



## ALSTON MOOR PARISH COUNCIL

### ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023

#### ***CHAIRMAN'S REPORT***

I had big shoes to fill following on the role of chairman from Norman and I would like to thank him for all he did in his year as chair, it was an honour to be voted in as the current chairman, I was a little bit of both excited and frightened to take up the role. I tried to put my own stamp on the role with a little humour every now and again, it has been quite a strange year for the parish. We had the Queen's Jubilee, we planted trees in every ward and gave medals to every child on the Moor, I was honoured to go to Alston Moor Federation schools to present them. Then we had the sad death of the Queen shortly after, and we were proud of the way we honoured her. We also had the refugees and again we handled that professionally. The council commissioned a financial review through Eden District Council, although I had hoped the report would be completed by now, we have been assured by the company that nothing is financially wrong. So, all in all a testing year for councillors and for myself as chair, we are all unpaid representatives from the community, and we don't always get things right, but we do try our best. I would like to thank my colleagues for their support and look forward to working with the ones who remain to be councillors and wish the ones who have left all the very best for the future. Lastly, I would like to thank Chris our clerk for all the outstanding work she has done over the past 30 plus years and wish her well in her retirement.

Ray Miller



**Warm Hub held in the Town Hall**

## CLERK'S THOUGHTS

After 37 years with the parish council this will be my last parish meeting and I would like to say, 'thank you for the opportunity'. It has been many interesting years working alongside some dedicated and hardworking people. The expectations for parish councils have changed significantly over the years, with the introduction of more and more legislation. Greater accountability and social media has brought its own challenges, sadly not always for the better.

It's not been an easy year with the cost of living affecting our lives, perhaps more than in other areas due to the harsher climate and distance from other centres, but Alston Moor remains a great place to live and work with people willing to rally round and help when needed. The number of community organisations helped by the parish council and listed in the new Community Directory speak of an alive and active place.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

Council income is derived from the parish tax paid by residents (collected via council tax), fees and charges for use of council facilities, land rents and grants or funding application awards to support activities. The accounts are inspected regularly by an Internal Auditor and submitted annually to the Audit Commission for independent ratification. The accounts below are unaudited (auditing will take place in July). This year, as Ray mentioned there was in addition a financial review requested by the chair and former chair to provide assurance to the community that there is no mismanagement or irregularity of procedures. We have received verbal confirmation that the finances are in order, and the council are committed to implement any recommendations when the report is received.

### INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT - YEAR ENDING 31st. March 2023

#### Alston Moor Parish Council

INCOME	2022	2023	EXPENDITURE	2022	2023
Annual Precept	£66,186.00	£57,587.00	Administration	£14,815.08	£17,446.02
CTRS	£954.00	£1,253.00	Precept Donations	£14,970.00	£18,895.66
Tyne Willows	£390.88	£3,959.52	S137 GPC Payments	£234.50	£424.57
Grants	£4,623.75	£4,259.85	Land & Property Management	£5,026.22	£17,561.79
<b>Rents</b>	£0.00	£11.88	General Puropose/Community Grants	£1,200.00	£2,662.80
Alston Town Hall	£6,020.22	£9,310.11	Alston Town Hall	£5,268.26	£9,239.11
War memorial	£0.00	£265.00	Tyne Willows	£2,080.54	£519.74
Bank interest	£106.38	£262.60	War Memorials	£260.00	£265.00
VAT	£810.67	£3,093.41	Grants /Misc	£6,573.52	£1,920.47
			VAT	£1,240.09	£2,559.34
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>£79,091.90</b>	<b>£80,002.37</b>	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>£51,668.21</b>	<b>£71,494.50</b>
Excess income/expenditure	£27,423.69	£8,507.87	Bank balances at close of year 31/03		
Opening balance	£78,920.97	£107,027.66	HSBC Current account	£87,181.07	£34,394.73
Closing balance	<b>£106,344.66</b>	<b>£115,535.53</b>	Money Manager	£12,734.92	£12,782.84
			PCCU	£7,111.67	£7,252.93
			Unity Trust current account		£36,531.61
			Unity Trust instant access		£25,073.42
			Total	£107,027.66	£116,035.53
			Unpresented Cheques	-£683.00	-£500.00
			True Balance	£106,344.66	£115,535.53
	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>			

## GRANTS TO LOCAL GROUPS AND ORGANISATIONS

Alston Town Hall	£510
Garrigill Village Hall	£510
Nenthead Village Hall	£510
Tyne Willows Pavilion (Alston Fitness Club)	£510
Alston Recreation Grounds	£510
Garrigill Village Hall play area	£510
Nenthead Play area	£ 510
Garrigill Village Hall public toilets	£ 550
Nenthead Community Toilets	£ 550
Alston Town Hall - maintenance	£5,000
Alston Moor Historical Society	£2,000
Nenthead Community Works	£1,000
Alston Moor Markets	£500
Alston PTA Fireshow	£750
Royal British Legion - wreaths	£150
Alston Recreation grounds	£3,000
Alston Bowls Club	£500
Alston Recreation Grounds – bike track	£3,000
Tyne Willows Pavilion CCTV	£975
Alston Music Festival	£500
Alston Recreation Ground - fitness project	£300
SAMS (Save our Ambulance Service)	£300
Alston Town Hall – Warm Hub	£300
Alston Medical Practice – Warm Hub	£300

Grant funding has also been allocated to Tyne Willows Pavilion extension, Alston Recreation Grounds and Nenthead fountain restoration.

## COUNCIL RESPONSIBILITIES

**Alston and Nenthall War Memorials** – both Memorials have been added to the List of Buildings of Special Historic Interest.

**Alston Town Hall** – the parish council is the sole trustee of Alston Town Hall and employs a part time caretaker and treasurer. Other tasks are being managed by the trustees on a voluntary basis.

**Fairhill Estates Charity** – parish councillors are also trustees to this charity, whose income comes mainly from renting out land. Anyone from the parish experiencing financial difficulty is welcome to apply.

**Fairhill Recreation Grounds Car Park** – the parish council leases the car park, contributing annually towards maintenance costs carried out by the trustees.

**Footway lighting** – Some lights have been upgraded and transferred to the parish council; others remain the responsibility of the new unitary. The parish has a maintenance agreement which will continue under Westmorland and Furness Council, so faults can continue to be reported on-line or through Local Links.

**Firs and Henderson’s Woods** – the council owns Firs Wood and leases Henderson’s Wood, both have many mature trees which may require attention, and replacement with young trees.

**Tyne Willows Car Park** – is available for users of the field, who are asked to respect the space, please don’t litter, or abandon vehicles, and clear up after your dog.

**Tyne Willows Pavilion** – is owned by the parish council and leased on a peppercorn rent to Alston Fitness Club.

**Tyne Willows Playing Fields** – are leased as a school playing field but may be hired for community events.

## ***ELECTED MEMBERS and REPRESENTATIVES***

Parish councillors are elected every four years. 11 people have stood for the 2023 elections, with vacancies in the Alston and Nenthead Wards which are to be filled by co-option.

## ***COUNCILLORS***

### ***Alston Ward from 9<sup>th</sup> May 2023***

Brian Davies, Michael Hanley, Holly Ho, Ray Miller, Dee Monk – 3 vacancies

Cllrs standing down: Brian Cooper, Norman English, Steve Hattersley, Chris Harrison

### ***Garrigill Ward***

Paul Best, Alan Green, Elaine Grew

### ***Nenthead Ward***

Graeme Ransom, Alastair Robertson, Ron Robinson – 1 vacancy

***Parish Clerk*** - Chris Johnson (01434) 382076

**Parish councillors are also representatives to:**

***Alston Area Planning Team*** – Michael Hanley

***Alston United Charities*** – Elaine Grew & Ron Robinson

***Alston Moor Emergency Response Group*** – Elaine Grew, Michael Hanley, Graham Ransom

***Alston Moor Fitness Club*** – Brian Davies, Brian Cooper

***Alston Moor Partnership*** – Chris Harrison

***Alston Moor Traffic Management Committee*** – Elaine Grew (Garrigill representative), Steve Hattersley (Alston representative), Alastair Robertson (Nenthead representative)

***Alston Moor Community Transport*** – Michael Hanley

***High Mill Waterwheel project*** – Alastair Robertson, Ron Robinson

***NWAS Alston Moor working group*** – Elaine Grew, Graeme Ransom

***Tree Wardens*** – Chris Harrison, Ron Robinson

***Tyne Willows Management Board*** – Brian Cooper, Ron Robinson, Paul Best

**PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS** are held on the first Monday of the month unless there is a bank holiday, when the meeting will be held on the second Monday. Meetings are open to the public, who may, by prior arrangement with the chairman or clerk, comment on any matter of local public interest during the public participation session.

**COMMITTEE/WORKING GROUP MEETINGS** the council has one committee, the Staffing Committee. Meetings are held as required.

**PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE** [www.alstonmoor.org](http://www.alstonmoor.org)