



ALSTON MOOR PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

The minutes of the proceedings of the **MONTHLY MEETING** of Alston Moor Parish Council held on **Monday 4th August** at 19:00hrs in Alston Town Hall.

Present:

Councillors:

Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Martin, Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Robertson, Cllr. Robinson, Cllr. Monk, Cllr. Edgar, Cllr. Hanley, Cllr. Crossley, Cllr. Green, Cllr. Ho (arrived 19.12hrs).

Clerk/RFO:

Claire Thomson

Also in attendance:

Cllr. Mary Robinson (UC)

Members of the Public: 3

2526/56 To receive **apologies & consider approval of the reasons** given for absence Cllr. Davies, Cllr. Best. Cllr. Edgar advised that she needed to leave the meeting early.

2526/57 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

2526/59 Minutes of the Last Meeting of Alston Moor Parish Council
The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 7th July 2025 were considered.

Motion: To authorise the chairman to sign, as a correct record, the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 7th July 2025. Proposer: Cllr. Robinson, Seconder: Cllr. Robertson, Vote: Favour - Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Monk, Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Martin, Cllr. Robertson, Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Crossley, Cllr. Hanley, Cllr. Edgar, Cllr. Robinson. Against - None Abstention - Cllr. Green.

Resolved: to accept the minutes of the previous meeting
2526/60 Declarations of interest & requests for Dispensation

1. To receive declarations of interest for agenda items – None
2. To receive dispensation – All Cllrs. have dispensation from May 2025 to April 2027, for any business relating to Alston Town Hall.

Resolved: Recorded in minutes 2526/12.3 that the Council delegates the power to grant dispensations to the Clerk. The power rests with the relevant authority under section 33(1) of the Localism Act 2011 and the basis is set out under section 33(2).

2526/61 Public Participation (Timed item 15 minutes)

1. Sarka-Jo Cole spoke again, passionately about the Red Squirrels, requesting Alston Moor Parish Council to contact Westmorland & Furness Council that they agree/allow the catching and disposing of grey squirrels in Alston Cemetery. To be voted on – see 2526/66 4.

Cllr. Ho arrived during the public participation, causing slight disruption.

2526/62 To note councillor vacancies & review any co-option candidates
One vacancy at Nenthead - no candidates received



ALSTON MOOR PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

2526/63

Chair's Report

Thanks were expressed to Cllr. Mary Robinson (UC) for dealing with the many issues raised regarding the recent road improvements. Cllr. Hanley was also thanked for his input to this. Cllr. Mary Robinson(UC) advised that this was not just restricted to this area but throughout Cumbria and the Lakes. The contractors were to be held responsible, and their contracts could be in jeopardy. Cllr. Miller mentioned that Alston Live was a success even though the weather wasn't the best.

2526/64

Westmorland & Furness Councillors Report – Cllr. Hanley read out reports concerning local health provision, EV Infrastructure, waste & recycling, care home places. Local health provision decision may see Alston Medical Practice return to some of the vital services it used to provide. LEVI as requests for Nenthead & Garrigill to have electric vehicle charging points. Bin bags may still be required in certain areas, instead of the roll out of wheelie bins; rumours of the “bring” sites being closed are not true. Reduction in care home places is on the cards but working to enable people to keep people healthy and provide facilities to enable people to stay in their own homes. Cllr. Mary Robinson (UC) reported that the current mine water treatment process at Nenthead will be replaced in the future by the Nenthead mine water treatment process as it has had the go ahead for materials to be put into the pond. The current treatment area will be returned to agriculture once completed.

Police Report - The monthly report from Cumbria Police was circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting. The Clerk had sent an invite, but no one was available to attend the meeting.

Nenthead ward meeting update – Cllr. Robertson advised that the Nenthead 200 preparations were in full swing and there was a “positive” buzz within the community. A request was mentioned about getting the roads and footpaths cleaned and tidied up ready for the celebrations. Cllr. Miller & Cllr. Mary Robinson (UC) said they would try and get the ball moving. The 20mph limit is now in force in Nenthead. The public toilets once again have received great praise by those using them, especially commenting on the cleanliness. A request has been put in for the benches near the play area to be included in the repairs being done by the Parish Handyman. Unfortunately, as they are not owned by Alston Moor Parish Council and are not on Council land, proper permissions must be obtained before anything else can be done. Electric charging points have been mentioned, Cllr. Hanley will contact Westmorland & Furness Council about this for Nenthead & Garrigill.

2526/65

Nenthead Community “industrial treatment facility on the Nenthead Mines site” – Graeme Ransom gave a brief low down on the issues raised; all councillors were sent the information prior to the meeting. Graeme asked on behalf of the Nenthead Community, that Alston Moor Parish Council write a letter to the Trustees & Members of Nenthead Mines Conservation Society (NMCS) asking them to refuse to consent to allow the development of treatment ponds and a pumping station on the Nenthead Mines site. Graeme emphasised the importance of the flora and fauna within the area along with the delicate eco system, that would essentially be destroyed or damaged if this was to go ahead. *Motion: to write to NMCS showing support with the Nenthead Community to not allow consent. Proposed: Cllr. Miller Seconded: Cllr. Robinson Vote: Favour - Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Martin, Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Robertson, Cllr. Robinson,*

R Miller



ALSTON MOOR PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

Cllr. Monk, Cllr. Edgar, Cllr. Hanley, Cllr. Crossley, Cllr. Green Against – None Abstain – Cllr. Ho.

Resolved: to write a letter of support for Nenthead Community to NMCS asking to refuse to consent to allow the development.

2526/66

To consider matters arising and actions required

2526/66 1. Benches for removal/repair/replace/sites for new benches – This is ongoing, benches in Nenthead are having repairs carried out by the Parish Handyman. Cllr. Robinson advised that purchase of a bench for part of the Pennine Way, near Tower Hill, could only be purchased once permission had been sought from the landowner.

Cllr. Edgar left the meeting at 19.51hrs

2526/66 2. IT Software – Motion – Cllr. Bondi had put a statement together which was sent to all councillors. It states – Alston Moor Parish Council wishes to express thanks to our Clerk & Cllr. Martin for their recent efforts in relation to devices and email addresses for parish council work. This now enables the council to address the issues raised in the Information Commission Office's fact sheet on the use of personal email addresses and devices, including GDPR. Having identified appropriate devices that will last, an excellent deal was negotiated to acquire them. The provision of a .gov.uk email address and website are recommended and enabled by government. Setting the devices up, assisting individual councillors to become familiar with the and the new email address, and establishing the new website, is work that is greatly appreciated by councillors.

Motion: to express thanks Proposed Cllr. Bondi Seconded Cllr. Edgar Vote: Favour – Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Robertson, Cllr. Robinson, Cllr. Monk, Cllr. Hanley, Cllr. Crossley. Against – Cllr. Ho Abstain – Cllr. Martin, Cllr. Green.

Resolved: to express thanks

2526/66 3. iPad agreement – Following last month, the agreement was sent via email to councillors .gov.uk email addresses to be read and understood.

Motion: to agree the iPad use agreement Proposed: Cllr. Grew Seconded: Cllr. Bondi Vote: Favour – Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Martin, Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Robertson, Cllr. Robinson, Cllr. Monk, Cllr. Hanley, Cllr. Crossley. Against – Cllr. Ho Abstain – Cllr. Green.

Resolved: agree the iPad Use Agreement

2526/66 4. Red Squirrels/Alston Cemetery – After the presentation by Sarka-Jo Cole at the last meeting.

Motion: to accept measures to remove the grey squirrels Proposed Cllr. Bondi Seconded Cllr. Grew Vote: Favour – Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Martin, Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Robertson, Cllr. Robinson, Cllr. Monk, Cllr. Hanley, Cllr. Crossley, Cllr. Green. Against – None Abstain – Cllr. Ho.

Resolved: to accept measures required to remove the grey squirrels. The Clerk to write to WAFC.

2526/66 5. Sign on Tyne Willows, add no overnight stays – Unfortunately, Cllr. Davies was not present to update the council on the progress. To be added to next meeting.

2526/66 6. Memorial bench on Tyne Willows – The Clerk read out an email received from a resident at Tyne Willows Caravan Site expressing a wish for a memorial bench in memory of his mother to be placed on Tyne Willows as it was

R. Miller



ALSTON MOOR PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

"her happy place". All costs will be paid for by them if the Parish Council could see to the area being made ready and position it. They have expressed gratitude, said they will help in keeping the chosen area tidy, plant some flowers and hope that this is acceptable. Cllr. Ho pointed out that nothing could be done until the correct paperwork was completed. The Clerk asked if there could be a vote to ensure this was acceptable before obtaining the form to be completed.

Motion: to accept the request but the paperwork is to be completed. Proposed: Cllr. Robinson Seconded: Cllr. Miller Vote: Favour - Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Martin, Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Robertson, Cllr. Robinson, Cllr. Monk, Cllr. Hanley, Cllr. Crossley, Cllr. Green, Cllr. Ho. Against - None Abstain - None.

Resolved: to accept the request, Clerk to contact resident and get the form completed.

2526/66 7. Mount Hooley Mast – AMERG have approached the Clerk in seeking support from Alston Moor Parish Council in their quest to gain a generator to keep the mast operational maintaining appropriate cover during a power cut. This was discussed and the council felt that this would benefit the whole community. The Clerk is to liaise with AMERG, contact the owners of the mast requesting the provision of a generator, supporting the request from AMERG.

2526/66 8. Local Plan – map of sites for houses – to be added to next meeting.

2526/66 9. Community Energy Feasibility Study – There are six Westmorland & Furness project areas up for grabs and an Expression of Interest has been asked to be submitted by Westmorland & Furness Council for those local communities that are interested. Alston Moor Partnership are willing to take this on and have prepared an Expression of Interest. This would entail working with Alston Moor Parish Council. The council were happy with this and thought it is a good idea.

2526/66 10. Policies – Cllr. Miller suggested forming a working group (involving all councillors) to review the many policies that Alston Moor Parish Council have. To ensure this is split fairly the Clerk will assign one policy per councillor to review, report to working group any amendments needed, to be voted on at monthly meetings. This will hopefully ensure that the policies are updated, when necessary, in a timely manner and they are kept up to date to the relevant legislation.

Motion: to form a working group for policies Proposed: Cllr. Miller Seconded: Cllr. Robertson Vote: Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Martin, Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Robertson, Cllr. Robinson, Cllr. Monk, Cllr. Hanley, Cllr. Crossley, Cllr. Green. Against - None Abstain - Cllr. Ho.

Resolved: to form a working group for policies

2526/67

Committees, working groups & consider any actions required

2526/67.1 Committee – Development, Governance & Personnel (DGP) – which includes staffing – to be discussed in the closed session.

2526/67.2 Group Representatives

Alston Moor Partnership – As mentioned in 2526/66 9.

Alston Moor Traffic Management Group – mentioned earlier in the meeting about the issues with the road surfaces after resurfacing. Cllr. Mary Robinson & Cllr. Hanley are on the case.

R. mlu



ALSTON MOOR PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

NWAS Alston Moor Working Group – Cllr. Monk & Cllr. Grew updated the council on the community response applications., which was disappointing news. NWAS advised that they were not prepared to change the 24hrs on call every 6 days on the application, the 6 applicants all work full time, and none could commit to this. With the stipulations as they are, this makes it almost impossible for anyone to apply for the posts. Rhonda at NWAS has not responded about attending the two further meeting dates that have been suggested. So, we still await a response.

Alston & Fellside Place Action Group – next meeting early September

Tyne Willows Management – No update

AMERG – As mentioned in 2526/66 7.

Hospital Group – No update

Alston Community Transport – No update.

2526/68

Planning Applications & Decisions

2526/68.1 Applications received - None

2526/68.2 Decisions – Alston Town Hall – Disable Sign – Listed Building Consent Approval.

2526/69

Finance Reports & Accounts

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

2526/69 1. Current Balance of the Community Account as at 31/07/2025
£112987.68.

2526/69 2. Consider payments for approval – Parish Handyman wages

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

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

ProCut *Proposed Cllr. Miller Seconded Cllr. Robertson Vote – Favour Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Green, Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Martin, Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Robertson, Cllr. Robinson, Cllr. Monk, Cllr. Hanley, Cllr. Crossley. Against – Cllr. Ho Abstain –*

None.

Resolved: Clerk to pay the 3 invoices.

2526/69 3. Approve any payments required between meetings – The Clerk advised that the laptop had a crack in the screen and had received a quote from an approved Apple supplier of £516 for repair plus shipping costs and labour costs. Cllr Bondi provided details of a firm in Penrith who she was sure would be a lot cheaper and the turnaround would be quicker. Clerk to contact this firm to get a price & if it was cheaper to go with them and get laptop fixed.

Motion: to approve payment for whichever repair firm is cheaper & get laptop fixed before the next meeting.

Proposed: Cllr. Miller Seconded: Cllr. Green

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

Resolved: to approve payment for fixing the laptop.

2526/70

Note the status of assets & consider any action required

Cllr. Green left the meeting at 20.49hrs.

Tyne Willows Playing Field – grass cutting continues.

R Miller



ALSTON MOOR PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

Firs Woodland Walk - a report had been received that during Alston Live a fire had been set in the woods behind The Spar. This was dealt with quickly and the organisers of Alston Live were informed.

Pavilion - works have been completed.

Seats & Benches - Handyperson is working their way round the benches, assessing and carrying out repairs as required, ongoing project.

Bus shelters - ongoing, repainting has started on the bus shelter at Nentsberry as this was in a very poor condition, weather permitting, work will continue. It is being painted black instead of green.

Notice Boards - All fixed, Clerk to contact Cllr. Best as one of the doors is sticking on the board that has been repaired.

Defibrillators - all working well and in good condition.

Nenthead Fountain - Unfortunately the enforcement officer & the conservation officer declined the invitation to meet on site. However, the Clerk is in correspondence with them regarding the ongoing situation.

Flags & Flag Poles - The flag is now in poor condition and needs replacing, Cllr. Robinson will forward the information to the Clerk to order a new flag. Cllr. Robertson pointed out that the flag should maybe only be flown at certain "celebrations/special occasions", this was discussed, Cllr. Miller commented that the flag should be flown all the time as otherwise why do we have a flag pole? The Clerk is to order a flag and a vote on flying the flag all the time or just on celebrations/special occasions at the next meeting.

2526/71

Note status of Open Spaces/ Trees & consider any action - Nothing to report

2526/72

Correspondence - Received

1. **20mph requests** - an email has been received by a local resident asking the Parish Council to investigate changing the 30mph to 20mph in and around Alston. This was discussed and will be put to the Traffic Management Group for their next meeting in September.
2. **Community Garden Silver Jubilee** - an email has been received inviting members of the Parish Council & the Clerk to attend an afternoon tea event held in the community garden on 28th August 3pm to 5pm, to celebrate its opening in September 2000. Clerk made a list of those who would like to attend.
3. **Garrigill Bridge** - After attending the last meeting Kate Clement (Community Development Officer) & Cllr. Mary Robinson (UC) went to look at the issues with Garrigill Bridge that have not been addressed for some time. It has been confirmed that Garrigill Bridge has been allocated for attention this financial year, however WAFC must prioritise repairs for those with high risks first. It is a complex repair, and progress is being made on planning the work. It is hoped that works will be completed by the end of the financial year once a successful contractor is appointed to undertake the works required.
4. **Permission to Metal Detect on Tyne Willows** - The Clerk has received an email asking for permission to carry out metal detecting on Tyne Willows. The council agreed to allow this, but they must not encroach on the football pitch. If the council are satisfied that the ground has been returned to how it was before, then permissions maybe granted to go on the football pitch.

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ALSTON MOOR PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

5. **Road Chippings** – The Clerk has received several emails regarding the road chippings/lack of road sweeping; this has been addressed by Cllr. Mary Robinson (UC) earlier in the meeting.

2526/73

Items for the Next Meeting of the Parish Council

- Memorial bench application
- Map of housing sites available "Local Plan"
- War memorials/Walton Memorial to be added to Parish Council assets
- Flag to fly – when or all the time

2526/74

To consider any councillor or officer training

2526/75

Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next **PARISH COUNCIL** meeting to be held on Monday 1st September 2025 at 7.00pm. Meeting to be held Garrigill Village Hall depending on road closures.

2526/76

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

Resolve to close the meeting at 21.00hrs

2526/77

Close Parish Council Meeting

Meeting closed 21.14hrs

2526/78

Open Fairhill Charity Meeting

2526/79

Close Fairhill Charity Meeting

Cllr. Miller closed the meeting at 21.24 hrs

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

Chair Signature:

R Miller

Date: 11/9/25

Clerk Signature:

Clare Moman

Date: 11/9/25

2526/69

Payments waiting for authorisation

Handyman	7.7.25 - 1.8.25	£800.00
Madhatters		£101.93
ProCut		£720.00

£1,621.93

Laptop

TBC

* Price for Laptop from SPB. Penrith £300.00.