



ALSTON MOOR PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

The minutes of the proceedings of the **MONTHLY MEETING** of Alston Moor Parish Council held on **Monday 6th October** at 19:00hrs in Garrigill Village Hall.

Present:

Councillors:

Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Robinson, Cllr. Green, Cllr. Monk, Cllr. Edgar, Cllr. Hanley, Cllr. Crossley, Cllr. Martin, Cllr. Ho (arrived 19.03hrs).

Clerk/RFO:

Claire Thomson

Also in attendance: Rhonda Stanger & Matt Cooper – NWAS Representatives

Members of the Public: 4 (incls NWAS reps)

- 2526/102** To receive **apologies & consider approval of the reasons** given for absence Cllr. Davies, Cllr. Best, Cllr. Robertson, Cllr. Mary Robinson (UC)
- 2526/103** 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**
- 2526/104** **Minutes of the Last Meeting of Alston Moor Parish Council**
The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 1st September 2025 were considered.
Motion: To authorise the chairman to sign, as a correct record, the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 1st September 2025. Proposer: Cllr. Robinson, Seconder: Cllr. Bondi, Vote: Favour - Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Robinson, Cllr. Green, Cllr. Monk, Cllr. Edgar, Cllr. Hanley, Cllr. Crossley, Cllr. Martin. Against – Cllr. Ho Abstention – None.
Resolved: to accept the minutes of the previous meeting
Cllr. Bondi asked the Chair if it was acceptable to ask Cllr. Ho why they voted against accepting the minutes. The Chair allowed this, Cllr. Ho responded, " I didn't receive the minutes."
- 2526/105** **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).
- 2526/106** **Public Participation (Timed item 15 minutes)**
No public participation requests were received
- 2526/107** **To note councillor vacancies & review any co-option candidates**
One vacancy at Nenthead - no candidates received
- 2526/108** **Chair's Report**
The Chair had nothing to report.
- 2526/109** **NWAS Representatives Rhonda Stanger & Matt Cooper** gave an update on the latest recruitment for the response car. Rhonda explained that there were 58 eligible candidates out of the 513 who applied; this was reduced to 25 who were offered interviews on the 6th & 7th May. Only 5 turned up for the interview & only

R mill



ALSTON MOOR PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

2 were successful. After extending the date for applications & another round of advertising, another 2 were successful, making 4 but sadly 1 has withdrawn. So, there are 3 candidates ready to start the training in the 1st week of November. Cllr. Monk raised concerns that the "24hrs on call in 6 days" was putting off people applying as they would struggle to commit if working full time and felt it was unfair. It was explained that it was related to the package of the job, the working pattern requirements. Cllr. Martin asked if it was essential that it was a "working solo" position & whether this was deemed safe. It was something that had always been the case & yes it was safe. Cllr. Bondi asked why such a high number had applied but only a small number interviewed Rhonda & Matt explained this was due to a lot of applicants not living in this country when applying, then it was whittled down to those who were in the area, then those who could drive etc thus getting to the small number of successful applicants. Matt agreed that the wording of the contractual requirements could be an issue or reason why it could be off putting. Matt suggested that it would be looked at to try and encourage more applicants, explaining that the working pattern could be 48hrs in 12 days, which would be easier for candidates to work around. Cllr. Hanley thanked them for attending and explaining the process entailed in recruitment. He liked the enthusiasm about the requirement of needing EMT's & 1st Responders on Alston Moor.

Matt & Rhonda left the meeting.

2526/110

Westmorland & Furness Councillors Report – Cllr. Hanley had sent out reports prior to the meeting concerning Highways & Connectivity Working group & Devolution. These are available on the website.

He reported briefly on the future housing plans. The Cabinet had agreed for devolution to go ahead. Cllr. Hanley, in his Unitary role, has tried to put more pressure on to provide back-up power for the mobile phone mast at Mount Hooley. The companies responsible are private and cannot be forced to provide back-up power.

Police Report - The monthly report from Cumbria Police was circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting. Councillors were concerned about an increase in the safeguarding issues reported this last month.

Nenthead ward meeting update – Cllr. Crossley gave a report in Cllr. Robertson's absence. 7 attended the ward meeting, this included Cllr. Hanley & Cllr. Robinson (UC). They are not well attended anymore. The village hall AGM is coming up. Request that the parish council ask Westmorland & Furness Council to repair the steps that were reported in last month's meeting. The name plate for Dick Phillips has not been replaced on the stone bench on Killhope; Cllr. Miller said he thought it had been. Also, a memorial plate will be placed in the village hall for Dick Phillips in recognition of his work within Alston Moor. A request to have an information panel placed next to Nenthead Fountain will need to be approved by Westmorland & Furness Council.

Garrigill ward - Cllr. Grew mentioned she had been doing "surgeries" for the last 7 months for Garrigill but did say that most issues are reported whilst walking her dog round the village, like the signs at Howhill that has gone and the lack of adequate white line since road works have been completed. These have been reported to Westmorland & Furness Highways Team as an emergency. Cllr. Grew was pleased to say that the newly resurfaced carpark looked fabulous and residents were happy.

R Miller



ALSTON MOOR PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

Cumbria Constabulary Neighbourhood Policing Pledge Meeting was attended by the Clerk who gave a verbal report of what is being done & the request for volunteers to help tackle issues like speeding.

2526/111

Issue regarding removal of Battle of Britain display at Townfoot by WAFC. – Cllr. Miller explained that although this issue has now been addressed, at the time of the agenda going out, members of the public wished it to be discussed. The Parish Council thought that the display that Cllr. Ho had done was very tasteful and respectful for the Battle of Britain anniversary and were not happy it was removed. It was discussed that the “wording” of Cllr. Ho’s Facebook post led people to assume that Westmorland & Furness Council had asked for the display to be removed but it turns out that was solely down to Cllr. Ho, after being informed that there were complaints to Westmorland & Furness Council about it. It was felt that this community unrest could have been avoided if Cllr. Ho had corrected some of the comments on her post earlier. Cllr. Ho refused to explain how she got to know that Westmorland & Furness Council had received some complaints, as the Clerk had not been contacted by Westmorland & Furness Council in relation to any complaints being received.

2526/112

Fibrus/Poles/Pathways – Fibrus have been erecting many poles within Alston Moor with many objections to them. Fibrus do not need planning permission to erect the poles, but they are required to submit plans to Westmorland & Furness planning department. The planning department can object to these plans submitted but they cannot stop them erecting the poles. Contact had been made with Fibrus by Cllr. Martin regarding the pole erected on Garrigill Village Green, an area leased by Alston Moor Parish Council from the Catholic Trust. This has proven a positive action, as the pole will be taken down in the next couple of days. Fibrus may be contacting Alston Parish Council regarding Wayleaves, in the future.

2526/113

1.To add our alstonmoorparish.gov.uk email addresses to the website, listing ward councillors, advising residents to contact an individual councillor for information or with a request, instead of just the clerk’s email.

Motion: to list councillors’ emails with the ward they represent, to assist residents to contact individuals directly. *Proposed: Cllr. Robinson Seconded: Cllr. Bondi Vote: Favour: Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Robinson, Cllr. Green, Cllr. Edgar, Cllr. Hanley, Cllr. Crossley. Against – Cllr. Monk Abstention – Cllr. Ho, Cllr. Martin.*

Resolved: to list individual emails & wards.

2.To add “information about Parish Councils” to the website & Facebook page.

Motion: to add “information about Parish Councils” to the website & Facebook page. *Proposed: Cllr. Hanley Seconded: Cllr. Monk Vote: Favour: Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Monk, Cllr. Edgar, Cllr. Hanley, Cllr. Crossley. Against – None Abstention – Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Martin, Cllr. Robinson, Cllr. Green, Cllr. Ho.*

Resolved: to add to website & Facebook.

2526/114

Risk Assessments – Clerk requested that the updated Risk Assessment Forms are to be adopted. Clerk had received additions from Cllr. Grew on 5th October regarding Garrigill Village Green, if all councillors were happy, the Clerk will add this to the Risk Assessment, but the adoption is to be voted on tonight.



ALSTON MOOR PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

Motion: to adopt Risk Assessments after the additional Garrigill Village Green points are added. *Proposed: Cllr. Robinson Seconded: Cllr. Grew Vote: Favour: Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Robinson, Cllr. Green, Cllr. Monk, Cllr. Edgar, Cllr. Hanley, Cllr. Crossley, Cllr. Martin. Against – Cllr. Ho Abstention – None.*

Resolved: to adopt the Risk Assessments

2526/115

Policies – Cllr. Monk was thanked for the huge amount of work that was involved in getting the policies up to date. 10 policies are to be voted on: Equal Opportunities, Council Representatives, Social Media, Anti-Fraud & Corruption, Health & Safety, Complaints, Lone worker, Co-option, Communication & Standing Orders.

There was a discussion regarding producing a summary sheet/points on what each policy covered, to help ensure you are looking at the correct policy, as policy documents are not easy/friendly reading. Cllr. Monk felt this was unnecessary, as policy documents are official papers & should not be easy/friendly reading documents, this was not disagreed with but argued that a summary page would help direct individuals to the most suitable policy. Cllr. Bondi offered to produce the summary/points sheet.

It was noted that there were a few more policies to update, Cllr. Monk asked if someone else could look at these, but then said she may as well do them as she has done all the others. Cllr. Monk was thanked again for offering to do this as no one else had offered to do them.

Motion: to adopt the 10 policies listed & produce a "summary/points" sheet.

Proposed: Cllr. Martin Seconded: Cllr. Miller Vote: Favour: Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Robinson, Cllr. Green, Cllr. Edgar, Cllr. Hanley, Cllr. Crossley, Cllr. Martin. Against – Cllr. Ho Abstention – Cllr. Monk.

Resolved: to adopt the 10 policies along with adding a summary/points sheet.

2526/116

To consider matters arising and actions required

2526/116 1. Benches for removal/repair/replace/sites for new benches –

This is ongoing. Benches in Nenthead & Garrigill are having repairs carried out by the Parish Handyman. Cllr. Robinson will speak with Nenthead Play Park Group about completing a community grant application to cover the repairs required. The area earmarked for new bench to be sited in Nenthead belongs to Westmorland & Furness Council; permission is to be obtained & a request to clear/cut back the bushes around the area.

2526/116 2. Signs on Tyne Willows – the new signs are in place but the *no camp fires* still needs completed.

2526/116 3. Memorial Bench on Tyne Willows – Work has started on getting the ground ready for the memorial bench. The Clerk has been in regular contact with those involved.

2526/117

Committees, working groups & consider any actions required

2526/117.1 Committee – Development, Governance & Personnel (DGP) – which includes staffing – to be discussed in the closed session.

2526/117.2 Group Representatives

Alston Moor Partnership – AMP has organised an event for the community to come and meet the various volunteer groups on Alston Moor. This is being held at Alston Town Hall on 25th October. There will also be a volunteer awards

R Miller



ALSTON MOOR PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

ceremony. It was suggested & agreed that Alston Moor Parish Council have a table.

Alston Moor Traffic Management Group –the last meeting was held in September and addressed items including getting rod signs cleaned, 40mph progress on the Brampton Road, additional double yellow lines on Station Road & Townhead. Moving the bollards outside the Co-op is taking time as team resources are low. Issues with pavements being reinstated can take up to 2 years, so work including issues with Fibrus could be waiting to be dealt with. The pedestrian crossing from Fairhill across to Jollybeard is in discussion at the very early stages. Any water coming into The Firs is no longer coming from parish council land, as has been rectified, and Westmorland & Furness Council will continue to investigate any continuing problems. A request from Alston Moor Parish Council to have a salt/grit bin located in the carpark at Tyne Willows has been submitted to the relevant department. Cllr. Mary Robinson mentioned during discussions on the removal of the play park in The Firs, that the park would be returning. The next meeting is in January 2026.

NWAS Alston Moor Working Group – see 2526/109

PAG (Place Action Group) – no update

Tyne Willows Management – Cllr. Miller announced that phase 1 of the improvements to Tyne Willows was complete & was pleased to confirm that Alston Moor Fitness Club were happy with this. A meeting with the working group will be arranged for phase 2 discussions, to be brought to the council for approval.

AMERG – Next meeting is 15th October at Annex at Alston Town Hall

Hospital Group – No update

Alston Community Transport – Cllr. Hanley advised this group was not running at present, so to be removed from the list.

2526/118

Planning Applications & Decisions

2526/118.1 Applications received – 2025/1113/FPA – Nentforce Caravan Park, Station Road, Alston CA9 3JX - to site 2 light industrial units & 40 self-storage containers.

Cllr. Grew advised that this application had been objected to by Highways due to road safety issues & the Environment Agency for flood risks. Cllr. Grew felt that this opinion should be also taken by Alston Moor Parish Council.

Motion: to object to the application

Proposed: Cllr. Grew Seconded: Cllr. Monk Vote – Favour: Cllr. Grew, Cllr.

Bondi, Cllr. Monk. Against: Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Green, Cllr. Robinson, Cllr. Martin.

Abstain: Cllr. Edgar, Cllr. Crossley, Cllr. Hanley, Cllr. Ho.

Resolved: Unable to object as too many against/abstentions are recorded.

The Clerk is to report voting to Planning Department.

2025/1408/HOU - Lowbyer Manor Farm, Alston CA9 3JX – Garage extension

Motion: to approve the application

Proposed: Cllr. Grew Seconded: Cllr. Bondi Vote: Favour: Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Bondi,

Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Robinson, Cllr. Green, Cllr. Edgar, Cllr. Monk, Cllr. Crossley,

Cllr. Martin. Against – None Abstention – Cllr. Hanley, Cllr. Ho.

2526/118.2 Decisions – None

2526/119

Finance Reports & Accounts

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

2526/119 1. Current Balance of the Community Account as at 30/09/2025

R Miller



ALSTON MOOR PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

£108176.41

2526/119 2. Transfer of funds into ear-marked funds (devolved services Toilets/Lights)

– The Clerk read out her recommendations and reasons for this to the whole council (this was also emailed to councillors' email addresses prior to the meeting).

Motion: to approve the transfer of funds as detailed in the Clerk's recommendations.

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

Resolved: Clerk to organise transfer of funds.

2526/119 3. Consider payments for approval –

01.10.2025	£720.00	Tyne Willows	Procut Grounds Maintenance Ltd
30.09.2025	£73.60	Maintenance	Mad Hatters Hardware
01.10.2025	£22,236.00	Tyne Willows & Garrigill	D. Tolson & Sons
26.09.2025	£144.00	Training	Claire Thomson
24.09.2025	£25.00	Room Hire	Nenthead VH
15.09.2025	£378.00	Audit	Moore
05.09.2025	£634.96	Office Rent	Alston Town Hall
02.09.2025	£215.56	Maintenance	Jewson Hexham
30.09.2025	£3.15	Stationary	Claire Thomson
20.09.2025	£30.00	Padlock	Raymond Miller
01.10.2025	£3.00	Laminating	Local Links
01.10.2025	£XXX	Parish	Handyperson

Motion: to approve invoices for payment.

Proposed Cllr. Green Seconded Cllr. Robinson Vote – Favour Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Robinson, Cllr. Green, Cllr. Monk, Cllr. Edgar, Cllr. Hanley, Cllr. Crossley, Cllr. Martin. Against – Cllr. Ho Abstention – Cllr. Miller.

Resolved: Clerk to pay invoices.

2526/119 4. Approve any payments required between meetings – The Clerk advised that the only invoice that due will be from Alston Natural Stone Ltd.

Motion: to approve invoices from Alston Natural Stone Ltd.

Proposed Cllr. Miller Seconded Cllr. Grew Vote – Favour Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Robinson, Cllr. Green, Cllr. Monk, Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Edgar, Cllr. Hanley, Cllr. Crossley, Cllr. Martin. Against – None Abstention – Cllr. Ho.

Resolved: Clerk to pay invoices.

2526/119 5. External Auditors Report – The Clerk read out the findings of this year's AGAR report & was pleased to announce that the 2 points raised both relate to actions from previous years AGAR & the internal auditor's comments not Alston Moor Parish Councils. It also stated that the removal of "petty cash" from the bank reconciliations is recommended. (see next point)

2526/119 6. – Remove petty cash from bank reconciliation

Motion: to remove petty cash from report as per external auditors' recommendation.

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

R Miller



ALSTON MOOR PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

2526/120

Resolved: Clerk to instruct Scribe to remove petty cash from report.

Note the status of assets & consider any action required

1. To form a working group – Cllr. Martin, Cllr. Robinson, Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Miller & the Clerk agreed to form a working group for “Assets”

Tyne Willows Playing Field – Cllr. Miller noted that the old spot lights on the telegraph poles in the carpark area needed checked for safety. They are not supplied with electricity anymore and it was decided to remove them. A cherry picker may need to be hired to carry this out safely.

Firs Woodland Walk - Permissions are to be obtained from Westmorland & Furness about placing a sign on either side of the footpath under Brewery Bridge warning of danger when river in flood. Clerk to contact relevant department for permission.

Pavilion – nothing to report.

Seats & Benches – see 2526/116

Wreaths – 4 wreaths are required, Clerk to order them. Wreaths will be laid by Cllr. Hanley & Cllr. Monk at Alston, Cllr. Crossley at Nenthead, Cllr. Grew at Garrigill, Cllr. Robinson at Nenthall. Cllr. Ho was asked if she would like to lay the wreath at Alston but she declined.

Bus shelters - ongoing, one is completed. Weather permitting, work will continue to paint all the bus shelters on Alston Moor.

Notice Boards – Clerk reported that public notices were being placed on the Parish Council boards. She requested permission to make signs indicating “public notices” & “parish council notices”, and this was agreed.

Defibrillators – Cllr. Monk reported that they were all in good order & updated.

Nenthead Fountain – No further update from Westmorland & Furness.

Footway Lighting – A draft agreement has been received and sent to all councillor’s emails, Cllr. Monk commented that some lights on the Wardway were missing from the list. The Clerk asked councillors to report any missing lights, so she can update Westmorland & Furness before any agreement is signed.

Christmas Trees & Lights – Plans for PAT testing the trees and lights has been delayed due to illness.

2526/121

Note status of Open Spaces/ Trees & consider any action – Tree survey has been received from SKS, carried out by Westmorland & Furness Council. The clerk is to obtain 3 quotations for the work highlighted in the report.

2526/122

Correspondence – Received

- 1. Blueberry’s** – an email was sent in response to an email received from a potential buyer but this email made them question the move. The Clerk explained the council were in full support of their business venture and stressed the council’s positive thoughts on the potential purchase.

Cllr. Martin mentioned that the Clerk had qualified as RFO for the council.

Cllr. Green left the meeting at 9pm.

2526/123

Items for the Next Meeting of the Parish Council

- Hospital Bungalow

2526/124

To consider any councillor or officer training

2526/125

Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next **PARISH COUNCIL** meeting to be held on Monday 3rd November 2025 at 7.00pm. Meeting to be held Alston Town Hall - TBC.

Cllr. Grew gave apologies as she won’t be able to attend this meeting.

R. Miller



ALSTON MOOR PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

2526/126 Exclusion of public & press (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960)

Resolve to close the meeting at 21.10hrs

1. Staffing – Clerk

2. Staffing – Parish Handyperson

2526/127 Close Parish Council Meeting

Meeting closed 21.16hrs

2526/128 Open Fairhill Charity Meeting

2526/129 Close Fairhill Charity Meeting

Cllr. Miller closed the meeting at 21.31 hrs

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

Chair Signature: R Miller

Date: 3/1/25

Clerk Signature: A. W. M. M. M.

Date: 3/1/25