



ALSTON MOOR PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

The minutes of the proceedings of the **MONTHLY MEETING** of Alston Moor Parish Council (AMPC) held on **Monday 7th April** at 19:00hrs in the Garrigill Village Hall.

Present:

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

Clerk/RFO: Claire Thomson

Also in attendance: Cllr. Mary Robinson (UC)

Members of the Public: 6

Public Participation (Timed item 15 minutes)

Laura Seaton's talk was agreed by The Chair to follow **2425/211** and the planning application of The Miners Arms **2425/214** to be brought to the same, thus becoming **2425/212**.
Ryan Sherratt's talk will co-inside with item **2425/215** as agreed by The Chair.

No other public participation

2425/207 Apologies for Absence

Cllr. Davies, Cllr. Best

Resolved: apologies accepted.

2425/208 Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensation

Cllr. Robertson – **2425/218 - 3** High Mill planning application

2425/209 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 5 Minutes of the Last Meeting of Alston Moor Parish Council

2425/210 Minutes of the Last Meeting of Alston Moor Parish Council

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 3rd March 2025 were considered. Cllr. Monk had emailed clerk earlier that day to advise that 2425/199 was documented incorrectly, should have said battery packs & pads, clerk corrected before the meeting so updated minutes could be signed off.

Motion: To authorise the chairman to sign, as a correct record, the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 3rd March 2025. Proposer: Cllr. Green, Seconder: Cllr. Robinson, Vote: Favour - Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Martin, Cllr. Green, Cllr. Monk, Cllr. Robinson, Cllr. Robertson, Cllr. Edgar, Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Hanley. Against - None Abstention – Cllr. Ho.

Resolves: to accept the minutes of the previous meeting

2425/211 To note councillor vacancies & review any co-option candidates

1. No applicants have come forward as co-option candidates, although Cllr. Robertson did hint that there was a glimmer of hope of one candidate.

2425/212 Laura Seaton took the floor and talked about the loss of funding for The Miners' Arms after the Community Fund being axed. She put her case forward to ask the Parish Council to object to the planning application for the change of use to residential. The Council took on board what Laura had said along with the letters of objection and from Mark Jenkinson (A former member of parliament) to make their decision.

R Miller

Motion: To object to planning application for The Miners' Arms.

Proposer: Cllr. Bondi, Seconder: Cllr. Robinson, Vote: Favour - Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Martin, Cllr. Green, Cllr. Monk, Cllr. Robinson, Cllr. Robertson, Cllr. Edgar, Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Ho. Against - None Abstention - Cllr. Hanley.

Resolves: to object to the planning application

The Chair raised the issue to help Nenthead Community Group to raise funds to buy The Miners' Arms that it could be possible that Alston Moor Parish Council nominate The Miners' Arms as an Asset of Community Value (ACV) with the planning department. This would give Nenthead Community Group 6 months to obtain the funding required and prevent anyone outside of the community to purchase The Miners's Arms. It is something that has been adopted before.

Motion: To nominate The Miners' Arms as an Asset of Community Value

Proposer: Cllr. Martin, Seconder: Cllr. Bondi, Vote: Favour - Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Martin, Cllr. Green, Cllr. Monk, Cllr. Robinson, Cllr. Robertson, Cllr. Edgar, Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Ho, Cllr. Hanley. Against - None Abstention - None

The Chair thanked Laura for her report. Laura left the meeting.

2425/213 Chair's Report

The Chair had no report this month

2425/214 Westmorland & Furness Councillors Report –

Cllr. Robinson (UC) reported that a new "jet patcher" (machinery to repair potholes) is coming to Alston Moor before elsewhere in the county. Alston Moor Parish Council spoke to Cllr. Robinson (UC) about the disappointment in the lack of response to the letter sent following last year's W&F cabinet meeting in Alston. Cllr. Robinson (UC) advised that before the next cabinet meeting on 22nd April, that a letter is written outlining the items again and how disappointing to get very little feedback. It was also discussed to mention the concerns raised regarding the lack of notice of road closures locally. The Clerk was asked to email a letter to W&FC so it can be raised and discussed at the next cabinet meeting.

Cllr. Hanley mentioned the poor provision of facilities for those with learning disabilities within Westmorland & Furness which had been discussed at the Health & Adult Scrutiny Board.

Police Report

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

Nenthead ward meeting update – Cllr. Robertson reported:-

At the AGM, there were 10 attendees present, Cllr. Robertson was voted as vice-chair. He mentioned that the two council representatives for Nenthead do not live in Nenthead and felt that the 2 vacancies would be better filled by those who live in Nenthead. The village is active and there is lots of events planned. Next meeting is 19th May

2425/215 Gym at Pavillion, Tyne Willows

The Chair invited Ryan Sherratt to talk about the "plans" they have for the Gym.

1. Ryan talked about the Gym being very popular and that to facilitate the demand new equipment had been bought but now it was apparent that they needed more space. The Gym have lots of ideas on how to achieve this and Ryan spoke about these, some of which were a sauna, a plunge pool and enabling classes to be taken in a temporary covered area. Replacing doors with windows and upgrade all the doors, refresh the

Rmd ²

bathroom facilities and make the outside more attractive to the eye. It was felt with so many ideas; a separate meeting of councillors is to be arranged to discuss the details of the Gym.

2. Water & Electricity supply for those using Tyne Willows. It was pointed out that the facility of the water & electric had been removed from the Pavillion. In the lease it was clear that this was to be available. It was discussed if there should be a meter system installed so it is fair for all users to only pay for what they use rather than a set amount for water and for electricity. Again, this will be discussed in a separate meeting, as above.

The Chair thanked Ryan for his talk. Ryan left the meeting.

2425/216 Committees, working groups & consider any actions required
2425/216.1 Committee – Development, Governance & Personnel (DGP) – which includes staffing
No update

2425/216 .2 Group Representatives
Alston & Fellside Place Action Group

No update

Alston Health Alliance

No update

Alston Moor Partnership

Cllr. Bondi advised that their Community Development Coordinator was hitting the ground running with lots of ideas and projects to engage with the wider community.

Alston Moor Traffic Management Group

Cllr. Martin, over the past 3 years, has been pushing for action on the issue with the parking in The Butts area stopping access for emergency vehicles. Everyone agreed this needed dealing with urgently and Cllr. Robinson (UC) suggested the next Traffic Management meeting should be on site here in Alston.

It was requested that the speeding motor bikes needs to be addressed.

NWAS Alston Moor Working Group

Advertisement by NWAS of new Emergency Medical Technician's had been poorly advertised, it had only attracted 3 applicants, all of which lived outside the area, Cllr. Monk advised. Cllr. Martin said she was aware of 1 who was on the moor. Cllr. Monk was to contact NWAS for clarification, a new closing date for applications and more advertising.

2425/217 To consider matters arising & actions required.

2425/217 1. Benches for removal/repair/replace/sites for new benches

Cllr. Grew advised that the benches were being repaired in Garrigill and progress is happening with those in Nenthead. 2 benches are to be sited along the riverside by the gauging station, these need made up and suitably fixed into the ground. The benches in Alston are to be looked at by Cllr. Hanley & Cllr. Robinson and they have formed a working group for this.

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

2425/217 2. IT Software – emails

Cllr. Martin has been working hard behind the scenes on changing the parish council's domain name to ..gov.uk address. This would include the emails and website addresses also. Working alongside the Clerk they have settled on a government-approved company that covers what is needed and is also good value for money. Further updates on progress will be reported.

Motion: to go through the government-approved company to get the domain name changed.

Proposed: Cllr. Miller Seconded: Cllr. Grew Vote: Favour - Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Ho, Cllr. Robertson, Cllr. Hanley, Cllr. Robinson, Cllr. Monk, Cllr. Edgar, Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Martin. Against – Cllr. Green Abstain - None

Resolved: to proceed with government approved company

2425/217 3. Environmental Agency Gauging Station renewal

Clerk is still awaiting response; has left voice mails as no telephone calls are being answered.

Resolved: Ongoing.

2425/217 4. Sexual Harassment Policy

Cllr. Monk has advised that this policy needs updating to include new legislation, Cllr. Monk offered to look at this and report back.

Resolved: Ongoing

2425/217 5. Street Lighting

The Clerk advised that a letter had been received from WAFC asking form Alston Parish Council to decide if the lights are to be given back to WAFC to control.

Motion: To give back control of all lighting to WAFC

Proposer: Cllr. Green Seconded Cllr. Grew

Vote: Favour - Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Ho, Cllr. Robertson, Cllr. Hanley, Cllr. Robinson, Cllr. Monk, Cllr. Edgar, Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Green, Cllr. Martin. Against – None Abstain - None

Resolved: Clerk to complete request and send back to WAFC.

2425/217 6. Emergency Contacts

Item to be removed as AMERG are dealing with this.

2425/217 7. Prices for resurfacing of road to Tyne Willows

Cllr. Miller reported that only one price had been received so far but was hoping to obtain another before the next meeting.

Resolved: Ongoing until next meeting

2425/217 8. Highways @ WAFC to provide road closures in timely matter

Cllr. Martin requested that the Clerk, contact highways to ensure that road closures are advised earlier than the morning of the closure as this causes problems for the local community. This has especially affected the school buses as the road closures and diversions delayed the school children getting to school in time to start the day due to the lack of advance warning. This is to be addressed with the Traffic Management Group.

Resolved: Ongoing

2425/218 Planning Applications & Decisions

2425/218.1 Applications

2025/0133/HOU – Overlee House Garrigill CA9 3HF

Cllr. Grew requested an extension on the decision making from last meeting to enable a site visit. Cllr. Grew met with owner and had a site visit and reported back that she was fully happy with the proposed planning application and requested approval to be given.

Motion: to support the application

Proposed Cllr. Grew Seconded Cllr. Robinson

Vote: Favour - Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Ho, Cllr. Robertson, Cllr. Robinson, Cllr. Monk, Cllr. Edgar, Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Green, Cllr. Martin. Against – None

Abstain – Cllr. Hanley.

Resolved: to support the application

2025/0457/LBC High Mill Factory, The Butts Alston CA9 3HS Listed Building Consent

Listed building consent for internal and external alterations to include creation of workspaces and means of fire escape.

Motion: to support the application

Proposed Cllr. Miller Seconded Cllr. Grew

Vote: Favour – Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Ho, Cllr. Robinson, Cllr. Monk, Cllr. Edgar, Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Green, Cllr. Martin. Against – None

Abstain – Cllr. Hanley, Cllr. Robertson.

Resolved: to support the application.

2024/2400/FPA Land to West of Bruntley Meadows Alston CA9 3RW

Erection of 3 no dwellings and associated infrastructure.

Councillors raised concerns of problems with drainage and adding to issues regarding drainage/sewerage already.

Motion: to object to application

Proposer: Cllr. Grew Seconder: Cllr. Bondi

Vote: Favour - Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Ho, Cllr. Robertson, Cllr. Robinson, Cllr. Monk, Cllr. Edgar, Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Green, Cllr. Martin. Against – None

Abstain – Cllr. Hanley.

Resolved: to object to application

Planning application received on 7th April

2025/0596/DISC Low Galligill Nenthead Alston CA9 3LW

Discharge of condition 3 attached to approval of 2024/1983/FPA

Decided to ask for extension as not had time to view the application in a timely manner.

Clerk to request an extension.

2425/219 Finance Reports & Accounts

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

2425/219 1. Current Balance of the Community Account as at 31/03/2025
£114879.81

2425/219 2. Consider payments for approval

Mole catcher invoice ~~£172-00~~

Motion: to approve payments received

Proposed: Cllr. Green Seconded: Cllr. Miller

Vote: Favour - Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Ho, Cllr. Robertson, Cllr. Hanley, Cllr. Robinson, Cllr. Monk, Cllr. Edgar, Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Green, Cllr. Martin.

Against – None Abstain – None.

Resolved: to approve payment

2425/219 3. Approve any payments required between meetings

Clerk was unaware of any payments that would need paid before next meeting.

2425/219 5. Year End Progress/ Internal Auditor letter of engagement.

Clerk reported that the process of year end was commencing well and should be ready for visit from auditor. Clerk asked council to accept the letter of engagement from internal auditor.

Motion: to accept letter of engagement

Proposer: Cllr. Grew Second: Cllr. Robertson

Vote: Favour - Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Ho, Cllr. Cllr. Hanley, Robertson, Cllr. Robinson, Cllr. Monk, Cllr. Edgar, Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Green, Cllr. Martin. Against – None Abstain – None.

Resolved: Clerk to send letter of engagement reply to internal auditor

2425/220 Note the status of assets & consider any action required

Footway lighting – see 2425/217 5.

Pavillion – see 2425/215

Tyne Willows Playing Field – see 2425/217 1

Village seats - see 2425/217 1

Bus shelters - as the weather is improving tenders would need to be sought for the painting of the shelters.

Defibrillators –Nenthead's defibrillator requires a new battery pack and pads and Brian Aves has asked if Alston Moor Parish Council would pay for them. Cllr. Monk had advised Brian to contact NWAS regarding this and they have come back with a cost of £89, which is a very good price.

Motion: to pay for the battery pack & pads for Nenthead

Proposer: Cllr. Miller Second: Cllr. Grew

Vote: Favour - Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Ho, Cllr. Cllr. Hanley, Robertson, Cllr. Robinson, Cllr. Monk, Cllr. Edgar, Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Green, Cllr. Martin. Against – None Abstain – None.

Resolved: Clerk to liaise with NWAS & Brian Aves to pay £89 and get the pads and battery pack.

Nenthead Fountain – Cllr. Robertson advised that the listed building designation allows cosmetic work to be carried out on the structure and suggested that repainting and small repairs should be investigated.

Motion: Identifying the original colour and repainting, small cosmetic repairs

Proposer: Cllr. Grew Second: Cllr. Miller

Vote: Favour - Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Ho, Cllr. Cllr. Hanley, Robertson, Cllr. Robinson, Cllr. Monk, Cllr. Edgar, Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Green, Cllr. Martin. Against – None Abstain – None.

Resolved: to start the process of carrying out small repairs and repainting of the fountain.

2425/221 Note status of Open Spaces/ Trees & consider any action

Path sign – Cllr. Robinson is to site the sign with the pole we have as the longer pole has not been delivered from Westmorland & Furness as promised. Cllr. Robinson (UC) asked if she and Cllr. Hanley (W&F) could be copied in for future requests so they can follow it up.

Mole catcher – It has been requested that the mole catcher visits other sites for Alston Moor Parish Council to try and reduce the mole hills on parish land.

Motion: to ask mole catcher to visit other parish land

Proposer: Cllr. Miller Seconded: Cllr. Robinson

Vote: Favour - Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Cllr. Hanley,

Robertson, Cllr. Robinson, Cllr. Monk, Cllr. Edgar, Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Green, Cllr. Martin. Against – None Abstain – Cllr. Ho.

Resolved – to ask mole catcher to visit other parish land

2425/222 Correspondence – Received

- 1. Workhouse field** – Clerk advised that the investigations to the water/drainage issues has been completed, and a report has been received, there is more issues that have been uncovered that don't relate to Alston Moor Parish Council. The Clerk has reported this to Highways who have acknowledged this and will carry out further investigations.
- 2. Environment Agency** – sent in a report on encouraging the Sand Martins back to Nenthead riverbank.
- 3. Working group application** – in the last meeting a working group was created to assist the "landgirls" based in Garrigill obtain some funding for the VE day celebrations. Cllr. Grew advised that the working group had been removed but continued to discuss the group applications for funding. Cllr. Grew suggested that the group applications should be available to small groups with no constitution, bank account etc as it is restricting the opportunities for these small groups to obtain funding. Clerk to investigate the options available, what has been agreed, voted on and applied in the past.

2425/223 Items for the Next Meeting of the Parish Council

Tablets

2425/224 To consider any councillor or officer training

2425/225 Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next **PARISH COUNCIL** meeting to be held on Monday 12th May 2025 at 7.00pm. Meeting to be held Nenthead Village Hall.

2425/226 Exclusion of public & press (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960)

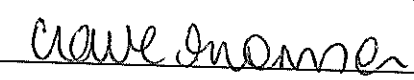
- 1. Resolve to close the meeting at 21.00hrs**

Cllr. Miller closed the meeting at 21.25 hrs

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

Chair Signature: 

Date: 12/5/25

Clerk Signature: 

Date: 12/5/25