

ALNMOUTH PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

14th January 2025

Draft Minutes

Present: Cllrs Susanne Gair (Chair), Ian Armstrong, Lorna Pringle (from item 5/25), Richard Sim, George Ternent, John Wilson.

In Attendance: Deb Still (Clerk), County Cllrs Gordon Castle, Martin Swinbank & Wendy Pattison and 3 members of the public.

The Meeting opened at 7pm.

1/25 Apologies

Cllrs Josie McDonough, David Denton & Simon Rushton.

2/25 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes were agreed with one amendment to item 206/24 amending the sentence 'A draft APC response will be brought to the next APC meeting for agreement' to the following sentence 'Councillors agreed to make individual responses to the consultation.'

3/25 Declarations of Interest

None.

4/25 Public Participation

A member of the public commented on the problems of coastal erosion and recent national publicity about the issues.

5/25 Cooption Applications

- i) It was AGREED that Lorna Pringle be coopted to the council.
- ii) The Acceptance of Office was RECEIVED.

6/25 Street Lighting for Northumberland Street

This item was deferred pending an update from NCC.

7/25 Large & Small Boathouses Painting & Annual Inspection

The specifications for painting both boathouses, internal works and reglazing were AGREED.

8/25 North East Mayor's Local Transport Plan Consultation

Individual responses by Councillors had been agreed at the last meeting.

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9/25 Parish Councillor Training by NALC

No training has been booked or undertaken.

10/25 County Council Matters

County Cllrs Castle & Swinbank raised the following issues:

- to encourage members of the public to check whether grit bins in the locality need refilling and contact NCC (Fix My Street can be used for this under the category Winter (Snow/Ice);
- that Alnwick Bus Station is due to undergo major improvements;
- that a new Banking Hub with a 5 day per week 9am – 5pm service is due to be set up in Alnwick with different banks involved.

11/25 Finance

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

Account	Payee	Description	Amount (incl VAT)	VAT
APC				
10 Jan 2025	Xero UK Ltd	Xero Accounts	39.60	6.60
15 Jan 2025	PPD Printgroup Ltd	Invoice for Newsletter 21416 Jan 2025	113.00	
15 Jan 2025	Mazars	External Audit Fees	378.00	63.00
15 Jan 2025	Hindmarsh Hall	Inv for Jan APC 2024 HH-2023-234	25.00	
15 Jan 2025	Deb Still	Clerk's Expenses	26.00	
15 Jan 2025	G Ternent	Petrol for Mower 22/10/24	24.08	
15 Jan 2025	Hindmarsh Hall	Grant from Bettess Fund for Local Heritage Group	500.00	
24 Jan 2025	IONOS	website and email direct debit Jan 2025	16.80	2.80
31 Jan 2025	Deb Still	Clerk's Net Salary January 2025	504.10	
Xmas Lights				
15 Jan 2025	Hindmarsh Hall	Xmas Lights workshop 2023-233 15.12.24	25.00	
15 Jan 2025	Darran Ecclestone	Electrical Equipment Screwfix Inv 19972921366 of 2.12.24	19.98	

- b. APC RECEIVED the monthly finance report.
- c. Cllr Wilson AGREED the quarterly bank reconciliations pursuant to Financial Regulations.
- d. The Council further considered the budget and precept and deferred setting both until the next meeting.
- e. The deadline of 25th February 2025 was agreed for s. 137 LGA 1972 Grant Applications for 2024-25 with decisions to be made at the March meeting.

12/25 Reports from Working Groups**a. Christmas Lights**

No update.

b. Village Maintenance

NCNL has resurfaced Dr Joy's garden, replaced the fencing and the compass and will soon be installing the new information board. The Volunteer Team will be organizing planting of native species and a spring clean together with NCNL volunteers.

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c. Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch

The Christmas Lunch will take place in the next financial year.

d. Climate Change & Coastal Erosion

County Cllrs Swinbank & Castle reported back from correspondence and meetings with NCC officers about the report of NCC receiving a £261m grant for Alnmouth for coastal erosion in 2024. NCC officers advised that an initial expression of interest to the DEFRA grants scheme for coastal erosion was submitted in 2023 by AONB/NCNL but that it had not been possible to develop a viable scheme that would meet the funders requirements and outcomes so they withdrew from the process. Royal HaskoningDHV engineering company are carrying out surveys/studies around the country and are due to report on Alnmouth around late January 2025. Their findings can then be discussed with community stakeholders in Alnmouth (Alnmouth Village Golf Club, The Burgage Holders, Northumberland Estates, Alnmouth Parish Council) and with the wider community at a Public Meeting and look at further options. (County Cllr Castle left after this item).

13/25 Planning Matters

a) Planning Applications

Ref. No: 24/04291/FUL Land East Of 18 High Buston Holystone Northumberland

Conversion of existing barn to 1 dwelling (Self/Custom-Build). It was AGREED to submit a neutral response and request a principal residence condition be placed on the conversion in line with the Alnmouth Neighbourhood Development Plan.

b) Lack of enforcement action by Planning Authority

There have been no substantive NCC responses to the following matters but County Cllr Swinbank is continuing to seek updates.

i) 24/00316/LISTED (door) & 23/00732/FUL & PP/P2935/W/23/3323621
(decking) Schooner Hotel

ii) 22/01187/NOAPLN) & 23/00908/NONMAT (withdrawn) 6 Riverside Road

iii) 23/04314/DISCON (Estuary Drive land west of Schooner).

c) Planning Decisions

i) 24/04004/DISCON Westlea Bed And Breakfast 29 Riverside Road.
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
NCC Decision: Refused

14/25 Alnmouth Benches

i) It was AGREED to dispose of four benches (three APC benches and one privately owned bench following the family member's consent – numbers 6,

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7a, 9, 29 on the APC register) and to relocate APC owned bench no 22 to a new position by the bus shelter. Cllrs Sim and Wilson volunteered to carry out the work.

ii) It was agreed to carry out pressure washing of benches in the new financial year (no's 2, 3, 8, 17 on the APC Register and the 6 APC picnic benches in Peases Park).

15/25 Correspondence

A member of the public commented about the lack of signage directing people towards the footpath/cycle path from the Hipsburn roundabout along the A1068 towards Warkworth and County Cllr Swinbank will make enquiries about signage.

16/25 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 for tree surgery work in Peases Park from Black Oak Tree Services Ltd and from Syd Carr for pressure washing the APC memorial benches.

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm.

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.

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