



## ALSTON MOOR PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

The minutes of the proceedings of the **MONTHLY MEETING** of Alston Moor Parish Council (AMPC) held on **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> of November 2023** at 19:00hrs in Nenthead Village Hall.

### Present:

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

**Clerk/RFO:** Chris Johnson (CJ)  
Lindsay Nicholson (LN)

**Also in attendance:** None

**Members of the Public:** 6

2023/000	<p><b>Apologies for Absence</b> Cllr. Robertson and Cllr. Davies forwarded apologies to the meeting. Apologies were also received from Cllr. Robinson of Westmorland and Furness Council. <b>Resolved: to approve the apologies and the reasons given.</b></p>
2023/001	<p><b>Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensation</b> Cllr. Ho declared a non-prejudicial interest in item 2023/013. <b>Resolved: to note the declared interest.</b></p>
2023/002	<p><b>Public Participation</b> <b>Alston Christmas Lights Volunteer</b> An update was provided on the project. The risk assessment was being reviewed and ladder training booked for the volunteers. The cost of the training is £70.00. The volunteers would be putting up the trees on the 21<sup>st</sup> of November providing the weather conditions are suitable. The volunteers were thanked for their help with the work.</p> <p><b>Nenthead Community Partnership Representative</b> A report was read by the representative. The report advised the Parish Council that Nenthead Community Partnership has taken the decision to withdraw their offer to lead on the fountain restoration project. The chair thanked the representative on behalf of the Parish Council for the continued work of the group.</p>
2023/003	<p><b>Minutes of the Last Meeting of Alston Moor Parish Council</b> The following amendments were agreed.</p> <p><b><u>7b/OCT/23 Alston Cottage Hospital Working Group</u></b> The group highlighted the services that had been lost from Alston Moor. CHOC are interested in supporting the work of the Alston Cottage Hospital Working Group and putting back some of the services that have been lost on Alston Moor. Cllr Grew and Cllr Monk hope to be part of CHOC's working group regarding the matter</p>

	<p>and will continue to champion the work and raise awareness of the loss of health services on Alston Moor.</p> <p>Cllr. Davies declared an interest in <b><u>2/OCT/23 Report from Alston Fitness Club</u></b></p> <p><i>Motion: to authorise the chairman to sign, as a correct record with the above-mentioned amendments, the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of October 2023. Proposer: Cllr. Green, Seconder: Cllr. Robinson, Vote: nem. con.</i></p> <p><b>Resolved: to accept the minutes of the previous meeting and the recommendations therein.</b></p>
2023/004	<p><b>Chairs Report</b></p> <p>The chair offered thanks to Cllr. Ho and the volunteers that had produced the poppy display to mark Remembrance on behalf of the community of Alston Moor. Thanks, was also extended to the team of volunteers that had worked on the Fireworks display to bring the community together.</p>
2023/004	<p><b>Westmorland &amp; Furness Councillors Report</b></p> <p><b>Dryburn Pedestrian Bridge</b></p> <p>Commitment has been made to have the bridge surveyed and assessed for safety concerns. Providing there are no concerns raised about the safety of the bridge it will be reopened immediately. If concerns are raised, then works will be programmed for the summer of 2024.</p> <p><b>Ashgill Footpath</b></p> <p>Westmorland &amp; Furness Council are only permitted to make good and repair paths contained on the definitive map. The meeting discussed the merits of undertaking the legal proceedings for registering this path so that works could be undertaken.</p> <p><b>Climate Action Plan</b></p> <p>Cllr. Hanley briefed the meeting regarding the meeting and the monies that were being made available for Climate Action projects and initiatives.</p> <p>Cllr. Hanley left the meeting at 19:23</p> <p><b>Police Report</b></p> <p>The report from Cumbria Police circulated prior to the meeting was noted.</p> <p><b>Resolved: to receive the information</b></p>
2023/005	<p><b>Progress Reports</b></p> <p><b>2023/005.1 Urbaser contract regarding town litter collection</b></p> <p>No update</p> <p><b>2023/005.2 Tyne Willows Environment Agency Fence</b></p> <p>Fields in Trust concluded that permission in these circumstances at this location was not needed. The Parish Council is now awaiting feedback from the Environment Agency regarding the works.</p> <p><b>Resolved: to receive the information</b></p> <p><b>2023/005.3 Tyne Willows Litter Collection</b></p>

	<p>An update was provided. Councillors were advised that the Parish Council would need to provide a second bin at cost to the council. The location and type of litter bin to be determined with consideration for the fixings required at the location. It was agreed that a site visit would be arranged to assess the location. Cllr. Robinson and Cllr. Davies agreed to attend a site visit.</p> <p>A brief discussion was held about the access gateway onto the grassed area at Tyne Willows. The area to be assessed at the site visit.  <b>Resolved: to receive the information</b></p> <p><b>2023/005.4 School Poster Competition</b>  Cllr. Miller provided an update on the poster competition. Both Alston Primary and Nenthead Primary had agreed to assist with the posters. The competition entries would be judged on the 16<sup>th</sup> of November 2023.  <b>Resolved: to receive the information</b></p> <p><b>2023/005.5 Nenthead Fountain</b>  It was reported that the details for the agreement had been forwarded to Highways. Westmorland &amp; Furness Legal team would now be instructed to draw up the agreement.  <b>Resolved: to receive the information</b></p>
<p><b>2023/006</b></p>	<p><b>Reports from Representatives</b>  <b>2023/006.1 NWAS Working Group</b>  No further update until January.</p> <p><b>2023/006.2 Alston Cottage Hospital Working Group</b>  No further update until January.</p> <p><b>2023/006.3 Alston Moor Area Planning (AMAP)</b>  No further update.</p> <p><b>2023/006.4 Alston Moor Emergency Response Group (AMERG)</b>  No further update.</p> <p><b>2023/006.5 Nenthead Mine Water Treatment Works</b>  Nenthead Mines Water Conservation Trust informed the Parish Council that they would be signing the 100-year lease for the site. The group has been invited to present at the January Parish Council meeting to offer an update.  <b>Resolved: to receive the information</b></p> <p><b>2023/006.6 Alston Moor Partnership</b>  No significant updates to report. The continues to be involved in the Cumbria Sustainability Network.  <b>Resolved: to receive the information</b></p>
<p><b>2023/007</b></p>	<p><b>Planning Applications &amp; Decisions</b>  <b>2023/007.1 Applications</b>  <b>23/0174 5 CLITHEROE NENTHEAD ROAD ALSTONCA9 3TJ:</b> Replacement front porch. Re-submission of 23/0455.  The application was outlined and discussed. <i>Motion: to support the application. Proposer: Cllr. Grew, Seconder: Cllr. Robinson, Vote: nem. con.</i>  <b>Resolved: to support the application</b></p>

**23/0656 1-3 OLD SHEEP WASH BARN, HIGH GALLIGILL NENTHEAD ALSTON CA9 3LW:** Retrospective change of use of barn to create 3no dwellings including associated operations.

The application was outlined and discussed. *Motion: to support the application. Proposer: Cllr. Bondi, Seconder: Cllr. Miller, Vote: 9 in favour, 2 abstention.*

**Resolved: to support the application**

**23/0699 HILL HOUSE COTTAGE JOLLYBEARD LANE ALSTON CA9 3UA:**

Conservation area tree works comprising removal of dead or dying ash trees. The application was outlined and discussed. *Motion: to support the application with the provision that the works are only to the Ash trees. Proposer: Cllr. Robinson, Seconder: Cllr. Ransom, Vote: nem. con.*

**Resolved: to support the application**

### 2023/007.2 Decisions

The following decision made by Westmorland & Furness Council since the last meeting were received.

Application No.	Location	Brief Description	Decision
<u>23/0561</u>	3 WARDWAY FOOT NENTHEAD ALSTON CA9 3PX	Proposed rear two storey extension, additional off-street parking and creation of boiler room, roof alterations and replacement of external render with stone slips.	Full Approval

**Resolved: to receive the information**

**2023/008**

### Alston Recreation Ground Fencing for Dog Walk

The application form received had been previously circulated. It was proposed that £300 should be granted towards the total cost requested. The group was invited to make a second application for consideration at the precept meeting in January for any shortfall in total funds.

*Motion: to provide a grant of £300. Proposer: Cllr. Miller, Seconder: Cllr. Robinson, Vote: nem. con.*

**Resolved: to provide a grant of £300**

**2023/009**

### Ashgill Footpath

A verbal update was provided. The process for having the footpath added to the definitive map requires the Parish Council to identify residents that could provide evidence of use of the path for the last 20 years. A volunteer to support the clerk was identified.

*Motion: to proceed with the legal process for adding the footpath to the definitive map. Proposer: Cllr. Miller, Seconder: Cllr. Robinson, Vote: 10 in favour, 1 abstention*

**Resolved: to proceed with the legal process for adding the footpath to the definitive map**

**2023/010**

### Christmas Lights

#### 2023/010.1 Budget for Christmas Lights

Councillors were advised that £1,000 had been budgeted for Christmas Lights across Alston, Garrigill and Nenthead. Garrigill Councillors advised that at present there was no volunteer team to undertake the works in Garrigill therefore

	<p>their monies should be allocated to Nenthead. It was hoped that additional monies might be allocated to Garrigill next year if a volunteer team is identified.</p> <p><i>Motion: to provide £500 budget allocation to Alston Christmas lights and £500 budget allocation to Nenthead Christmas lights. Proposer: Cllr. Miller, Seconder: Cllr. Robinson, Vote: nem. con.</i></p> <p><b>Resolved: to provide £500 budget allocation to Alston Christmas lights and £500 budget allocation to Nenthead Christmas lights.</b></p> <p><b>2023/010.2 Ladder Training</b>  <i>Motion: to approve the preferred ladder training supplier at a cost of £72.00 to the Parish Council. Proposer: Cllr. Miller, Seconder: Cllr. Robinson, Vote: nem. con.</i>  Cllr. Best indicated that he would also undertake the training on behalf of the Parish Council.  <b>Resolved: to approve the preferred ladder training supplier at a cost of £72.00</b></p> <p><b>2023/010.3 Progress Report</b>  A verbal report was provided. To date 15 of the 34 businesses had paid. The clerk to arrange for receipts to be provided.  <b>Resolved: to receive the information</b></p>
<b>2023/011</b>	<p><b>Councillor Surgeries</b>  A discussion was held about Councillor Surgeries. It was noted that Nenthead continue to hold surgeries. Cllr. Martin indicated that she would be happy to restart surgeries in Alston monthly.  <b>Resolved: to receive the information</b></p>
<b>2023/012</b>	<p><b>Disseminating Information to Residents and Group in the Parish</b>  A discussion was held about the methods currently used for disseminating information received by the Parish Council to residents and groups within the parish. The use of Facebook and the newsletter and the possible use of an email database in the future was identified.  <b>Resolved: to receive the information</b></p>
<b>2023/013</b>	<p><b>Signage for the Community Garden</b>  It was noted that the Community Garden were looking for support to provide a signage for the community garden. The requirements of the group were not clear. The clerk to contact the group for more information about their requirements.</p>
<b>2023/014</b>	<p><b>Parish Records</b>  A discussion was held about the digitising of the Parish Council records. At this stage it is not clear as to the extent of the records that this might be applicable to, or the cost involved.  <i>Motion: to agree in principle to the digitisation of Parish Council records.</i>  <i>Proposer: Cllr. Martin, Seconder: Cllr. Bondi, Vote: 10 in favour, 1 abstention</i>  <b>Resolved: to agree in principle to the digitisation of Parish Council records</b></p>
<b>2023/015</b>	<p><b>Alston Community Workshop</b>  <b>2023/015.1 Benches</b>  Alston Community Workshop had made representation to the council to undertake works to the benches in the parish. The volunteers would look to recoup the costs of the work from the Parish Council. The volunteers had asked</p>

	<p>if 2 to 3 benches could be identified in Alston, Nenthead and Garrigill. Costing for the work could then be submitted to the Council for approval prior to any work being undertaken in the spring. Cllr. Grew to identify Garrigill benches, Cllr. Martin and Cllr. Miller to identify Alston benches, Cllr. Robinson and Cllr. Ransom to identify Nenthead benches.</p> <p><i>Motion: to identify 2 to 3 benches per ward that require maintenance works.</i>  <i>Proposer: Cllr. Robinson, Seconder: Cllr. Grew, Vote: nem. con.</i></p> <p><b>Resolved: to identify 2 to 3 benches per ward that require maintenance works.</b></p> <p><b>2023/015.2 Community Directory</b>  The Parish Council had been approached to take responsibility for the community directory. A discussion was held. Cllr. Martin with support from Cllr. Miller indicated they would be prepared to undertake the work.  <i>Motion: to accept responsibility for updating the community directory. Proposer: Cllr. Miller, Seconder: Cllr. Bondi, Vote: 10 in favour, 1 abstention</i>  <b>Resolved: to accept responsibility for updating the community directory.</b></p>
<b>2023/016</b>	<p><b>Accounts</b>  <b>2023/016.1 Accounts</b>  The accounts summary was circulated prior to the meeting.  <i>Motion: to approve the financial report. Proposer: Cllr. Davies, Seconder: Cllr. Best, Vote: 10 in favour, 1 abstention</i>  <b>Resolved: to approve the financial report</b></p> <p><b>2023/016.2 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter banking Checks</b>  Cllr. Monk had completed the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter banking checks. It was noted that there were no issues to raise for the Council's attention.  <i>Motion: to note the completion of the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter banking checks. Proposer: Cllr. Martin, Seconder: Cllr. Ransom, Vote: 10 in favour, 1 abstention</i>  <b>Resolved: to approve the financial report</b></p>
<b>2023/017</b>	<p><b>Correspondence</b>  Item deferred to next meeting.</p>
<b>2023/018</b>	<p><b>Items for the Next Meeting of the Parish Council</b>  The following items for discussion were raised;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation from the Conservation Officer</li> <li>• To agree a date for the Precept Meeting</li> <li>• Nenthead Ward to offer thanks to the volunteers in Nenthead for their work regarding Remembrance.</li> </ul>
<b>2923/019</b>	<p><b>Date and Time of Next Meeting</b>  The next meeting to be held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> of December 2023 at 7.00pm.  Meeting to be held in Alston Town Hall.  <b>Resolved: to receive the information.</b></p>

Cllr. Miller closed the meeting at 20.37 hrs

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

Chair Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Clerk Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_