

Alnmouth Parish Council

Minutes

Parish Council Meeting
The Hindmarsh Hall, Northumberland Street, Alnmouth Tuesday 8th August
2023 – 7pm

Present: Cllrs Susanne Gair (Chair), Ian Armstrong, David Denton, Shelley Straughan, Simon Rushton, George Ternent, Simon Walford.

In Attendance: Deb Still (Clerk), 5 members of the public.

The Meeting opened at 7 pm.

117/23 Apologies

Cllr Josie MacDonough.

118/23 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of 11th July 2023 be accepted as a true record of the meeting.

119/23 Declarations of Interest

None Declared.

120/23 Public Participation

Two members of the public made representations about the planning application at item 121/23 a) i), in particular relating to the impact the build would have on restricting light to neighbouring properties. One member of the public had not received a written consultation request from NCC.

121/23 Planning Matters

a) Planning Applications

i) 23/02317/FUL & 23/02318/LBC - 14 Northumberland Street, Alnmouth, NE66 2RS

It was AGREED to object to the application following a site visit by the Planning Working Group and discussion by APC.

APC found that the drawings in the planning application were inaccurate and would ask that NCC confirm and request:

- the external height of the extension wall facing No 2 Northumberland Mews;
- accurate drawings which show the impact of the extension on the access to sunlight and daylight for both No2 & No3 Northumberland Mews so that it can be clearly calculated whether this proposal meets “Right to Light” guidelines;

- a photograph with a dotted red line that clearly and accurately shows the position, size & location of the extension.

APC will further OBJECT as the proposal will cause the loss of a space valuable to neighbouring properties and would not preserve or enhance the character and appearance of the Alnmouth Conservation Area. The “harm” caused by a development in a Conservation Area may be offset if there is deemed to be “public good”, but APC is of the view that this not the case for this application. The development may be contrary to QOP 1, ENV 7 and 9 of the Northumberland Local Plan.

b) Update on Planning Decisions (for information only)

i) 23/01704/FUL 4 The Pinfold Alnmouth, NE66 2RG. Single Storey extension.
NCC Decision: Granted

ii) 23/01565/FUL Lower Steading, High Buston Main Street, High Buston NE66 3QH. Replacement of all windows and doors (except rooflights).
NCC Decision: Granted

iii) 21/03496/FUL Westlea Bed & Breakfast, 29 Riverside Road Alnmouth NE66 2SD. Proposed new detached dwelling
NCC Decision: Refused.

APC NOTED that the decision was refused for the following reasons:

1. Due to its design, scale, massing and loss of the burgage plot, the proposed development would not preserve or enhance the character and appearance of the Alnmouth Conservation Area, contrary to Policies QOP 1, ENV 7 and ENV 9 of the Northumberland Local Plan.
2. By virtue of the position of the balcony at first floor level, the proposal has a detrimental impact upon the residential amenity of the neighbouring properties on Garden Terrace in terms of overlooking and loss of privacy. It is therefore considered that the proposals are contrary to Policy QOP 1 of the Northumberland Local Plan.

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

None received.

130/23 Correspondence

iv) update on refurbishment of the Small Boathouse

This item was moved up the agenda to allow a member of the Planning Working Group with knowledge of the subject to join the discussion.

It was NOTED that the building is virtually watertight save for some small ingress of water around the windows. A group of councillors and volunteers will tidy up the contents and assess any works needing to be carried out to the internal walls.

It was AGREED that a member of the APC Planning Working Group will apply for a discharge of condition (security glazing) on behalf of APC in order to seek written approval from NCC of the type of new security glazing in line with its listed building status and in accordance with Policy ENV7 of the Northumberland Local Plan.

122/23 County Council Matters

No reports were available from County Council Representatives.

123/23 Defibrillators in the Village

Update on Red Lion Defibrillator.

The Defibrillator is not registered with the 'Circuit' - the national defibrillator network which provides the NHS ambulance services with information about defibrillators across the UK - and is not currently operational. APC will make enquiries about options for bringing it back into use.

124/23 Training

No training has been undertaken since the last meeting and no requests were made.

125/23 Shepherd's Hill – NCC Plans for Lay-by

Cllrs Gair and Armstrong met with two NCC officers who confirmed that NCC are undertaking a road safety audit and a check on underground utilities. Further discussion will take place with Alnmouth residents following the receipt of NCC reports.

126/23 Fred Bettess Fund

Update on idea for digital archive.

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

127/23 Finance

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

Payments for APPROVAL				
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
Arts Festival	13 Jul 2023	Michael Begg Studio	Inv 26.6.23 Presentation/Talk	£ 200.00
Arts Festival	13 Jul 2023	Hindmarsh Hall	Inv 4.3.23 amended 23.6.23 Venue Hire	£ 68.00
Arts Festival	13 Jul 2023	St John the Baptist Church	Inv 23.6.23 venue hire	£ 1,000.00
Arts Festival	13 Jul 2023	Dr C Harrison	Inv 22.6.23 Workshop	£ 200.00
Arts Festival	13 Jul 2023	The Tenth Avenue Band	Inv 18.6.23 Performance	£ 418.00
Arts Festival	13 Jul 2023	Stockbridge Rendezvous	Inv 8.7.23 Performance	£ 350.00
Arts Festival	13 Jul 2023	Soul 2 Sand	Inv 0086 Sand Art 20.6.23	£ 600.00
Arts Festival	13 Jul 2023	Kate Fox	Inv 20230702 5.7.23 Performance	£ 500.00
Arts Festival	13 Jul 2023	Jane Lancaster	Inv 29/6/23 Beach School	£ 500.00
Arts Festival	13 Jul 2023	Sean Murray Garden Narrativ	Inv 2332 of 27.6.23 Talk	£ 300.00
Arts Festival	13 Jul 2023	J McDonough & M Ridley	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	13 Jul 2023	PPD Printgroup Ltd	Inv 18529 1000 Alnmouth on Foot booklets	£ 1,620.00
Retrospective APPROVALS and to NOTE amended Payments				
Arts Festival	20 Jun 2023	Definitive Sound	Balance of Inv of 4.5.23 for AAF PA	£ 600.00
Arts Festival	30-Jun-23	PPD Press	Balance of Inv 18360 not paid (in error)	£ 12.00
Arts Festival	30-Jun-23	NPD Ltd	Inv 2861 T-shirts, Tote bags, Banners	£ 1,392.00
Arts Festival	30-Jun-23	L Bhenry	Workshop Felt	£ 194.00
Arts Festival	26 Jun 2023	CB speaker	Inv 916 Talk at HH	£ 200.00
Arts Festival	30 Jun 2023	Ellie Illustrates	Inv of 1.6.23 Festival Guide	£ 500.00
Arts Festival	26 Jun 2023	H Holden	AAF Expenses	£ 230.17
Arts Festival	26 Jun 2023	Performer	Inv 1 of 20.6.23 Pfce Fee Gcuckoo	£ 500.00
Arts Festival	30 Jun 2023	Need Transport	Inv 7963 of 19.6.23	£ 350.00

- b) The finance report for July 2023 was NOTED.
- c) The Clerk is progressing opening the accounts with main suppliers.
- d) The Spend against budget report for the main APC precept fund was NOTED.

128/23 Reports from Working Groups

a. Christmas Lights

All lights have been checked to identify those needing repair/replacement.

b. Village Maintenance

- i) Update on Playpark improvements – Cllr Denton continues to monitor and carry out ongoing maintenance. It was AGREED that Cllr Denton should trim around the edge of the playground and Lover's Walk. Cllr Denton to contact the owner of the hedge from Alnwood that is overgrowing onto Lover's Walk.
- ii) Update on quotes for the surface topping in Dr Joy's garden. Cllr Denton has sourced some topping at £150 per tonne and will arrange for it to be delivered and laid later this year or in the first quarter of next year when the village is less busy. The sundial will also be reinstalled.
- iii) Update on noticeboard – Cllr Denton has remedied the issue and it will not need replacing. It was confirmed that no commercial notices should be placed in the noticeboard.
- iv) Condition of toilets and maintenance costs – NCC has confirmed the public toilets are on the list for renovation but does not have a likely timescale of when they will be carried out. Councillors will take photographs to send to NCC.
- vi) Contractors employed by the Burgage Holders – the contractors carried out the first works and sprayed weeds around the village, strimmed Dr Joy's garden and cut down the hedge at Dr Joy's garden. One resident complained which was responded to by APC and the Burgage Holders. Cllr Gair will write to the Burgage Holders to clarify the schedule of visits as one seems overdue.

c. Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch

A coffee morning fundraiser is taking place on 26th August and a film show night on 24th October.

d. Arts Festival

Planning is underway for next year.

e. Climate Change

- i) EV Charging Points on Marine Road and accessibility of App – the central government recommendation is for contactless payment but it is unclear whether this is an option for these charging points.
- ii) Other updates – none.

129/23 War Memorial Lantern

The works have been carried out by NCC as agreed.

130/23 Correspondence

- i) Complaint about campervans/motorhomes parking on Riverside Road – APC is waiting for a reply from NCC Highways Department.

ii) Request for a Memorial Bench – deferred to the next meeting as APC is waiting for a response from the member of the public.

iii) Litter/anti-social behaviour on the beach near the Estuary – the complainants have been advised to contact the police about the anti-social behaviour. Cllr Gair will also contact the police about the issue. The Clerk will put links on the APC website for reporting such issues.

iv) Request from Hindmarsh Hall Committee for:

- A register of kit belonging to different organisations that can be made available for village events either free or for hire – APC agreed this was a good idea and the Clerk will forward a list of relevant APC equipment and where they are stored.
- Update on refurbishment of the Small Boathouse – this item was moved up the agenda to between items 121/23 and 122/23.

131/23 Proposed Closure of Alnmouth Ticket Office

It was AGREED that the Clerk will draft a consultation response strongly objecting to the proposal and circulate it for comments before submitting by the deadline which has been extended to 1st September 2023.

132/23 Any Other Business for Information

Cllrs Armstrong and Straughan attended the first meeting of the Local Area Council that was held in Warkworth on 27th July. There were interesting presentations from NCC on grass cutting and weed control and from 'Stronger Shores' - a North-East led project harnessing the power of nature to protect coastlines, nature and communities from flooding and erosion risks through stronger shores. The next meeting is on 28th September.

133/23 Confidential Matters

It was RESOLVED to exclude the public due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed (contract negotiations).

The Meeting closed at 9.15pm.

Date & Time of Next Meeting: - 10th October 2023 at 7pm, The Hindmarsh Hall, Northumberland Street, NE66 2RS.

Future Meeting Dates

14th November 2023

12th December 2023

9th January 2024

13th February 2024

12th March 2024