



ALSTON MOOR PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

The minutes of the proceedings of the **MONTHLY MEETING** of Alston Moor Parish Council (AMPC) held on **Monday 13th January** at 19:00hrs in the Annexe at Alston Town Hall.

Present:

Chairman: Cllr. Raymond Miller
Councillors: Cllr. Best, Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Robinson, Cllr. Edgar, Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Monk, Cllr. Davies, Cllr. Hanley, Cllr. Robertson. Cllr. Ho arrived 19.12hrs

Clerk/RFO: Claire Thomson

Also in attendance:

Members of the Public: 5

Public Participation (Timed item 15 minutes)

Chair asked to go direct to planning on item 2425/156 – Flinty Fell Quarry as 2 members of public were present.

Planning 3/24/9004 & 3/24/9005 Sections 73 applications

Advised that the Parish Council were 100% satisfied with the explanation of the concerns that had been raised previously and were happy to support the application.

Motion: Alston Moor Parish Council to fully support the application.

Proposed: Cllr. Miller Seconded: Cllr. Grew Vote: Favour – Cllr. Best, Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Davies, Cllr. Robinson, Cllr. Robertson, Cllr. Edgar, Cllr. Monk, Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Hanley.

Against – None Abstention – None.

Resolved: Clerk to inform planning department of Alston Moor Parish Council's decision.

2 members of the public left the meeting.

No other public participation

2425/148	Apologies for Absence Cllr. Green, Cllr. Martin, Cllr. Mary Robinson (UC) Resolved: apologies accepted.
2425/149	Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensation None
2425/150	Minutes of the Last Meeting of Alston Moor Parish Council The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 2 nd December 2024 were considered. <i>Motion: To authorise the chairman to sign, as a correct record, the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 2nd December 2024. Proposer: Cllr. Robertson, Seconder: Cllr. Hanley, Vote: Favour - Cllr. Best, Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Davies, Cllr. Robinson, Cllr. Robertson, Cllr. Edgar, Cllr. Monk, Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Hanley. Against - None Abstention - None.</i> Resolves: to accept the minutes of the previous meeting
2425/151	To note councillor vacancies & review any co-option candidates 1. No applicants have come forward as co-option candidates.

2425/152	Chair's Report To start with I hope you all had a good Christmas & I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year. I would like to thank all involved with the Christmas lights around the town, and a big thank you to Hugh Wyatt for his generous donation of the tree, Joe Brown & Ian Johnson for their help and both Cllr Robinson & Cllr. Hanley for their help in erecting and decorating it. I would like the Clerk to record all votes on every agenda item 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. Thank you This final point was agreed by all councillors present at the time.
2425/153	Westmorland & Furness Councillors Report – Cllr. Hanley briefly talked through reports from last meeting. Westmorland & Furness Cabinet voted for devolution which will be for Westmorland & Furness and Cumberland Council. This will be in 3 stages. Cllr. Ho arrived at meeting 19.12hrs. Nature recovery strategies are being started, initially starting with mapping areas, further mapping and developing strategies to include grasslands, moorlands, woodlands etc. Cllr. Hanley thought Alston Moor would fall into the moorland section, but this has yet to be determined. It had been noted that there were over 500 threatened species, and this had been concentrated down to 20 including the red squirrel, meetings had already been started with local farmers and the NFU. Both these items would be evolved over the next 2 years and further updates will follow in the future. Police Report The report from Cumbria Police circulated prior to the meeting was noted. PC Tony was invited to attend the meeting but did not attend this time. Nenthead ward meeting update – Cllr. Robertson advised there was to be a meeting in the next 2 weeks. An update will be given at the next parish council meeting.
2425/154	Committees, working groups & consider any actions required 24/25/154.1 Committee – Development, Governance & Personnel (DGP) – which includes staffing No update 2425/154 .2 Group Representatives Alston & Fellside Place Action Group Next meeting is in February 2025. Alston Health Alliance No update

	Alston Moor Fitness No update Alston Moor Partnership Funding application has been successful, advertising of a community co-ordinator has been done and now awaiting replies. Alston Moor Traffic Management Group Agenda items have been received. Clerk to liaise with Cllr. Robinson (UC) to secure date for a zoom meeting. NWAS Alston Moor Working Group NWAS have completed the process 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. 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. These posts will be advertised soon. Tree Wardens No update Tyne Willows Management No update
2425/155	To consider matters arising & actions required. 2425/155 1. Nenthead Fountain Cllr. Robertson advised that the tenders received were being reassessed due to the length of time taken for them to come in. No decision will be made until this has been completed. 2425/155 2. Benches for removal/repair/replace/sites for new benches Cllr. Grew advised that she had received a quotation for costs to repair 3 benches in Garrigill, details will be discussed in the closed meeting section. Following up on details relating to the reposition of the bench at Sandhills is still ongoing as awaiting Cllr. Ho to send in photos of said location to be reviewed. No decision on the location of The Woman's Institute centenary bench has been reached yet, further discussions are required. Resolved: To receive more information/ongoing 2425/155 3. Defibs – Update Cllr Monk advised that Fairhill are now in possession of a defib and Ken Little & Cllr. Monk will be meeting on 14th January to install and register the defib on the circuit as the defib at the fire station has already been done. Cllr. Monk is working on creating a defib map for the area. Resolved: To receive more information/ongoing 2425/155 4. Bus Shelters

	Cllr. Miller confirmed that Clive Seal has managed to clean 2 bus shelters and 50% of the 3rd. Due to weather conditions this is to be continued as well as further works to be carried on them. 2425/155 5. Website additions – publish council reports & WAFC reports in 2 separate sections. Website to be adjusted to include the facility for this as separate sections. <i>Proposed Cllr. Grew Seconded Cllr. Robinson Vote: Favour - Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Davies, Cllr. Robertson, Cllr. Robinson, Cllr. Best, Cllr. Edgar, Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Monk. Against – None Abstain - Cllr. Ho</i> Resolved: to amend website 2425/155 6. VE Day – guidance folder Clerk has sent out guidance folder received that relates to the VE Day celebrations as it showed different options to that suggested by Cllr. Ho but declined in November's meeting. No Councillors were forthcoming but Cllr. Miller & Cllr. Monk thought it may be of interest to the Warm Hub. 2425/155 7. Environmental Agency Gauging station renewal Clerk advised that they had been in contact with the Parish Council's solicitors who were happy to act on their behalf. It was discussed that any costs incurred for creating a new lease (as Environment Agency wants rather than renewing the lease) would be forwarded to the Environment Agency to pay. 2425/155 8. Main Christmas tree outside Alston Town Hall Cllr. Robinson asked for assistance in the taking down of the lights and tree. Cllr. Robertson offered his assistance; this will take place on Wednesday 15th January.
2425/156	Planning Applications & Decisions 2425/156.1 Applications 2024/1983/FPA Low Galligill, Alston Proposed change of use of agricultural land to equestrian use and creation of arena. Simon Walker <i>Motion: to support the application.</i> Proposed Cllr. Grew Seconded Cllr. Robinson <i>Vote: Favour -Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Davies, Cllr. Robertson, Cllr. Robinson, Cllr. Ho, Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Best, Cllr. Hanley, Cllr. Edgar, Cllr. Monk. Against – None Abstain - None.</i> Resolved: to support the application 2024/2293/FPA Horse & Wagon Caravan Park – Variation of condition 8 <i>Motion: to object the application for variation of condition 8, original decision to be upheld.</i> Proposed Cllr. Grew Seconded Cllr. Robinson Vote: Favour – Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Robertson, Cllr. Monk, Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Robinson, Cllr. Davies, Cllr. Edgar, Cllr. Ho. Against – None Abstain – Cllr. Hanley, Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Best. Resolved: to object the application 3/24/9004 & 3/24/9005 Flinty Fell Quarry Sections 73 applications – see public participation section. 2425/156 2. Decisions

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

Application No.	Location	Brief Description	Decision
2024/1610/ FPA	School House	Removal of condition 7 (holiday let restriction)	Approved with conditions

2425/157 Finance Reports & Accounts

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

2425/157 1. Current Balance of the Community Account as at 31/12/2024
£123190.40

2425/157 2. Consider payments for approval

1 payment outstanding which is a direct debit payment therefore no need for approval. **Appendix 1**

2425/157 3. Approve any payments required between meetings

Motion: Clerk listed invoices and asked for approval to pay, along with emergency tree felling.

Proposed: Cllr. Grew Seconded Cllr. Robinson

Vote: Favour – Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Best, Cllr. Davies, Cllr. Ho, Cllr. Edgar, Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Robinson, Cllr. Robertson, Cllr. Hanley, Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Monk.

Against – None Abstain - None

Resolved: to pay invoices – Appendix 2

2425/157 4. Additional bank signatories

Chair requested if any other councillor had completed the forms to return them as soon as possible. Clerk asked those who have received letters, please can they register with either HSBC or Unity or both.

2425/157 5. Note draft budget/reserves

Draft budget sent to all councillors to be discussed/agreed at precept meeting. Cllr. Miller to cancel booking for Masonic Hall as meeting will take place in the Annexe at Alston Town Hall.

2425/158 Note the status of assets & consider any action required

Firs Woodland Walk –Clerk sent out 3 requests for tender. Waiting for them to be returned with prices.

Resolved: to receive information.

Footway lighting – Cllr. Grew advised on a zoom meeting that some other councillors also attended regarding the proposed plans on the footway lighting throughout Westmorland & Furness. There are 2 proposals, 1. WAFC to have total responsibility for the upkeep of the footway lighting. 2. Individual Parishes maintain their own footway lighting including bulb changing, electric costs etc. No decision has been made but this will be undertaken in early March.

Resolved: to receive more information & discuss at next meeting.

	Christmas Trees & Lights – Cllr. Miller has had a price for the storage in High Mill units of the trees & lights along with racking to be built for the trees to be kept upright. Ian Grey had advised that a builder should be contracted to reposition some of the brackets that have fallen off or are loose before the trees are put up again later in the year. Cllr. Miller suggested using the same person who puts up the lights on the market cross and town hall. <i>Motion: to accept the cost of storage and racking of trees & lights and obtain a price for the brackets to be repositioned.</i> Proposed Cllr. Miller Seconded Cllr. Grew Vote: Favour – Cllr. Edgar, Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Best, Cllr. Hanley, Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Monk, Cllr. Robinson, Cllr. Robertson, Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Davies. Against – None Abstain – Cllr. Ho Resolved: to accept costs and obtain quote for building work Cllr. Robinson asked if he could get some prices for a signage “Merry Christmas from Alston Moor” type sign for this year’s Christmas decorations. It was agreed for Cllr. Robinson to get some prices and ideas. Tyne Willows Playing Field, Pavilion, village seats - see 2425/155 2, war memorial, bus shelters – see 2425/137 6, notice boards, defibrillators – see 2425/155 3.
2425/159	Note status of Open Spaces/ Trees & consider any action Path sign – update & matters arising – Cllr. Robinson has one sign in position and has requested that the other sign has a taller pole to prevent a health & safety issue once in position. <i>Motion: to obtain taller pole</i> Proposed Cllr. Miller Seconded Cllr. Grew Vote: Favour – Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Best, Cllr. Davies, Cllr. Ho, Cllr. Edgar, Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Robinson, Cllr. Robertson, Cllr. Hanley, Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Monk. Against – None Abstain - None Resolved: taller pole to be obtained from Westmorland & Furness Highways Department. Trees to be felled/tided up – received correspondence from the public about tree branches encroaching footway causing health & safety issue, Clerk requested Michael Collins to address this as an emergency power between meetings. This has been completed. However Cllr. Davies did advise of an other issue he had spotted on the Hendersons section, a tree almost falling down which will cause a health & safety issue. Clerk to ask Michael Collins to address this as an emergency power urgently. Resolved: Clerk to contact Michael Collins. Member of the public interrupted the meeting asking why his email had not been mentioned. It was explained that the email to the Clerk only is for the member of the public to speak in the public participation section. If he had wished the items to be agenda items, then he should have contacted a councillor to bring this up. He was made aware of where to find the contact details of the councillors for future, and he understood the correct procedure on matters of the meeting for the future.

2425/160	Correspondence Clerk mentioned that they had received a request that would be very “time consuming” and costly for the whole parish. They are to seek legal advice as how to proceed correctly.
2425/161	Items for the Next Meeting of the Parish Council Street Lighting Alston Moor Traffic Management Group meeting date
2425/162	To consider any councillor or officer training Cllr. Grew asked if there were any training through NALC like planning. Clerk to investigate this.
2425/163	Date and Time of Next Meeting The next meeting will be the PRECEPT meeting on Monday 20th January 2025 in the Annexe at Alston Town Hall. The next PARISH COUNCIL meeting to be held on Monday 3rd February 2025 at 7.00pm. Meeting to be held in the Annexe at Alston Town Hall.
2425/164	Exclusion of public & press (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960) 1. Resolve to close the meeting at 20.15hrs 2. Consider any staffing requirements of the council – Clerk advised that things are slowly coming together and that support from councillors is appreciated. Clerk is continuing the training in the Scribe accounts and now has access to all banking. Clerk has requested that the RFO assists in the year end accounts and suggests a rolling contract to be made with the RFO. <i>Motion: Clerk to contact RFO and discuss rolling contract.</i> Proposed Cllr. Miller Seconded Cllr. Robinson Vote Favour – Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Best, Cllr. Davies, Cllr. Ho, Cllr. Edgar, Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Robinson, Cllr. Robertson, Cllr. Hanley, Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Monk. Against – None Abstain – None 3. Benches – Cllr. Grew reported that the costs received were for 3 benches, 2 of which she had no issue with but the 3rd she queried. Cllr. Grew asked Cllr. Best if he could find oak panels cheaper than her quote, he advised he could. Cllr Best to provide a price for the 3rd bench panels only. The 3rd bench would be on hold until prices are received. <i>Motion: Go ahead with the 2 benches to be repaired 3rd on hold.</i> Proposed Cllr. Grew Seconded Cllr. Robinson <i>Vote: Favour -Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Davies, Cllr. Robertson, Cllr. Robinson, Cllr. Best, Cllr. Edgar, Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Ho, Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Monk. Against – None Abstain - None</i> Resolved: Go ahead with work on 2 out of the 3 benches 4. To close Parish Council Meeting & Open Fairhill Charity meeting 20.26hrs.
2425/165	Fairhill Charity Applications received – 1 application requesting £300.00: to agree to £250, stipulating sending in receipts of spending and suggest if require further funding

	to contact Alston United Charities for help. Proposed Cllr. Grew Seconded Cllr. Miller <i>Vote: Favour - Cllr. Ho, Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Davies, Cllr. Robertson, Cllr. Robinson, Cllr. Best, Cllr. Edgar, Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Hanley, Cllr. Monk.</i> <i>Against – None Abstain – None.</i> Resolved: Clerk to send out cheque to applicant.

Cllr. Miller closed the meeting at 20.28 hrs

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

Chair Signature: _____

Date: _____

Clerk Signature: _____

Date: _____

Appendix 1 & 2

Date	Order No	Status	Invoice Date	Invoice Number	Supplier
22.11.2024	161	Paid	22.11.2024	K1107563	Lights For Fun
04.12.2024	162	Paid			COOP
04.12.2024	163	Paid			Amazon
05.12.2024	164	Paid			Claire Thomson
06.12.2024	165	Paid			Grant
16.12.2024	166	Paid	04.12.2024	369	JC Brown
16.12.2024	167	Paid			Claire Thomson
16.12.2024	168	Paid			Grants
16.12.2024	169	Paid			Grants
17.12.2024	170	Paid	06.12.2024	203045405565	Ionos
22.12.2024	171	Paid			Claire Thomson
28.12.2024	172	Outstanding	23.12.2024	55124	Urbaser Ltd
28.12.2024	173	Paid	03.12.2024	297	Elkerlodge Services Ltd
31.12.2024	174	Paid	17.12.2024	866129	Virtual Land Line
31.12.2024	175	Paid	25.12.2024	286293568	Zoom

Additional invoices that need paid between meetings

09/01/2025

09/01/2025

365 Elkerlodge Services Ltd

10/01/2025

10/01/2025

2734 Madhatters