



ALSTON MOOR PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

The minutes of the proceedings of the **MONTHLY MEETING** of Alston Moor Parish Council (AMPC) held on **Monday 2nd December 2024** at 19:00hrs in Alston Town Hall.

Present:

Chairman: Cllr. Raymond Miller
Councillors: Cllr. Best, Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Green, Cllr. Robinson, Cllr. Edgar, Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Martin, Cllr. Ho, Cllr. Monk, Cllr. Davies, Cllr. Hanley, Cllr. Robertson.

Clerk/RFO: Claire Thomson

Also in attendance: Cllr. Robinson of Westmorland & Furness Council (Unitary Councillor, UC)

Members of the Public: 7

Public Participation (Timed item 15 minutes)

Nenthead Community Projects spoke, left a copy of the report and then left the meeting – See Appendix 1

No other public participation

2425/130	Apologies for Absence Resolved: no absences or apologies.
2425/131	Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensation Cllr. Ho – 2425/137 – 7. Volunteer in Grisedale Community Garden Cllr. Robertson – 2425/137 – 7. Annual donations to Nenthead Mines Conservation Society
2425/132	Minutes of the Last Meeting of Alston Moor Parish Council <i>Correction on agenda issued: corrected date of minutes from 7th November to 4th November.</i> The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 4 th November 2024 were considered. <i>Motion: To authorise the chairman to sign, as a correct record, the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 4th November 2024. Proposer: Cllr. Davies, Seconder: Cllr. Green, Vote:10 Favour 0 Against 2 abstention.</i> The minutes of the Parish Council extra ordinary meeting held on Monday 11 th November 2024 were considered. <i>Motion: To authorise the chairman to sign, as a correct record, the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 11th November 2024. Proposer: Cllr. Robertson, Seconder: Cllr. Miller, Vote: 8 Favour 0 Against 4 abstention.</i> The minutes of the Parish Council emergency meeting held on Monday 18 th November 2024 were considered. <i>Motion: To authorise the chairman to sign, as a correct record, the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 18th November 2024. Proposer: Cllr. Bondi, Seconder: Cllr. Davies, Vote:6 Favour 0 Against 6 abstention.</i>

	Resolves: to accept the minutes of the previous meetings
2425/133	To note councillor vacancies & review any co-option candidates 1. No applicants have come forward as co-option candidates.
2425/134	Chair's Report To start with the good things, the Christmas light switch on was a success and can be built on for next year. Now the not so good, again too many unnecessary emails for our councillors and new clerk to deal with, please can we cut them down. Claire has enough to do never mind trying to find things from the past and again I would like to remind councillors we need to look forward and not backwards. I would like to make a request that all votes on every agenda item are recorded by name to make it clear what you vote whether it's for, against or abstain. It will be a recorded in the minutes by your name next to what you voted for, this is in our standing orders, section 3 paragraph S. I would like to quash any further comments regarding the Parish Council website by confirming the following:- The website has been tidied up, done by Cllr. Martin and all the work that has been done without any payments, so no tenders were needed, it had been agreed by the council to have this done after Cllr. Martin volunteered to help Claire several times, it is not minuted as it does not need to be. I am aware of the posts on social media that are aimed at individual councillors and the Parish Council itself, some have tagged me personally, telling me what to do. I will not respond; the proper channels must be used if you have any questions. No communication other than directed to the Clerk or Chair. This final point was voted on, <i>Proposed Cllr. Roberston Seconded Cllr. Robinson, Vote: Favour - Cllr. Green, Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Davies, Cllr. Robertson, Cllr. Robinson, Cllr. Best, Cllr. Edgar, Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Martin, Cllr. Monk. Against – None Abstain - Cllr. Ho</i>
2425/135	Westmorland & Furness Councillors Report – Cllr. Hanley briefly talked through reports from last meeting. Cllr. Robinson (UC) reported that PAG had 6K available up to 31 st March 2025. Among those looking at this are Alston Moor & Fellside for housing, the fellside villages are considering a food bank on the Alston Moor model, Churches Together are looking at taking this forward. Cllr. Hanley mentioned Carbon scheme relating to electric vehicles. A scheme is in place in the Derwent valley, costing members £5 per month and hiring the electric cars at £5 per hour. The 3 cars are already fully charged ready for use. Alston Community Transport is interested in exploring this as an option. Cllr. Hanley also mentioned that Zerel Robson had, in a meeting, asked if there was an option to convert the Grisedale flats into much needed affordable housing in Alston Moor. This was discussed in the planning & marketing groups. Funding for a youth club, Alston Area Planning Group have some money which is being held in Fairhill bank account, which has been ringfenced for Alston Moor use. Police Report The report from Cumbria Police circulated prior to the meeting was noted.

	Nenthead ward meeting update – Cllr. Robertson updated about the issues with Nenthall road junction and the running water. This is being dealt with by Westmorland & Furness Highways Department. 20mph speed limit had been discussed. No change in the progress with The Miners Arms and Nenthead Fountain is ticking along awaiting tenders for proposed works. It was mentioned about the ratio between Red & grey squirrels in the area and contact is to be made with the local red squirrel group. Cllr Hanley will contact the local group. Cllr. Robinson mentioned that the generators located in Nenthead & Garrigill require 3 jerry cans to be kept filled at all times in case of an emergency. They have asked if the Parish Council would fill them up for use in an emergency. <i>Proposed Cllr Robinson Seconded Cllr. Robertson. Vote: Favour - Cllr. Green, Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Davies, Cllr. Robertson, Cllr. Robinson, Cllr. Best, Cllr. Edgar, Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Martin, Cllr. Monk. Against – None Abstain - Cllr. Ho</i>
2425/136	Committees, working groups & consider any actions required 24/25/136.1 Committee – Development, Governance & Personnel (DGP) – which includes staffing No update 2425/136 .2 Group Representatives Alston & Fellside Place Action Group Up and coming meeting Cllr.Robinson (UC) has done a report. Alston Health Alliance No update Alston Moor Fitness No update Alston Moor Partnership Awaiting news on volunteers/co-coordinator funding. Alston Moor Traffic Management Group Agenda items are needed. Please send to Clerk, then a date for meeting can be set. Include Cllr. Robinson (UC) NWAS Alston Moor Working Group Reported by Cllr. Monk Victory for Alston Moor’s emergency service. Present: Councillors Elaine Grew, Dee Monk and many past councillors have been involved in NWAS Working Group for the past 5+ years, discussing ways to retain Alston Moor’s emergency service. Following the removal of the ambulance and a drop in the numbers of Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) to provide emergency treatment across Alston Moor, we have considered many alternatives to provide this important service. Following many meetings, public consultations and surveys to establish the best way to deliver a sustainable service across Alston Moor, we have reached a fantastic resolution today. NWAS announced today that Alston Moor will be retaining its current emergency single response vehicle with the two remaining EMT’s Steve Hattersley and John

Pearson. NWAS are in the process completing the details of a role specifically designed for members of our community to apply to join Steve and John as emergency responders (formal name to be agreed) to some 999 calls. This indeed is fantastic news for Alston Moor, and despite the length of time it has taken to reach this decision, it is one we hoped for. We need to acknowledge that this is not going to be a replica of the previously run service, but it will ensure that the Community First Responders and a team of emergency responders, with Steve and John, will endeavour to ensure that any 999 emergencies are reached within the government guidelines and be assessed and monitored by responders while waiting for transfer to hospital.

Tree Wardens

No update

Tyne Willows Management

No update

2425/137 To consider matters arising & actions required.

2425/137 1. Nenthead Fountain

Cllr. Robertson advised that there was nothing to report and still awaiting response to preliminary enquiries.

2425/137 2. W&F – a list of historical “assets” – gathering of evidence

Cllr Robertson advised that there was a list from the 1920's of ancient monuments on Alston Moor. To be forwarded to Clerk to send to Westmorland & Furness Council.

2425/137 3. Update on Christmas Lights & Trees

When distributing the trees and lights, it has come apparent that there is still a requirement of 2 trees for Garrigill along with brackets and an additional 5 sets of lights. Request for purchasing the trees, brackets and lights urgently proposed by Cllr. Robinson Seconded Cllr. Robertson All in agreement.

Cllr. Miller wanted to express a big thank you to all who turned out to help put the trees and lights up. There was a big turn out and the job was done in good time.

2425/137 4. Benches for removal/repair/replace/sites for new benches

Cllr. Green advised that the bench at Sandhills was in good condition but covered in foliage. This had been removed, but agreed a reposition of the bench would be preferred due to its current position relating to accessibility. Cllr. Ho pointed out that she had a good place for it to be moved to, Cllr. Ho was asked to send in photos of said location to be reviewed.

Cllr. Robinson advised that the Woman's Institute had a centenary bench that needed located somewhere.

Resolved: To receive more information/ongoing

2425/137 5. Defibs – Expiry dates

Garrigill defib is to be replaced with one of the 3 new defibs purchased, Cllr Monk advised, Nenthead defib is still within its lifespan but will need replacing at some point.

Fire Service Chief had agreed that the defib at Alston Fire Station could be taken over by Alston Moor Parish Council and the Fire Station were happy to keep it

situated there. It has now been replaced by Alston Parish Council with one of the 3 new defibs purchased. Confirmation that it has been connected needs to be sought.

It was suggested that Fairhill should have a defib installed, Ken Little, Treasurer of Fairhill (General public) advised that all facilities were in place but just needed a defib to be installed. Cllr. Monk and Ken Little to liaise to get the defib installed at the pavilion on Fairhill.

It was suggested that a defib map was added to the several town maps in and around Alston to the locations of the defibs for visitors to the area who were unsure of the locations. It was asked of any other locations that could potentially require a defib.

Resolved: To receive more information/ongoing

2425/137 6. Bus Shelters

Cllr. Miller confirmed that Clive Seal was still to clean the bus shelters on his window cleaning round but was still unable to do this currently due to ill health.

2425/137 7. Grant applications

Grant application from Grisedale Community Gardens for £100 to cover cost of public liability insurance.

Proposed Cllr. Robertson Seconded Cllr. Robinson Vote: Favour - Cllr. Green, Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Davies, Cllr. Robertson, Cllr. Robinson, Cllr. Best, Cllr. Edgar, Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Martin, Cllr. Monk. Against – None Abstain - Cllr. Ho (declared interest)

Grant application from Nenthead Mines Conservation Society for £288 to cover cost of replacing/repairing fencing around the 6 mine shafts above Carrs Mine.

Proposed Cllr. Robinson Seconded Cllr. Davies Vote: Favour - Cllr. Green, Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Davies, Cllr. Robertson, Cllr. Robinson, Cllr. Edgar, Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Martin, Cllr. Monk. Against – None Abstain - Cllr. Best, Cllr. Robertson (declared interest)

2425/137 8. MET office community resilience climate change

Cllr. Monk discussed the reports that had been distributed to all councillors reflecting on issues relating to flooding. It was advised that Westmorland & Furness Council Flood Team need to carry out a survey on flooding and risks of flooding on Alston Moor. This was felt to be important especially due to new homes being built and the impact they will cause on the flooding issues already.

Planning Applications & Decisions

2425/138

2425/138.1 Applications

2024/1637/FPA Whitburn Cottage, Alston CA9 3DA Proposed variation of condition 5 – variation of construction hours to include Saturday & Sunday 9am to 5pm.

Clerk received a letter from the owners of Whitburn Cottage and the Chair read this out.

Motion: to support the application.

Proposed Cllr. Davies Seconded Cllr. Edgar

Vote: Favour - Cllr. Green, Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Davies, Cllr. Robertson, Cllr.

Robinson, Cllr. Ho, Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Martin, Cllr. Monk. Against – None Abstain - Cllr. Best.

Resolved: to support the application

2425/138.2 Decisions

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

Application No.	Location	Brief Description	Decision
2024/1704/FPA	Broadpot Hill	New dwelling	Refused

Discussions regarding the decision made as Alston Moor Parish Council felt that the reasons to refuse were not justified. Cllr. Hanley had contacted Mark Lynch from WAFC Planning and received a response, Cllr. Hanley did not disclose the information as felt it was appropriate to discuss this with the Wardlaws first. Cllr. Robinson (UC) said that planning should have taken Alston Moor Parish Council's response to the original application and the appeal into consideration, and she would like a copy of the response sent by Alston Moor Parish Council

Resolved: to receive the information

2425/139 Finance Reports & Accounts

The finance reports & accounts were circulated prior to the meeting.

2425/139 1. Current Balance of the Community Account as at 30/11/2024

RFO not reported

2425/139 2. Consider payments for approval

3 payments outstanding approved for payment *Proposed Cllr. Davies Seconded Cllr. Grew Vote: Favour - Cllr. Green, Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Davies, Cllr. Robertson, Cllr. Robinson, Cllr. Best, Cllr. Edgar, Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Ho, Cllr. Martin, Cllr. Monk. Against – None Abstain - None*

Resolved: to pay outstanding invoices –

Outstanding	ONLINE	160	29.11.2024	05.11.2024	246	Elkerlodge Services Ltd	Accountant	£75.00	£450.00
Outstanding	DIRDEBIT	159	29.11.2024	27.11.2024	54201	Urbaser Ltd	bins	£1.81	£10.87
Outstanding	ONLINE	158	29.11.2024	29.11.2024	980	Collins Gardening & Tree Services	Tree works	£0.00	£495.00
Outstanding	ONLINE	157	28.11.2024			Ron Robinson	wreaths	£0.00	£100.00
Paid	ONLINE	156	28.11.2024	25.11.2024	0381016	West Moorland & Furness	Signage	£25.00	£150.00
Paid	ONLINE	155	28.11.2024	15.11.2024		Simon James Gardening Services	Gardening	£0.00	£575.00
Outstanding	DIRDEBIT	154	26.11.2024	01.10.2024	52626	Urbaser Ltd	bins	£1.81	£10.87
Paid	ONLINE	153	26.11.2024	21.11.2024	1717-1	LCC	Locum	£308.10	£1,848.60
Outstanding	DIRDEBIT	151	26.11.2024	25.11.2024	282429156	Zoom	Zoom	£2.60	£15.59
Paid	ONLINE	150	18.11.2024	17.11.2024		Virtual Land Line	telephone	£1.64	£9.85
Outstanding	DIRDEBIT	149	21.11.2024	29.10.2024	53390	Urbaser Ltd	bins	£1.21	£7.25
Paid	ONLINE	148	21.11.2024	12.11.2024	2529	Alston Town Hall	Office Rent	£0.00	£615.79
Paid	ONLINE	147	21.11.2024	31.10.2024	2687	creators cortex	tree storage	£0.00	£100.00
Paid	ONLINE	146	21.11.2024	31.10.2024	2687	Mad Hatters Hardware	Maf	£1.50	£8.99
Paid	ONLINE	145	19.11.2024			Lights For Fun	Christmas Lights	£76.98	£461.90
Paid	ONLINE	144	11.11.2024	08.11.2024	09076	London Hearts	Defib * 3	£450.00	£2,700.00
Paid	ONLINE	143	11.11.2024			Claire Thomson	Clerk Salary	£0.00	£808.36

2425/139 3. Approve any payments required between meetings

No payments were required between meetings

2425/139 4. Additional bank signatories

Chair requested if any other councillor had completed the forms to return them as soon as possible.

2425/139 5. Grant Applications send out – 1 per organisation

RFO did not comment on this

	2425/139 6. Note draft budget/reserves Draft budget sent to all councillors to be discussed/agreed at next meeting.
2425/140	Note the status of assets & consider any action required Firs Woodland Walk – discussed that some repairs are required to parts of the walkway. Clerk to send out a tender for works to be carried out. Resolved: to receive information. Tyne Willows Playing Field, Pavilion, Footway lighting, village seats - see 2425/137 4, war memorial, bus shelters – see 2425/137 6, notice boards, defibrillators – see 2425/137 5.
2425/141	Note status of Open Spaces/ Trees & consider any action Path sign – update & matters arising – Cllr. Robinson has the sign ready to position and requested help to do this. Cllr. Robertson & Cllr. Robinson to site path sign. Resolved: to be sited. Trees to be felled/tided up – received correspondence from the public about tree branches encroaching property boundaries. Clerk requested Michael Collins to address this as an emergency power between meetings. This has been done, however Mr Collins did advise of other issues he had spotted. Decided that 3 tenders are required to carry out further work. Resolved: Clerk to obtain 3 tenders and report back when received.
2425/142	Correspondence Clerk to act on received emails:- 1. Trees on Tyne Willows – to contact SKS 13. Link Cash machine – <i>Vote: Favour - Cllr. Green, Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Davies, Cllr. Robertson, Cllr. Robinson, Cllr. Best, Cllr. Ho, Cllr. Edgar, Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Martin, Cllr. Monk. Against – None Abstain - None</i> Resolved : Clerk to send out response 8. Remote/Hybrid meetings – clerk to receive Cllrs responses before replying 9. Alston Moor Community Emergency Plan – AMERG to organise a meeting 10. Broadpot – see 2425/138 2. 12. New street name in Alston – Chosen “Colliery Close” <i>Vote: Favour - Cllr. Green, Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Davies, Cllr. Robertson, Cllr. Robinson, Cllr. Best, Cllr. Edgar, Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Martin, Cllr. Monk. Against – None Abstain - Cllr. Ho</i> Resolved: Clerk to advise Westmorland & Furness Council on chosen name
2425/143	Items for the Next Meeting of the Parish Council Precept dates to be agreed/confirmed
2425/144	To consider any councillor or officer training Cllr. Grew advised she will be attending the bullying & harassment training
2425/145	Date and Time of Next Meeting The next meeting to be held on Monday 6th January 2025 at 7.00pm. Meeting to be held in Alston Town Hall.

2425/146	Exclusion of public & press (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960) 1. Resolve to close the meeting at 20.49 2. To close CLOSED Parish Council Meeting & Open Fairhill Charity meeting 21.07
2425/126	Fairhill Charity Cllr. Miller closed the meeting at 21.20 hrs

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

Chair Signature: _____ Date: _____

Clerk Signature: _____ Date: _____