



ALSTON MOOR PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

The minutes of the proceedings of the **MONTHLY MEETING** of Alston Moor Parish Council (AMPC) held on **Monday 4th of December 2023** at 19:00hrs in Alston Town Hall.

Present:

Chairman: Cllr. Raymond Miller (RM)
Councillors: Cllr. Best, Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Davies, Cllr. Edgar, Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Hanley, Cllr. Martin, Cllr. Ho, Cllr. Monk, Cllr. Ransom, Cllr. Robertson and Cllr. Robinson.

Clerk/RFO: Lindsay Nicholson (LN)

Also in attendance: Unitary Authority Councillor Mary Robinson

Members of the Public: 6

2024/001	Presentation: Nenthead Mines Conservation Society The item was deferred. Cllr Ransom to contact the Society to arrange a new date.
2024/002	Apologies for Absence Alan Green forwarded apologies to the meeting. Resolved: to approve the apologies and the reasons given.
2024/003	Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensation None
2024/004	Public Participation A resident had forwarded information about the loaning behind St Paul's Chapel. Concern was raised about the state of the walls along the sides of the path. The clerk to look into the situation.
2024/005	Minutes of the Last Meeting of Alston Moor Parish Council The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday the 4 th of December 2023 were considered. Cllr Ho raised the Quickbooks payment requiring it to be noted that this was a Town Hall payment and that the Fairhill Recreation Hill Grant be returned. <i>Motion: to authorise the chairman to sign, as a correct record with the above-mentioned amendment, the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday the 4th of December 2023. Proposer: Cllr. Davies, Seconder: Cllr. Robinson, Vote: 12 Favour 1 abstention.</i> Resolved: to approve the minutes of the full council meeting held on the 4th of December 2023 with the above-mentioned correction. The minutes of the Extra Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on Monday the 11 th of December 2023 were considered. <i>Motion: to authorise the chairman to sign, as a correct record, the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday the 11th of December 2023. Proposer: Cllr. Davies, Seconder: Cllr. Robinson, Vote: 8 Favour 5 abstention.</i> Resolved: to approve the minutes of the full council meeting held on the 11th of December 2023

<p>2024/006</p>	<p>Chairs Report</p> <p>The chair reported that the Christmas trees and lights in the town were well received over the festive period. Work to take down the lights was underway but hampered by weather.</p> <p>The chair reported that the security door at the front of the Angel Inn had now been moved. The council had contacted the brewery. The brewery worked with their contractors to relocate the door. The brewery has indicated that they were actively looking for a new tenant so that the pub could be quickly reopened in the town.</p> <p>Resolved: to receive the information</p>
<p>2024/007</p>	<p>Westmorland & Furness Councillors Report</p> <p>Enterprise Hub</p> <p>An update on the project was provided by Councillor Hanley. It was noted that there is a possibility of progressing the hub but there is a window of opportunity for the partners to come together. Significant levels of funding are needed for this project.</p> <p>Eden Locality Board – Children and Young People</p> <p>One of the priorities of the group was to provide children in schools with a term of learning on a musical instrument. This would be delivered through ukulele and recorder lessons.</p> <p>It was noted that young people could access swimming in Penrith for 10 pence. The merits of the project were noted by the meeting, but Councillors enquired as to how young people from Alston Moor can access the service without an adequate bus service to get them there.</p> <p>The mental health provision for young people was discussed. An initiative lead by Barnardo's would deliver some of this service.</p> <p>Youth Provision was discussed. The provision in Alston was discussed and it was noted that additional funding would be needed.</p> <p>General Discussion following the report.</p> <p>A discussion was held about the Unitary Authority's precept. It was noted that an increase was made last year partly to bring Eden in line with South Lakes and Furness. Councillors felt that a commitment was made by the Unitary Council to spend some of the funds within Eden as part of the "Levelling Up" agenda. Concern was raised as to how this money had been spent. The clerk was asked to contact CALC to establish if Parish Council's within Eden might be interested in forming a unified voice regarding this.</p> <p>Cllr Hanley left the meeting following the report at 20:35</p>
<p>2024/009</p>	<p>Police Report</p> <p>The police report was received by the Council. Councillors discussed the report and were concerned by the nature of the crimes. The clerk was asked to contact the Police to ask if they could send a representative to a future meeting so that questions could be asked.</p> <p>Resolved: to receive the information</p> <p>Action: LN</p>

2024/010	<p>Progress Reports</p> <p>2024/010.1 Urbaser contract regarding town litter collection The project is ongoing.</p> <p>2024/010.2 Tyne Willows Environment Agency Fence It was noted that the council was awaiting feedback from the Environment Agency. Resolved: to remove the information</p> <p>2024/010.3 Tyne Willows Litter Collection A site inspection to be arranged. Resolved: to receive the information</p> <p>2024/010.4 School Poster Competition The council was advised that the winners had been announced and the prizes distributed at a school assembly. The poster boards have been printed and work has begun to get them put up in the Parish. The clerk was asked to contact the dog warden again for support regarding the current problems. Resolved: to receive the information Action: LN</p>
2024/011	<p>Reports from Representatives</p> <p>2024/011.1 Alston Moor & Fellside Place Action Group It was reported that the next meeting would be held within the week. No further update. Resolved: to receive the information</p> <p>2024/011.2 Alston Moor Emergency Response Group (AMERG) The group has its AGM at the end of the month. Additional volunteers are needed for the group. There were no further updates. Resolved: to receive the information</p> <p>2024/011.3 Nenthead Mine Water Treatment Works There was a meeting last week. There is a sub-group looking into the planning applications. The Environment Agency and Coal Board's December information session was cancelled due to adverse weather. Resolved: to receive the information</p> <p>2024/011.4 Alston Moor Partnership The next meeting was planned for February. No further update Resolved: to receive the information</p> <p>2024/011.5 Alston Golf Club Observatory It was noted that some funding earmarked for the Observatory Project had been withdrawn leaving an unexpected shortfall. The group are actively pursuing other options to try to secure the project. Resolved: to receive the information</p> <p>2024/11.6 Digitalisation of Landlines A group of Councillors attended a drop in event in Alston about the digitalisation of landlines. The local infrastructure problems were outlined to the representative. The BT representative noted the additional infrastructure problems and indicated that a response would be made to the Parish Council. It was noted that no response has been received at this stage.</p>

	<p>Emergency provision in the event of a power cut is felt to be inadequate in Alston Moor Parish, particularly for vulnerable residents.</p> <p>There is a petition to keep analogue landlines. Councillors wanted to encourage colleagues and residents to sign the petition.</p> <p><i>Motion: to contact BT requesting their rationale for digitalisation in this area and the update promised to Councillors at their recent event.</i></p> <p><i>Proposer: Cllr. Martin, Seconder: Cllr. Grew, Vote: 11 Favour 1 abstention.</i></p> <p>Resolved: to contact BT for their rationale and update.</p>																
2024/012	<p>Planning Applications & Decisions</p> <p>2024/011.1 Applications</p> <p>None</p> <p>2023/011.2 Decisions</p> <p>The following decision made by Westmorland & Furness Council since the last meeting were received.</p> <table><tr><th>Application No.</th><th>Location</th><th>Brief Description</th><th>Decision</th></tr><tr><td>23/0750</td><td>REAR OF THE OLD PRECIOIN OLD FACTORY CENTRE OF ALSTON, BEHIND THE CO-OP, ALSTON</td><td>Fell Ash and Crown Reduction of Goat Willow.</td><td>No objection</td></tr><tr><td>23/0714</td><td>5 CLITHEROE, NENTHEAD ROAD, ALSTON, CA9 3TJ</td><td>Replacement front porch. Re-submission of 23/0455.</td><td>Approved</td></tr><tr><td>23/0710</td><td>BLAGILL HOUSE, BLAGILL, ALSTON, CA9 3NB</td><td>Lawful Development Certificate for the proposed use of 1no bedroom and dining room of dwellinghouse as bed and breakfast.</td><td>Approved</td></tr></table> <p>Resolved: to receive the information</p>	Application No.	Location	Brief Description	Decision	23/0750	REAR OF THE OLD PRECIOIN OLD FACTORY CENTRE OF ALSTON, BEHIND THE CO-OP, ALSTON	Fell Ash and Crown Reduction of Goat Willow.	No objection	23/0714	5 CLITHEROE, NENTHEAD ROAD, ALSTON, CA9 3TJ	Replacement front porch. Re-submission of 23/0455.	Approved	23/0710	BLAGILL HOUSE, BLAGILL, ALSTON, CA9 3NB	Lawful Development Certificate for the proposed use of 1no bedroom and dining room of dwellinghouse as bed and breakfast.	Approved
Application No.	Location	Brief Description	Decision														
23/0750	REAR OF THE OLD PRECIOIN OLD FACTORY CENTRE OF ALSTON, BEHIND THE CO-OP, ALSTON	Fell Ash and Crown Reduction of Goat Willow.	No objection														
23/0714	5 CLITHEROE, NENTHEAD ROAD, ALSTON, CA9 3TJ	Replacement front porch. Re-submission of 23/0455.	Approved														
23/0710	BLAGILL HOUSE, BLAGILL, ALSTON, CA9 3NB	Lawful Development Certificate for the proposed use of 1no bedroom and dining room of dwellinghouse as bed and breakfast.	Approved														
2024/012	<p>Ashgill Footpath</p> <p>A discussion was held about the project. The forms need to be shared more widely through the council’s website and social media.</p> <p>Resolved: to receive the information</p>																
2024/013	<p>Christmas Lights Progress Report</p> <p>The display was well received. Volunteers were now looking to take down the display. The trees would be taken down on the 16th of January weather permitting. There is a need for additional volunteers.</p> <p>Resolved: to receive the information</p>																
2024/014	<p>Remembrance 2024</p> <p>It was noted that there was interest in purchasing lamppost poppies to compliment the display in the centre of Alston. The clerk was asked to ascertain</p>																

	<p>a price and come back to the Council.</p> <p>A discussion was held about commemoration of 80 years since the DDay landings. Cllr Grew indicated she would approach the church to see if they had any plans for the event.</p> <p>Resolved: to receive the information</p>
2024/015	<p>Alston Gym: Planning Application</p> <p>It was noted that the planning application for the gym had been submitted.</p> <p>Resolved: to receive the information</p>
2024/016	<p>20mph Speed Limit</p> <p>Nenthead Councillors had approached Nenthead Community Projects in relation to a possible 20mph zone in the Overwater area. It was noted that there had been a recent near miss outside the school.</p> <p><i>Motion: to approve Parish Council support for a 20mph zone in Nenthead.</i> <i>Proposer: Cllr. Robinson, Seconder: Cllr. Ransom, Vote: nem con.</i></p> <p>Resolved: to support an application for a 20mph zone.</p>
2024/017	<p>Electric Vehicle Charging Points</p> <p>A discussion was held about electric vehicle charge points on main street. There was concern that parking in the centre of the Town was very limited and any charge points may limit parking spaces further. It was noted that visitors to the area increasingly needed charging facilities.</p> <p>Resolved: to receive the information</p>
2024/018	<p>Accounts</p> <p>2024/018.1 Accounts</p> <p>Further delays from HSBC had presented the clerk from updating the mandate and gaining access to the accounts. The clerk hoped to be able to provide a full report at the next meeting.</p> <p>Resolved: to receive the information</p> <p>2024/018.2 Internal Auditor Report</p> <p>Cllr Ho requested additional information regarding items 3, 4, 5 and 15 of the report. Further information would be sought from the previous clerk and fed back to Councillor Ho.</p> <p>Resolved: to receive the information</p>
2024/019	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>The Nenthead Mines Conservation Society outlined that they wouldn't be planting Scots Pine due to the large volume surrounding the hush. The prevailing wind at the hush would ensure seeding via wind in addition to the deciduous woodland.</p> <p>Resolved: to receive the information</p>
2024/020	<p>Training</p> <p>The council approved 3 representatives, the clerk, Cllr Martin and Cllr Robinson to attend the NALC Social Media Training.</p> <p>The council approved 1 representative Cllr Martin to attend the NALC Community Transport Training.</p> <p>The clerk to arrange the training.</p> <p>Resolved: to book places on the NALC Social Media and Community Transport Training</p>

2024/021	Items for the Next Meeting of the Parish Council The following items were raised for discussion. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human Resources Contract • Completion of the Clerk Handover • BT digitalisation Resolved: to receive the information
2024/022	Date and Time of Next Meeting The next full Council Meeting is scheduled to be held on Monday the 5 th of February 2024 at 7.00pm in the Town Hall.

Cllr. Miller closed the meeting at 20:40 hrs

Please note: all Parish Council meetings are open to members of the Public.

Chair Signature: _____

Date: _____

Clerk Signature: _____

Date: _____