

ALNMOUTH PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes

Parish Council Meeting

The Hindmarsh Hall, Northumberland Street, Alnmouth Tuesday 12th March
2024 – 7pm

Present: Cllrs Susanne Gair (Chair), Ian Armstrong, David Denton, Josie McDonough, George Ternent, Simon Rushton, Shelley Straughan [arrived at beginning of item 34/24/a/iii], Simon Walford.

In Attendance: Deb Still (Clerk), County Cllrs Gordon Castle, Wendy Pattison and Martin Swinbank, three members of the public.

The meeting opened at 7pm

30/24 Apologies

None

31/24 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of 13th February 2024 be accepted as a true record of the meeting.

32/24 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Walford declared an interest in item 41/24/e.

33/24 Public Participation

In accordance with Section 3.5 of the Alnmouth Parish Council Standing Orders and the Policy on Public Participation in Parish Council Meetings, members of the public present may address the Council at this point on the agenda. The period of time designated for this item shall not exceed 15 minutes in total and a member of the public shall not speak for more than 4 minutes unless otherwise directed by the Chair. The Council reserves the right to respond or debate any issue on a later date.

34/24 Planning Matters

a) Applications/Appeals

i) 24/00446/FUL The Grange 20 Northumberland Street Alnmouth

Minor amendments to existing elevation, slight enlargement of existing window openings, permission for low-profile solar voltaic panels on the roof.

It was AGREED to submit a response of No Comment.

Signed Dated 9th April 2024

ii) 24/00436/FUL Seaberry House Garden Terrace Alnmouth

It was AGREED to submit a NEUTRAL response with a request that a condition be imposed for the inclusion of opaque side panels on the Roof Terrace.

iii) 23/02317/FUL 14 Northumberland Street Alnmouth

It was AGREED to withdraw APC's objection in light of the amended description and APC is now NEUTRAL to this application.

b) Update on Planning Decisions (for information only)

None.

c) Planning Enforcement

23/00908/NONMAT Non Material Amendment (ref 22/01187NOAPLN) - on approved application 19/04744/FUL 6 Riverside Road Alnmouth. NCC has confirmed to the Clerk that they have not received a retrospective Planning Permission Application in respect of unauthorized building works brought to their attention in November 2022. County Cllr Swinbank to make enquiries in view of the considerable delay.

d) Other updates or applications received since drafting the agenda

i) 24/00129/FUL Retrospective planning approval for construction of pizza oven and open shelter to the rear beer garden The Red Lion, 22 Northumberland Street Alnmouth.

APC has been asked by NCC whether, given the change to the cycle parking, they wish to continue with their neutral stance or object to the application given the non-material amendment.

APC AGREED to continue with their NEUTRAL stance. Parking is at a premium in Alnmouth and APC welcomes the applicants' confirmation at the APC meeting of 13th February 2024, that operation of the pizza shelter will not jeopardize the provision of car parking.

ii) 24/00141/VARYCO Variation of condition 5 (noise) pursuant to planning permission 14/03089/FUL to update noise management plan. Land West Of The Red Lion Northumberland Street Alnmouth.

The PC notes the amended Noise Management Plan (NMP) and trusts that the intention of the applicant to maintain positive relations with the local community will ensure that the spirit of the amended NMP will be applied to the management of the beer garden as well as the garden bar.

In light of the amended NMP, APC AGREED to WITHDRAW its previous objection.

35/24 County Council Matters

County Cllr Castle has raised the issue of Alnmouth Beach erosion and storm damage with NCC.

Signed Dated 9th April 2024

County Cllr Swinbank is seeking clarification about NCC's monies for improving Lovers' Walk. The cycle racks have now been installed near the toilets and NCC will be installing some planters for APC to plant up. Cllr Swinbank also noted that £10,000 has been allocated for improvements to the Buston Bus Stop on the A1068.

36/24 Alnmouth Flood Protection Scheme

Alnmouth has been announced as one of 40 projects to benefit from the Government's Natural Flood Management programme.

37/24 Shepherds Hill Parking

No update has been received from NCC.

38/24 Alnmouth Public Toilets

NCC has agreed to fund the Winter Servicing of the public toilets in place of APC in order to keep them open year round.

39/24 Fred & Gladys Bettess Fund

Cllr McDonough has been exploring options for using the Bettess Fund to make the Bettess Collection more accessible to the village and potentially the online community. The Clerk to write to the Hindmarsh Hall Trustees about accessing the Bettess Collection for this purpose.

40/24 Volcano Night

The Clerk is in correspondence with the insurance company and Boat Club about requirements, risk assessments etc.

41/24 Finance

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

Account	Date	Description	Reference	Amount (incl VAT)	VAT
APC					
APC - CURRENT	05 Mar 2024	IONOS	Direct Debit 203040887274	16.80	2.80
APC - CURRENT	06 Mar 2024	Playdale Playgrounds	L Inv 0000054326 23.2.24 Playpark Equip	975.11	162.52
APC - CURRENT	06 Mar 2024	Xero UK Ltd	Xero Accounts Package Inv 18433868 Direct Debit	36.00	6.00
APC - CURRENT	14 Mar 2024	PPD Printgroup Ltd	Inv 19836 March 24 Newsletter	113.00	0.00
APC - CURRENT	14 Mar 2024	Deb Still	Clerks Expenses March 2024	35.00	0.00
APC - CURRENT	14 Mar 2024	Hindmarsh Hall	APC meeting venue hire	24.00	0.00
APC - CURRENT	14 Mar 2024	G Ternent	Storage of Mower	104.00	0.00
APC - CURRENT	31 Mar 2024	Deb Still	Net Salary for APC March 2024	483.65	0.00
Total APC					
Arts Festival					
APC - CURRENT	10 Mar 2024	Deb Still	Net Salary for AAF March 2024	57.05	0.00
APC - CURRENT	14 Mar 2024	C Brannigan	AAF Expenses website MS 365 etc	275.84	0.00
Senior Citizens' Xmas Lunch					
APC - CURRENT	14 Mar 2024	Greatsteaks Ltd	Inv 21.1.24 SCXL catering	1,400.00	233.33

Signed Dated 9th April 2024

- b) The finance report for February 2024 was RECEIVED.
- c) HMRC has credited the amount owing to APC in respect of the first VAT return.
- d) It was NOTED that the projected spend to Year End is on track and within budget.
- e) It was AGREED to grant the following amounts to the following organisations pursuant to s. 137 Local Government Act 1972:

£500 to Alnmouth Parochial Church Council (St John the Baptist)
 £500 to the Great North Air Ambulance Service
 £300 to Bailiffgate Museum & Gallery.

42/24 Reports from Working Groups

a. Christmas Lights

Cllr Denton is continuing to explore options for using a Cherry Picker with operator to install the Christmas Lights in 2024.

b. Village Maintenance

Repairs to bus shelter floor and playpark – Cllr Denton is sourcing materials. Dr Joy's Garden proposal from volunteers – three volunteers have come forward, including Cllr Denton, and will meet to progress. Cllr Denton is looking at resurfacing options.

Cllr Denton will be fitting some new parts to the Playpark when received from the manufacturers. Cllr Denton will replace a plank on one of the picnic benches, clean up the benches and put a new spring on the gate at the South Entrance.

c. Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch

A survey was conducted of the attendees and all but one would be willing to pay for their lunch in future.

d. Arts Festival

It was AGREED not to vire £200 from the Arts Festival Fund to the Christmas Lights Fund.

APC RESOLVED to separate from the Alnmouth Arts Festival on the following terms:

i) APC to retain the AAF fund of £6346.02 separate from other APC funds until either HMRC has confirmed or a suitable period has elapsed whereby any historic VAT liability has been resolved.

ii) When i above is satisfied, APC will transfer the AAF funds of £6346.02 to the CIC or other body running the AAF subject to APC's powers under s. 145 (1) Local Government Act 1972.

iii) Assets used by AAF to be donated to the CIC with immediate effect.

It was NOTED that the new Alnmouth Arts Festival would not be paying for the twice yearly planting in 2024 at the roundabout at the entrance to the village. It was hoped that the AAF would review this when they are in a stable financial position.

e. Climate Change

Cllr McDonough and County Cllr Swinbank attended a recent Dark Sky event. They looked at the potential benefits for village residents and local businesses of promoting the Northumberland Dark Sky. It was AGREED that APC would explore the possibility of having an Alnmouth event on this issue and create an

Alnmouth focused leaflet for every household and business, celebrating Northumberland's Dark Sky and the need to reduce light pollution.

43/24 Cooption of new Councillor

It was RESOLVED to coopt John Wilson to Alnmouth Parish Council. The Acceptance of Office was deferred to the next meeting.

44/24 Correspondence

- i) It was NOTED that a request has been received from a member of the public to erect a dog memorial on an existing bench in the Village. The benches are purchased by members of the public in accordance with the Memorial Bench Policy and it was not considered appropriate to put third party plaques on benches.
- ii) There is still bonfire debris on the common which needs to be removed. Cllrs Straughan and Gair to check.

45/24 Any Other Business for Information

It was NOTED that PCSO Sophie Rutherford has been successful in obtaining the post of Police Constable for Northumbria Police. A Vote of Thanks was AGREED for her support and interest in the Alnmouth community.

46/24 Confidential Matters

A motion to exclude the public was RESOLVED due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed (quotes and contracts). It was RESOLVED to accept the quotation from James McLean Builders to repair the damage to the Large Boathouse following the burglary.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Date & Time of Next Meeting: - 9th April 2024 (and Annual Parish Meeting) at 7pm, The Hindmarsh Hall, Northumberland Street, NE66 2RS.

Future Meeting Dates

14th May 2024 (and Annual General Meeting); 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 9th April 2024