

ALNMOUTH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
The Hindmarsh Hall, Northumberland Street, Alnmouth
Minutes of AGM and Monthly Meeting Tuesday 9th May 2023 – 7pm

Present: Cllrs Susanne Gair (Chair), David Denton, Ian Armstrong, Simon Walford, Simon Rushton, Josie MacDonough.

In Attendance: Deb Still (Clerk) County Cllr Martin Swinbank and 1 member of the public.

The Meeting opened at 7 pm.

61/23 Election of Chair

It was RESOLVED to elect Susanne Gair as Chair (proposed by Cllr Armstrong and seconded by Cllr Rushton).

62/23 Election of Members of Working Groups and new Working Groups

It was RESOLVED that the following would lead the Working Groups (proposed by Cllr Gair and seconded by Cllr Denton):

Christmas Lights – Cllr Denton

Village Maintenance – Cllrs Denton and Ternent

Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch – Cllr Straughan

Alnmouth Arts Festival – Cllrs Gair and Rushton

Planning – Cllr Walford and Shaun Whyte.

It was RESOLVED that a new Working Group entitled 'Climate Change' led by Cllr Armstrong would continue the work already undertaken (proposed by Cllr Gair and seconded by Cllr Denton).

63/23 Apologies

Cllrs George Ternent, Shelley Straughan & County Cllr Gordon Castle.

64/23 Receipt of Declaration(s) of Office for Chair

The Declaration of Office for the Chair was RECEIVED by the Proper Officer.

65/23 Chair's Annual Report 2022-23

The Chair's Report (circulated in advance) was NOTED.

66/23 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of 11th April be accepted as a true record of the meeting (proposed by Cllr Armstrong and seconded by Cllr Denton).

67/23 Declarations of Interest

None were declared.

68/23 Public Participation

There were no comments by members of the public.

69/23 Planning Matters

a) Planning Applications

i) 23/00908/NONMAT Non Material Amendment - (consistent type/size of 4 front elevation roof lights; amendment to 2nd floor glazed roof to front elevation) on approved application 19/04744/FUL 6 Riverside Road Alnmouth. A retrospective application relating to the large triangular glass structure and roof lights. APC had concerns about light

pollution in a 'dark skies' area, the inaccuracy of submitted drawings, the Heritage Statement and impact on the conservation area. APC RESOLVED to OBJECT to the application.

ii) 21/03496/FUL Proposed new detached dwelling, Westlea Bed and Breakfast 29 Riverside Road Alnmouth. Amended Planning Permission Application.

APC noted that the amended plan no longer shows the Shared Access route to Riverside as part of the site, yet the Method Statement depends upon this route for delivery of materials. APC sees no reason why the proposed dwelling cannot use the Riverside entrance as the main vehicular entry/exit point. APC believes that the Northumberland Street entrance is dangerous and additional usage should be avoided at all costs. This entrance has very poor sight lines obscured by parked cars and it crosses a busy pavement. Due to the restricted height and width access for emergency vehicles is also severely limited if not impossible.

APC is still concerned about the impact upon the privacy of Garden Terrace. and has on a couple of occasions queried the absence of drawings that put the new dwelling in the context of Garden Terrace. Given the lack of evidence to the contrary, APC fears that the balcony (despite the limited use of opaque glass) compromises the privacy of neighbouring properties. Therefore APC RESOLVED to retain its OBJECT stance.

b) Update on Planning Decisions

i) 22/04402/COU RETROSPECTIVE: Change of use (no operational development) of existing annex to mixed use residential annex and holiday let (Holiday Accommodation) The New House Foxton Road Alnmouth

NCC Decision: Granted

ii) 22/03555/VARYCO Variation of condition 2 (Approved Plans) and 3 (Site Levels) to allow revised technical design development on approved application 18/02275/FUL Land West Of Schooner Hotel Northumberland Street

NCC Decision: Granted

iii) 23/00732/FUL The Schooner Hotel 8 Northumberland Street Alnmouth Northumberland NE66 2RS.

Retrospective - Proposed full timber decking outdoor seating area with timber frame outbuilding / shed. Decking to service outdoor seating for customers and building to serve as an out door store and service area.

NCC Decision: Refused. APC AGREED to make enquiries as to the timetable for enforcement.

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

23/01011/LBC 31 Northumberland Street Alnmouth Alnwick Northumberland NE66 2RA

APC had resolved to submit a NEUTRAL comment at its last meeting which had not yet been submitted. APC welcomed the changes to the Northumberland Street elevation which will significantly improve the appearance of this listed property. In view of the buildings listed status APC will rely upon conservation experts to assess other aspects of the proposed changes.

70/23 Climate Change

- i) APC AGREED that Cllr Armstrong will contact NCC and the AONB regarding Alnmouth as a 'critical transport hub'.
- ii) EV Charging Points on Riverside Road appear to be well used. NCC has been invited to provide APC with details of usage.
- iii) APC briefly discussed involving young local people in climate change initiatives. Hipsburn School are very active. Cllrs will consider initiatives to involve older children and young people.

71/23 County Council Matters

County Cllr Swinbank reported the recent speed monitoring exercise at Hipsburn which found that the average speed did not meet the Police threshold for action.

Cllr Swinbank is meeting with the Active Travel Officer for NCC about better signage for a walking route from Alnmouth Station to Alnwick as increasing numbers of people are walking along the A1068 which is dangerous.

Cllr Swinbank is meeting with officers/AONB to try to improve the signage for the cycle path towards Warkworth alongside the A1068 and will also discuss whether the cycle path can start nearer to the roundabout.

NCC will know by the end of May when the planning application for housing near Alnmouth Station is likely to be heard by the North Northumberland Area Council.

72/23 Policies & Procedures

- i) To REVIEW Standing Orders – this item was deferred.
- ii) It was RESOLVED to amend the Financial Regulations to the wording circulated in advance to the Council (proposed by Cllr Armstrong, seconded by Cllr Walford).

73/23 Alnmouth Walk Guides

- i) Annual Sales Report – it was NOTED that 490 Walk Guide were sold in 2022 – the second best year so far.
- ii) It was AGREED that Cllr Walford will liaise with Nick Matlock to update the current copy and photos and bring back to the Council to agree a new print run.
- iii) The company that printed the last run have provided a quote of £1350 (no VAT) which would come from the Walk Guides Fund plus a ballpark figure of £100 for the changes.

74/23 Finance

- i) It was RESOLVED that the following payments be approved (proposed Cllr Armstrong; seconded Cllr Walford)

Deb Still	Clerk's Salary 1st to 31st April 2023 (net of tax, NI)	£ 381.10	APC	31.5.23
Deb Still	Clerk's expenses (email, website, accts software, mileage)	£ 78.50	APC	12.5.23
PPD	INV for May Newsletter	£ 113.00	APC	12.5.23
PPD	INV for May Newsletter		AAF	12.5.23
Alnmouth Gdnr	Invoice No 31 for April 23 for Dr Joy's Garden	£ 64.00	Dr Joy's	12.5.23
H Hall	Hire of Hall for AAF Balance due May 2023	£ 950.00	AAF	12.5.23
NCC	Winter Servicing of Alnmouth Public Toilets	£ 2,000.00	Cfund	12.5.23
NALC	Northumberland Local Association of Councils Membership Inv 005/23	£ 146.72	APC	12.5.23
Definitive Sound	Sound Engineer and PA hire at Hhall 16-18/6/23 (50% now, 50% on completion)	£ 600.00	AAF	12.5.23

- ii) To RECEIVE the monthly finance report (circulated before the meeting)
The finance report for May 2023 was RECEIVED.

iii) **To REVIEW the asset register** for 23-24. The item for 'other surfaces' on the insurance schedule was understood to be the paved surface around the War Memorial.

iv) **APC has a fixed 3 year term** with the Insurance Company and it was RESOLVED to accept the renewal quote (proposed by Cllrs Armstrong, seconded by Cllr Walford).

v) **To REVIEW the APC funds**

The Council will consider proposals for the best use of the Fred Bettess Fund in consultation with the family. Cllr McDonough will explore digital archive options.

vi) **Report on VAT reclaim**

The VAT reclaim has been delayed while waiting for advice on potential APC liability for output VAT. The SLCC has indicated that APC will be liable on certain vatable supplies where the total VAT charge would exceed £1000 (ie on vatable supplies of £5000). The Clerk will confirm with the accountant.

75/23 Defibrillators

The defibrillator at the Red Lion is not registered nationally on the national defibrillator network called 'The Circuit'. Cllr Gair is making enquiries.

76/23 Local Transport Plans 2024-25

APC gave a first consideration to the likely LTPs to submit to NCC in July for the following year in light of a recent response to an enquiry by APC. NCC had responded as follows:

i) **Traffic Calming Measures on Northumberland Street in light of recent accident**

NCC is of the view that physical traffic calming measures are not justified given the history of the street.

ii) **Speed restrictions on road leaving A1068 towards High Buston and through High Buston.** The High Buston Hamlet is not large enough to justify a reduced speed limit and there have been no recorded accidents for some years. The road at Shortridge was reduced to 40mph as part of the road safety scheme that included the 50mph on the A1068 because there had been accidents at that junction.

iii) **Preventing parking at the junction of the A1068 with the High Buston Road**

NCC already has a scheme in this year's LTP Programme to prevent parking at the High Buston junction.

iv) **Cllr Armstrong had circulated a photo of the Foxton Road** towards the Golf Club near a grit bin where the pavement runs out and many pedestrians are walking on the road near the brow of the hill which is dangerous. Cllr Armstrong will bring a written proposal to a future APC meeting to submit to NCC as one of the LTPs.

77/23 Reports from Working Groups

a. **Christmas Lights**

The fundraising Quiz is on 19th May 2023 at 7pm in the Hindmarsh Hall.

b. **Village Maintenance**

Update on kerb/verge at bottom of Riverside Road – Cllr Gair has confirmed that NCC Highways Department will tidy up the verge and consider whether laying gravel might improve the situation.

Update on Playpark improvements and next RoSPa Inspection in June – Cllr Denton will obtain quotes for new matting and will repair the gate spring and otherwise will wait for the outcome of the RoSPa inspection.

Cllr Denton will trim Lover's Walk and around the edges of the playpark where Cllr Ternent cannot reach with the mower.

Invasive Plants and Northumberland Rivers Trust – there are no invasive plants near the river of which the Council is aware.

Cllr Denton will also obtain quotes for the yellow surface topping in Dr Joy's Garden.

The Clerk will purchase the bin previously identified to replace the one near the bridge. It is understood that the broken dog waste bin near the rowing club belongs to the Burgage Holders.

c. Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch

No update to report.

d. Arts Festival

The Arts Festival has a full programme of a range of different events that are in the May Newsletter on the website.

78/23 Correspondence

i) A complaint has been received about the poor condition of floor area in the bus shelter near the bridge, churned up grass verge at Shepherd's Hill; and early morning deliveries running engines during early morning deliveries and disturbing visitors. The Clerk will write to NCC about the bus shelter floor. Improving the grass verge at Shepherd's Hill is being considered by NCC. Early morning deliveries are required by businesses.

ii) It was NOTED that the Burgage Holders are considering the request for Memorial Bench for a member of the public to install a memorial bench in memory of their late wife.

iii) It was NOTED that Alnmouth Rowing Club are celebrating their 10th Anniversary and that they will hold a 24 hour sponsored row in support of the RNLI on June 15th involving as many village groups as possible.

iv) A complaint was received about campervans parking overnight on Riverside Road. APC understands that there is nothing to prevent campervans parking on the public highway.

v) A local young resident would like to set up a contained football net in Peases Park for one or two days during the Alnmouth Arts Festival to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support. APC thought this was a good idea.

79/23 Boathouse Lease

Initial consideration was given to the Renewal of the Lease which expires on 31st August 2023. The Clerk will draft a document reflecting the terms of the head lease along similar lines with the previous lease and bring it to the next meeting.

80/23 Any Other Business for Information Only

None.

Date & Time of Next Meeting: - 13th June 2023 at 7pm, The Hindmarsh Hall, Northumberland Street, NE66 2RS.

Future Meeting Dates

11th July 2023

8th August 2023

12th September 2023

10th October 2023

14th November 2023

12th December 2023

9th January 2024

13th February 2024

12th March 2024