



ALSTON MOOR PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

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

Present:

Councillors:

Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Robinson, Cllr. Green, Cllr. Monk, Cllr. Edgar, Cllr. Hanley, Cllr. Crossley, Cllr. Davies, Cllr. Ho, Cllr. Robertson, Cllr. Martin, Cllr. Best (arrived 19.27hrs).

Clerk/RFO:

Claire Thomson

Members of the Public: 2

- 2526/130** To receive **apologies & consider approval of the reasons** given for absence
Cllr. Grew - apologies sent at last meeting, Cllr. Mary Robinson (UC)
Cllr. Hanley advised he would need to leave after the Westmorland & Furness Reports as he needed to attend a Parish Council meeting in Culgaith.
- 2526/131** 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
- 2526/132** **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).
- 2526/133** **Minutes of the Last Meeting of Alston Moor Parish Council**
The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 6th October 2025 were considered.
Motion: To authorise the chairman to sign, as a correct record, the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 6th October 2025. Proposer: Cllr. Bondi, Seconder: Cllr. Robinson, Vote: Favour - Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Martin, Cllr. Hanley, Cllr. Robinson, Cllr. Monk, Cllr. Crossley, Cllr. Edgar. Against – Cllr. Ho. Abstain - Cllr. Davies, Cllr. Robertson, Cllr. Green
Resolved: to accept the minutes of the previous meeting
Cllr. Ho was asked why she voted against the minutes, she said "because she had not seen them." The Clerk tried to explain that **against** means to disagree with a proposal or motion and **abstain** means to decline to vote either for or against a proposal or motion. Cllr. Ho insisted the keep vote as recorded. It was again pointed out that the minutes were available for all & public view on the website.
- 2526/134** **To consider matters arising and actions required**
2526/134 1. Invite the Police Commissioner to attend a meeting to talk about recent issues on Facebook relating to residents of Alston Moor – It was agreed that this would be beneficial and the Clerk is to contact the Commissioner's office to request attendance of a parish council meeting.
- 2526/135** **Public Participation (Timed item 15 minutes)**
No public participation requests were received

R Miller



ALSTON MOOR PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

- 2526/136 To note councillor vacancies & review any co-option candidates**
One vacancy at Nenthead - no candidates received
- 2526/137 Chair's Report**
The Chair thanked all those responsible for the poppy displays on Alston Moor, commenting that they are a credit to them and Alston Moor.
- 2526/138 Tenders received for Tree Works on Tyne Willows** – Tenders will be opened in the closed session as it is commercial in confidence.
- 2526/139 Westmorland & Furness Councillors Report** – Cllr. Hanley had sent out reports prior to the meeting concerning Full Council Meeting, Devolution, Warm Homes Grant & Housing Survey. These are available on the website.
Full Council Meeting – conflict between the ICB (Integrated Care Board) & GPs was raised. GPs are refusing to take blood because the ICB are not paying surgeries enough for doing this service. However Alston Medical Practice will continue to take blood for testing.
Devolution – Westmorland & Furness Council voted to proceed with devolution. More funding is needed for SEND (Special Educational Needs & Disability) and it has been decided to appeal to the government for this. Warm Hub Grants will be available for those with poor Energy Certificate ratings.
The Place Action Group housing surveys had a reasonable return rate and hopefully the results will highlight the need to work with the housing associations.
Cllr. Miller expressed concerns that there was no funding available for the Warm Hubs, although there are funding schemes provided by Westmorland & Furness, Warm Hubs did not fit the criteria. Reports of the blocked drains have been reported to the Highways Team at Westmorland & Furness Council.
Cllr. Hanley left at 19.14hrs.
Police Report - The monthly report from Cumbria Police was circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting. The Chair read out the report as it was felt it was relevant to the reasons why the invitation of the Police Commissioner was requested.
Nenthead ward meeting update – Cllr. Crossley mentioned that Nenthead Community Projects had put on a lunch in celebration of the work carried out throughout the year. It was a pleasant and enjoyable event.
- 2526/140 The Hospital Bungalow** - Cllr. Monk brought this to the attention of the Council as a discussion to assist the CFR's and not a resolution. Cllr. Monk put forward a selection of proposals for the Council to think about. She gave a brief history of the use of the bungalow and what use it is providing up to the present day. The Council felt that more information from Estates is required before any decisions can be made. Cllr. Monk will endeavour to get some information and will bring back to the Council for discussion. The general idea is something that the Council agree with, but it needs fully discussed with all information available before any decisions/resolutions can be made. Consulting a solicitor would also need to be considered.
Cllr. Best arrived 19.27hrs.
- 2526/141 Draft Budget** – The Clerk explained that the budget at present was a work in progress and would be ready for full discussion in December's meeting, to be agreed in principle ahead of the "Precept Meeting" to be held in January 2026. The Clerk explained that spending this financial year was greater than previous

R Miller



ALSTON MOOR PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

years due to several factors including increased overheads. Explained that additional finances must be put aside for Tree Works & Elections, suggesting that these are put as "Earmarked" so only used for those purposes. Annual subscriptions along with other overheads have increased in cost for this next year. Careful planning was needed to ensure that the Council has a healthy budget to carry out what is required throughout the next financial year along with some additional funds for unforeseen expenses that may crop up.

- 2526/142 Policies – Safeguarding, AGAR/Assertion 10, IT, Appraisal Policy & Working Groups.** Once again Cllr. Miller thanked Cllr. Monk for all the work and her free time that she has put into bringing these policies up to date.
Motion: to adopt these policies. Proposer: Cllr. Bondi Seconded: Cllr. Robinson
Vote: Favour – Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Bondi. Cllr. Monk, Cllr. Martin, Cllr. Davies, Cllr. Best, Cllr. Green, Cllr. Robertson, Cllr. Edgar, Cllr. Crossley Against – Cllr. Ho
Abstain – None.

Resolved: to adopt the policies.

Cllr. Monk mentioned there are 3 new policies to finish off after discovering this during the appraisal process carried out. These will be brought for adoption once completed.

- 2526/143 Committees, working groups & consider any actions required**
2526/143.1 Committee – Development, Governance & Personnel (DGP) – which includes staffing – to be discussed in closed session

2526/143.2 Group Representatives

Alston Moor Partnership – the organised event for the community was very well attended Sarah Stamford did really well in organising this. The directory that she has been producing is in its final stages and has 90 community groups listed from Alston Moor. This has shown that the support from Westmorland & Furness Council is minimal for this community.

Alston Moor Traffic Management Group – The next meeting is in January 2026.

NWAS Alston Moor Working Group – There are 2 new drivers in training at present.

PAG (Place Action Group) – updated in Cllr. Hanley's reports.

Tyne Willows Management – A meeting with the working group will be arranged for phase 2 discussions in the new year.

AMERG – A maintenance schedule is being put together for each of the 3 generators to ensure they are ready and working if needed.

Hospital Group – No update

Tree Wardens – No update

- 2526/144 Planning Applications & Decisions**
2526/144.1 Applications received – None
2526/144.2 Decisions – None

2526/145 Finance Reports & Accounts

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

2526/145 1. Current Balance of the Community Account as at 31/10/2025
£78110.17 (no report)

2526/145 2. Consider payments for approval –

29.10.2025	£64.56	Maintenance	Mad Hatters Hardware
31.10.2025	£40.00	Ward meetings x 4	Nenthead Village Hall

R Miller



ALSTON MOOR PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

Clerk advised that there was also a cheque to sign for a £100.00 donation for the wreaths to The Royal British Legion.

Motion: to approve invoices/cheque for payment.

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

Resolved: Clerk to pay invoices/cheque. Clerk got the cheque signed by Cllr. Miller & Cllr. Bondi

2526/145 4. Approve any payments required between meetings – The Clerk advised that she had not received an invoice from the parish handyman but would chase this up.

Motion: to approve invoice from parish handyman, if received.

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

Resolved: Clerk to pay invoice, if received.

2526/146

Note the status of assets & consider any action required

1. To form a working group – a meeting to be arranged in the new year.

Tyne Willows Playing Field – Clerk to obtain 3 tenders for the removal of the old spot lights either side of the pavilion. 2 contacts mentioned were Joseph Wright & Michael Collins. Clerk to get confirmation that no power is being supplied to the lights.

Firs Woodland Walk - Clerk has sent request to relevant department for permission to erect warning sign.

Pavilion – nothing to report.

Seats & Benches – see 2526/116

Wreaths – 4 wreaths are in the Clerk's office, at the end of the meeting they will be given to the relevant councillors ready for 9th November. Parish Handyperson will be asked to clear leaves and tidy up Alston War Memorial ready for 9th November.

Bus shelters - ongoing, the work has been stopped until the new year as the weather conditions are no longer suitable to carry out repairs and repaint.

Notice Boards – nothing to report.

Defibrillators – nothing to report.

Nenthead Fountain – No further update from Westmorland & Furness.

Footway Lighting – the Clerk sent a list of all the lights on Alston Moor and received a response from Scott advising that some of these were already in control of Westmorland & Furness Council. A new list is to be sent with those which are not already in control of Westmorland & Furness Council.

Christmas Trees & Lights – Garrigill & Nenthead have purchased Christmas decorations for each ward. Plans for PAT testing the of the Christmas lights for Alston has been arranged to happen in the next week or so. Cllr. Robinson & Cllr. Hanley are to check that the lights for Alston Town Hall are in good working condition in the coming week. On Friday coming the trees that have been stored in High Mill Units are being sorted and it is expected that at least 10 trees will need to be replaced due to the poor condition of them when taken down in January this year. Size required is 5ft. The hope is that the lights and

R Miller



ALSTON MOOR PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

transformers are all ok but PAT testing will determine if these also need replacing.

Motion: to agree to purchase at least 10 new trees and potentially new lights/transformers. Clerk to advise council once aware of this.

Proposed: Cllr. Green Seconded: Cllr. Davies Vote: Cllr. Green, Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Martin, Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Edgar, Cllr. Crossley, Cllr. Best, Cllr. Davies, Cllr. Robertson, Cllr. Robinson, Cllr. Monk. Against – None Abstain – Cllr. Ho.

Resolved: to purchase new trees.

2526/147

Note status of Open Spaces/ Trees & consider any action – Tree tenders to be opened & discussed in closed meeting – see 2526/152.

2526/148

Correspondence – Received

1. **Telephone Mast Notification** – an email was received for a pre-application consultation which the Clerk forwarded to all councillors' emails. It was felt that no matter the thoughts & views of the council, this will follow the same precedent as the issue with "Fibrus & the Poles" as it is a government backed scheme. Cllr. Bondi stressed that again this would not benefit the entire community as not all mobile phone companies will be linked to it.
2. **Alston Heritage email** – Alston Heritage are looking into placing large notice boards/signs in the Spar Carpark & outside Alston Town Hall. They are seeking permission from the land owners for this. A newer email was received with an image of the desired position of said sign, which was circulated around the council in the meeting. The consensus was that the sign would not be suitable in front of Alston Town Hall, as it would cause an obstruction to the pathway and the disabled parking space, along with Alston Town Hall being a listed building in a conservation area and this would require planning permissions/LBC & consideration by the Conservation Officer. It was suggested that the Clerk contact Alston Heritage to advise that the sign may be more beneficial if it is positioned on the grassed area just down from Alston Town Hall, on Westmorland & Furness Council land.
3. **Request to replace fence around Nenthall War Memorial by NCP** – an email request was received asking permission to do this at no cost to the Council as the materials were already donated to NCP. In principle, the Council agreed to the fence being replaced like for like but LBC would need to be checked that it only covered the memorial and not the fence. The Clerk to contact planning department at Westmorland & Furness before advising NCP.

2526/149

Items for the Next Meeting of the Parish Council

Nothing mentioned in meeting

2526/150

To consider any councillor or officer training

None

2526/151

Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next **PARISH COUNCIL** meeting to be held on Monday 1st December 2025 at 7.00pm. Meeting to be held Alston Town Hall.

2526/152

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

Resolve to close the meeting at 20.18hrs

1. Staffing –

R Miller



ALSTON MOOR PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

2526/153 **2. Tree Tenders –**
Close Parish Council Meeting
Meeting closed 20.37hrs

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

Chair Signature: R Miller

Date: 1 12/2025

Clerk Signature: ClaveThompson

Date: 1/12/2025