

ALNMOUTH PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

11th February 2025

Draft Minutes

Present: Cllrs Susanne Gair (Chair), Ian Armstrong, David Denton, Lorna Pringle, Simon Rushton, George Ternent, John Wilson.

In Attendance: Deb Still (Clerk), County Cllrs Gordon Castle, Martin Swinbank & Wendy Pattison and 1 member of the public.

The Meeting opened at 7pm.

17/25 Apologies

Cllrs Josie McDonough, Richard Sim & County Cllr Gordon Castle.

18/25 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the APC meeting of 14th January 2025 be accepted as a true record of the meeting.

19/25 Declarations of Interest

None declared.

20/25 Public Participation

A member of the public commented on the lack of consultation of Alnmouth stakeholders concerning the previous expression of interest for a coastal erosion grant application made to DEFRA by AONB/NCNL.

31/25/d Climate Change & Coastal Erosion

It was AGREED to move the item to this place in the agenda. HaskoningDHV has completed their survey. NCC has arranged two meetings on 18th February at the Hindmarsh Hall for stakeholders in the morning and members of the public in the afternoon to consult on the Alnmouth Coastal Management Study leading to the creation of a Management Plan. Cllrs Denton and Wilson will attend the stakeholders meeting.

21/25 Cooption Applications

- i) It was AGREED that Harriet McHugh be coopted to the council.
- ii) The receipt of Acceptance of Office was deferred.

22/25 Street Lighting for Northumberland Street

No update has been received from NCC.

Signed Dated 11th March 2025

23/25 NCC Community Fund for Community Events VE80

APC AGREED not to apply for a grant from NCC.

24/25 Parish Newsletter

There is a shortage of volunteers to distribute printed copies of the newsletter. Delivering a printed newsletter is preferred but if volunteers cannot be found consideration will be given to an online only newsletter.

25/25 Closure of the Old School Gallery

The Old School Gallery has had notification from their landlord that the building will be put up for sale for residential development and they will need to move out towards the end of 2025. The Gallery is a valuable community asset and further enquiries will be made by Cllr Gair.

26/25 NALC's Nominees for the King's Garden Party

APC AGREED not to make any nominations of serving parish councillors or staff this year for NALC to put forward.

27/25 Northumberland Open Space Assessment - draft for Consultation

APC AGREED not to make a council response to the consultation. Individual councillors or member of the public may respond before the deadline of **5pm on 14 March 2025**.

28/25 Policies and Procedures

The review of APC Standing Orders was deferred to the next meeting.

29/25 County Council Matters

County Cllr Swinbank has raised with NCC the issue of signage to encourage pedestrians and cyclists to use the dedicated pathway beside the A1068 between Lesbury and Warkworth. Cllr Swinbank will ask NCC when the Alnmouth toilets are due to open. The Local Transport Priorities for 2025 – 26 have not yet been finalised by NCC.

30/25 Finance

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

Account	Payee	Description	Amount (incl VAT)	VAT
APC				
08 Feb 2025	Xero UK Ltd	Xero Accounts Package Feb 2025 direct debit	39.60	6.60
08 Feb 2025	IONOS	website and email direct debit Jan 2025	16.80	2.80
12 Feb 2025	Deb Still	Clerk's Exp Feb 2025	30.50	
12 Feb 2025	Hindmarsh Hall	Inv for Feb APC 2024 HH-2023-243	25.00	
12 Feb 2025	PPD Printgroup Ltd	Invoice 21442 for Newsletter Feb 2025	113.00	
12 Feb 2025	D Denton	Bench replacement & installation	86.00	
28 Feb 2025	Deb Still	Clerk's Net Salary February 2025	504.30	

- b. The monthly finance report was RECEIVED.
c. It was AGREED to repair the PC noticeboard.

Signed Dated 11th March 2025

- d. The budget was AGREED and Precept set in the sum of £17,300.
- e. The REVIEW of the Reserves Policy was deferred until May 2025.

31/25 Reports from Working Groups

a. Christmas Lights

No update.

b. Village Maintenance

The new Information Board/Interpretation panel is to be installed in Dr Joy's Garden. Volunteers will be giving the garden a spring clean and planting new native species. It was AGREED that up to £400 could be spent from Dr Joy Edelman's Fund for the planting in the Garden.

The APC bench at Peases Cottages will be relocated to the Bus Shelter. County Cllr Swinbank will report the damaged fence panels at the Duchess' Bridge to NCC. Cllr Denton will look at the fencing panels in Peases Park to assess works required.

A Vote of Thanks was given to NCC for responding so promptly when Alnmouth was cut off by two fallen trees following Storm Eowyn in January 2025 and the Clerk will also write to thank them.

c. Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch

No update.

d. Climate Change & Coastal Erosion

It was AGREED to move this item for discussion immediately after **item 20/25** above.

32/25 Planning Matters

a) Planning Applications

i) 25/00135/TREECA Land North Of Garden House Argyle Street application in Estuary Drive Car Park to remove specific branches to provide clearance for vehicles, road and footpath. It was AGREED to make a neutral submission and request that all branches below the 6m level be removed in addition to the branches annotated in the photograph.

ii) 25/00142/TREECA Pollarding of tree submitted by 13 Argyle Street. It was AGREED to make no comment.

iii) 25/00127/FUL 11 Marine Road, Alnmouth. Replacement of single Sash window with double glazed sash window. It was AGREED to make a neutral submission.

iv) 25/00260/LBC Hemmel Cottage High Buston Hall High Buston Listed Building Consent for new rooflights to Southern elevation, relocation of kitchen and new drain, new underfloor heating to living room and air source heat pump. It was AGREED to make a neutral submission.

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v) **25/00375/VARYCO** Flat 2 Mariners House 6 Marine Road Alnmouth
Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) on approved application
24/01801/FUL to include proposed additional automatic opening
vent on West elevation. It was AGREED to make a neutral submission.

b) Planning Decisions

24/02844/LBC Land West Of 17 Northumberland Street Garden Terrace.
Listed building consent to rebuild collapsed stable building to provide one
and half storey 3 bedroom dwelling.

NCC Decision: Granted.

33/25 Alnmouth Benches

It was AGREED that the two Memorial Bench requests be accepted for a
position outside St John the Baptist Church and opposite the Whittling House
subject to receipt of signed agreements and approval of type of bench and
plaque/engraving. Cllr Denton to liaise with the applicants on installation.

34/25 Correspondence

- i) The Scouts will be considering options for storage space other than the
Small Boathouse.
- ii) Alnmouth & Lesbury Cricket Club are looking for new members – all ages
and genders.

The meeting closed at 8.10pm.

Date & Time of Next Meeting: 7pm 11th March 2025, The Hindmarsh Hall, Northumberland
Street, NE66 2RS.

Future Meeting Dates: - 8th April 2025 (and Annual Parish Meeting), 13th May 2025 (and
Annual General Meeting); 10th June 2025, 8th July 2025, 13th August 2025, 9th September
2025, 14th October 2025, 11th November 2025, 9th December 2025, 13th January 2026, 10th
February 2026, 10th March 2026.

Signed Dated 11th March 2025