



ALSTON MOOR PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

The minutes of the proceedings of the **MONTHLY MEETING** of Alston Moor Parish Council (AMPC) held on **Monday 3rd February** at 19:00hrs in the Annexe at Alston Town Hall.

Present:

Chairman: Cllr. Raymond Miller
Councillors: Cllr. Best, Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Martin, Cllr. Robinson, Cllr. Edgar, Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Davies, Cllr. Hanley, Cllr. Robertson.
Cllr. Ho arrived 19.14hrs

Clerk/RFO: Claire Thomson

Also in attendance: Cllr. Mary Robinson (UC)

Members of the Public: 6

Public Participation (Timed item 15 minutes)

Damon Hall spoke about a mass photo event like the one in 1999 to include all of Alston Moor's residents to take place in early September 2025. He was not asking for funding but the support of the Parish Council and if they could advise on logistical issues like parking and road closures. The Chair thanked Damon and said the Parish Council would fully support the event in any way they could, allowing the use of Tyne Willows as a parking area.

No other public participation

2425/170	Apologies for Absence Cllr. Green, Cllr. Monk Resolved: apologies accepted.
2425/171	Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensation None
2425/172	Minutes of the Last Meeting of Alston Moor Parish Council The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 13 th January 2025 were considered. <i>Motion: To authorise the chairman to sign, as a correct record, the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 13th January 2025. Proposer: Cllr. Robertson, Seconder: Cllr. Hanley, Vote: Favour - Cllr. Best, Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Davies, Cllr. Robinson, Cllr. Robertson, Cllr. Edgar, Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Hanley. Against - None Abstention – Cllr. Martin.</i> Resolves: to accept the minutes of the previous meeting The minutes of the Precept meeting held on Monday 20 th January 2025 were considered. <i>Motion: To authorise the chairman to sign, as a correct record, the minutes of the Precept meeting held on 20th January 2025. Proposer: Cllr. Martin, Seconder: Cllr. Grew, Vote: Favour - Cllr. Best, Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Davies, Cllr. Martin, Cllr. Edgar, Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Hanley. Against - None Abstention – Cllr. Robinson, Cllr. Robertson.</i> Resolves: to accept the minutes of the previous meeting

2425/172	To note councillor vacancies & review any co-option candidates 1. No applicants have come forward as co-option candidates.
2425/173	Chair's Report The Chair had no report other than to ask 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 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. Cllr. Ho arrived at meeting 19.14hrs
2425/153	Westmorland & Furness Councillors Report – Cllr. Hanley & Cllr. Robinson (UC) briefly talked through reports from the last meetings. Car Club meeting on 21st January The meeting was attended by Derwent Valley Electric Car Group who have already established a car club. The feasibility of only requiring 3 electric cars for this area was discussed. It was discovered that it would be difficult to get started, as the insurance alone would exceed £10000 and requires more than 3 vehicles. Discussions are on-going as to other options available. Update on:- Westmorland & Furness Cabinet voted for devolution which will be for Westmorland & Furness and Cumberland Council; the final decision on this will be made in the autumn. This would be combined Cumberland Council & WAFC together under the control of mayor. The separate authorities would still be functioning, with responsibility for planning, police, fire, crime officers & transport. The time frame set out to complete this is deemed unrealistic by some and is causing some frustration due to the reorganisation. Update on:- Alston to Penrith Bus Service. Sadly, this has failed as the tenders received are too expensive to run the service. John Murray advised there would potentially be more funding available in April 2025. Place Action Group – 29th January. Confirmed that £6000 is available to be allocated now and it has been divided up equally between three projects in Alston Moor & Fellside ward. One is to support the setting up of a Fellside food bank guided by Alston Moor's food bank success. The second is for the play areas in Melmerby & Langwathby where several younger people have become involved in the PAG through this work. The third relates to affordable housing, with all agreed that this is a major problem in Alston Moor and the Fellside as a whole. There is a National Policy Planning Framework with a housing quota of 1331 houses per year within the WAFC area over a period of 5 years. Concerns were raised by residents in Langwathby regarding the school already being full, more houses being built but no contingency for additional places at schools, adequate medical facilities, shops etc. This would impact in other areas with the same issues, but it was agreed that local businesses may benefit. Hence the third project is to undertake a housing needs survey. Next PAG meeting is in 6 weeks.

Police Report

The report from Cumbria Police circulated prior to the meeting was noted.

Nenthead ward meeting update – Cllr. Robertson reported:-

They are awaiting a response from the Coal Authority to provide an update on the water treatments on Haggs Bank and Carrshield to see if this is working as expected.

The flooding issue at the corner of Nenthall has been dealt with and seems to of resolved the issue.

The initial meeting for the Nenthead 200 year celebration, being led by the National Landscape's Land of Lead & Silver project was poorly attended.

The project for the Miners Arms to be taken over by local residents has failed, as the government has discontinued the hoped-for source of funding. Laura (Peart) Seaton advised that all donations would be refunded.

Nenthead Fountain – ongoing to be discussed further on in the meeting

Village Hall/Warm Hub – sad to see complaints regarding the generator not being in action when we had the recent weather/electricity issues. However, that has been resolved, and a small number of volunteers have come together to ensure this will not happen next time. It was also noted the lack of WiFi available in Nenthead Village Hall and they are seeking financial assistance to have this installed and to contribute to the monthly costs. This would benefit the community and link in with the other 2 “warm hubs” in Garrigill & Alston.

Community Toilets – many compliments have been received from those “tourists” who have used the toilets, many of which can't believe it's the local community who take care of and maintain the toilets.

Nenthead Community Projects thanked the Parish Council for the financial assistance for the Christmas Lights but have asked if this year can they received the financial help earlier.

Snow Plough – no up dates

AGM 31st March 2025.

2425/176 Committees, working groups & consider any actions required

2425/176.1 Committee – Development, Governance & Personnel (DGP) – which includes staffing

No update

2425/176 .2 Group Representatives

Alston & Fellside Place Action Group

Reported above in 2425/175.

Alston Health Alliance

No update

Alston Moor Partnership

Advertising for a community co-ordinator has been successful, and they have received several applications. The closing date is this Friday (7th February) and then the process of interviews will commence, further updates will follow.

Alston Moor Traffic Management Group

	Further agenda items have been received. Clerk and Cllr. Robinson (UC) are awaiting suitable dates to secure date for a zoom meeting. NWAS Alston Moor Working Group No further updates at present.
2425/177	To consider matters arising & actions required. 2425/177 1. Nenthead Fountain To be discussed in closed meeting. 2425/177 2. Benches for removal/repair/replace/sites for new benches Cllr. Grew followed up on the discussing held in the closed meeting last time, to advise that the 3rd bench has been offered some oak timber free of charge and therefore asked if it could be voted to commence the repairs on the 3rd bench. <i>Proposed: Cllr. Grew Seconded: Cllr. Robinson Vote Favour: Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Edgar, Cllr. Robinson, Cllr. Hanley, Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Martin, Cllr. Robertson, Cllr. Davies. Against: None Abstention: Cllr. Best, Cllr Ho.</i> Resolved: To commence repairs to bench 3 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 2425/177 3. Defibs – Update All defibs are all registered, in correct locations and working. Resolved: All up to date 2425/177 4. Bus Shelters All bus shelters have been washed and cleaned. Any additional work such as painting will commence when the weather improves. Resolved: To wait for better weather/ongoing. 2425/177 5. IT Software – emails & tablets It was suggested some time ago to provide tablets to councillors for the sole purpose of Parish Council duties, along with reinstating the designated email addresses only for Parish Council use. This would provide total confidentiality in any Parish Council work and total traceability. The tablets would be handed back when a councillor leaves the Parish Council. Cllr. Robinson (UC) mentioned that this was common practice and is used in many other parishes and works very well. Cllr. Robinson also pointed out that, although Alston Moor Parish Council have their own email...alstonmoor.org, that it would be worthwhile changing to ...gov.uk as this is being introduced throughout the country and suggested contacting CALC. Cllr. Martin asked if she & the Clerk could be delegated to source suitable tablets with permission to purchase them. <i>Motion: Issue separate councillor emails</i> <i>Proposed Cllr. Davies Seconded Cllr. Robinson Vote: Favour - Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Davies, Cllr. Robertson, Cllr. Hanley, Cllr. Robinson, Cllr. Best, Cllr. Edgar, Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Martin. Against – None Abstain - Cllr. Ho</i> Resolved: to issue separate councillor emails <i>Motion: Source suitable tablets and report back prices for purchase</i>

Proposed Cllr. Martin Seconded Cllr. Robinson Vote: Favour - Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Davies, Cllr. Robertson, Cllr. Hanley, Cllr. Robinson, Cllr. Best, Cllr. Edgar, Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Martin. Against – Cllr. Ho Abstain - None
Resolved: Cllr. Martin & Clerk to find suitable tablets

2425/177 6. Environmental Agency Gauging Station renewal

Clerk is still awaiting response from the 2 emails sent. Will endeavour to telephone them this week to make contact.

Resolved: Ongoing.

2425/177 7. BT switch to Digital

Cllr. Bondi & Cllr. Grew attended separate meetings regarding this issue, reports for both meetings are in appendix 1.

It was suggested by Cllr. Grew that an open public meeting at the Town Hall should be scheduled and invite BT to come and talk about the changes which will happen, and the local community can voice their concerns and have a question and answer session. Cllr. Bondi felt that there would be no new information provided but was happy for this to be done.

Cllr. Grew & the Clerk are to liaise with BT to organise a suitable date for the meeting.

Resolved: Ongoing.

2425/177 8. Street Lighting - update

Cllr. Grew advised that the "walkabout" planned had to be cancelled on 31st January due to illness. A new date is to be arranged.

Resolved: Ongoing.

2425/177 9. Letter of Thanks – Janis Goodfellow

The Chair asked if it would be agreeable to write a letter of thanks to Janis Goodfellow for her continued assistance and support in the distribution and invoicing of the Christmas Trees around Alston Moor.

All agreed to a letter of thanks and the Chair asked the Clerk to send a letter on behalf of the Parish Council.

Resolved: To send a letter of thanks.

Planning Applications & Decisions

2425/178

2425/178.1 Applications

2025/0041/LBC Listed building consent Slavin House Townfoot Alston

Proposed replacement of single glazed timber windows to double glazed uPVC windows. Some discussion was undertaken on how confusing the planning and listed consent advice was and how this can cause confusion for those applying for planning approval.

Motion: to support the application and the correct type of uPVC units are installed.

Proposed Cllr. Miller Seconded Cllr. Martin

Vote: Favour -Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Davies, Cllr. Robertson, Cllr. Robinson, Cllr. Ho, Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Edgar, Cllr. Martin. Against – Cllr. Grew Abstain – Cllr. Best, Cllr. Hanley.

Resolved: to support the application, noting correct type of uPVC units to be used.

2014/1718/FPA 3 Wardway Foot, Nenthead CA9 3PX

Proposed replacement of existing stable buildings to home office/storage building part retrospective.

Motion: to support the application

Proposed Cllr. Robinson Seconded Cllr. Robertson

Vote: Favour – Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Robertson, Cllr. Martin, Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Robinson, Cllr. Davies, Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Edgar, Cllr. Ho, Cllr. Best. Against – None Abstain – Cllr. Hanley.

Resolved: to support the application.

2425/178 2. Decisions

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

Application No.	Location	Brief Description	Decision
2024/1796 & 2024/1806	Ivy House, Garrigill CA9 3DU	Discharge conditions for 3,4,5 attached to approval 23/0029 Listed Building Consent 23/0031	Discharge

2425/179 Finance Reports & Accounts

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

2425/179 1. Current Balance of the Community Account as at 31/01/2025
£121792.50

2425/179 2. Consider payments for approval

1 payment outstanding for cleaning of bus shelters.

Motion: to approve payment

Proposed: Cllr. Miller Seconded: Cllr. Martin

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

Resolved: to approve payment – Appendix 2

2425/179 3. Approve any payments required between meetings

No approval of payments required between meetings

2425/179 4. Additional bank signatories

Clerk has again asked for additional signatories, Cllr. Bondi has agreed to be sent HSBC form.

2425/179 5. Confirm budget decisions and apply to accounts programme.

Budget was agreed at precept meeting. Clerk to apply to accounts programme.

2425/180 Note the status of assets & consider any action required

Firs Woodland Walk –to discuss in closed meeting

Footway lighting – see 2425/177 8.

Pavillion – Cllr. Miller advised that the fitness club (Gym) have requested to paint the outside of the building, put up a new signs and replace the door opening onto the playing field. Cllr. Miller advised them that planning permission would need to be sought for the signs but after brief discussions the council agreed to the door

	change and painting of the building. As Alston Parish Council are the landlord it was discussed that the fee for the planning permission would be paid by the parish council. Christmas Tree outside Town Hall – Cllr. Miller confirmed that the Christmas trees are all in storage at High Mill Units. It was queried when the trees would be assessed for replacement, Cllr. Miller suggested a good time would be in September, but some councillors felt this would be better done sooner, Cllr. Miller replied that it was just a thought, and they could go and sort them out whenever they wanted. Cllr. Hanley mentioned that a real living tree would be nice outside the Town Hall and would it be an option to source a sapling and plant it for the future. Brief discussions were had, and it was felt that the root depth of a real living tree in the current weather patterns could be hazardous and dangerous and how would the tree be restricted to a certain height as it grows. It was decided for now to continue with the same as Christmas just gone but more information was to be sought regarding the real living tree. Tyne Willows Playing Field, village seats - see 2425/177 2, war memorial, bus shelters – see 2425/177 4, notice boards, defibrillators – see 2425/177 3.
2425/181	Note status of Open Spaces/ Trees & consider any action Path sign – Cllr. Robinson advised the pole had been ordered and awaiting delivery. Trees to be felled/tided up – to be discussed in closed meeting
2425/182	Correspondence – Received 1. Woodland Management Plan for High Scilly Hall – an email has been sent with WAFC comments 2. Emergency services/contact number/plan – Cllr. Monk was absent from meeting therefore to be discussed at the next meeting. 3. Reducing Metal Pollution in Garrigill Burn – notifications to go on Parish Council website regarding restrictions/closures of pathways while the work is carried out. 4. Link Cash machine reply received – Alston Moor Parish Council are very disappointed with the reply from Link and felt that they haven't fully understood the impact that this has and will cause in the future for Alston Moor residents and the viable tourist trade. Another response has been drafted and was voted on to send. The Clerk asked a member of the public who was in attendance at the meeting, who has a Facebook page providing information that matters for Alston Moor, if she would put the LINK issue on her site. She refused point blank to help or put anything on her Facebook page. <i>Motion: to send reply to Link and publicise as best as possible to the wider community</i> <i>Proposed: Cllr. Robertson Seconded: Cllr. Davis Vote: Favour Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Ho, Cllr Bondi, Cllr. Edgar, Cllr. Best, Cllr. Martin, Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Roberson, Cllr. Robinson, Cllr. Hanley, Cllr. Davis.</i> Resolved – send reply to Link 5. Other correspondence received after agenda publicised were:- Dangerous tree query from Cllr. Davis at previous meeting was looked at by Michael Collins and it was deemed safe but will need attention in the future. Pennine Way maintenance: a waymarker needs replaced and North

	Pennines National Landscape team had asked for permission to carry out repairs/replacement, and the Clerk had responded confirming the Parish Council were happy for the work to commence. Nentsberry Community Group thanked Alston Moor Parish Council for arranging the cleaning of the bus shelter at Nentsberry. Letter from Cumbria Constabulary about the Neighbourhood Policing Pledge which will be on agenda at next meeting.
2425/183	Items for the Next Meeting of the Parish Council Neighbourhood Policing Pledge
2425/184	To consider any councillor or officer training
2425/185	Date and Time of Next Meeting The next PARISH COUNCIL meeting to be held on Monday 3rd March 2025 at 7.00pm. Meeting to be held in the Annexe at Alston Town Hall.
2425/185	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 full financial control was now handed over. 3. Nenthead Fountain- Clerk advised that 2 tenders have been received Cllr. Robertson advised all was on hold until successful funding had been sought. 4. Trees in the Firs Walk – 2 Tenders had been received, discussed them and decided to go with the local knowledgeable tender as they had provided more details and advised on issues arising and plans for the future. The Clerk to email both with the decision. 5. To close Parish Council Meeting & Open Fairhill Charity meeting 20.56hrs.
2425/186	Fairhill Charity 1. Options to respond to requests quicker than at present. Cllr. Miller wanted to aim to respond within a week of receiving any requests for help. Suggested that email voting could be an option thus not having to wait for the next meeting to make a decision. Clerk would count votes and would act on the majority of votes received back on email. Cllr. Ho left 21.00hrs before voting took place. <i>Motion: to respond in a timely manner and accept email voting.</i> <i>Proposed: Cllr. Miller Seconded: Cllr. Grew Vote: Favour Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Edgar, Cllr. Martin, Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Robertson, Cllr. Robinson, Cllr. Best, Cllr. Hanley, Cllr. Davis.</i> Resolved: to accept email votes so decisions can be made in a timely manner.

Cllr. Miller closed the meeting at 21.02 hrs

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

Chair Signature: _____

Date: _____

Clerk Signature: _____

Date: _____

DRAFT