



ALSTON MOOR PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

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

Present:

Chairman: Cllr. Raymond Miller
Councillors: Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Robinson, Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Davies, Cllr. Hanley, Cllr. Robertson, Cllr. Green, Cllr. Monk
Cllr. Ho arrived 19.11hrs

Clerk/RFO: Claire Thomson

Also in attendance: Cllr. Mary Robinson (UC)

Members of the Public: 5

Public Participation (Timed item 15 minutes)

No requests received by the Clerk

No other public participation

****Vice Chair Cllr. Robinson to Chair meeting as Cllr. Miller has lost his voice.****

2425/188 Apologies for Absence

Cllr. Best, Cllr. Martin, Cllr. Edgar

Resolved: apologies accepted.

2425/189 Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensation

None

2425/190 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

2425/191 Minutes of the Last Meeting of Alston Moor Parish Council

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 3rd February 2025 were considered.

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. Bondi, Seconder: Cllr. Robertson, Vote: Favour - Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Davies, Cllr. Robinson, Cllr. Robertson, Cllr. Hanley. Against - None Abstention - Cllr. Green, Cllr. Monk.

Resolves: to accept the minutes of the previous meeting

2425/192 To note councillor vacancies & review any co-option candidates
1. No applicants have come forward as co-option candidates.

2425/193 Chair's Report
The Chair had no report.

2425/194 Westmorland & Furness Councillors Report –
Cllr. Hanley briefly talked through reports from the last meetings.

R mll

Communities & Environment Scrutiny Committee – The main points of this were the EV (Electric Vehicle) Charging Strategy & Community Power.

The report can be found on the Alston Moor Parish Council website.

Cllr. Ho arrived at the meeting 19.11hrs.

Health & Wellbeing Board – The main points were trying to ease the current situation of “bed blocking” and how to resolve this, providing better services for those medically able to leave hospital but are unable to due to lack of resources. Another point was the recycling of equipment such as crutches, Zimmer frames etc.

Cllr. Monk asked Cllr. Hanley if the discussions included increasing provision of home help/cares as there has been a massive reduction in the number of carer providers available in the area. Cllr. Hanley stated that this was not mentioned in the meeting.

The report can be found on the Alston Moor Parish Council website.

Westmorland & Furness Council Full Council Meeting – the main points discussed were the overall increase in the council tax of 4.99% and the election review to bring all Parish councils election dates in line with Westmorland & Furness Council's to save money.

Cllr. Mary Robinson (UC) confirmed that the combination of the Elections would be filtered down to the Parish Councils in the very near future.

The report can be found on the Alston Moor Parish Council website.

Cllr. Hanley left the meeting at 19.20hrs to attend a Parish Council meeting at Culgaith.

Police Report - No report has been received from Cumbria Police prior to the meeting.

2425/195 **Nenthead ward meeting update** – No further updates from last meeting.
Committees, working groups & consider any actions required

2425/195.1 Committee – Development, Governance & Personnel (DGP) – which includes staffing

No update

2425/195 .2 Group Representatives

Alston & Fellside Place Action Group

Update that a bid of £2000 out of the £6000 available from the Rural Funding Survey was in progress.

Alston Health Alliance

No update

Alston Moor Partnership

Cllr. Bondi advised that they had appointed Sarah Stamford as Community Development Coordinator and she was due to start her new role next week.

R Miller

Alston Moor Traffic Management Group

Cllr. Grew provided details of the first meeting carried out via Zoom, lots of pot holes and resurfacing of A689 was discussed, resurfacing of A689 will commence later this year and it will involve a full road closure for approximately 1 week, some potholes were in the process of being actioned and further updates will follow. Discussions regarding a 40mph zone on the A689 and this would be investigated along with several parking issues around Alston Front Street and The Butts. Comments on the large number of paving stones loose or missing has been reported and again are under investigation. It was stressed that anyone can report issues relating to Highways, not just the Alston Moor Parish Council. It has been stressed "what3words" can be used to identify the problem areas and a photo if possible, would help in the process. The bollards outside the Co-op to be resited, the school signs to be removed at the old primary school

NWAS Alston Moor Working Group

No further updates at present.

2425/196 To consider matters arising & actions required.

2425/196 1. Nenthead Fountain

Cllr. Robertson requested this to be discussed in the closed meeting. Cllr. Robinson agreed.

2425/196 2. Benches for removal/repair/replace/sites for new benches

Cllr. Grew advised that bench 3 in Garrigill was in progress after obtaining the wood. Also, the stone bench located by Peters Field has been hit and damaged. Cllr. Green said he would look at this and report back.

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. Cllr. Robinson advised that the siting of The Woman's Institute centenary bench has not been decided yet, although there has been some discussion between the Church and The Women's Institute, further discussions are required.

Resolved: To receive more information/ongoing

2425/196 2. IT Software – emails & tablets

The Clerk advised that Cllr. Martin & the Clerk are looking to find the best possible deal for the tablets, once found it would be circulated to the councillors before purchasing. Cllr. Miller advised that the progress of the issue of email addresses solely for the use on Alston Moor Parish Council was complete and the Councillors have been asked to start using this email going forward.

2425/196 3. Environmental Agency Gauging Station renewal

Clerk is still awaiting response from the 2 emails sent and a voice mail left. Will endeavour to telephone again in the coming week.

Resolved: Ongoing.

2425/196 4. Letter to Garrigill Recreational Ground

There were some unanswered questions regarding the Precept Application, although the application was accepted it was felt that the questions needed answered. Cllr. Grew put together a response to send.

Motion: To send the response to Garrigill Recreational Ground

R Miller

Proposed: Cllr. Bondi Seconded: Cllr. Grew Vote: Favour – Cllr. Monk, Cllr. Robinson, Cllr. Davis, Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Robertson, Cllr. Grew. Against – Cllr. Miller Abstain – Cllr. Green, Cllr. Ho.

Resolved: to send the response.

2425/196 5. Street Lighting - update

Cllr. Miller & the Clerk met with the Westmorland & Furness representative and conducted a brief “walkabout” in Alston making notes of those lights not working, incorrect colours, where lights should be etc. There was a very positive response from all parties, with a lot of ideas that will benefit the whole of Alston Moor. The Cabinet meeting will take place in mid-March and it will be after this that Alston Moor Parish Council will be asked to make a formal response regarding the future arrangements. It was also discussed that we can install solar lights before they take over and these would be included in the transfer. Cllr. Robinson (UC) suggested the Clerk to contact Ainstable Clerk as they have had solar lighting for some time and could provide some hints and advice.

Resolved: Ongoing.

2425/196 6. Neighbourhood Policing Pledge

Calc had contacted the Clerk to ask for representatives to engage with the Cumbria Constabulary in 2 virtual meetings per year. Cllr. Monk, Cllr. Robinson & the Clerk put their names forward for this.

Resolved: Clerk to advise Calc of representatives

2425/196 7. Emergency Contacts

It was reported that Nenthead have started to compile a list of those vulnerable persons within Nenthead. It was suggested that Garrigill & Alston did the same, although this will be carried out by AMERG in the future.

2425/196 7. Annual Open Parish Council Meeting

A date of 23rd April 2025 at 7pm in Alston Town Hall has been decided on.

2425/196 8. Prices for resurfacing the road to Tyne Willows

The Clerk advised that she had been given 3 contacts of Tarmacking companies to contact and obtain quotes for the above. To report back at the next Parish Council Meeting.

Resolved: Ongoing.

Planning Applications & Decisions

2425/197 2425/197.1 Applications

2024/0773/FPA Aimshaugh, Aimshaugh Road, Leadgate, CA9 3EL

Part demolition, rebuild & change of use of existing farm buildings.

Motion: to support the application.

Proposed Cllr. Green Seconded Cllr. Robertson

Vote: Favour -Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Davies, Cllr. Robertson, Cllr. Green, Cllr. Robinson, Cllr. Ho, Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Grew, . Against – Nil Abstain – Nil.

Resolved: to support the application.

2025/0185/HOU Greenacres, Garrigill CA9 3DY

Extensions & alterations.

Motion: to support the application

Proposed Cllr. Grew Seconded Cllr. Green

Vote: Favour – Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Robertson, Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Robinson, Cllr. Davies, Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Green, Cllr. Ho. Against – Nil Abstain – Nil.



Resolved: to support the application.

2025/0266/HOU Loaning Head Farm CA9 3ND

Extension & alterations to dwelling.

Motion: to support the application

Proposed Cllr. Green Seconded Cllr. Grew

Vote: Favour – Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Robertson, Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Robinson, Cllr. Davies, Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Green, Cllr. Ho. Against – Nil Abstain – Nil.

2025/0314/LBC Low Park CA9 3BD

Repair of former bastle, repairs including replacement of roof, floor, repairs to stonework, new windows & doors, rainwater goods & ground drainage.

Motion: to support the application & listed building application

Proposed Cllr. Grew Seconded Cllr. Robertson

Vote: Favour – Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Robertson, Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Robinson, Cllr. Davies, Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Green, Cllr. Ho. Against – Nil Abstain – Nil.

Planning applications between Tuesday 25th February & 3rd March

2025/0184/HOU Mark Close Barn CA9 3BD

Alterations & extension.

Motion: to support the application

Proposed Cllr. Robertson Seconded Cllr. Miller

Vote: Favour – Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Robertson, Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Robinson, Cllr. Davies, Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Green, Cllr. Ho. Against – Nil Abstain – Nil.

2025/0357/FPA The Miners Arms CA9 3PF

As this is a delicate issue locally, it was decided that an extension to be requested with the planning department and also to invite a planning representative to attend the next Parish Council meeting to explain their reasons to the designation of The Miners Arms.

Resolve: Clerk to request extension and to be added to the next agenda

2025/0133/HOU Over Lee House CA9 3HF

Cllr Grew expressed concerns regarding the structure of the said astronomical viewing platform and requested an extension with the planning department and requested a site visit to discuss the plans further with the owner.

Resolve: Clerk to request extension & contact owner regarding site visit, add to the next agenda.

2425/197 2. Decisions

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

Location	Brief Description	Decision
Horse & Wagon CA9 3LH	Variation of condition 8	Refused
Low Galligill CA9 3LW	Change of use to equestrian use	Approved with conditions

2425/198 1. Current Balance of the Community Account as at 28/02/2025
£120940.26

2425/198 2. Consider payments for approval

Clerk was aware of 2 payments up & coming for CALC and A.R. Green.

Motion: to approve payments

Calc Payment - Proposed: Cllr. Miller Seconded: Cllr. Davies

Vote: Favour – Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Green, Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Ho, Cllr. Davies, Cllr. Robertson, Cllr. Robinson. Against – Nil. Abstain – Nil.

A.R. Green – Proposed: Cllr. Bondi Seconded: Cllr. Miller

Vote: Favour – Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Davies, Cllr. Ho, Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Monk, Cllr. Robertson, Cllr. Robinson. Against – Nil. Abstain – Cllr. Green.

Resolved: to approve payments

2425/198 3. Approve any payments required between meetings

Clerk was not aware of any due in other than emergency tree works or office essentials etc that may come in, which the Clerk has the power to pay without approval.

2425/199 Note the status of assets & consider any action required

Firs Woodland Walk – to organise a walk around to determine planting new trees etc. Clerk to liaise with Michael Collins & Cllr. Robinson, Cllr. Davies & Cllr. Robertson to get a date for this.

Defibrillators – The last defibrillator needs a new home, Cllr. Monk suggested The Railway Station/Wooly's Café. This would be linked into The Circuit of defibrillator's belonging to and maintained by Alston Moor Parish Council.

Motion: to site at Railway Station/Wooly's Café

Proposed: Cllr. Monk Seconded: Cllr. Miller.

Vote: Favour – Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Green, Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Ho, Cllr. Davies, Cllr. Robertson, Cllr. Robinson. Against – Nil. Abstain – Nil.

Resolved: to site at Railway Station/Wooly's Café.

Cllr. Monk explained that the battery packs and the pads for the CFR's had run out and had managed to obtain new ones.

Motion: For future required battery packs and pads for CFR's and community defibrillators, Cllr. Monk would like approval to purchase them when needed rather than waiting for a meeting for approval.

Proposed: Cllr. Grew Seconded: Cllr. Bondi

Vote: Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Green, Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Ho, Cllr. Davies, Cllr. Robertson, Cllr. Robinson. Against – Nil. Abstain – Nil.

Resolved: to allow purchase of battery packs and pads without having approval in a meeting.

Pavillion – Cllr. Miller has had emails from Ryan at the Gym regarding the reinstating of water & electric and plans for the outside of the Gym. Cllr. Miller felt it would benefit the whole council if Ryan was asked to come to the next meeting to speak about this. He also mentioned the signs, Cllr. Miller had sent all councillors Ryan's suggested places for the signage, Ryan has been in contact with Westmorland & Furness Council about the planning permission and the Gym



are to apply for this, just needing permission from Alston Moor Parish Council.
Clerk to resend email to all councillors for permission.
Clerk to request Ryan to speak at the next meeting.

Tyne Willows Playing Field – It has been mentioned that the area where the recycling is sited is a mess and needs tidying up. Clerk to contact Urbaser to get this done.

Notice Board outside Co-op – The Clerk has reported that the Perspex cover has been damaged and needs replacing. It was suggested to contact the Men Shed & Paul Best to see if either of them were able to do this.

Village seats - see **2425/196 1**, war memorial, bus shelters, Christmas Trees & lights, Nenthead Fountain – see **2425/205**.

2425/200 Note status of Open Spaces/ Trees & consider any action

Path sign – signage has been put up but still awaiting new pole, Clerk to contact Andrew Hill at Westmorland & Furness Council for update. It has been noted that the sign on the telegraph pole needs removed and sited elsewhere.

Trees to be felled/tided up – see **2425/199**

Mole traps have been put in place on Tyne Willows to try and reduce the mole hills. Cllr. Green asked if the mole catcher could also visit Fairhill Pastures and do the same there. Cllr. Miller & Cllr. Green to contact mole catcher.

2425/201 Correspondence – Received

1. Water & electric access at Tyne Willows via the pavilion – see **2425/199**
2. 2 grant applications received - Alston Live £300 towards running of Alston Live Event. *Motion: Grant request for funding*
Proposed: Cllr. Monk Seconded: Cllr. Grew
Vote: Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Green, Cllr. Monk, Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Ho, Cllr. Robertson, Cllr. Robinson. Against – Nil. Abstain – Cllr. Davies, Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Miller.
3. Land Girls Group, Garrigill - Cllr. Ho noted that there was no constitution and therefore could not be granted. There was a heated debate between councillors, and it was agreed that a working group to be formed and to reapply for the grant for next meeting grant application received, Cllr. Ho noted that there was no constitution and therefore could not be granted. There was a heated debate between councillors, and it was agreed that a working group to be formed and to reapply for the grant for next meeting.
4. Drainage issues affecting The Firs. Under emergency powers the Clerk has requested the field drains to be checked/cleaned out if necessary to help prevent flooding issues in the future after being contacted by Westmorland & Furness Council. This work is being carried out at present, and an update will be available at the next meeting.

2425/202 Items for the Next Meeting of the Parish Council

Sexual Harassment Policy
Grant application from working group

2425/203 To consider any councillor or officer training

2425/204 Date and Time of Next Meeting



The next **PARISH COUNCIL** meeting to be held on Monday 7th April 2025 at 7pm in Garrigill Village Hall.

Cllr. Davis sent apologies as he won't be attending this meeting.

2425/205 Exclusion of public & press (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960)

1. Resolve to close the meeting at 20.45hrs

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

Chair Signature: *Ruth*

Date: 7.4.25

Clerk Signature: *Clare Thomas*

Date: 7.4.25