ALNMOUTH PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 9th June 2025
Minutes

Present: Cllrs Shaun Whyte (Chair), George Ternent, David Denton, John Wilson, Sally Wilson, Lorna Pringle,
In Attendance: Jacqueline Brewster (Clerk), Gareth Davies (Internal Auditor)

The Meeting opened at 19:10

049/26 Apologies – Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Rushton, Cllr McHugh, Cty Cllr Pattison

050/26 Disclosure of Interest. None to report.

051/26 Public Participation – No attendees.

052/26 Resignation of Cllr Sim. Vote of Thanks: The Council formally records its sincere thanks to Councillor Sim for his outstanding contribution to all council matters. Particular appreciation is noted for his generous donation of time, food, and staff for both the Senior Citizen's Lunch and the annual bonfire night events. The Council extends its very best wishes to Councillor Sim in all his future endeavours.

053/26 RESOLVED: The minutes of the meeting held on 12th May 2026 were **ACCEPTED** as a true record.

054/26 Finance

a. The invoices and expense claims received prior to, or during the meeting (circulated in advance) were **APPROVED.**
b. The monthly finance reports and SUMUP report (circulated in advance) were **RECEIVED.** The Clerk advised that a new cost code has been added to the Scribe accounts to capture new bank charges from Santander. The clerk highlighted that CBS had issued 2 invoices this month for print work due to AAF requiring a re-print of their flyer. An invoice to cross charge the 2nd print run was sent to AAF and has been paid.
c. The Earmarked Reserves were reviewed and it was **AGREED** that the Community Fund be transferred into the General Fund.
d. Costs for work carried out on the Large and Small boathouse were **APPROVED.**
e. Actions from the internal audit were discussed and it was AGREED that
    i. Parish Online be appointed to develop the new .GOV.UK website for APC.
    ii. The new website name is to be **https://alnmouth parish.gov.uk.**
    iii. The Year 1 costs of £250 + VAT were **APPROVED**.
    iv. The clerk confirmed the insurance renewal schedule had been compared with the asset register and the following variances were highlighted:
        - Asset Register Total Value = £386,114 v. Hiscox £397,459
        - Large Boathouse: APC valuation £123,480 v. Hiscox £105,992 (Clerk to query)
        - War memorial: APC valuation £59,400 v. Hiscox £66,799
        - Other surfaces: (war memorial/bus shelter/Dr Joys Gardend) APC valuation: £18,035 v Hiscox £16,907

- "*Rebuild of stone bus shelter*' is not itemised on Hiscox. **RESOLVED**: clerk to clarify if included elsewhere on the policy.
- **RESOLVED:** Clerk to clarify if Hiscox '*Fixed outside equipment*' includes all contents of the Lifeboat House.
- **RESOLVED:** Clerk to clarify if Hiscox policy includes Employment Tribunals, ER's Liability, Breach of Data Protection legislation and Fidelity insurance of £50k for members and employees.

f. The Chair advised there is a Lunch and Auction planned for November to raise money for the Playground Appeal. A deposit of £250 was paid for the hire of the hall. All income and expenditure will be paid into the new charity account going forward. It was **AGREED** the £250 cost for the hire of the hall is to be reimbursed from APC's Pease's Park Development Fund. **RESOLVED:** Chair to send Clerk a receipt for the deposit payment.

g. The Risk Assessment Policy (circulated in advance) was **APPROVED.**

h. It was **AGREED** that the £500 donation from Lonesome Pine Productions be allocated to Pease's Park Development Fund. **RESOLVED**: Clerk to add to July agenda for formal approval.

055/26 Standing Item - County Council Matters

a. The February report from County Cllr Pattison (circulated in advance) was **RECEIVED.** The Clerk confirmed that an invitation to attend a Parish Council meeting had been extended to Wendy Fail/NCC to discuss the new bin strategy. If Wendy Fail can attend, it was AGREED to hold a 18:00 Village Meeting, inviting all residents to the meeting to discuss the new bin strategy followed by a 18:30 Parish Council meeting.

056/26 Standing Item - Northumbria Police Report - the police report was **RECEIVED**. The Clerk advised that a breakdown of the area covered by the report has been requested as criminal incidents are showing a notable increase. **RESOLVED:** Clerk to also ask for a breakdown of what type of incidents are on the report.

057/26 Standing Item - Reports from Working Groups

a. **Village Maintenance:**
   - **Harbour Wall – no update.**
   - **Public Toilets –** The Chair advised that some repairs had commenced on 1st July and is to make further enquiries with NCC.
   - **Riverside Road Passing Places -** NCC advised that a red-route is not appropriate for Riverside Rd as these are for urban or semi-urban routes or zones. 'Passing Place' signs are only permitted on single track roads so NCC will not provide them.
   - **Village Street Signage -** Cllr Rushton to update the council at the 14th July meeting.
   - **Riverside Road – new signs.** NCC has granted APC permission to attached appropriate 'No Parking' signage onto a fence. **RESOLVED**: Two 'Passing Place No Parking' signs have been placed at an appropriate location on Riverside Road.

b. **Climate Change.** No report.

058/26 Standing Item – Parish Representation at Meetings. No report.

059/26 Street Lighting for Northumberland Street – In his absence, Cllr Rushton advised (via email) that Theia Batchelor (Dark Skies/National Landscapes) will be holding a meeting with the street lighting team on 9th June and he will provide the council with a further update at the July 14th Meeting.

060/26 Pease's Park Playground

a. Friends of Alnmouth Playground' is now registered with Charities Commission (no 1217772). A new bank account is opened. HMRC have been approached to enable Gift Aid to be approved. Money raised to date = £21.5k with an additional £6k corporate donation, £5k from Northumberland Estates and £2k pledge from Wendy Pattison. Circ. £35k raised and other donations could push the figure over £40k which is about 50% of target. A Coffee Morning was held on Saturday 6th June which raised another £580.
b. The council would like to extend its formal thanks to Mac McHugh for the strimming work he has undertaken in the park.
c. There have been no developments with Northumberland Estate's Tenure proposal. **RESOLVED**: Chair to progress.

061/26 Church Hill – RESOLVED: Cllr Lorna Pringle to chase for an update.

062/26 Planning Matters

a. **Planning applications**
   i. **26/011944/FUL 10 Alnwood, Alnmouth, NE66 3NN. Proposed. Rear extension and roof and internal alterations. RESOLVED:** A request for an extension has been submitted to NCC by the Clerk. To be discussed at the 14th July meeting.
   ii. **26/01971/FUL 18 High Buston Main Street High Buston Northumberland NE66 3QH. Received by clerk 9th June. RESOLVED:** A request for an extension has been submitted to NCC by the Clerk. To be discussed at the 14th July meeting.
b. **Planning Decisions –** none to report
c. **Planning Enforcement – RESOLVED:** Clerk to chase NCC for a response.

063/26 The Memorial Bench Policy It was **AGREED** that APC responsibility for maintenance should be removed from the policy. All bench designs continue to require approval of the Parish Council and the council no longer are required to contact the donor regarding future repairs/maintenance. **RESOLVED:** new draft policy to be presented at the July meeting. Cllr Denton advised that Peter Broom will power wash all outstanding benches this month. **RESOLVED**: Bus stop bench tilt to be addressed.

064/26 GOV.UK website recommendations. Refer to Minute 054/25 (e. i-iii) above.

065/26 New Northumberland Local Plan – Scoping Consultation. Deadline is 1st July. All councillors to provide feedback to the Chair by 16th June. **RESOLVED:** Chair to compile responses and circulate synopsis to full council.

066/26 Correspondence

a. **Memorial Plaque - Argyle Street: RESOLVED:** Clerk to thank Carl Stewart for his email proposal. Clerk to advise that the bombing took place in the 2nd World War, 1941, and not the 1st World War. The council AGREED to support the placement of a plaque and the Clerk is to request plaque design ideas. APC AGREED to make a modest contribution towards any costs.
b. **Brochure Reprint: RESOLVED:** A reprint of village walking brochures was **AGREED**. Clerk to clarify print run volume.

067/26 Urgent Business.

A) Chair to chase NCC for a schedule of work to tidy Lover's Walk.
B) Following Councillor Sim's resignation, the council AGREED to source alternative caterers for the Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch (SCXL) and Fireworks Night. Cllr S Wilson to liaise with the owners of

the Market Tavern. It was AGREED that if possible Fireworks Night to have 2 soups and hot dogs and SCXL to have 3 courses.

C) Clerk to formally write and thank residents for their recent work undertaken to improve the viewing bridge area. APC has bought new planters and new stones/pots rockery creating an alpine garden effect.
D) Hawthorn Tree by Duchess Bridge: **RESOLVED:** Alnmouth Parish Council to consider removing the dead tree if no response received from the land owner.
E) The internal auditor Gareth Davies commented that the Parish Council were moving in the right direction. There was clear evidence that the council can respond to matters raised in the internal audit regarding specific areas of governance highlighted in his report.
F) The Clerk is to chase NCC for the poster that accompanies the Local Plan.

068/26 Items for the next Agenda. The Clerk apologised that 'Village First Aid Course' had been missed off the agenda. Cllr Pringle advised she has been in touch with Daisy First Aid and PSN re. lifeguarding courses. Cllrs S & J Wilson to also contact their leads as alternative options.

Date & Time of Next Meetings: 14th July 2026, 07:00pm, Hindmarsh Hall, Northumberland St. NE66 2RS

Future Meeting Dates: 11th August 2026, 8th September 2026, 13th October 2026, 10th November 2026, 8th December 2026.

Meeting Ended: 20:20