ALNMOUTH PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 12th May 2026
Minutes

Present: Cllrs Shaun Whyte (Chair), George Ternent, David Denton, John Wilson, Sally Wilson, Lorna Pringle,
In Attendance: Jacqueline Brewster (Clerk), County Councillor Wendy Pattinson

The Meeting opened at 19:10

019/26 Apologies – Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Rushton, Cllr McHugh, Cllr Sim.

020/26 Disclosure of Interest. Cllr S Wilson & Cllr Denton re. Agenda Item 031/26 (a) i.

021/26 Public Participation – No attendees.

022/26 RESOLVED: The minutes of the meeting held on 14th April 2026 were **ACCEPTED** as a true record.

023/26 Finance

a. The invoices and expense claims received prior to, or during the meeting (circulated in advance) were **APPROVED.**
b. The monthly finance reports and SUMUP report (circulated in advance) were **RECEIVED.**
c. The Year End Accounts for 2025-26 were **APPROVED**. The date for the Notice of Appointment for Electors Rights was **AGREED** as 8th June 2026.
d. Quotes for remedial work to large and small boathouses were discussed. Cllr Whyte advised 3 quotes had been received from local artisans. The Ben Elliot quote was **ACCEPTED**.
e. The annual insurance renewal quote of £1,423.50 was discussed. It was **AGREED** the Clerk is to accept the insurance renewal quotation after additional amendments are made, subject to the price not increasing by more than £150.00.
f. The Clerk presented a summary of the Internal Audit Report conducted by Gareth Davies.
    i. AGAR [Page 4] Objective O. The Parish did not meet this objective. **RESOLVED:** The transition to a .GOV.UK website is to be expedited by the Clerk. **RESOLVED**: A new IT policy was adopted at the AGM 12th May 2026, Agenda item 44/26.
    ii. AGAR [Page 4] Objective D. The auditor commented that the internal budget report did not include transactions relating to two earmarked reserves. **RESOLVED:** The Clerk advised that the 2025/26 Year End budget report presented to councillors includes a filter that removes earmarked reserves as they are presented on a separate report. Once the filter is removed the budget totals match the AGAR annual return. **RESOLVED:** Ongoing income and expenditure reports submitted to council are to include all earmarked income and expenditure.
    iii. AGAR [Page 4] Objective H. The auditor identified that the council should compare the asset register with the insurance schedule to ensure all assets are recorded and appropriately insured. **RESOLVED**: Clerk to action. The council **AGREED** that no assets fall all under 'self-insurance'.
    iv. It was **AGREED** that Earmarked Reserves will be reviewed at the next council meeting.
    v. The auditor advised the council that de-registering for VAT should be considered.
    vi. The following policies were AGREED at the AGM 12th May 2026

- Reserves Policy (Agenda item 43/26) - new. The auditor advised the reserves policy must operate independently of Precept.
- Finance Policy (Agenda item 45/26) - no amends.
- Model Publication Scheme (Agenda item 46/26) - new.
- GDPR Policy (Agenda Item 47/26) - new.

vii. A review of the Risk Management Policy was **DEFERRED.**

viii. It was **AGREED** that a councillor (other than the Chair) will review and sign off the quarterly bank reconciliations.

ix. The Chair was presented with a sealed envelope containing APC passwords as a back-up.

024/26 Standing Item - County Council Matters

a. The February report from County Cllr Pattison (circulated in advance) was **RECEIVED.**
b. Cllr Pattison advised that a Senior Waste Management Officer at NCC is putting a team together to inform everyone about the new bin collection strategy, effective 2026 year end. There will be glass black bin collection but not food. **RESOLVED:** Clerk to invite Wendy Fail to an APC meeting to update the council on the new bin collections. Cllr S Wilson proposed the village hold an open meeting to discuss the new bin collection initiative ahead of its implementation.
c. Cllr Pattison advised Tourism in Northumberland for 2024 generated £1.4bn. 2025 figures are not currently available. In order for the County to maintain this momentum the *Taste of Northumberland* initiative has been launched with representatives from newspapers, magazines and journals to visit the region for a tour of Northumberland.

007/26 Standing Item - Northumbria Police Report - the police report was **RECEIVED**.

008/26 Standing Item - Reports from Working Groups

a. **Village Maintenance:**
   i. **Harbour Wall –** Cllr Whyte and the Clerk met with Northumberland Estates and were advised that ownership of the wall was the Estate's, but not responsibility for repair.
   ii. **War Memorial –** The memorial has been repaired and Arriva have paid the compensation.
   iii. **Toilets –** Paul Jones from NCC has emailed to advise works are planned but delayed. A purchase order is with the contractor and works on the drainage will begin **on Monday 1st June** after the bank holiday week. Mobile toilet provision will still be available during the works.
b. **Climate Change.** No report.

027/26 Standing Item – Parish Representation at Meetings

a. Cllr Whyte attended training and is now a Designated Safeguarding Lead.

028/26 Street Lighting for Northumberland Street

a. **RESOLVED:** Cllr Rushton to update the committee at the next meeting.
b. Cllr Rushton reported via email that representatives from NCC had accompanied him around the village to review and evaluate the village signage. Cllr Rushton to update the committee at the next meeting.

029/26 Pease's Park Playground.

a. Request for funding of Playground - **DEFERRED.**
b. Tenure of Playground - A number of potential Grantors are keen for the playground to display a security of tenure, ideally for 25 years as currently there is uncertainty of ownership of the park. Northumberland Estates have found a document which suggests an agreement is in place. The Estates will only consider a 25-year lease containing a break clause for the right to give 12 months notice. **RESOLVED:** Cllr Whyte to approach the Estates for a 25-year lease with rent close to peppercorn and the right to

evict stretched to 10 or 15 years. It was **AGREED** that Cllr Whyte request Heads of Terms from the Estates.

c. Cllr Whyte advised that Friends of Alnmouth Playground is now a registered charity (No. 121772). Current finances stand at c£24k following another very generous donation. Lonesome Pine Productions have also donated £500.
d. Cllr Denton advised that strimming of the park will be undertaken before the June ROSPA inspection. Cllr Ternent will cut the grass. **RESOLVED:** Clerk to Email Tommy McGlouglcan to enquire about the strimming Lovers Walk. **RESOLVED**: Cllr Whyte to approach Iain Robson from National Landscapes as coast care volunteers may be able to maintain Lovers Walk.

030/26 Church Hill – nothing further to report.

031/26 Planning Matters

a. **Planning applications**
   i. **26/01455/FUL** Hindmarsh Hall, Northumberland Street, Alnmouth NE66 2RS - solar panels install. RESOLVED: **RESOLVED**: Clerk to respond the application was **Supported**.
   ii. **26/01421/PRUTPO -** 5 Alnwood Alnmouth, NE66 3NN **-** Tree preservation order. **RESOLVED:** Clerk to respond with **No Comment**.
   iii. **26/00955/FUL** - 10 Alnwood, Alnmouth NE66 3NN – application has been withdrawn.
b. **Planning Decisions – none to report**
c. **Planning Enforcement**
   i. The Schooner Hotel - An email from NCC was **RECEIVED** and read out**.** ***"****NCC does have ongoing concerns that both the freeholder and leaseholder have not been forthcoming with requests to engage with officers, either to meet on site or to enter into informal discussions regarding the works being carried out or the outstanding works required as part of the Listed Building Enforcement Notice... In relation to the live Enforcement Notice, it is noted as part of these site visits that partial compliance has been achieved insofar as a timber 'bar' structure to the rear has now been removed. However, as neither the freeholder nor the leaseholder is currently corresponding with the Council, it remains unclear whether the ongoing refurbishment works include the removal of the decking. This matter continues to be actively* pursued by the Council."
   ii. Cllr Pattison advised if APC have received no further update from NCC 1 week before the 9th June meeting Rob Murfin is to be contacted for a response, then Simon Nielson. **RESOLVED**: Cllr Whyte to action as the Clerk will be on holiday.

032/26 .GOV.UK website recommendations. Clerk advised that providers and quotes are currently being investigated. Clerk to submit final proposal to the council for approval at the 9th June 2026 meeting.

033/26 Correspondence – RESOLVED: Clerk to invite Citizens Advice to resubmit their donation request to the council at the February or March meeting in 2027.

034/26 Village First Aid Course – RESOLVED: Cllr Pringle to update the council at the 9th June meeting.

035/26 Memorial Bench Policy – DEFERRED to next meeting.

036/26 Urgent Business. None to report.

037/26 Items for the next Agenda – Cllr Pringle asked if the existing double yellow lines of the Riverside Road parking bay could be converted to Red Lines instead. **RESOLVED:** Clerk to submit a request to Neil Snowdon/Richard Mckenzie at NCC Highways and add item to the June agenda.

Date & Time of Next Meetings: 9th June 2026, 07:00pm, Hindmarsh Hall, Northumberland St. NE66 2RS

Future Meeting Dates: 14th July 2026, 11th August 2026, 8th September 2026, 13th October 2026, 10th November 2026, 8th December 2026.

Meeting Ended: 20:40