

Alnmouth Parish Council

Minutes

Parish Council Meeting
The Hindmarsh Hall, Northumberland Street, Alnmouth Tuesday 11th July
2023 – 7pm

Present: Cllrs Ian Armstrong (Chair), David Denton, Shelley Straughan, Josie MacDonough, George Ternent.

In Attendance: Deb Still (Clerk), County Cllrs Martin Swinbank and Gordon Castle.

The Meeting opened at 7 pm.

In the absence of the Chair and not having a Vice Chair the Council DECIDED pursuant to Standing Order 3 (o) that Cllr Armstrong would chair the meeting.

100/23 Apologies

Cllrs Simon Rushton, Simon Walford, Susanne Gair.

101/23 Minutes of the Previous Meetings

It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of 13th June 2023 be accepted as a true record of the meeting and it was further RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of 22nd June be accepted as a true record of the meeting.

102/23 Declarations of Interest

None were declared.

103/23 Public Participation

No members of the public were present.

104/23 Planning Matters

a) Planning Applications

i) 23/02231/NONMAT Non-Material Amendment (reduce size of west elevation openings, remove 2no east facing windows, modest increase in width of entrance hallway, add 5 no rooflights and increase width of rear dormer) on approved application 21/01327/FUL. Land South Of Rosedale Lodge Foxton Road

It was AGREED to submit a Neutral Response.

ii) 23/00732/FUL – Appeal to Planning Inspectorate Ref: APP/P2935/W/23/3323621

Appeal to the Secretary of State by the Schooner Hotel 8 Northumberland Street against NCC's decision to refuse Retrospective Planning Permission for full timber decking outdoor seating area with timber frame outbuilding / shed for outdoor store and service area.

It was AGREED to submit the response drafted by the Planning Working Group to the Planning Inspectorate.

b) Update on Planning Decisions

22/02572/FUL Proposed single storey Kitchen and Sauna extension with balcony over and associated works, namely formation of external access stair, revised ground levels, extended lawn/patio areas and wall to east boundary. (Amended plans received 22.02.2023 and 12.06.2023; amended description 12.06.2023) 5 The Wynd Alnmouth Plans for 5 The Wynd.

It was NOTED that NCC Granted the application.

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

It was AGREED that Shaun Whyte (as member of the APC Planning Working Group) would attend the NCC Planning Committee Hearing on behalf of APC (if permitted by NCC Policy) for application 21/03496/FUL Westlea B&B, 29 Riverside Road on 20th July at Alnwick. If not permitted, a Councillor would attend.

105/23 County Council Matters

County Cllr Castle mentioned the new bi-monthly Local Area Committee Meetings open to members of the public and parish councillors. These meetings will deal with matters other than planning matters. The first meeting is at Warkworth Village Hall on Thursday 27th July at 6pm for an anticipated maximum of 2 hours. The agenda will be:

1. Grass cutting and Weeds Maintenance
2. Stronger Shores - a coastline protection project
3. Northeast Bus Improvement Plan - Local Bus Board.

In future, agenda items for these Local Area Committee meetings can be suggested by members of the public to Cllr Castle. Officers and Councillors will be in attendance to answer questions. It was AGREED that Cllr Armstrong would make a poster to put in the Alnmouth notice board.

County Cllr Castle reported on changes in procedure at Planning Committees in future whereby County Cllrs (at the discretion of the Chair of the meeting) will be able to ask questions of an applicant or objector if it would clarify an item. Also if there is a particularly contentious planning application with significant public interest, additional time could be allocated to speakers at the discretion of the Chair,

County Cllr Swinbank reported that NCC has declared an Ecological Emergency today. There are new statutory requirements for plans and reporting on how Councils are reversing the loss of wildlife.

County Cllr Castle reported that NCC has today agreed an emergency grant of £100k to Alnwick Playhouse in respect of works needed to the main auditorium.

County Cllr Swinbank reported that Lovers' Walk is in the NCC Local Transport Plans for a design and feasibility study; High Buston for works to prevent parking at the junction; and the Wynd is due to be resurfaced around November 2023.

County Cllr Castle reiterated Cllr Swinbank's previous encouragement for members of the public to use the NCC 'FixMyStreet' area of the NCC website to report issues such as graffiti, fly tipping, broken paving slabs, broken street lighting, overflowing bins, potholes etc with a precise location to allow a prompt response to the report.

County Cllr Castle also encouraged residents to use the Northumbria Police website <https://beta.northumbria.police.uk/contact-us/> to report non-urgent items to the police.

106/23 Request for a new Memorial Bench

The applicant has accepted the proposed site near the Playpark and will liaise with the council on removal of the old bench and installation of the new in line with the Bench Policy and make the payment towards the maintenance fund.

107/23 Defibrillators in the Village

This item was deferred until the next meeting.

108/23 Training

The Clerk attended the VAT training but the Internal Controls training had no space so the Clerk will attend in future when the course runs again.

109/23 Local Transport Plans for NCC 2024-25

It was AGREED to submit the following LTPs with reports and photographs:

- Improvements to the pavement and kerb at Riverside Road due to the erosion of the pavement.
- A short stretch of footpath/pavement be added into the verge at Foxton Road.
- Lover's Walk be resurfaced and drained.

110/23 Shepherds Hill – NCC Proposals for Lay-by

The recent consultation by NCC on the possibility of constructing a lay-by on Shepherds Hill in place of parking on the verge was sent to 12 residents of Shepherds Hill as well as the usual 28 statutory consultees. APC has not seen the responses but understands from an NCC officer that residents of Shepherds Hill were against the proposal, with some favouring double yellow lines in order to prevent parking. APC acknowledged the importance of this feedback and the need to consult directly with these residents so as to fully understand all the reasons for their objections whilst also exploring the benefits of the proposal to the wider Alnmouth community. APC committed to studying all options for Shepherds Hill

and carrying out further consultation with Alnmouth residents, with utility providers (electricity, gas, water), and with NCC officers to find the optimal way forward. County Cllr Swinbank will contact the NCC officer and advise that further consultation will be undertaken. This will prevent the matter being closed, with a likely timescale of around ten years before the matter could be revisited. County Cllr Swinbank will also set up a meeting with a Senior Officer in Highways Planning.

111/23 Fred Bettess Fund

Cllr MacDonough has contacted Newcastle University with a view to working with some students on a project for a digital archive. A substantive response is likely when term starts in the autumn.

112/23 Finance

a) It was **RESOLVED** that the following payments be approved:

APC				
APC	31 Jul 2023	Deb Still	Clerk's Salary for July 2023	442.10
APC	13 Jul 2023	PPD Printgroup Ltd	Inv 18564 27.6.23 July newsletter	113.00
APC	13 Jul 2023	HMRC - PAYE	Month 1, 2 & 3 PAYE	45.80
APC	13 Jul 2023	Deb Still	Clerk's Expenses June & July 2023	69.10
AAF	13 Jul 2023	Michael Begg Studio	Inv 26.6.23 Presentation/Talk	200.00
AAF	13 Jul 2023	Hindmarsh Hall	Inv 4.3.23 amended 23.6.23 Venue Hire	68.00
AAF	13 Jul 2023	St John the Baptist Church	Inv 23.6.23 venue hire	1,000.00
AAF	13 Jul 2023	Dr C Harrison	Inv 22.6.23 Workshop	200.00
AAF	13 Jul 2023	AAF Per 3	Inv 18.6.23 Performance	418.00
AAF	13 Jul 2023	AAF Per 4	Inv 8.7.23 Performance	350.00
AAF	13 Jul 2023	Soul 2 Sand	Inv 0086 Sand Art 20.6.23	600.00
AAF	13 Jul 2023	AAF Per 5	Inv 20230702 5.7.23 Performance	500.00
AAF	13 Jul 2023	Jane Lancaster	Inv 29/6/23 Beach School	500.00
AAF	13 Jul 2023	Sean Murray Garden Narratives	Inv 2332 of 27.6.23 Talk	300.00
AAF	13 Jul 2023	AAF Per 6	Inv of 3.7.23 Performance	1,000.00
Dr Joy Fund	13 Jul 2023	APC Current Account	Inv 32 Robin Winder May 2023	80.00
Walk Guides Fund	13 Jul 2023	PPD Printgroup Ltd	Inv 18529 1000 Alnmouth on Foot booklets	1,620.00
Retrospective Approvals and TO NOTE Amended Payments				
AAF	20 Jun 2023	Definitive Sound	Balance of Inv of 4.5.23 for AAF PA	£ 600.00
AAF	30-Jun-23	PPD Press	Balance of Inv 18360 not paid (in error)	£ 12.00
AAF	30-Jun-23	NPD Ltd	Inv 2861 Tshirts, Tote bags, Banners	£ 1,392.00
AAF	30-Jun-23	L Bhenry	Workshop Felt	£ 194.00
AAF	26 Jun 2023	CB speaker	Inv 916 Talk at HH	£ 200.00
AAF	30 Jun 2023	Ellie Illustrates	Inv of 1.6.23 Festival Guide	£ 500.00
AAF	26 Jun 2023	H Holden	AAF Expenses	£ 230.17
AAF	26 Jun 2023	AAF Per 7	Inv 1 of 20.6.23 Pfce Fee	£ 500.00
AAF	30 Jun 2023	Need Transport	Inv 7963 of 19.6.23	£ 350.00

- b) The finance report for June 2023 was RECEIVED.
c) The Clerk is progressing opening the accounts with main suppliers.
d) The Clerk submitted the Annual Governance and Accountability Return to the external auditor by the deadline.

113/23 Reports from Working Groups

a. Christmas Lights

Testing will begin soon.

b. Village Maintenance

- i) The Playpark work is ongoing in response to the RoSPA report..

- ii) Cllr Denton has not been able to source the yellow surface topping (to represent sand) that was previously laid in Dr Joy's garden. The search will continue.
- iii) The bin near the bridge has been installed by NCC. A Vote of Thanks was given to the lady who empties the bins around the village so efficiently and cheerfully. The Clerk will write to NCC to thank and commend her.
- iv) Cllr Denton will plane the noticeboard where it has swollen.
- v) APC will ask at the Local Area Council meeting on 27th July as to when the Alnmouth toilets might be renovated.
- vi) NCC has responded to the Burgage Holders' proposal re additional village maintenance to indicate that they are satisfied with the proposals and welcome liaison with NCC on timing of visits.

c. Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch

The lunch will take place on the second Sunday in January 2024.

d. Arts Festival

It was agreed that the Alnmouth Arts Festival was better than ever this year and the workshops, speakers and performers added to the established activities. The new venues and warm welcome from the brothers of the Society of Saint Francis were much appreciated by visitors.

APC proposed a Vote of Thanks and asked the Clerk to write to thank all the members of the Working Group for their hardwork, commitment and incredible organizational skills.

e. Climate Change

- i) EV Charging Points on Marine Road and accessibility of App – Cllr Armstrong is liaising with the NCC Climate Change team about difficulties some users are experiencing.
- ii) Alnmouth Railway Station has been proposed by the AONB as a 'critical transport hub' and the NCC Climate Change team are currently considering the merits of this. Alnmouth railway ticket office may face closure under the proposed nationwide cuts to consider shutting ticket offices including at Alnmouth, Morpeth and Berwick. APC is concerned at the proposed closure of these offices and its impact on travellers including travellers with disabilities needing assistance. Members have signed the petition and will be writing to their MP and responding to the consultation that ends on **26th July** at <https://www.rmt.org.uk/campaigns/rail/save-ticket-offices/> and members of the public can respond by email or in writing. It was NOTED that there is a second public consultation online by Northern Railway that closes on **28th July** <https://www.northernrailway.co.uk/consultation-2023>.

114/23 War Memorial Lantern

It was AGREED to write to NCC with the following request:

- To paint the lantern in light green RAL 180 70 10 - with the finial in the same colour.
- To keep the glazing rather than polycarbonate if possible and retain the glazing bars.

- To request an LED lamp that is warm white - approx 3700 degrees Kelvin to match the existing lamp.

115/23 Any Other Business for Information

The Clerk has written to the complainant about the “bad eggs” smell around the estuary explaining that this is being probably caused by hydrogen sulfide from rotting seaweed naturally decomposing under the sand.

116/23 Confidential Matters

It was AGREED to defer this item until the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm.

Date & Time of Next Meeting: - 8th August 2023 at 7pm, The Hindmarsh Hall, Northumberland Street, NE66 2RS.

Future Meeting Dates

12th September 2023

10th October 2023

14th November 2023

12th December 2023

9th January 2024

13th February 2024

12th March 2024

Signed 8th August 2023