

ALNMOUTH PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 13th JANUARY 2025

Minutes

Present: Cllrs Shaun Whyte (Chair), George Ternent, Lorna Pringle, Sally Wilson, John Wilson, Harriett McHugh, Richard Sim, David Denton

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

The Meeting opened at 19:00

The Chair welcomed and introduced Gareth Davies who attended in his capacity of potential Internal Auditor.

219/25 Apologies – Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Simon Rushton

220/25 Declarations of Interest. None declared.

221/25 Public Participation – none.

222/25 Minutes of the Previous Meeting - RESOLVED: The minutes of the meeting held on December 9th 2026 were accepted as a true record.

223/25 Finance

- a. The invoices and expense claims received prior to, or during the meeting (circulated in advance) were **APPROVED**.
- b. The monthly finance report (circulated in advance) was **RECEIVED**.
- c. The Chair opened the floor to Gareth Davies (GD) who introduced himself and provided a precis of his relevant financial and auditing background experience. He advised that internal audits have now evolved for Parish Council's with an increasing focus on IT systems, GDPR and operational methods all of which are now more prominent. The new Assertion 10, whilst important, should not place a lot of additional and onerous work on the Parish Council due to the council's size. **RESOLVED:** The Letter of Engagement from the Internal Auditor was unanimously accepted and APPROVED by the Council. Gareth Davies was appointed for the 2025/26 internal audit.

224/25 Standing Item - County Council Matters

- a. The December report from County Councillor Pattison (circulated in advance) was **RECEIVED**. Cllr Pattinson enquired how effectively NCC carried out gritting during the recent adverse cold weather. The Chair reported that one or two people did experience problems driving around the Golf Course circuit. The Wynd, the Golf Club circuit and Northumberland Street were not gritted. The Chair advised that he had asked for an additional grit bin via Fix My Street to be placed at the junction of Marine Road/Riverside Road. **RESOLVED:** Clerk to email northernhighways@northumberland.gov.uk and request an assessment to be carried out at this location. Cllr Pattison advised that grit bins can be bought for £100 off Amazon but residents would need to purchase the grit. Cllr Pattison may liaise with Cllr George Mather (Cabinet Member for Road and Highways) about the Parish concerns.

225/25 Standing Item - Northumbria Police Report

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

226/25 Standing Item - Reports from Working Groups

a. Village Maintenance:

- i. **Harbour Wall.** Structural weakness of the wall has been reported via Fix My Street to NCC. Cllr Whyte advised that Northumberland Estates were approached in 2023 re. ownership of the wall and confirmed it was not their responsibility as they did not build it. NCC have also refuted ownership responsibility. **RESOLVED:** Clerk to contact NCC Highways to ask for assistance identifying ownership of the wall and to urgently request the wall, at the very least, is cordoned off to protect members of the public from the potential collapse of the wall.
 - ii. **War Memorial:** Transcare, Arriva's inhouse insurance handlers, have conceded liability to the second impact damage claim to the war memorial. Cllr Whyte has not received any responses from 3 stone masons he approached. **RESOLVED:** Cllr Denton to provide the Clerk with contact details for Ben Elliott in order to approach him for an estimate. **RESOLVED:** Clerk to contact to Chris.curtis@northumberland.gov.uk to arrange a meeting between Highways and Arriva to discuss protective barrier options for the war memorial.
 - iii. **Village Toilets:** Village toilets appear to be in working order. **RESOLVED:** Cllr Whyte to liaise with Martin Duddy at NCC to have temporary portable toilets removed.
 - iv. **Hope and Anchor.** **RESOLVED:** Clerk to finalise and send letter.
 - v. **Grit Bin Marine Rd/Riverside Rd Junction.** Refer to 224/25 (a) above.
 - vi. **Broken Spring on Rocker.** **RESOLVED:** Cllr Denton confirmed the broken spring had been replaced. Cllr Denton to submit an invoice for work undertaken to the Clerk.
 - vii. **Boathouse Storage of New Village Marquee.** **RESOLVED:** The council agreed to the new marquee being stored at the boathouse. **RESOLVED:** Cllr Denton to arrange for the existing marquee to be sold.
- b. **Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch.** The Parish Council would like to pass on their thanks to Cllr Simm for providing the food and all the catering staff for the Christmas Lunch. Cllr S Wilson advised that 27 tickets had been sold to date. Cash for ticket sales were handed to the Clerk. A request was made to the council for volunteer assistance of 1-2 hours on the day.
 - c. **Climate Change.** A meeting is to be held with AVGC, N Estates and other parties on Thursday 15th January. **RESOLVED:** Cllr Whyte to report back to the council after the meeting.

227/25 Standing Item – Parish Representation at Meetings

- a. None to report.

228/25 Street Lighting for Northumberland Street.

- a. The Clerk provided the council with an email update from Cllr Rushton in his absence. The Street Lighting project may evolve into a National Landscapes project with potential VAT benefits. Council to be kept apprised by Cllr Rushton. **RESOLVED:** Cllr Rushton to approach the Burgage Holder's for funding support at their meeting on the 27th January 2026.

229/25 Peases Park Playground.

- a. The council formally thanked Cty Cllr Pattison for her £2k contribution towards the fundraising appeal. The community group had a successful first meeting on Sunday 11th January. Cllrs McHugh and S Wilson had finalised posters/flyers and had distributed them throughout the village. There will be a fundraising coffee morning held on 31st January at the Hindmarsh Hall.
- b. **RESOLVED:** Cllr Whyte to develop and distribute a feedback questionnaire to local schools/scouts/village clubs and proposed broadening the scope of the new park to include fitness elements for 'older' people in the village. The appeal's aim is to raise c£70k. To date the Burgage

Holders have pledged £10k, Cty Cllr Pattison £2k, and Crowdfunding has raised £700. **RESOLVED:** Cllr Whyte to approach the Bettess's family re. the allocation of the balance of funds in this budget of c£1700 to the park's fundraising appeal.

230/25 Church Hill: Cllr Pringle to meet with Sarah Winlow on Thursday 15th June and will update the council at the February meeting.

231/25 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.** Cllr Whyte confirmed he had drafted a letter of complaint to Cllr Sanderson outlining dissatisfaction with planning enforcement and highlighting the council's statutory planning obligations.

232/25 Correspondence

- a. **Joint Parish & Town Council Spring Conference.** Cllrs Rushton and Pringle expressed interest in attending the meeting. **RESOLVED:** Clerk to confirm attendance.
- b. **Website enquiry - Alnmouth Beach Wedding.** **RESOLVED:** Clerk to advise permission needs to be sought from the Duke of Northumberland's Estates office.

233/25 Urgent Business – none to report.

234/25 Items for the next Agenda - none to report.

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

Future Meeting Dates: 10th March 2026, 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: 20:00