

**ALNMOUTH PARISH COUNCIL
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

10th December 2024

Minutes

Present: Cllrs Susanne Gair (Chair), David Denton, Simon Rushton (Minutes), Richard Sim, George Ternent, John Wilson.

In Attendance: County Cllr Martin Swinbank and 2 members of the public.

The Meeting opened at 7pm.

199/24 Apologies

Cllr Ian Armstrong, Cllr Josie McDonough, Parish Clerk Deb Still and County Cllr Gordon Castle

200/24 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the APC meeting of 12th November 2024 be accepted as a true record of the meeting.

201/24 Declarations of Interest

None Declared.

202/24 Public Participation

No points raised.

203/24 Street Lighting for Northumberland Street

Awaiting a reply from NCC to email sent after last APC meeting.

204/24 National Landscape Interpretation Plan

NCNL will install the new Information Board, the Compass on a stone plinth on the lawn and the resurfacing and fence. A team of volunteers will carry out a 'spring clean' in the Spring (probably on 11th March 2025) Resurfacing, re-siting compass and fencing being installed this week. New interpretation plinth will go in after Christmas.

205/24 Large Boathouses Painting & Annual Inspection

Cllr Denton has completed the joint inspection with Alnmouth Community Rowing and works are AGREED. Clerk to obtain quotes for painting and pointing.

206/24 North East Mayor's Local Transport Plan Consultation

Councillors and members of the public can respond to this consultation until Sunday 26th January 2025 and details are on the Mayor's website

<https://www.northeast-ca.gov.uk>. A draft APC response will be brought to the next APC meeting for agreement. Deadline is 26th January 2025.

207/24 Parish Councillor Training by NALC

Councillors to register their interest by 13th December.

208/24 Open Government Consultation on remote attendance and proxy voting at Local Government meetings

Councillors and members of the public can respond to this consultation until 18th December 2024.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/enabling-remote-attendance-and-proxy-voting-at-local-authority-meetings/enabling-remote-attendance-and-proxy-voting-at-local-authority-meetings> Councillors to make individual representations.

209/24 County Council Matters

Cllr Swinbank will:

- contact NCC officers about street lighting for a response and indicative costs;
- continue to seek a timescale for the works to the Lovers Walk footpath;
- is waiting for a response to the Planning Enforcement issues at item 212/24/b;
- will liaise with NCC officers to request a temporary pedestrian pathway next to the toilets while works are ongoing.

Cllr Swinbank also reported that there will be an Information Drop in at Alnwick Playhouse on 9th January by Cash Access UK who will run the Alnwick Banking Hub bringing cash and banking services to Alnwick.

210/24 Finance

- a. APC APPROVED the invoices and expenses claimed below:

Account	Payee	Description	Amount (incl VAT)	VAT
APC				
10 Dec 2024	IONOS	website and email direct debit Dec 2024	16.80	2.80
10 Dec 2024	Xero UK Ltd	Xero Accounts Package Dec 2024 direct debit	39.60	6.60
12 Dec 2024	Deb Still	HWA & Mileage to Meeting 10.12.24	30.50	
12 Dec 2024	Hindmarsh Hall	Inv for Dec APC 2024 HH-2023-223	25.00	
12 Dec 2024	PPD Printgroup Ltd	Invoice for Newsletter Dec 24 21292	113.00	
31 Dec 2024	Deb Still	Clerk's Net Salary December 2024	504.10	
Xmas Lights				
12 Dec 2024	Deb Still	Expenses for Xmas Light HBase	145.00	24.17
12 Dec 2024	Darran Ecclestone	Electrical Equipment Screwfix	108.72	0.00
12 Dec 2024	Hilary Burns	Xmas Tree & Lights	40.98	0.00
12 Dec 2024	TLC (Crawley) Ltd	Xmas Lights Expenses Inv CW570930 19.11.24	126.35	21.06
12 Dec 2024	Hindmarsh Hall	Xmas Lights workshop 12.11.24	25.00	0.00
12 Dec 2024	Hindmarsh Hall	Xmas Lights Coffee Morning 16.11.24 HH-2023-221	52.50	0.00
Payments Agreed by Chair and Clerk				
27 Nov 2024	JMB Cookson - Timber	Inv 09073 Xmas Trees Xmas Lights Fund	582.45	97.07

- b. APC RECEIVED the monthly finance report.
- c. A Vote of Thanks was given for the kind donation of £1000 from the Burgage Holders towards the Christmas Lights Fund. The Clerk to send a letter of thanks to the Burgage Holders.
- d. APC AGREED that Cllr Wilson will carry out quarterly bank reconciliations starting at the January meeting (for Q3 to December) in line with new Financial Regulations.
- e. APC AGREED to pay a £500 grant to the Hindmarsh Hall Trustees on behalf of the Alnmouth Heritage Group from the Bettess Fund pursuant to s.19 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976. The Clerk to inform the family.
- f. A first REVIEW of the budget and precept for 2025-26 was undertaken and the final decision will be reached at a future APC meeting.

211/24 Reports from Working Groups

a. Christmas Lights

The Christmas Lights switch on was a success and the lights look fantastic. A Vote of Thanks was offered for the hard work over several weeks by the whole Team and to ABC Cleaning Services who made the work easier and safer this year with the generous use of their Cherry Picker.

b. Village Maintenance

A car accident at Foxton has demolished part of the cemetery wall and the bench. Cllr Denton will obtain a quote for a new bench.

Cllr Denton will demonstrate to local residents how to erect the new floodgates at Riverside Road. There is currently no voluntary group in place to do this.

c. Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch

It was AGREED that the SCXL will be held in the next financial year ie 2025 - 26.

d. Climate Change & Coastal Erosion

Cllr Sim has been working closely on the consultations with Northumberland Estates and the Alnmouth Village Golf Club (AVGC) about Alnmouth Coastal Erosion. Royal HaskoningDHV engineering company are being consulted and also providing costings. AVGC has put forward some staged works: stage 1 to repair the groynes; stage 2 to put fence up and reclaim what has been lost; stage 3 to look at rock armour at the top end of the beach. The cost for stages 1 and 2 is £100k. Church Hill repairs are also being considered. There are reports of NCC being funded for a coastal erosion project in Alnmouth. County

Cllrs Swinbank & Castle have asked for a meeting with NCC Officers to enquire about the issue.

212/24 Planning Matters

a) Future of Planning Working Group

It was AGREED that Cllrs Wilson and Sim will form the new Planning Working Group. Training for councillors to be explored with NCC and NALC.

b) Lack of enforcement action by Planning Authority

i) 24/00316/LISTED (door) & 23/00732/FUL & PP/P2935/W/23/3323621
(decking and door) Schooner Hotel. No update from NCC.

ii) 22/01187/NOAPLN) & 23/00908/NONMAT (withdrawn) 6 Riverside Road.
No retrospective application made.

iii) 23/04314/DISCON (Estuary Drive land west of Schooner).
No update from NCC.

c) Other Planning Issues

24/04004/DISCON Discharge of conditions 3 (Construction Method Statement), 4 (Bird & Bat Box) and 5 (Ground Floor Level) relating to planning permission 21/03496/FUL ,allowed on appeal reference APP/P2935/W/23/3335879|29 Westlea Bed And Breakfast Riverside Road Alnmouth Northumberland NE66 2SD

APC has written to NCC about works started on site and NCC has confirmed they will be seeking an update on an application for pre-commencement conditions to be submitted to the LPA.

213/24 Co-option of two Parish Councillors

There are currently two vacancies on Alnmouth Parish Council. Application forms can be obtained from the Clerk.

214/24 Confidential Matters

A motion to exclude the public was RESOLVED due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed. It was AGREED that the Clerk will obtain a written quote for tree surgery work in Peases Park.

The meeting closed at 8.05pm

Date & Time of Next Meeting: 7pm 14th January 2025, The Hindmarsh Hall, Northumberland Street, NE66 2RS.

Future Meeting Dates; 11th February 2025; 11th March 2025.