. The efficiency of the toilets will be reviewed in Easter to establish if the light flush mechanism and drainage system withstands the increase in volume usage.
 - iv. **Hope and Anchor.** There has been no response to the letter sent by APC.
 - v. **Grit Bin Marine Rd/Riverside Rd Junction.** **RESOLVED** Cllr Whyte to action.
- b. **Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch.** Cllr Whyte advised that 34 tickets had been sold. £150 was raised for the raffle with proceeds to be allocated to the Playground Development Fund. Thanks were extended to Cllr S Wilson for organising the event, Cllr Sim for providing the catering and to Cllr Pringle for facilitating the raffle. **RESOLVED:** Cllr Whyte to book Hindmarsh Hall for either 6th/7th February in 2027. **RESOLVED:** The provision of music to be included at the 2027 event.
- c. **Climate Change.** Cllr Pattison advised there was grant funding available from NCC Climate Change Department up until the 27th February 2026.

243/26 Standing Item – Parish Representation at Meetings

- a. None to report.

244/26 Street Lighting for Northumberland Street. Cllr Rushton extended his thanks to the Burgage Holders for their £10k donation and to Cllr Pattison for her £5k donation, without them the project would not be viable. Cllr Rushton is waiting to hear back from the manufacturer on the installation of 10 wall mounted lights. **RESOLVED:** Project to go ahead in April 2026.

245/26 Pease's Park Playground. The coffee morning launch was very successful and raised a lot of interest. Over £1100 pounds was raised. Questionnaires were filled out have been sent to the WI, local schools, Scouts and the Phoenix Club all of which help build evidence of need for Grant applications. The total raised so far was encouraging with help from the Burgage Holders of £10k and a private donation of £1,500. The QR code was working well. Circa £17-£18k has been raised so far with a discotheque proposed for the next fundraiser. Cllr Ternent highlighted the muddy state of Lovers Walk. **RESOLVED:** Cllr Whyte to follow up with NCC.

246/26 Church Hill: Cllr Pringle advised that first steps are to draw up a new survey of the area to establish how much erosion has occurred over time. The aim is to take aerial pictures but this has been delayed due to inclement weather. A meeting will be held with Northumberland Estates to discuss a number of issues and a proposed meeting with NCC has been suggested to explore possible grants. Money needs to be raised for a professional survey to be undertaken (c £7k) which would allow for realistic cost estimates for the remedial work to be obtained. Drone survey and pictures will be presented to the council when available.

247/26 Planning Matters

- a. **Planning applications** – No new applications to report.
- b. **NCC Decisions** - No new decisions to report.
- c. **Planning Enforcement: Lack of enforcement action by Planning Authority.** Confidential feedback has been received from NCC on 2 out of 3 long outstanding issues. Cllr Whyte provided the council with an update. **RESOLVED:** Clerk to add this item to the May agenda and request an update from NCC prior to the meeting.

248/26 Correspondence

- a. **Placement of bird boxes in park: RESOLVED:** Clerk to advise Alnmouth Cubs that their bird boxes can be sited in Pease's Park.
- b. **National Campaign for the Installation of speed Cameras – RESOLVED:** Clerk to advise that APC are in full support of the campaign but unfortunately are not able to contribute financially.

249/26 Safeguarding

- a. **RESOLVED:** The updated Safeguarding Policy was **APPROVED** and signed by councillors present.
- b. Cllr Whyte **AGREED** to be appointed as Designated Safeguarding Lead and would attend relevant training.

250/26 New Memorial Bench. RESOLVED: Cllr Whyte to consult with the Sinton family and propose their bench be placed on the lefthand side of the gate to the Church.

251/26 Urgent Business.

- a. Cllr Denton advised that the sale of the old marquee would be undertaken once the new marquee had been successfully tried and tested.
- b. Cllr Denton advised the bus shelter was in need of cleaning. **RESOLVED:** Cllr McHugh to obtain a quote from 4 Seasons for the quarterly internal and external cleaning of the bus shelter and present costs at the next meeting.

252/26 Items for the next Agenda - none to report.

Date & Time of Next Meeting: 10th March 2026, The Hindmarsh Hall Northumberland Street, NE66 2RS

Future Meeting Dates: 14th April 2026, 12th May 2026, 9th June 2026, 14th July 2026, 11th August 2026, 8th September 2026, 13th October 2026, 10th November 2026, 8th December 2026.

Meeting Ended: 20:15