

ALNMOUTH PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

12th November 2024

Minutes

Present: Cllrs Susanne Gair (Chair), David Denton, Simon Rushton, George Ternent.

In Attendance: Deb Still (Clerk), County Cllr Martin Swinbank and two members of the public.

The Meeting opened at 7pm.

180/24 Apologies

Cllrs Ian Armstrong, Josie McDonough, Richard Sim, John Wilson and County Cllr Gordon Castle.

181/24 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the APC meeting of 8th October 2024 be accepted as a true record of the meeting.

182/24 Declarations of Interest

None declared.

183/24 Public Participation

None.

184/24 Resignation of Parish Councillors

The resignations of Cllrs Whyte and Walford were NOTED and Votes of Thanks given for their hard work on the council over the years.

185/24 Street Lighting for Northumberland Street

Cllr Rushton is in contact with NCC as to best options and will report back when an update received.

186/24 National Landscape Interpretation Plan

NCNL has agreed the following works:

a new Information Board (text agreed and approved by the Working Group); resurfacing with buff gravel and wooden edging; replacement of the fence with like for like; compass to be set on a plinth within the existing grassed area.

Signed Dated 10th December 2024

187/24 Boathouses Painting & Annual Inspections

Cllr Denton has inspected the small Boathouse which needs external repainting and the internal works agreed at the 2023 inspection. The annual inspection of the large Boathouse will take place in the near future.

188/24 County Council Matters

The NCC new Climate Change Action Plan has been agreed and the management of green spaces section emphasises improving biodiversity by measures such as leaving longer grass in public spaces.

The Alnwick Banking Hub is progressing slowly. The Lovers Walk design will likely be completed and implemented in the next financial year. The cycle path from the Duchess' Bridge to the roundabout at Hipsburn (outside Alnmouth Parish) is to reviewed in relation to flooding.

189/24 Bonfire Night 5/11/2024

Votes of Thanks were extended to all the volunteers who supported and helped with the event.

190/24 Remembrance Sunday 10/11/2024

Votes of Thanks were extended to all the volunteers who supported and helped with the event which attracted even more attendees in 2024.

191/24 Memorial Benches

The circulated draft Memorial Bench Policy was AGREED.

192/24 Finance

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

			Amount incl VAT	VAT
APC				
12 Nov 2024	Xero UK Ltd	Inv-2135817	39.60	6.60
12 Nov 2024	IONOS	Inv 203044893720	28.80	4.80
12 Nov 2024	Deb Still	Clerk's expenses	35.00	0.00
12 Nov 2024	Hindmarsh Hall	Inv HH-2023-212	25.00	0.00
12 Nov 2024	PPD Printgroup Ltd	Inv 21063 Nov NL	113.00	0.00
12 Nov 2024	Hobberlaw Plants	Inv 2024061 of 27.10.24	586.54	97.96
12 Nov 2024	David Denton	Village Maintenance and materials	165.02	0.00
30 Nov 2024	Deb Still	Inv CW569908 24.10.24	610.20	0.00
Community Fund				
12 Nov 2024	Shaun Whyte	Expenses for Bonfire Night	60.09	0.00
12 Nov 2024	Puffin Enterprises PO	Inv 13169	32.34	0.00
12 Nov 2024	RNLI Amble	Donation from Volcano Night	881.13	0.00
Christmas Lights				
12 Nov 2024	TLC (Crawley) Ltd	Inv CW569908 24.10.24	291.41	48.57
12 Nov 2024	Darran Ecclestone	Expenses for Xmas Lights	167.15	0.00
12 Nov 2024	Hindmarsh Hall	Inv HH-2023-206	125.00	0.00
Payments Agreed by Chair & Clerk in advance of meeting				
13 Oct 2024	Sumup Shop	Inv 2000029010 sum up machine for Bonfire Night etc	94.80	15.80

- b. APC RECEIVED the monthly finance report.

Signed Dated 10th December 2024

- c. APC AGREED that the Bonfire Night Donations would be allocated to the Community Fund to be used for future Bonfire Night events..
- d. APC AGREED to make a donation to Amble RNLI pursuant to s. 137 Local Government Act 1972 of £881.13 (representing net funds from ticket sales and donations for Volcano Night).
- e. To AGREE a councillor to carry out quarterly bank reconciliations starting at the January meeting (for Q3 to December) in line with new Financial Regulations – this item was deferred.
- f. The nationally agreed pay rise for all local government staff (National Joint Council) and backdating to 1st April 2024 was NOTED and confirmed for the Clerk.

193/24 Open Government Consultation on remote attendance and proxy voting at Local Government meetings

A brief discussion ensued. The deadline for comment is 18th December 2024 and councillors and members of the public are invited to respond individually to this important consultation. Comments can come from members of the public, individual councillors and parish councils. Link to the consultation: <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>

194/24 Reports from Working Groups

a. Christmas Lights

The White Gardenias fundraising event has been postponed.

b. Village Maintenance

The Playpark Guardians are completing regular inspections together with Cllr Denton. Cllr Denton has carried out some outstanding repairs and the Clerk will write to the contractors to find out the timescale for the agreed works. Cllr Denton will arrange for the tree inspection.

c. Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch

Cllr Gair is not in a position to provide an update.

d. Climate Change

Alnmouth Village Golf Club (AVGC) has formed a working party and work is underway to repair groyne numbers 5 and 7 on the beach. Cllr Sim met with Northumberland Estate and members of the AVGC working party and it was agreed that a collaborative approach was needed from all stakeholders and an Action Plan will be drawn up. The damage to the Church Hill wall and flooding on Lovers Walk was also discussed. Funding options are being explored. County Cllr Swinbank confirmed that there is some NCNL funding allocated to Alnmouth for coastal/river erosion protection.

195/24 Report on gov.uk domain and emails

This item was deferred.

Signed Dated 10th December 2024

196/24 Correspondence

- a) APC wrote to NCC and to the local MP requesting that local communities be protected from the increasing numbers of holiday lets/second homes in coastal communities. NCC confirmed that they will continue to: use primary occupancy restrictions in areas with a high level of second homes or holiday lets; increase council tax due on second homes from April 2025; and explore and utilise any new powers to require changes of use in future to holiday lets, whenever/if legislation is implemented.

The MP has not replied. Cllr Gair will write again.

- b) Concerns have been raised by a local PC about the move from two County Councillors attending PC meetings to one County Councillor from April 2025.

197/24 Planning Matters

a) Update on Planning Decisions

24/02612/FUL 17 Northumberland Street

Replacement of gates, insertion of gates and construction of garden shed

NCC Decision: Permission granted

b) Future of Planning Working Group

This item was deferred.

198/24 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 an additional 18 hours pa can be worked by the clerk if necessary in addition to the 30 hours pcm. Any hours in addition to those in exceptional circumstances will need prior approval of the full Council. It was further AGREED that all councillors will volunteer where possible for tasks rather than use the paid hours of the Clerk.

Date & Time of Next Meeting: 10th December 2024, The Hindmarsh Hall, Northumberland Street, NE66 2RS.

Future Meeting Dates 14th January 2025; 11th February 2025; 11th March 2025.

Signed Dated 10th December 2024