# ALNMOUTH PARISH COUNCIL

## PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 14th APRIL 2025
## Minutes

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

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

The Meeting opened at 19:10

**001/26 Apologies –** Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Rushton, Cllr S Wilson and Cllr McHugh.

**002/26 Disclosure of Interest.** Cllr Whyte declared an interest in item [013/26(a)]

**003/26 Public Participation** – No attendees.

**004/26 RESOLVED:** The minutes of the meeting held on 10th March 2026 were **ACCEPTED** as a true record.

**005/26 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.**
c. The Q4 VAT 2026 report was **RECEIVED**.
d. The Asset Register for 2026-27 was **APPROVED**
e. The purchase of a lawn mower was **APPROVED**. **RESOLVED**: Cllr Whyte to purchase new mower.

**006/26 Standing Item - County Council Matters**

a. The February report from County Cllr Pattison (circulated in advance) was **RECEIVED.**
b. Cty Cllr Pattison updated the council on a report she had received from Tommy McGloughlin regarding the village toilets. Full installation of new drainage is required and works are to be undertaken to repair the drainage system to help eliminate blockages and back flow. The toilets in the female block need to be removed to accommodate this works. It had been noted in the report that excess toilet paper is being used in the toilets and therefore remedial drainage repair work may not be sole solution. Cllr Pattison will keep the council apprised on timings of works. The Chair thanked Cllr Pattison for chasing this response.
c. Cllr Whyte confirmed that temporary toilets are needed urgently as blockages had taken place within the last few days. Cty Cllr Pattison advised that the APC Clerk receives a weekly update from NCC on the toilets. The Clerk advised there were no such receipts.

**007/26 Standing Item - Northumbria Police Report**

a. No report.

**008/26 Standing Item - Reports from Working Groups**

a. **Village Maintenance:**
   i. **Harbour Wall –** Cllr Whyte has chased NCC and Northumberland Estate's. Ownership of the wall is still in negotiations. Fencing is looking secure.

ii. **War Memorial –** Cllr Whyte has sent the recent repair cost off to Arriva and will progress this once approved. Road signs have been consolidated into one but its position has not been moved back. This has been raised with NCC Highways. Cllr Rushton has circulated proposals to potentially use some form of bollards on the roundabout. This matter was DEFERRED to the next meeting.
iii. **Toilets –** Refer to [006/26(b)above.
iv. **Bus Shelter – RESOLVED:** The bus has been cleaned by a company Cllr Whyte sourced.
v. **Hobberlaw Village Planting -** Clerk advised a budget of £600 has been confirmed to Hobberlaw and a confirmation date for planting is pending.
vi. **Lovers Walk -** Cllr Whyte has chased Northumberland Estate's and is liaising with Kelly O'Sullivan. Cllr Whyte will continue to press this matter.
vii. **Grit Bin Marine Rd/Riverside Rd Junction.** NCC have confirmed the criteria for a new grit bin has not been met. **RESOLVED**: APC have received permission to move the grit bin near the Church over to the other side of the road by the telephone kiosk. APC could purchase their own bin for Marine Road/Riverside Rd but the cost of having it filled by NCC is prohibitive.

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

**009/26 Standing Item – Parish Representation at Meetings**

a. None to report.

**0010/26 Street Lighting for Northumberland Street**

a. Cllr Rushton reported via email that Theia Batchelor of National Landscapes is progressing the streetlights with Gavin Barlow and his team at NCC. National landscapes are asking NCC's team to change the policy they have on street lighting so the 2700 Kelvin lights can be used in all rural areas as they allow wildlife to flourish better (moths that bats eat and other related environmental issues). National Landscapes also want coastal villages re- classified as rural not urban areas as that effects what kinds of lights NCC use. Currently all spot replacements are 4000 kelvin which is why every time an outage is reported on Fix my Street NCC use very brilliant white light replacements instead of warm yellow.

**011/26 Pease's Park Playground.**

a. Cllr Whyte – funds raised so far are just over £20k and a coffee morning is planned for the beginning June. Clerk and Cllr Whyte are to meet with Northumberland Estates to see if ownership of land can be identified. Cllr Whyte is in the process of applying for charitable status of 'Friends of Alnmouth' with some funding applications already submitted and others pending subject to charitable status.

**012/26 Church Hill –** nothing further to report.

**013/26 Planning Matters**

a. **Planning applications –** 26/00955/FUL 10 Alnwood NE66 3NN. It was AGREED that the internal alterations, roof and rear extension could prove to lead to a loss of light and loss of privacy to neighbours. Following discussion, a vote was taken amongst the Councillors to either (a) take a neutral stance and support the existing planning objections or (b) formally object with minor adjustments seeing it accepted. **RESOLVED:** The majority vote was in favour of (b) which was ACCEPTED. APC to object with relatively minor changes to make it acceptable ie. shorten balcony and change window configuration together with a construction method statement being required.

**014/26 Village First Aid Course -** deferred to next meeting

**015/26 Memorial Bench Policy –** deferred to next meeting.

**016/26 Correspondence**

a. The Council agreed that parishioners would benefit from being advised of the Digital Switchover via the village newsletter and/or coffee mornings. **RESOLVED:** Clerk to complete NCC questionnaire.
b. Clerk to provide Jan Anderson (Clerk to Newton-by-the-Sea) with Chris Bryceland's contact details in relation to the Fusilier Sculpture's signs and posts.
c. Cllr Whyte to draft a response to Sean Hammil's email regarding the overnight parking of campervans on Riverside Road.

**017/26 Urgent Business.** None to report.

**018/26 Items for the next Agenda -** None

**Date & Time of Next Meetings:**

Annual General Meeting – 12th May 2026, 07:00pm, Hindmarsh Hall, Northumberland St, NE66 2RS
Ordinary Meeting - 12th May 2026, 07:15

pm, Hindmarsh Hall, Northumberland St. NE66 2RS

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

**Meeting Ended: 19:50**