

ALNMOUTH PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 14th OCTOBER 2025

Minutes

Present: Cllrs Shaun Whyte (Chair), Simon Rushton, George Ternent, Lorna Pringle, Harriet McHugh, Cty Cllr Wendy Pattinson

In Attendance: Jacqueline Brewster (Clerk)

The Meeting opened at 19:00

166/25 Apologies – Apologies were received from Cllrs Sally Wilson, John Wilson, David Denton, Richard Simm.

167/25 Declarations of Interest - Cllr Whyte regarding Agenda Item 181/25 - Planning Application 25/02771/FUL The Old School Gallery.

168/25 Public Participation - There was no public participation.

169/25 Minutes of the Previous Meeting - RESOLVED: The minutes of the meeting held on 9th September 2025 were accepted as a true record and were signed by the Chair.

170/25 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. Cllr Rushton's subscription to Dark Skies was **APPROVED. RESOLVED** Cllr Rushton to submit an expense claim to the Clerk.
- d. The overall financial budget was **RECEIVED. RESOLVED** Cllr Whyte and the Clerk to proceed with the preparation of the 2026/27 budget in November.

171/25 Standing Item - County Council Matters

- a. The October report from County Councillor Pattinson was **RECEIVED**.
- b. Cty Cllr Pattinson advised that NCC's programme of free trees will be included in her next report and shared the programme's contact email address with Cllr Whyte.

172/25 Standing Item - Northumbria Police Report

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

173/25 Standing Item - Reports from Working Groups

- a. **Christmas Lights** – Plans are currently in progress.
- b. **Village Maintenance**
 - i. Cllr Whyte reported that residents who live near the Duchess Bridge had expressed interest in helping with the maintenance of the viewing platform area. Currently there

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

- is a large willow blocking the view and a dead tree with roots wrapped round the gas or sewer pipe. Enquiries revealed that 4sq feet belonged to Northumberland Water (NW) and Cllr Whyte is waiting for a response from NW. Northumberland Estates accepted the Willow tree is on their land and will remove it gratis as a gesture of good will. APC may wish to consider replacing the planters.
- ii. Cllr Whyte reported that Arriva had agreed to pay for the damage to the War Memorial and the money has been received.
 - iii. Cllr Whyte reported that the painting of the large Boat House had started and Saunders were being pressed to start the pointing which they advised is delayed due to rain.
 - iv. Cllr Whyte advised that the metal statue of 'George' the Solider is to be installed at the end of October with money raised from the inbuilt donation box to go to SSAFA.
 - v. Cllr Whyte reported that the new parish noticeboard is now installed. **RESOLVED:** A small plaque will be affixed to the noticeboard recognising the Bettess and Marjorie Mountain Bequests for their contribution.
 - vi. **RESOLVED:** Clerk to send letters to residents requesting hedges are cut back in areas where they are infringing on pathways.
- c. **Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch**
 - i. **RESOLVED:** Cllr Whyte to liaise with Cllr Simm to confirm a date.
 - d. **Climate Change** – no report received.

174/25 Standing Item – Parish Representation at Meetings

- a. Cllr Whyte had attended an informal meeting of Parish Council Chairs. NCC's planning process was the main issue discussed. Other Parish Council's reported having a poor experience with their NCC rep which is contrary to APC who have found them responsive and helpful. Collectively the Chairs were keen to restore the process of Parish Council planning objections moving straight to the Planning Committee. It was **AGREED** that Cllr Whyte address this with Cllr Martin Swinbank who is responsible for Planning.
- b. It was **AGREED** that any APC planning enforcement issues are to be relayed to Cty Cllr Pattison via the Clerk.
- c. Cllr Whyte had met with Cty Cllr Glen Sanderson and had discussed planning matters, toilets and procurement with foremost matters discussed being local transport, trains, economic growth and schools.

175/25 Street Lighting for Northumberland Street

- a. Cllr Rushton advised that the new streetlight was now in situ with a small plaque in place requesting any feedback to be sent to the Clerk.
- b. Cllr Rushton advised that a Dark Skies grant has been secured and APC could potentially be used as a pilot.
- c. **RESOLVED:** Cllr Rushton to send Cllr McHugh information to produce social media posts promoting the new light and requesting village feedback be sent to the Clerk.

176/25 Firework Night

- a. Cllr Whyte confirmed the brazier was now built.
- b. **RESOLVED:** Cllr's Whyte and Rushton to liaise re. sourcing a blue tooth speaker and music for the night.
- c. It was **AGREED** that any money raised via bucket collection be allocated to the Community Fund.

177/25 Volcano Night

- a. The event was well attended this year with 37 teams each paying £25.
- b. No planning changes were proposed for 2026.
- c. It was **AGREED** that all money raised go to Amble Lifeboat Station.

178/25 Remembrance Sunday

- a. Cllr Ruston confirmed the Bugler and Celebrant were booked. The RAF Boulmer rep is still to be confirmed. The wreath layers were confirmed. The WI was all set up.
- b. The Clerk advised wreaths had been ordered and the Road Traffic Closure Notice had been submitted to NCC.

179/25 Peases Park Playground

- a. Cllrs S Wilson and Whyte had met with Playdale's Area Manager and were due to meet another company next week.
- b. Playdale's first proposal was presented to the committee. Playdale's quote included equipment, landscaping, resurfacing, taking away existing equipment, install and delivery which amounted to circ. £60k.
- c. Cty Cllr Wendy advised that Ivan Hewitt organises The Rural Asset Multiplier Programme (RAMP). **RESOLVED:** Cllr Whyte to initiate enquiries with RAMP.

180/25 Correspondence

- a. **RESOLVED** Clerk to respond to NCC's Review of Polling Districts and Polling Stations (circulated in advance) and advise APC do not require any changes.
- b. The committee reviewed the Elections Office Governance Review for Northumberland and Town Parish Councils (circulated in advance). **RESOLVED:** Clerk to provide response to NCC. APC requested no changes.

181/25 Planning Matters

- a. The following planning matters were **RECEIVED**:
 - i. 25/03259/FUL - Land West of 17 Northumberland Street. **RESOLVED:** No comment
 - ii. 25/03287/FUL - Mount Pleasant, Highview House. **RESOLVED:** No comment
 - iii. 25/03307/TREECA - Rosedale Cottage. **RESOLVED:** No comment
 - iv. 25/03266/TREECA - 46 Northumberland Street. **RESOLVED:** No comment
 - v. 25/02771/FUL - The Old School Gallery. The following points were considered and agreed by the Committee:
 - Change of Use** – the loss of the gallery would
 - detract from Alnmouth's tourist offering
 - remove a beneficial additional (non pub/gift/food) attraction for tourists
 - reduce Alnmouth's winter tourist offer/attraction
 - have employment implications
 - eliminate a valuable platform for local artists
 - a statement accompanying the application that it "will bring the building back to life". But it is currently a viable business
 - there are a number of Policies in the Northumberland Local Plan that are designed to protect tourism and local economies.
 - APC noted the number of objections from outside the village

Conversion of Building to a Single Dwelling:

- It stands in the Alnmouth Conservation Area. The Aim of Conservation Areas includes the preservation of Buildings “and the spaces between them”. Would the change, and associated garage threaten the playground space.
- APC to ask for elevation drawings showing the height of the proposed garage in the context of the Old School building (as the floor level needs to be raised significantly).
- The application states the garage would provide 2 additional parking spaces and ease the congestion on Foxton Rd. However, would the proposed entrance and the provision of sightlines remove at least 3 and possibly 5 car parking spaces on the road.
- The scale and black cladding of the single-story extension appropriate for the Cons Area.
- Is the conversion sympathetic and retaining much of the original building and minimizing change.
- APC considered the black cladding would dominate and detract from the elevations.
- Concerned that reassurance should be sought that the structure could withstand an additional floor

The committee **AGREED** to support all points raised above in *Change of Use and Conversion of Building*. **RESOLVED:** Cllr Whyte to compile an Objection comment to circulate to all attending Cllrs for their approval before submission to Planning. APC concluded that the proposals were contrary to a number of NLP policies.

b. **NCC Decisions** - Nothing to report

182/25 Church Hill – RESOLVED: Cllr Pringle agreed to act as Parish representative and to discuss matters with NL and Northumberland Estates and explore future funding opportunities.

183/25 Urgent Business – RESOLVED: Clerk to request further information from Gabriel Kite regarding the memorial bench enquiry.

184/25 Items for the next Agenda – no additional items received.

Date & Time of Next Meeting: 11th November 2025, The Hindmarsh Hall, Northumberland Street, NE66 2RS.

Future Meeting Dates: 9th December 2025, 13th January 2026, 10th February 2026, 10th March 2026.

Meeting Ended: 20:45