



## ALSTON MOOR PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

The minutes of the proceedings of the **MONTHLY MEETING** of Alston Moor Parish Council (AMPC) held on **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> of December 2023** at 19:00hrs in Alston Town 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, and Cllr. Robinson.

**Clerk/RFO:** Lindsay Nicholson (LN)

**Also in attendance:** None

**Members of the Public:** 6

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| 2023/020 | <b>Presentation: Alston Conservation Appraisal</b><br>Deferred as presenter unable to attend due to adverse weather conditions.  |
| 2023/021 | <b>Apologies for Absence</b><br>Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. Ransom and Cllr. Robertson.<br><b>Resolved: to receive the apologies and accept the reasons given.</b>  |
| 2023/022 | <b>Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensation</b><br>None  |
| 2023/023 | <b>Public Participation (Timed item 15 minutes)</b><br>The resident outlined the problems he had experienced using the local bus service. As a non-car user, he expressed the short comings of the service for getting to key service hubs. The resident would like to be able to use the Slaggyford bus service but at present it doesn't come as far as Alston. A discussion was held with the Unitary Councillors offering insight into the Cumbria services.<br><br>A candidate for the Penrith & Solway constituency was present at the meeting. The candidate introduced herself to the meeting.   |
| 2023/024 | <b>Minutes of the Last Meeting of Alston Moor Parish Council</b><br>The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday the 6 <sup>th</sup> of November 2023 were considered.<br>Item: 2023/002 Nenthead Community Partnership to read Nenthead Community Projects.<br><br><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 6<sup>th</sup> of November 2023. Proposer: Cllr. Davies, Seconder: Cllr. Grew, Vote: 10 Favour 1 abstention.</i><br><br><b>Resolved: to accept the minutes of the previous meeting and the recommendations therein.</b> |
| 2023/025 | <b>Chairs Report</b>   |

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|                 | <p>Thanks was forwarded to the volunteer team involved with putting up the Christmas lights and trees across the Parish. The chair wished the councillors and residents of Alston Moor a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.</p>  |
| <b>2023/026</b> | <p><b>Westmorland &amp; Furness Councillors Report</b><br/> The Unitary Authority Councillors reported on the following items:</p> <p><b>Climate Change</b><br/> Public transport was felt to be a priority for the climate change agenda in the local area. The problems associated with public transport in remote rural areas were discussed at length in the meeting.</p> <p><b>Westmorland &amp; Furness Full Council Meeting</b><br/> It was reported that 25 million pounds were being made available for levelling up. There would be 7 million pounds of the fund being made available to the Penrith hub.</p> <p><b>Health Scrutiny Committee</b><br/> The lack of NHS dentists available in the region was discussed. Smoking and diet were seen as priorities.</p> <p><b>Community Infrastructure Levy</b><br/> The amount made available to a community would be dependent on the number of houses being built. How this will impact on Alston Moor Parish was not clear at this stage. This is likely to come into effect following the new Local Plan.</p> <p><b>Local Plan</b><br/> Westmorland &amp; Furness would be developing a Local Plan likely to be completed in the next 2 years. Communities wishing to influence the plan should look out for consultation information and where possible complete neighbourhood plans to evidence points raised.<br/> <b>Resolved: to receive the information</b></p> |
| <b>2023/027</b> | <p><b>Police Report</b><br/> The police had provided a written report for the council. The figures were noted.<br/> <b>Resolved: to receive the information</b></p>   |
| <b>2023/028</b> | <p><b>Nenthead Councillors Report</b><br/> The Nenthead Councillors wished to thank the volunteers for their efforts regarding the remembrance displays.<br/> <b>Resolved: to receive the information</b></p>   |
| <b>2023/029</b> | <p><b>Progress Reports</b></p> <p><b>2023/029.1 Urbaser contract regarding town litter collection</b><br/> No update</p> <p><b>2023/029.2 Tyne Willows Environment Agency Fence</b><br/> No update. Clerk to request some further information.</p> <p><b>2023/029.3 Tyne Willows Litter Collection</b><br/> A site visit was undertaken. A discussion was held about where the bin should be located. The site meeting had identified a location near to the underground water system. A councillor raised that this may encourage those using the recycling centre to place rubbish in the bin. Locations nearer the top of the drive were</p>   |

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|          | <p>discussed. A further site meeting to be arranged following the additional information that had been raised.</p> <p><b>Resolved: to receive the information</b></p> <p><b>2023/029.4 School Poster Competition</b><br/>Representatives of the parish council attended the school to determine the winners of the prizes. At this stage the winners have not been announced. A volunteer at the school has agreed to have the signs printed professionally on metal signs. The Parish Council would need to arrange to have the signs put up.<br/><b>Resolved: to receive the information</b></p> <p><b>2023/029.5 Tyne Willows Gateway</b><br/>The gateway is very wet. The works to install the ground protection grids to be considered in spring.<br/><b>Resolved: to receive the information</b></p>  |
| 2023/030 | <p><b>Reports from Representatives</b></p> <p><b>2023/030.1 Alston Moor Area Planning (AMAP)</b><br/>The group has been renamed as Alston Moor and Fellside Place Action Group. The unitary authority will manage the groups with the unitary authority councillor acting as chair. The priorities already identified will be carried through and actioned.</p> <p>The Community Directory will be funded through the Alston Moor and Fellside Place Action Group. The group will therefore retain the directory and will no longer require it to be transferred to the Parish Council.</p> <p><i>Motion: to note the Parish Council will not be required to take on the Parish Directory. Proposer: Cllr. Miller, Seconder: Cllr. Bondi, Vote: nem con.</i></p> <p><b>Resolved: to receive the information</b></p> <p><b>2023/030.2 Alston Moor Emergency Response Group (AMERG)</b><br/>No update</p> <p><b>2023/030.3 Nenthead Mine Water Treatment Works</b><br/>It was noted that the meeting was cancelled. A small working group would meet with the MP on site.<br/><b>Resolved: to receive the information</b></p> <p><b>2023/030.4 Alston Moor Partnership</b><br/>An update was provided on High Mill. It is likely that the site will be developed with a café as part of the hub. There will be a community interest company set up to manage the site. It is not clear what Alston Moor Partnership's role will be in the future.<br/><b>Resolved: to receive the information</b></p> |
| 2023/031 | <p><b>Planning Applications &amp; Decisions</b></p> <p><b>2023/031.1 Applications</b></p> <p><b>23/0764 HERDWICK HOUSE DYKEHEADS NENTHEAD ALSTON CA9 3PY:</b><br/>Retrospective erection of an outbuilding and proposed erection of a pergola.</p> <p>The application was outlined and discussed. <i>Motion: to support the application. Proposer: Cllr. Grew, Seconder: Cllr. Martin, Vote: 10 favour, 2 abstentions.</i></p>  |

**Resolved: to support the application**

**23/0730 LOANING HEAD FARM THE LOANING ALSTON CA9 3ND:** Change of use of agricultural land to form additional residential curtilage, alterations and extension to dwelling and erection of detached garage with driveway.

The application was outlined and discussed. *Motion: to support the application. Proposer: Cllr. Grew, Seconder: Cllr. Davies, Vote: nem. con.*

**Resolved: to support the application**

**2023/031.2 Decisions**

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

| Application No. | Location  | Brief Description   | Decision                  |
|-----------------|---|---|---------------------------|
| 23/0699         | HILL HOUSE<br>COTTAGE<br>JOLLYBEARD<br>LANE ALSTON<br>CA9 3UA | Conservation area tree works comprising removal of dead or dying ash trees. | Tree Works<br>CA Approved |

**2023/032**

**Ashgill Footpath**

Work has commenced regarding the Definitive Map Modification Order. Residents that have used the path since 1997 or before need to be identified and if possible complete the required documentation.

The Unitary Authority Councillors reminded the meeting that over 20 people that have used the path regularly over the past 20 years were needed to ensure the DMMO is taken forward.

**Resolved: to receive the information**

**2023/033**

**Christmas Lights**

**2023/010.3 Progress Report**

It was reported that the lights and trees have been put up. There were no spare trees and no spare lights. All brackets have been used. Some replacements would be needed for next year and consideration required as to whether some additional be purchased. It should be noted that there are only 3 volunteers from the team available to take on the lights next year so new volunteers would need to be identified. The chair outlined the possibility of holding a switch on event next year.

**Resolved: to receive the information**

**2023/034**

**Alston Community Workshop**

**2023/034.1 Benches**

Garrigill ward councillors have nominated benches for costing.

**Resolved: to receive the information**

**2023/015.2 Community Directory**

All the groups listed in the community directory have been contacted to update their listing. The team has only had one response to date. A request was made

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|          | <p>for councillors to remind groups that they are in contact with and see if more responses can be generated.</p> <p><b>Resolved: to receive the information</b></p>   |
| 2023/035 | <p><b>Accounts</b><br/> <b>2023/035.1 Accounts</b><br/> The outgoing clerk had provided a finance report for the council.<br/> <b>Resolved: to receive the information</b></p> <p><b>2023/035.2 Internal Auditor Report</b><br/> Item deferred to next meeting. Clerk to ensure all councillors receive a copy of the report.</p>  |
| 2023/036 | <p><b>Correspondence</b><br/> <b>Nenthead Mines: Letter of Support</b><br/> The council discussed the correspondence. The meeting discussed the merits of including Scots Pine with broadleaf planting when trying to encourage red squirrels.</p> <p><i>Motion: to provide a letter of support providing the tree planting is to include some Scots Pine. Proposer: Cllr. Bondi, Seconder: Cllr. Martin, Vote: 10 favour, 1 abstention.</i></p> <p><b>Resolved: to provide a letter of support if Scots Pine is included in the planting.</b></p>   |
| 2023/037 | <p><b>Precept Meeting</b><br/> <b>2023/037.1 Deadline for applications to the Precept Fund</b><br/> Councillors wished to provide a cut-off date for applications to the precept fund. In future all application forms and supporting documentation to be received before the end of November. The clerk was asked to advise residents on Facebook a transition period deadline of the 15<sup>th</sup> of December for this year's applications.</p> <p><i>Motion: to agree the deadline of the end of November for precept fund applications from 2024 onwards. The deadline for 2023 applications to be the 15<sup>th</sup> of December 2023. Proposer: Cllr. Miller, Seconder: Cllr. Grew, Vote: nem con.</i></p> <p><b>Resolved: to approve the precept fund application deadlines</b></p> <p><b>2023/037.2 Date of the Precept Meeting</b><br/> The date of the precept meeting was discussed.<br/> <i>Motion: to hold the Precept Meeting on Tuesday the 9<sup>th</sup> of January 2024 at 7.00pm in the Masonic Hall.</i><br/> <i>Proposer: Cllr. Bondi, Seconder: Cllr. Grew, Vote: 10 Favour, 1 Abstention.</i><br/> <b>Resolved: to hold the Precept Meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> of January 2024</b></p> |
| 2923/038 | <p><b>Items for the Next Meeting of the Parish Council</b><br/> The following items to be added to the agenda for discussion at the next meeting of the Parish Council,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poppies for the lampposts</li> <li>• Alston Gym Planning Application</li> <li>• 20mph Speed limit</li> <li>• Electric Vehicle Charging Points</li> </ul>  |

**Date and Time of Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> of January 2023 at 7.00pm. Meeting to be held in Alston Town Hall.

Cllr. Miller closed the meeting at 20.25 hrs

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

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

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

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

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