ALNMOUTH PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 20TH OCTOBER 2026
Minutes

Present: Cllrs Shaun Whyte (Chair), George Ternent, John Wilson, Sally Wilson, Lorna Pringle, Simon Rushton

In Attendance: Jacqueline Brewster (Clerk), Cty Cllr Wendy Patterson, member of the public Robin McCartney

The Parish Council Meeting opened at 19:00

133/26 Apologies – Apologies were received from Cllr Denton.

134/26 Disclosure of Interest. Cllr Whyte Shaun disclosed an interest in the Local Plan HELAA development sites for Alnmouth – agenda item: 156/25 (b).

135/26 Public Participation – A member of the public attended and was invited to speak. There were no questions received.

136/26 Resignation of Cllr McHugh – Thanks were formerly expressed to Councilllor McHugh for her contribution to Parish matters throughout her tenure.

137/26 Approval of New Councillor – RESOLVED: Robiin McCartney's application to join as a Councillor was APPROVED and he was formerly welcomed to the Parish Council.

138/26. RESOLVED: The minutes of the meeting held on 8th September were **ACCEPTED** as a true record.

139/26 Finance

a. The invoices and expense claims received prior to, or during the meeting were **APPROVED**.
b. The monthly finance & SumUp reports were **RECEIVED**
c. MAZARS Year end Completion Letter and Notice was **RECEIVED**
d. HMRC's letter advising VAT penalty points had been reset to ZERO was **RECEIVED**
e. Amendments to the Clerk's contract were **APPROVED**. **RESOLVED:** Clerk to calculate back-dated pay
f. The additional cost of £42 for email storage was **APPROVED.**

140/26 Standing Item - County Council Matters.

a. Cllr Pattison advised that the recent HELAA consultation is not set and represents just the initial thoughts of what landowners have submitted as potential designate land for development. The deadline for the consultation feedback is 9th December 2026.
b. Cllr Pattison advised she would be happy to attend the Remembrance Sunday service and lay a wreath. **RESOLVED**: A formal invitation to be emailed to Cllr Pattison to attend the event.
c. Cllr Whyte advised of the contradictory responses received from NCC Housing regarding residents queries on waste bins and that this had not received a response. RESOLVED: Cllr Whyte to forward details to Cllr Pattison.

d. Cllr Whyte advised Cllr Pattinson that the war memorial had been hit again by an Arriva Bus which was the 3rd time in just over a year.

141/26 Standing Item - Northumbria Police Report - the police report was **RECEIVED**.

142/26 Standing Item - Reports from Working Groups

a. **Village Maintenance:**
   - Harbour Wall – no developments to report. Cllr Pattinson advised Cllr Whyte to liaise with Iain Robinson at NCC who may have some available funding or information on the wall. **RESOLVED**: Cllr Whyte to follow up.
   - Public Toilets – no further issues reported and toilets appear to be in working order.
   - Village Street Signage – Cllr Rushton reported all the new signage in the village has now been completed. Voluntary work on cleaning up the signage has also been undertaken. The Parish Council would like to extend their formal thanks to Helen Holden and her team for all their efforts.
   - Dr. Joy's Garden – **RESOLVED**: Cllr S Wilson to contact potential volunteers re. ongoing maintenance and gauge interest.

143/26 Standing Item – Parish Representation at Meetings.

a. Cllr J Wilson had attended the NICRE meeting at Seahouses on 13th September 2026 and reported the meeting turned out to be a seminar working small groups to identify the major influences upon local communities in rural coastal Northumberland (Seahouses to North of Amble). It was a good initiative, but Cllr Wilson felt very little would come out of it terms of improvement at any point in the future. Main areas brought up were housing, health, tourism, impact, logistics, employment opportunities. Attendees discussed these matters in small groups and left their opinions. There were a lot of areas of concern that were interrelated with little change expected unless business opportunities occur in the area, which will not occur unless there is affordable housing, people with skills of working age, education and health facilities together with infrastructure communities require.
b. Cllr S Wilson attended the Annual Joint Town 7 Parish Council Autumn Conference at County Hall on 8th October 2026. The marketplace was a little disappointing as there did not appear to be many stands. Cllr Wilson wished to speak with someone about the roll out of new waste collection service but there was no stand to address this. Presentations on Budgets & Priorities, the Local Plan and Environment and Transport were all interesting and positive with lots of information to digest. 5 minutes of question time for each topic was insufficient.

144/26 Street Lighting for Northumberland Street. Cllr Rushton advised Phase I is completed and there were just lampposts left to paint when the weather is favourable. NCC did do two extra lampposts on Garden Terrace and Argyle Street. **RESOLVED**: Cllr Rushton to enquire if more Dark Skies funding is available to enable a roll out across the village in further stages. Cllr Pattinson advised there maybe additional funding available from her in the 2027-28 financial year.

145/26 Pease's Park Playground - Fundraising has reached c£70-75k. Focus is now on the 2nd stage with development plan submissions from companies pending. There is a final fundraising event scheduled in early November. Two funding applications are pending. The Screwfix funding bid was declined. The aim is to finalise plans by the end of the year

146/26 Church Hill – Cllr Pringle advised that the art competition is going to run as part of the Art's Festival and will be promoted in the festival's catalogue. An exhibition on Church Hill is planned in St Jame's Church during the festival. Sarah Winslow is booked to talk on Sunday afternoon. Permission has been granted by the Duke of Northumberland to exhibit historic pictures of Church Hill. Cllr Pringle extended thanks to Cllr S Wilson

for the historical material she was able to source and obtain. A discussion was held about APC contributing to competition prize money. The proposal is to have a primary and secondary prize of £100 and an adult prize of £200. **RESOLVED**: Clerk to establish if S137 money can be used for this purpose.

147/26 Planning Matters

a. **Planning Applications**
   i. **26/03391/TREECA|Trees in a Conservation Area:** T1 Birch - Reduce height by 2m and trim away from next door roof by 1m all around, T2 Sorbus - **RESOLVED**: The council to make 'no comment'.
   ii. **26/03487/FELTPO|Tree Preservation Order Application** - T1 sycamore tree – total removal to ground level. 1 Scholefield Place Alnmouth Northumberland NE66 3NH – **RESOLVED:** APC to respond that APC regrets the removal of any mature trees but if authorities believe that the structure is sufficiently compromised, then APC agrees that total removal is the only option. However, the Council would like reassurance that the danger cannot be managed or reduced to acceptable levels by less drastic surgery.
   iii. **RESOLVED:** Cllr McCartney to contact NCC Planning and enquire if they have a tree management plan.

b. **Planning Decisions**
   i. Listed Building Consent to install 2 no. 150mm diameter drainage pipes. The Old Harbour Wall, Land Southwest of Lovaine Terrace Garden **– GRANTED.**
   ii. Listed Building Consent to re-point and replacement of damaged sandstone on gable end and south elevation – The Granary, 52 Northumberland Street, NE66 2RJ **- GRANTED**

c. **Planning Enforcement –** No further action reported from NCC since receipt of email dated 18th June 2026.

148/26 Senior Citizens Lunch – RESOLVED: The Working Party was confirmed as Cllrs J Wilson, S Wilson and L Pringle. Price per head was confirmed at £18/ ticket per to cover the cost of the food. **RESOLVED**: Working Party meeting to be convened.

149/26 Bonfire night – The Volunteer and Food Marshall forms were passed to Cllr Whyte for sign off at the event. A request was made for all Cllrs, where possible, to be present to assist with the event. It was **AGREED** that the net proceeds of money raised at the event will go to Pease's Park Development Fund.

150/26 Remembrance Sunday – All preparations for the event were confirmed to be in hand.

151/26 New .GOV.UK Website. The Clerk confirmed that the new website was live but that not all documents had transferred over. Work would be undertaken, when possible, to have all historic documents uploaded to the relevant web pages. All Cllrs have now been given their individual .GOV.UK email addresses. A few glitches had been experienced with two factor authentication security set up but these had been resolved. Any issues with the new email accounts to be reported to the Clerk as soon as they occur.

152/26 Village First Aid Courses – Cllr S Wilson confirmed that the village hall consortium First Aid Training cannot be opened up to the public. Cllr Pringle advised Paul Nixon's First Aid course covering CPR and use of a defibrillator would cost £200. The minimum age is 14. Maximum of 20 people. **RESOLVED**: Course to be promoted in the next village newsletter to gauge resident's interest.

153/26 Hope and Anchor – Bins. A formal complaint has been submitted to Public Protection at NCC who have taken initial action.

154/26 Visitor Tax – A discussion was held on the proposed new regional Visitor Tax expected to come into force in 2028. The new tax levy is to be set by the Mayor of the Northeast, Kim McGuinness with initial proposal to be an extra £2 per night charge on tourists' bookings. However, plans announced by housing secretary Angela Rayner will require the levy to be charged as a percentage of the cost of accommodation rather than a flat fee.

155/26 Correspondence

a. An invitation has been extended to councillors to attend the upcoming Thriving Together Northumberland Community Funding Fair on Tuesday 3rd November 1:00pm – 3:00pm at Cramlington Hub.
b. NCC has commissioned Land Use Consultants (LUC) to update the Northumberland Landscape Character Assessment (LCA). **RESOLVED**: Councillors are invited to submit views on the distinctive qualities and characteristics and values of Northumberland's landscapes and how landscapes are changing and the key pressures driving change. Deadline 23rd October 2026.
c. Cllr Glen Sanderson extended an invitation to councillors to attend a meeting on Monday 2nd November, 18:00-20:00 at St James' Church, Pottergate, NE66 1JW to discuss the newly launched 2026-203 Corporate Plan and the 2027-28 budget. Chair to attend.
d. An email has been circulated to councillors re. The Consultation on Northumberland Council School Admission Arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools. **RESOLVED**: Councillors are invited to make any comments before the deadline of 30th November 2026.

156/25 Urgent Business

a. **Bracken Hill Beacon –** APC are supportive of the principle of reinstating the beacon, but financial constraints may prohibit this. **RESOLVED:** Clerk to enquire if the Burage Holders can assist with reinstatement and helping with costs.
b. As part of NCC's preparations for a new Local Plan for Northumberland a new Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA) was distributed to Town & Parish Council's for feedback. **RESOLVED:** Clerk to feedback that APC are not in favour of the two sites proposed on the grounds of there being unsuitable access, topographical challenges and the proposed sites adjoining the current settlement boundary.

157/26 Items for the next Agenda. None submitted.

Date & Time of Next Meetings: 24th November 2026, 07:00pm, Hindmarsh Hall, Northumberland St. NE66 2RS

Future Meeting Dates: 22nd December 2026, 12th January 2027, 9th February 2027, 9th March 2027, 13th April 2027, 11th May 2027, 8th June 2027.

Meeting Ended: 20:45