



## 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 March 2024** at 19:00hrs in Alston Town Hall.

### Present:

**Chairman:** Cllr. Raymond Miller (RM)  
**Councillors:** Cllr. Best, Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Crick, 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 Hanley

**Members of the Public:** 1

<b>2024/045</b>	<p><b>Presentation: Nenthead Mines Conservation Society</b> Representatives of Nenthead Mines Conservation Society attended the Parish Council meeting to outline the plans and progress to date. The Society outlined the importance of protecting the heritage status of the land and preserving the recreational use of the site. The Society has received funding from the Coal Authority to purchase independent ecological surveys. The Society advised that the construction works would be undertaken under license and a lease would be agreed for the site once it was running. The draft heads of terms were currently being negotiated.</p> <p>The representatives were questioned by Councillors and members of the public present at the meeting. Concern was raised that the views of residents were not considered. The Society indicated that a public meeting was unlikely to take place until the plans are published.</p> <p>It was noted that Nenthead Mines Conservation Society was a membership-based organisation and that local residents could join the society to influence the decision being made.</p> <p>The Coal Board public meeting is to be held on Monday the 18<sup>th</sup> of March between 6.00 and 8.00pm. <b>Resolved: to receive the information</b></p>
<b>2024/046</b>	<p><b>Presentation: Nenthead Pathways</b> Item deferred.</p>
<b>2024/047</b>	<p><b>Apologies for Absence</b> It was noted that Unitary Councillor Mary Robinson had forwarded apologies.</p>
<b>2024/048</b>	<p><b>Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensation</b> None</p>
<b>2024/049</b>	<p><b>Public Participation (Timed item 15 minutes)</b> A resident raised concern about the BT box, footpath sign and state of the footpath surface onto Tyne Willows. Councillors and residents discussed the</p>

	<p>concerns. It was noted that the issues raised were unitary issues and that they have been raised through the appropriate system. The resident expressed concern that these had not been completed sooner.</p> <p><b>Resolved: to receive the information</b></p>
2024/050	<p><b>Minutes of the Last Meeting of Alston Moor Parish Council</b></p> <p>The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday the 9<sup>th</sup> of January 2024 were considered.</p> <p><i>Motion: to authorise the chairman to sign, as a correct record, the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday the 9<sup>th</sup> of January 2024. Proposer: Cllr. Robinson, Seconder: Cllr. Grew, Vote: 12 Favour 2 abstention.</i></p> <p><b>Resolved: to approve the minutes of the full council meeting held on the 8<sup>th</sup> of January 2024.</b></p> <p>The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday the 5<sup>th</sup> of February 2024 were considered.</p> <p><i>Motion: to authorise the chairman to sign, as a correct record, the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting with the amendment proposed by Cllr Bondi held on Monday the 5<sup>th</sup> of February 2024. Proposer: Cllr. Robinson, Seconder: Cllr. Martin, Vote: 12 Favour 2 abstention.</i></p> <p><b>Resolved: to approve the minutes of the full council meeting held on the 8<sup>th</sup> of January 2024.</b></p>
2024/051	<p><b>Co-option of Parish Councillor</b></p> <p><b>2024/051.1 Nominations</b></p> <p>There was a request for nomination. J Crick was nominated</p> <p><b>Resolved: to receive the nominations</b></p> <p><b>2024/051.2 Presentation from Candidates.</b></p> <p>J Crick gave a short presentation outlining his reasons for wishing to stand as councillor.</p> <p><b>Resolved: to receive the information</b></p> <p><b>2024/051.3 Co-option</b></p> <p><i>Motion: to co-opt J Crick to the Council for the Nenthead ward.</i></p> <p><i>Proposer: Cllr. Robinson, Seconder: Cllr.Green, Vote: Nem con.</i></p> <p>Cllr Crick accepted the position. The declaration of interest was duly signed.</p> <p><b>Resolved: to co-opt Cllr Crick</b></p>
2024/052	<p><b>Chairs Report</b></p> <p>Cllr Miller provided an update in relation to the presentation provided about aid to Ukraine and the High Sherrif's visit to the Parish.</p> <p><b>Resolved: to receive the information</b></p>
2024/053	<p><b>Westmorland &amp; Furness Councillors Report</b></p> <p>A report from the full council meeting was provided. It was reported that the unitary council increased council tax by 4.99%. Council house rents would increase by 4.99%. There would also be an increase in care home costs to £752 a week. £10 million to be spent on decarbonising the council.</p> <p><b>Alston Moor &amp; Fellside PAG</b></p> <p>The inaugural meeting of the group will be held in person in June. Pre-meetings to date have included discussion about maintaining analogue phone systems.</p>

	<p>Disappointment was expressed about the cost of replacing the unitary council fleet of vehicles with electric vehicles. Copies of the reports to be circulated.  <b>Resolved: to receive the information</b></p>
2024/054	<p><b>Police Report</b>  The report was received.  <b>Resolved: to receive the information</b></p>
2024/055	<p><b>Progress Reports</b>  <b>2024/055.1 Tyne Willows - Environment Agency Measuring Station</b>  The outlined the correspondence received. The council asked the clerk to gain additional information.  <b>Resolved: to receive the information</b></p>
2024/056	<p><b>Reports from Representatives</b>  <b>2024/056.1 Alston Moor &amp; Fellside Place Action Group</b>  An update was provided. Councillors were disappointed that the meetings will now be combined with the fellside parishes as the issues relating to the communities are different. The group is collating data regarding deprivation. Digitalisation of landlines has been raised through this group.  <b>Resolved: to receive the information</b></p> <p><b>2024/056.2 Alston Moor Emergency Response Group (AMERG)</b>  The AGM had been held. It was noted that the emergency response may need to be stepped up in the event of an emergency. It was noted that there will need to be 3 localised plans for each of the areas, Alston, Nenthead and Garrigill. Communications were of particular concern. Mountain Rescue had been contacted and the group hope to be able to meet with them to learn more about communications in the event of a major incident. Cllr Grew reminded the councillors of the use of the red phone boxes.  <b>Resolved: to receive the information</b></p> <p><b>2024/056.3 Nenthead Mine Water Treatment Works</b>  There was not additional information to discuss following the presentation.</p> <p><b>2024/056.4 Alston Moor Partnership</b>  Building consent is currently holding up progress at High Mill. The Warmer Homes project continues with use of the thermal imaging camera being offered to residents to help address heat loss from homes. The group is planning a meeting regarding solar energy and hopes that installer will attend. The group continues to organise activities for Great Big Green Week. The group hopes to get residents involved with the big plastic count. This will help residents understand what plastic they are using.  <b>Resolved: to receive the information</b></p> <p><b>2024/056.5 Nenthead Ward Meeting Update</b>  The group had not met since the last parish council meeting. The AGM is now due.</p>
2024/057	<p><b>Planning Applications &amp; Decisions</b>  <b>2024/057.1 Applications</b>  <a href="#">2024/0142/FPA</a>; Annat Walls ALSTON CA9 3UH: Replacement of existing corrugated metal sheet roof with stone slates and insertion of 3no roof lights.  <i>Motion: to support the application.</i></p>

*Proposer: Cllr. Green, Seconder: Cllr. Robinson, Vote: 12 Favour 2 abstention.*  
**Resolved: to support the application**

**2024/0252/TCA:** Low Mill House Station Road ALSTON CA9 3HZ:  
Fell 1no Lime tree and 1no Willow tree - due to close proximity to main house and neighbouring house / boundary walls. Crown dominates plot with excessive shading, storm damage resulted in branch loss and trunk scarring. Low amenity value.

*Motion: to support the application.*

*Proposer: Cllr. Grew, Seconder: Cllr. Ransom, Vote: 13 Favour 1 abstention.*

**Resolved: to support the application**

**2024/0143/FPA:**

High Fell House ALSTON CA9 3BP: Construction of detached garage and alterations to existing garage to form garden room.

*Motion: to support the application.*

*Proposer: Cllr. Grew, Seconder: Cllr. Miller, Vote: 11 Favour 3 abstention.*

**Resolved: to support the application**

**2023/057.2 Decisions**

None

**2024/058**

**Footpaths**

**2024/058.1 Ashgill Force**

There have now been 8 statements of use made.

**Resolved: to receive the information**

**2024/059**

**Digitalisation of Landlines**

The work is ongoing. There are a lot of organisations concerned about the digitisation of landlines. Disability and poverty charities are demonstrating concern about this problem. Cllr. Martin requested that a letter be sent to the MP.

**Resolved: to write to the MP**

**2024/060**

**20mph Speed Limit**

The statement for Alston was sent in minus the evidence of opinion work that will need to be completed.

**Resolved: to receive the information**

**2024/061**

**Accounts**

**2024/061.1 Accounts**

**2024/061.1 Payments Made Under Delegated Powers**

The following payments were ratified.

Payee	Description	Amount
Urbaser	Commercial Waste Collection	£18.12
Virtual Landline	Parish Council Phone	£9.85
IONOS	Domain	£3.59
Zoom	Virtual Meeting Software	£15.59
HSBC	Bank Charges	£5.00
L Nicholson	Salary	£747.08
Nest	Pension Payment	£30.49

*Motion: to ratify the payments.*

*Proposer: Cllr. Green, Seconder: Cllr. Martin, Vote: Nem con.*

### 2024/061.2 Accounts for Payment

The following accounts were approved for payment

Payee	Description	Amount
L Nicholson	Training for L Nicholson & A Martin – Social Media	£78.44
L Nicholson	Training for A Martin –Community Transport	£39.22
L Nicholson	Clerk Expenses – Office Chair	£25.00
Alston Town Hall	Office Rent and Utilities – Quarter 3	£812.69
Kyle Liverick	Maintenance of the Mill Race	£500.00
C Johnson	Additional Hours	£104.20

*Motion: to approve the payments.*

*Proposer: Cllr. Green, Seconder: Cllr. Martin, Vote: Nem con.*

### 2024/061.3 Balances at Bank

The following balances at bank were noted.

Account Name	Amount
Unity Trust Current Account (28 <sup>th</sup> of February 2024)	£21,459.87
Unity Trust Savings Account (28 <sup>th</sup> of February 2024)	£45,824.34
HSBC Current Account (31 <sup>st</sup> of January)	£32,013.76
HSBC Savings Account (31 <sup>st</sup> of January)	£12,940.48

2024/062

### Correspondence

The correspondence was outlined. The clerk sought feedback on outstanding responses.

**Resolved: to receive the information**

2024/063

### Training

The NALC Social Media training was attended by the Clerk and Cllr Martin. The social media policy to be considered and updated in line with the training.

Councillors were reminded of the Charity Training on the 18<sup>th</sup> of March 2024 via Zoom.

**Resolved: to receive the information**

2024/064

### Meeting Dates

#### 2024/064.1 Parish Council Dates

- Tuesday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of April 2024 – Alston
- Tuesday the 7<sup>th</sup> of May 2024 – Alston
- Monday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of June 2024 – Nenthead
- Monday the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2024 – Garrigill
- Monday the 5<sup>th</sup> of August 2024 – Nenthead
- Monday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of September 2024 – Garrigill
- Monday the 7<sup>th</sup> of October 2024 – Nenthead
- Monday the 4<sup>th</sup> of November 2024 – Garrigill
- Monday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of December 2024 – Alston Town Hall
- Monday the 6<sup>th</sup> of January 2025 – Alston Town Hall
- Monday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of February 2025 – Alston Town Hall
- Monday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March 2025 – Alston Town Hall

	<p><i>Motion: to approve the dates.</i>  <i>Proposer: Cllr. Green, Seconder: Cllr. Robinson, Vote: Nem con.</i></p> <p><b>2024/064.2 Annual Meeting of Parish Electors</b>  The date for the annual meeting of parish electors was approved as Monday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of April 2024  <i>Proposer: Cllr. Green, Seconder: Cllr. Robinson, Vote: Nem con.</i></p>
<b>2024/065</b>	<p><b>Defibrillators</b>  The Circuit database has been updated and the visual checks of the Town Hall and Gym defibrillator completed.  Cllr Grew and Cllr. Monk indicated that more defibrillators were needed on the moor.  <b>Resolved: to receive the information</b></p>
<b>2024/065</b>	<p><b>Items for the Next Meeting of the Parish Council</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Storage of Christmas Trees</li> <li>- Nenthead Mine Water Treatment works</li> </ul>
<b>2024/066</b>	<p><b>Date and Time of Next Meeting</b>  The next full Council Meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of April 2024 at 7.00pm in the Masonic Hall.</p>

Cllr. Miller closed the meeting at 20:55 hrs

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

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

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

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

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