

ALNMOUTH PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

11th March 2025

Draft Minutes

Present: Cllrs Susanne Gair (Chair), David Denton, Harriett McHugh, Lorna Pringle (left the meeting at the end of item 49/25/b), Simon Rushton (arrived during item 40/25), Richard Sim, George Ternent, John Wilson.

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

The Meeting opened at 7pm.

35/25 Apologies

Cllr Josie McDonough, County Cllr Gordon Castle.

36/25 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 11th February 2025 were AGREED as a true record with one amendment to item 30/25/a concerning an invoice for 'bench replacement and installation' to be replaced by 'purchase of materials for bench replacement'.

37/25 Declarations of Interest

None were declared.

38/25 Public Participation

There was no public participation.

39/25 Cooption Applications

The Acceptance of Office of Harriet McHugh was RECEIVED.

40/25 Alnmouth Coastal Erosion

The stakeholders group (Alnmouth Village Golf Club, Northumberland Estates, Alnmouth Parish Council & the Burgage holders are due to meet on 13th March 2025 to consider the NCC Management Plan for managing and adapting to coastal changed. APC will not be in a position to submit a response to NCC by the extended deadline of 14th March. Members may respond in a personal capacity.

Signed Dated 8th April 2025

41/25 Planning Matters

a) Planning Applications

i) 25/00564/LBC to rebuild collapsed stable building to provide one and half storey 3 bedroom dwelling (amend condition 3 materials for 24/02844/LBC). APC RESOLVED to make a neutral submission.

b) Planning Appeals

i) APP/P2935/W/25/3360273 Development of approx. 60 dwellings on Land North of Alnmouth Station, Lesbury
Planning Appeal to Secretary of State against NCC's refusal of planning permission 18/04528/OUT.

APC RESOLVED not to modify or withdraw their previous objections to the application and to write to the Director of Housing & Planning to advise him that their objections stood.

c) Lack of enforcement action by Planning Authority

Update on NCC responses to the following:

i) 24/00316/LISTED (door) & 23/00732/FUL & PP/P2935/W/23/3323621
(decking & installation of new door and lighting) Schooner Hotel

ii) 22/01187/NOAPLN) & 23/00908/NONMAT & 19/04744/FUL
(unauthorised glazed structure) 6 Riverside Road.

iii) 23/04314/DISCON & 24/00930/BRCOND Estuary Drive land west of Schooner (parking arrangements and inadequate turning area for emergency and delivery vehicles).

County Cllr Swinbank will raise the lack of enforcement by the Planning Department with the Director of Housing & Planning at NCC.

42/25 Street Lighting for Northumberland Street

No update has been received from NCC.

43/25 Parish Council Elections & Nomination Deadlines

Nominations from candidates for election must be hand delivered to the Returning Officer between 20th March 2025 and 4pm on 2nd April 2025. Current councillors, Clerk or NCC can be contacted for more information.

44/25 Parish Newsletter

Volunteers have come forward to help deliver the newsletter. Anyone wanting to help deliver or edit the newsletter to contact the Clerk or current Editor.

45/25 Study on Social Sustainability of UK High Streets

Jonathan Hobbs, PhD researcher in Urban Planning will be consulting local businesses, residents and members of the community as part of his study, both one to one and in groups. For councillors or members of the public wanting to take part contact jonathan.hobbs@stu.mmu.ac.uk.

Signed Dated 8th April 2025

46/25 Policies and Procedures

The amendments to the APC Standing Orders were AGREED.

47/25 County Council Matters

The Alnmouth toilets refurbishment by NCC is complete. They are cleaned once each day by NCC and are open 24/7.

48/25 Finance

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

Account	Payee	Description	Amount (incl VAT)	VAT
APC				
05 Mar 2025	Xero UK Ltd	Inv 22918103 Direct Debit	39.60	6.60
10 Mar 2025	IONOS	Inv 203047016036	16.80	2.80
12 Mar 2025	Starboard Systems Ltd	Inv 9245 12.3.25 (Scribe Accounts Software set up payment)	298.80	49.80
12 Mar 2025	P Saunders	Inv no 1 of 18.2.25 (Playpark & Bus Shelter)	1,564.04	260.67
12 Mar 2025	Hindmarsh Hall	Inv for March APC 2024 HH-2023-254	25.00	0.00
12 Mar 2025	Black Oak Tree Service	Inv-0158 25.2.25	540.00	90.00
12 Mar 2025	HMRC - PAYE	Paye owing to 31.3.25	45.00	0.00
12 Mar 2025	PPD Printgroup Ltd	Inv 21555 PPD for March 2025	113.00	0.00
12 Mar 2025	Deb Still	Clerk's Expenses March 2025	32.20	0.00
12 Mar 2025	G Ternent	Garage Rental for Mower	130.00	0.00
12 Mar 2025	D Denton	Transport and fix bench at Foxton Cemetery	30.00	0.00
31 Mar 2025	Deb Still	Net salary March 2025	504.10	0.00
Payments Agreed by Chair and Clerk				
19 Feb 2025	Alnwick Glass & Glazing	Inv 7575 repairs to noticeboard	77.40	12.90
12 Mar 2025	Viking	Inv Ref X 11.3.25 A4 Paper x 5	32.88	5.48

- b. The monthly finance report was RECEIVED.
- c. HMRC continue to show a credit on the online PAYE account which may be an error. The Clerk has not been able to contact them by telephone and written to them and received no reply. It was AGREED that the Clerk continue to monitor the position and screen shot the HMRC online accounts on a regular basis.
- d. Forecast spend to the end of the financial year 2024-25 was REVIEWED and there will likely be an underspend on the APC budget of around £300.
- e. APC considered four applications received and RESOLVED to award the follow grants pursuant to s.137 Local Government Act 1972:
£600 to the 1st Alnmouth Scouts Group
£400 to Alnmouth Parochial Church Council
£200 to Alnmouth & Lesbury Cricket Club

It was further RESOLVED not to award a grant to the Phoenix Club for board games.

Signed Dated 8th April 2025

49/25 Reports from Working Groups

a. Christmas Lights

Four lights are still to come down.

b. Village Maintenance

It was considered that the fencing in Peases Park between the playpark and the Boat Club running towards the sea does not need replacing. The APC bench at Peases Cottages has not yet been moved to its new site at the bus shelter - cllrs Sim and Wilson to follow up. Cllr Denton will organise repairing of the BBQ grill hinges. Cllr Denton has covered up the protruding spring from the broken bike rocker and will dig out the footings. Cllr Denton has installed a new bench in front of the cemetery to replace the one that was destroyed in a recent car accident. Replacing the bike rocker was considered but no decision made.

The new Information Board has been installed in Dr Joy's Garden and a team of volunteers attended on 11th March to carry out a spring clean.

c. Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch

A member of the Council will need to lead on this for 2025-26.

d. Climate Change

Cllr Armstrong was leading on this but has resigned from the Council.

50/25 Alnmouth Benches

The style of memorial bench to be sited outside the Church has been approved. The applicant will liaise with Cllr Denton where necessary. The signed agreement from the second applicant to be sited opposite the Whittling House has not yet been returned and agreed and type of bench and engraving/plaque has not been approved. The applicant to be contacted and reminded.

51/25 Confidential Matters

A motion to exclude the public was RESOLVED due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed. It was AGREED to accept the quote from P Saunders for works to the boathouse (windows to small boathouse, pointing to both boathouses) and for painting both boathouses to C Beswick subject to agreement with Alnmouth Community Rowing.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm.

Date & Time of Next Meeting: 7pm 8th April 2025 (and Annual Parish Meeting), The Hindmarsh Hall, Northumberland Street, NE66 2RS.

Future Meeting Dates: - 13th May 2025 (and Annual General Meeting); 10th June 2025, 8th July 2025, 12th 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 8th April 2025