

# ALNMOUTH PARISH COUNCIL

## PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 11<sup>th</sup> November 2025

### Minutes

**Present:** Cllrs Shaun Whyte (Chair), Simon Rushton, George Terner, Lorna Pringle, Sally Wilson, John Wilson, David Denton, Richard Sim

**In Attendance:** Jacqueline Brewster (Clerk), Cty Cllr Wendy Pattinson, Robin MacCartney - NCC Highways, 1 member of the public.

The Meeting opened at 19:00

**185/25 Apologies** – Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Harriet McHugh.

**186/25 Declarations of Interest.** None.

#### **187/25 Public Participation**

A member of the public commented on the potential road safety concerns for members of the public and cyclists using Foxton Road footpath. Improvements options such installing a path on the western side of the road, installing speed humps, improved signage and lowering the speed limit were mentioned. NCC Highways, whilst sympathetic and in agreement with the concerns raised, advised that evaluations of the footpath and surrounding areas had not raised sufficient safety concerns to justify what would be considerable expense on a resolution. NCC Highways acknowledged that an upgrade to Foxton Road footpath is unlikely to gain approval at LTP level but going forward APC should still continue with submissions to NCC in the event additional funding becomes available.

**188/25 Minutes of the Previous Meeting - RESOLVED:** The minutes of the meeting held on October 14<sup>th</sup> 2025 were accepted as a true record.

#### **189/25 Finance**

- a. The invoices and expense claims received prior to, or during the meeting (circulated in advance) were **APPROVED**

**Alnmouth Parish Council**  
**PAYMENTS (AWAITING AUTHORISATION) LIST**

11 November 2025 (2025 - 2026)

| Vouche Code                       | Date       | Minute | Bank            | Cheque No                             | Description                 | Supplier                   | VAT Type | Net             | VAT           | Total           |
|-----------------------------------|------------|--------|-----------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 68 Community Fund                 | 31/10/2025 |        | Current Account | APC Noticeboard                       | Alnmouth Parish Noticeboard | Greenbarnes Ltd            | S        | 440.00          | 88.00         | 528.00          |
| 68 Community Fund                 | 31/10/2025 |        | Current Account | APC Noticeboard                       | Alnmouth Parish Noticeboard | Greenbarnes Ltd            | S        | 560.16          | 112.03        | 672.19          |
| 68 Fred & Gladys Bettess Fund     | 31/10/2025 |        | Current Account | APC Noticeboard                       | Alnmouth Parish Noticeboard | Greenbarnes Ltd            | S        | 1,000.00        | 200.00        | 1,200.00        |
| 79 Xmas Lights Fund               | 11/11/2025 |        | Current Account | Order No 1852466                      | LED Lights                  | TLC Direct                 | S        | 31.44           | 6.29          | 37.73           |
| 66 Clerk's Mileage                | 12/11/2025 |        | Current Account | Clerks Mileage Nov                    | Clerk's Mileage             | Alnmouth Parish Council    | X        | 7.65            |               | 7.65            |
| 77 Clerk's Home Working Allowance | 12/11/2025 |        | Current Account | Clerk HWA Nov 25                      | Clerk's HWA                 | Alnmouth Parish Council    | X        | 26.00           |               | 26.00           |
| 56 Purchase of Fireworks          | 12/11/2025 |        | Savings Account | Alnmouth Village 5                    | Refreshments Firework Night | Puffin Enterprises Limited | Z        | 35.21           |               | 35.21           |
| 78 Website & Email                | 12/11/2025 |        | Current Account | Inv-13604 Nov                         | Scribe Accounting Software  | Starboard Systems Ltd      | S        | 31.00           | 6.20          | 37.20           |
| 82 Purchase of Fireworks          | 12/11/2025 |        | Current Account | Dynamic Fireworks                     | Bonfire Night - Fireworks   | Dynamic Fireworks          | S        | 2,302.60        | 460.52        | 2,763.12        |
| 87 Newsletter                     | 12/11/2025 |        | Current Account | Inv 22195 Nov                         | Monthly Newsletter          | Pre Press Digital          | Z        | 226.00          |               | 226.00          |
| 88 Xmas Lights Fund               | 13/11/2025 |        | Current Account | Inv no. A23689672                     | Xmas Lights                 | Screwfix                   | S        | 76.37           | 15.27         | 91.64           |
| 90 Website & Email                | 13/11/2025 |        | Current Account | Inv 203051512615                      | Website & Email             | IONOS Cloud Ltd            | S        | 25.00           | 5.00          | 30.00           |
| 91 Clerk's Salary                 | 30/11/2025 |        | Current Account | Clerks Salary Nov ; Clerk Salary (JB) |                             | Jacqueline Brewster        | X        | 386.00          |               | 386.00          |
| <b>Total</b>                      |            |        |                 |                                       |                             |                            |          | <b>5,147.43</b> | <b>893.31</b> | <b>6,040.74</b> |

- b. The monthly finance report (circulated in advance) was **RECEIVED**.
- c. **RESOLVED:** The net sum of £900 is to be donated to RNLI Amble after the Q3 VAT return has been submitted.
- d. **RESOLVED:** The income sum of £225, being compensation received from Santander, will be allocated to Misc Expenses in the Budget.

#### 190/25 Standing Item - County Council Matters

- a. The October report from County Councillor Pattinson (circulated in advance) was **RECEIVED**.

#### 192/25 Standing Item - Northumbria Police Report

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

#### 193/25 Standing Item - Reports from Working Groups

- a. **Christmas Lights.** Christmas lights will be set up from Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2025.
- b. **Village Maintenance.** Hedges have been cut back on Marine Road, Riverside and the Wynd. The large Willow Tree on the viewing platform has been cut back by Northumberland Estates. The wrong tree had been cutdown by Northumberland Water. Cllr Whyte has sent photos to NW to help identify the correct tree.
- c. **Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch** Cllr Whyte to look at Hindmarsh Hall available dates for Jan/Feb and relay dates to Cllr Simm.
- d. **Climate Change. RESOLVED:** Clerk to decline the offer of free trees from NCC this year.

#### 194/25 Standing Item – Parish Representation at Meetings

- a. Cllr Rushton attended a National Landscapes meeting hosted by Iain Robson and the dark skies team **AGREED** to circulate a more digestible format of the minutes to council members.

#### 195/25 Street Lighting for Northumberland Street

- a. Cllr Rushton provided an update on the potential access to the Dark Skies 55k fund:
  - **Dark Skies Case Studies Community fund 10k:** 10k match funding from NCC Streetlighting for street lighting. However, if for some reason the communities earmarked for this are not supportive NL could potentially move those funds to Alnmouth (with agreement of all parties).
  - **Community Fund 10k:** 1k or 2k maximum possible as the rest is to be spread across the entire landscape *but nothing guaranteed*.

Signed .....Dated.....

- **Balance:** Out of 55k, APC might be able to draw down 1k or 2k plus some NCC match funding if this is not used. Other potential match funders may be approached.
- One potential funder to contribute to the full 16k is the Customer & Community Investment Fund|LNER. **RESOLVED:** Cllr Rushton to follow this up for the next meeting
- **Church - a village building:** NL/APC could potentially take the church forward (St John's Alnmouth) as either a Case Study or through the Community Fund if they abandoned their current lighting and went for dark skies compliant lighting. For both, NL's lighting engineer would specify the works.
- **Summary:** APC are looking at possibly 1k (*worst case scenario is zero*) and at best 2k from the Community fund with possibly some money from NCC to match fund this if other communities with buildings and structures in the Dark Skies area don't apply. The LNER Customer & Community Investment Fund might also be an option.

Cty Cllr Pattinson thanked and commended the council for all the important work they are undertaking and highlighted how all the work was voluntary, without pay, and often undertaken alongside other jobs/commitments. Cty Cllr Pattinson reminded the council that she may be able to assist with funding in the new financial year.

#### 196/25 Firework Night.

- The Chair advised that money raised from food and donations was just over £900 which was slightly down on last year. A community call for volunteers to be undertaken much earlier next year ahead of the event. Formal thanks to the Alnmouth Burgage Holders and the Red Lion for their financial support was recorded.
- It was **AGREED** that the Clerk is to purchase another SumUp machine for the 2026 event.

#### 197/25 Remembrance Sunday.

- It was **AGREED** that Cllr Rushton to arrange for the Priest to announce the names of all the wreath layers at the 2026 service via the public sound system.
- Thanks from the village is to be registered to Christopher Bryceland for the siting of the 'George' statue in Dr Joy's Garden. The Chair advised that c£4k had been raised so far for the charities of Scotty's Little Soldiers.
- Cty Cllr Pattinson requested a formal invitation from the Parish next year to lay a wreath at the service.

#### 198/25 Peases Park Playground

- Cllr Whyte and S Wilson had met with playground equipment suppliers. To replicate the current playground with two large and 2 small installations would be c£60-£70k. Cost would include removal of old pieces, new groundwork and installation. Any equipment needs to be accessible to all and suitable for those who are visually impaired.
- A small group of residents will meet next week to discuss a way forward and the possible formation of a working group.
- Funding to be looked at from the beginning of December. Sykes Holiday Cottages have recently sent out the Parish's fundraising letter to its database.
- The Parish's Community Fund will be utilised for the playground in 2025/26 and 2026/27.

## 199/25 Correspondence

- a. **Email re. Safety Concerns and Signage on Foxton Road:** Refer to agenda item **187/2025** above.
- b. **Email re. Damage to Small Boat House Roof Tiles:** It was **AGREED** that the chair would contact AVGC secretary Iain Simpson to establish whether or not their insurance would cover the cost of roof repairs to the boat house.

## 200/25 Planning Matters

- a. **Planning applications** – No new applications to report.
- b. Cllr Whyte to send Cty Cllr Pattinson details of outstanding planning matters (ref (i) and (ii) below) upon which APC are still awaiting a response from the planning department to their comments:
  - i) **24/00316/LISTED (door) & 23/00732/FUL & PP/P2935/W/23/3323621 Schooner Hotel**  
(removal of unauthorised decking).
  - ii) **22/01187/NOAPLN) & 23/00908/NONMAT & 19/04744/FUL, 6 Riverside Road**  
(unauthorised glazed structure).
- c. **NCC Decisions**
  - i. **25/02594FELTPO|Tree Preservation Order Application -T1 - Sycamore tree proposed total removal.1 Scholefield Place Alnmouth Northumberland NE66 3NH** – application refused.
  - ii. **25/02771/FUL Change of use to residential dwelling. The Old School Gallery Foxton Road Alnmouth Alnwick Northumberland NE66 3NH** - application withdrawn.

**201/25 Church Hill.** Cllr Pringle advised that a survey undertaken in 2021 showed that with repairs, the wall would survive. A meeting had been held with Sarah Winlow who supports the repairs and has ideas/resources and funds to explore first to raise c£7-8K for another survey. A meeting will be held with Northumberland Estates pre-Christmas. Consideration is to be given to crowdfunding or accessing a single funding pot for the repair work.

**202/25 Urgent Business.** Cllr White had received a quote from CPS Alnwick of £60 to print the Newsletter. It was **AGREED** that Cllr Whyte send a copy of the next newsletter to CPS for printing and quality comparison.

## 203/25 Items for the next Agenda

- a. Cllr Pringle – changing double yellow lines on Riverside Road (Passing Place) to red lines.
- b. Install of white lines at entrance to top of Argyle Street.

**Date & Time of Next Meeting:** 9<sup>th</sup> December 2025

**Future Meeting Dates:** 13<sup>th</sup> January 2026, 10<sup>th</sup> February 2026, 10<sup>th</sup> March 2026, 14<sup>th</sup> April 2026, 12<sup>th</sup> May 2026, 9<sup>th</sup> June 2026, 14<sup>th</sup> July 2026, 11<sup>th</sup> August 2026, 8<sup>th</sup> September 2026, 13<sup>th</sup> October 2026, 10<sup>th</sup> November 2026, 8<sup>th</sup> December 2026.

**Meeting Ended:** 20:45