

ALNMOUTH PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes

Parish Council Meeting

The Hindmarsh Hall, Northumberland Street, Alnmouth Tuesday 9th April 2024

Present: Cllrs Susanne Gair (Chair), Ian Armstrong, David Denton, Josie McDonough, George Ternent, Simon Rushton, Shelley Straughan [arrived during item 52/24/a/ii], Simon Walford, John Wilson (from item 50/24).

In Attendance: Deb Still (Clerk), County Cllr Martin Swinbank, two members of the public.

The meeting opened at 7.25pm

47/24 Apologies

County Cllr Gordon Castle.

48/24 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of 11th March 2024 be accepted as a true record of the meeting.

49/24 Declarations of Interest

None.

50/24 Cooption of John Wilson

John Wilson's Acceptance of Office was RECEIVED.

51/24 Public Participation

None.

52/24 Planning Matters

a) Applications/Appeals

i)24/00818/COU The Nightfold, Shepherds Hill, Alnmouth.

Change of use of existing residential annex to independent dwelling (Principal Occupancy).

It was AGREED to submit a neutral response requesting conditions related to retention of parking and permanent residency.

ii)24/00734/FUL The Schooner Hotel 8 Northumberland Street Alnmouth.

To landscape rear courtyard/hotel garden area to create new external seating areas and customer experience.

It was AGREED to submit a neutral response with a request for a time of 8pm for last orders; images of proposed surfaces to be provided; and an elevation drawing of the proposed canopy and paving area. It was also AGREED to raise with NCC the significant inaccuracies in the application.

Signed Dated 14th May 2024

b) Update on Planning Decisions (for information only)

24/00129/FUL 22 Northumberland Street, Alnmouth.

Retrospective planning approval for construction of pizza oven and open shelter to the rear beer garden.

NCC Decision – permission granted.

c) Planning Enforcement

i) 22/01187/NOAPLN Re: 23/00908/NONMAT on approved application

19/04744/FUL 6 Riverside Road Alnmouth

NCC has confirmed that this issue has been passed to the enforcement team but no time scales have been provided to APC.

d) Other updates or applications received since drafting the agenda (for information only)

None.

53/24 County Council Matters

The two planters by the new cycle racks have been installed by NCC and APC will be responsible for planting them up. There is no further update on Lovers Walk at this time. The NCC Climate Change Action Plan 2022-24 is being rewritten.

County Cllr Swinbank reported that NCC has confirmed that specific coastal erosion affecting private landowners is the responsibility of the landowner. There is a 2009 Shoreline Management Plan covering the area from the Scottish Border to the Tyne. This was adopted by the local councils, following consultation with local stakeholders and the Environment Agency.

There is no further update as to how the Government's Natural Flood Management programme monies will be allocated by the Northumberland Coast National Landscape (formerly AONB).

54/24 Alnmouth Coastal Erosion/Storm Damage

APC is concerned about access to the beach for those with mobility issues following the recent storms which have swept sand away leaving steep drops to the beach. The Clerk to write to other North Northumberland Coast Parish Councils to find out whether any local measures taken have proved successful.

APC has received a response from Northumberland Estates (NE) about potential Church Hill repairs following recent unsuccessful funding bids. NE are obtaining costs for remedial designs and will then meet with Northumberland Coast National Landscape when received to discuss options.

55/24 Shepherds Hill Parking

NCC has stated that while it supports the proposal for a layby to replace parking on the verge they intend to put it on hold given opposition from the residents on Shepherds Hill. NCC will consult about an extension of the double yellow lines at both junctions to improve visibility and address safety concerns. Parking will continue on the verge thereafter. APC noted the reply from NCC and are concerned that this does not represent a solution to the parking and utility issues. County Cllr Swinbank will contact the officers about the proposed approach on behalf of APC.

Signed Dated 14th May 2024

56/24 Fred & Gladys Bettess Fund

Councillors and Hindmarsh Hall Trustees will be meeting to discuss.

57/24 Volcano Night

The Risk Assessment was AGREED. It was NOTED that ticketed income would be subject to VAT at 20% and that there may be an additional insurance cost. The insurance company will be sent the required Risk Assessment and the Clerk will report back.

58/24 Alnmouth Street Lights

No update received from NCC. County Cllr Swinbank offered to make enquiries.

59/24 Finance

- a) It was RESOLVED that the following payments be approved and a transfer of £1500 from the APC Business Savings Account on 14/3/24 be approved:

Account	Date	Description	Reference	Amount (incl VAT)	VAT
APC					
	06 Apr 2024	IONOS	website and email direct debit April 2024	16.80	2.80
	12 Apr 2024	PPD Printgroup Ltd	Inv 19993 April 24 Newsletter	113.00	113.00
	12 Apr 2024	Deb Still	Clerk's expenses April 2024	30.50	30.50
	12 Apr 2024	Xero UK Ltd	Xero Accounts Package Inv 18737557 Direct Debit	30.00	6.00
	12 Apr 2024	David Denton	Repairs to Playpark	147.49	0.00
	30 Apr 2024	Deb Still	Clerk's April Salary	489.00	0.00

- b) The monthly finance report was RECEIVED.
c) The insurance claim has been paid and McLean's requested to complete the works.
d) The Asset Register was AGREED.
e) It was Agreed in principle to vire monies from the Community Fund if required to pay for the planting at the roundabout at the entrance to the village (around £600 twice per year).

60/24 Reports from Working Groups

a. Christmas Lights

The Clerk to make enquiries about a Cherry Picker.

b. Village Maintenance

The Clerk to obtain quotes for repairs to the bus shelter floor, playpark entrances and the surface of Dr Joy's garden and reinstalling the plinth/sun dial.

Cllr Denton to inspect the benches and in particular the one near the roundabout.

The volunteer team will be starting on Dr Joy's Garden soon.

Signed Dated 14th May 2024

c. Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch

To consider implications for ticketing of event in 2025.

d. Climate Change

No update.

61/24 Correspondence

i) APC NOTED the Section 137 LGA 1972 Grant thank you letters. The out of time applicant can apply in financial year 2024-25.

62/24 Any Other Business for Information

None.

63/24 Confidential Matters

A motion to exclude the public was RESOLVED due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed (employment). It was NOTED that the Clerk has worked a recorded 49 hours in 2023-24 in excess of the paid for 30 hpm on APC and VAT work. It was AGREED that the Clerk and APC will continue to monitor the position.

The meeting closed at 9pm.

Date & Time of Next Meeting: - 14th May 2024 (and Annual General Meeting); at 7pm, The Hindmarsh Hall, Northumberland Street, NE66 2RS.

Future Meeting Dates

11th June 2024; 9th July 2024; 13th August 2024; 10th September 2024; 8th October 2024; 12th November 2024; 10th December 2024; 14th January 2025; 11th February 2025; 11th March 2025.

Signed Dated 14th May 2024