



## ALSTON MOOR PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

The minutes of the proceedings of the **MONTHLY MEETING** of Alston Moor Parish Council (AMPC) held on **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> of February 2023** at 19:00hrs in Alston Town Hall.

### Present:

**Chairman:** Cllr. Raymond Miller (RM)  
**Councillors:** Cllr. Best, Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Davies, Cllr. Edgar, Cllr. Green, 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 Councillor Robinson and Unitary Councillor Hanley

**Members of the Public:** 3

2024/028	<b>Apologies for Absence</b> None
2024/029	<b>Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cllr. Davies declared an interest in item 2024/044.2 Small Grant Request</li><li>• Cllr Best declared an interest in item 2024/044.1 Accounts for Payment</li><li>• Cllr Green Declared an interest in item 2024/044.1 Accounts for Payment</li></ul>
2024/030	<b>Exclusion of Press &amp; Public (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960)</b> Item 2024/048 Human Resources to be discussed under a closed session. <b>Resolved: to discuss 2024/048 under a closed session.</b>
2024/031	<b>Public Participation</b> None
2024/032	<b>Minutes of the Last Meeting of Alston Moor Parish Council</b> The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday the 4 <sup>th</sup> of December 2023 were considered. <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 8<sup>th</sup> of January 2024. Proposer: Cllr. Robertson, Seconder: Cllr. Grew, Vote: 13 Favour 1 abstention.</i> <b>Resolved: to approve the minutes of the full council meeting held on the 8<sup>th</sup> of January 2024.</b>
2024/033	<b>Chairs Report</b> None
2024/034	<b>Westmorland &amp; Furness Councillors Report</b> Cllr Hanley updated the meeting regarding the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Cumbria Wildlife Trust – Biodiversity Meeting</b></li></ul> Cllr Hanley talked through some of the problems associated with declining insect numbers. The problems associated with declining bee numbers. There may be scope for the Place Action Groups to be involved in this work.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Health Scrutiny Committee</b> The committee received a presentation from Community Catalysts. The project supports individuals who want to set up their own care businesses. The project helps provide local solutions to care. Cllr Grew indicated that there was no local provision for care.</li> <li>• <b>Eden Planning Committee</b> Cllr Hanley discussed a location in Penrith where to affordable housing provision on the site was being discussed and possibly removed.  Cllr Robinson updated the meeting regarding the following the current budget consultations. Budgets are under pressure with the funding settlement lower than expected and service costs increasing. This increases the pressure on Council Tax payments as Councils try to continue to deliver services.</li> <li>• <b>Children &amp; Young People</b> It was noted that scrutiny committee had reported that 92% of Westmorland &amp; Furness schools had achieved good or better. There is a lot of work currently going into children and young people mental health and attendance.</li> </ul>
2024/035	<p><b>Police Report</b> The clerk reported that the Police were unable to send a representative to the meeting. The local officer was unable to attend due to his shift pattern, but he would be happy to attend in the future. The clerk to chase the written report. <b>Resolved: to receive the information</b></p>
2024/036	<p><b>Progress Reports</b> <b>2024/036.1 Tyne Willows - Environment Agency Measuring Station</b> The clerk updated the Council on recent correspondence with the Environment Agency. The clerk to access the agreement and then seek advice from local solicitors as to how much this work may cost. <i>Motion: Clerk to seek additional information and an outline of costs. Proposer: Cllr. Robinson, Seconder: Cllr. Grew, Vote: nem con.</i> <b>Resolved: clerk to seek additional information and outline of costs.</b></p>
2024/037	<p><b>Reports from Representatives</b> <b>2024/037.1 Alston Moor &amp; Fellside Place Action Group</b> The meeting was advised that the Place Action Group had £12,500 to spend within its area. It is hoped that some of the money could be spent locally within the Parish. Several local projects were discussed. <b>Resolved: to receive the information.</b></p> <p><b>2024/037.2 Alston Moor Emergency Response Group (AMERG)</b> The group will be holding its AGM on the 16<sup>th</sup> of February 2024 at 2.00pm at Love Lady Shield. <b>Resolved: to receive the information.</b></p> <p><b>2024/037.3 Nenthead Mine Water Treatment Works</b> The Environment Agency and the Coal Board will be holding the cancelled event on the 16<sup>th</sup> of February 2024. Volunteers are continuing to investigate the scheme and prepare evidence and opinion regarding the proposed plans. The volunteers have approached other pilot schemes that have been able to clean the heavy metals from the water without the use of chemicals. <b>Resolved: to receive the information</b></p>

#### **2024/037.4 Alston Moor Partnership**

The group is working on plans for the Big Green Week and the Heritage Festival. A meeting about Garrigill Church was held. A consultation to gain ideas from the local community has been undertaken. The partnership is looking into the viability of the church moving forward and how additional funds can be attracted to the site. Cllr. Bond is working on an exhibition.

**Resolved: to receive the information**

#### **2024/037.5 Nenthead Ward Meeting Update**

- The Miner's Arms

The Miner's Arms volunteers are undertaking a feasibility study. The grant application has been delayed. To date the group has been pledged £85,000.

- Community Orchard

The ground is very wet so drainage may be required. The feasibility of creating a community orchard is being investigated.

- 20mp Zone

The interest form and associated consultation work is being collated for application to the scheme. The Parish Council to produce a letter of support for the 20mph zone at overwater.

A discussion was held about school streets and the 20mph scheme more generally.

Cllr. Robinson provided an update on the heritage link between the Nenthead Fountain and the Middleton Fountain.

**2024/038**

#### **Planning Applications & Decisions**

##### **2024/038.1 Applications**

**[2023/1195/FPA](#) High Mill Factory Factory Lane The Butts Alston CA9 3HS: Change of use of vacant use class B2 industrial building to use class E(g)(iii) and associated external alterations.**

*Motion: to support the application for change of use. Proposer: Cllr. Grew*

*Seconder: Cllr. Miller, Vote: nem con.*

**Resolved: to support the application**

**[2024/0034/TCA](#) Rose House Garrigill ALSTON CA9 3DU: Removal of Rowan Tree (Mountain Ash) (T1).**

*Motion: to support the application. Proposer: Cllr. Grew Seconder: Cllr.*

*Robinson, Vote: nem con.*

**Resolved: to support the application**

##### **2023/038.2 Decisions**

The planning decisions made by Westmorland & Furness Council below were presented for information.

<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Brief Description</b>	<b>Decision</b>
<b><a href="#">2023/1150/PAPP</a></b>	Crossgill House Garrigill ALSTON CA9 3HE	Prior Notification for extension of an existing agricultural building for storage.	Approval not required
<b><a href="#">2023/1131/TCA</a></b>	RUTH LANCASTER JAMES	Works to trees in Conservation area, comprising; T3 Lawson Cypress, prune branches. T9	No objection

		Cottage Hospital Church Road ALSTON CA9 3QX	Sycamore, prune branches. T10 Sycamore; prune branches. T11 Cherry, prune branches.	
	<b>Resolved: to receive the information</b>			
<b>2024/039</b>	<p><b>Footpaths</b></p> <p><b>2024/039.1 Ashgill Force</b> The Definitive Map Modification Order information to be circulated to all councillors. Three full applications have been received. <b>Resolved: to receive the information</b></p> <p><b>2024/039.2 Footpath Closure Notifications</b> The footpath closure notifications at Whitesykes were raised for information. A discussion was held about the Pennine Way path footbridge and the need to have it reinstated. The National Body to provide funding to the Unitary Authority the repair of the path. <b>Resolved: to receive the information.</b></p>			
<b>2024/040</b>	<p><b>Christmas Lights Progress Report</b> It was reported by the lights group that 50 trees were put up in Alston. There were 2 further requests that could not be satisfied this year. Ladder training was undertaken by 5 volunteers. There would be a reduced volunteer team for November and December 2024. A discussion was held about the possibility of putting up the trees in October and then lighting them in November. <b>Resolved: to receive the information</b></p>			
<b>2024/041</b>	<p><b>Digitalisation of Landlines</b> Cllr. Bondi indicated that they were posting information on Facebook about the future of landlines on Digital Voice on Alston Moor and the Digital Poverty Alliance.  The provision of uninterrupted power supplies was discussed. Concern was raised about how much the units were costing to maintain the charge. It was reported that the device costs £100 a year. A discussion was held about the need to upgrade the local mast.  It was reported that the Garrigill phone box was still working. The usage of the box remains high. Maintaining the service continues to be important for the community. <b>Resolved: to receive the information</b></p>			
<b>2024/042</b>	<p><b>20mph Speed Limit</b> It was noted that the previous minutes indicated Nenthead Community Projects were working on the 20mph speed limit rather than Nenthead School. The application is nearly complete as discussed in 2024/037.5. A 20mph scheme in Alston Moor was discussed. It was noted that the deadline was next week. <i>Motion: to support an Alston application. Proposer: Cllr. Martin Secnder: Cllr. Grew, Vote: Favour 10, Against 2, Abstention 2.</i> <b>Resolved: to support the application</b></p>			

2024/043	<p><b>Miners Arms Project</b>  The Parish Council had received a request for a letter of support.  <i>Motion: to provide the Miners Arms Project with a letter of support.</i>  <i>Proposer: Cllr. Martin, Seconder: Cllr. Ransom, Vote: nem con.</i>  <b>Resolved: to approve a letter of support</b></p>																																	
2024/044	<p><b>Accounts</b>  <b>2024/044.1 Accounts</b>  The clerk advised the Council that despite best efforts HSBC had not been able to provide the correct mandate for completion and therefore the HSBC accounts were not accessible by the new clerk.</p> <p>Cllr Best and Cllr Green declared an interest and left the room.</p> <p>The following accounts were presented for payment:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="280 674 1453 1133"> <thead> <tr> <th>Payee</th> <th>Description</th> <th>Amount</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>HMRC</td> <td>PAYE – Quarter 3</td> <td>£1651.54</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mad Hatters</td> <td>Sundries for Christmas Lights</td> <td>£2.99</td> </tr> <tr> <td>L Nicholson</td> <td>Salary</td> <td>£747.08</td> </tr> <tr> <td>The Books Accountants</td> <td>Work to Payroll and Pension Scheme</td> <td>£180.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Urbaser Ltd</td> <td>Commercial Waste Collection</td> <td>£7.25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Urbaser Ltd</td> <td>Commercial Waste Collection</td> <td>£7.25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BIP Joinery</td> <td>Seating in Garrigill</td> <td>£1769.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>AR Green</td> <td>Tree Brackets</td> <td>£288.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>J Wright Building &amp; Roofing</td> <td>Christmas Lights Installation Works</td> <td>£420.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>I Grey</td> <td>Christmas Lights Expenses</td> <td>£423.33</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>Motion: to approve the above accounts for payment. Proposer: Cllr. Robinson Seconder: Cllr. Grew, Vote: Favour 10, Abstention 2.</i>  <b>Resolved: to approve the above accounts for payment</b>  Cllr. Green and Cllr. Best re-joined the meeting.</p> <p><b>2024/044.2 Request for Small Grants</b>  Cllr. Davies declared an interest and left the meeting.  Councillors considered the Community Grant Application from 1st Alston Guides and Brownies.  <i>Motion: to approve a small grant of £300.00. Proposer: Cllr. Miller Seconder: Cllr. Grew, Vote: nem con.</i>  <b>Resolved: to approve the above accounts for payment</b>  Cllr. Davies re-joined the meeting.</p>	Payee	Description	Amount	HMRC	PAYE – Quarter 3	£1651.54	Mad Hatters	Sundries for Christmas Lights	£2.99	L Nicholson	Salary	£747.08	The Books Accountants	Work to Payroll and Pension Scheme	£180.00	Urbaser Ltd	Commercial Waste Collection	£7.25	Urbaser Ltd	Commercial Waste Collection	£7.25	BIP Joinery	Seating in Garrigill	£1769.00	AR Green	Tree Brackets	£288.00	J Wright Building & Roofing	Christmas Lights Installation Works	£420.00	I Grey	Christmas Lights Expenses	£423.33
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2024/045	<p><b>Correspondence</b>  The meeting at the hive on the 16<sup>th</sup> of February would be attended by Nenthead Councillors.  <b>Resolved: to receive the information</b></p>																																	
2024/046	<p><b>Training</b>  The clerk outlined the charity training session proposed. The cost of the training was £175.00. The training would be virtual on the 18<sup>th</sup> of March 2024.  <i>Motion: to approve the training at a cost of £175.00. Proposer: Cllr. Miller Seconder: Cllr. Martin, Vote: nem con.</i>  <b>Resolved: to approve the training session</b></p>																																	

2024/047	<b>Items for the Next Meeting of the Parish Council</b> None
2024/048	<b>Human Resources (Closed Session)</b> The clerk was asked to confirm the status of the Neathouse HR Contract <b>Resolved: clerk to confirm the status of the contract.</b>  A discussion was held. The clerk confirmed that the outgoing clerk was still employed until the end of March. It was noted that the laptop had been transferred to the new clerk. <b>Resolved: to receive the information</b>
2024/049	<b>Date and Time of Next Meeting</b> The next full Council Meeting is scheduled to be held on Monday the 4 <sup>th</sup> of March 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: \_\_\_\_\_