



ALSTON MOOR PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

The minutes of the proceedings of the **MONTHLY MEETING** of Alston Moor Parish Council held on **Monday 5th January 2026** at 19:00hrs in Alston Town Hall.

Present:

Councillors:

Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Robinson, Cllr. Monk, Cllr. Edgar, Cllr. Crossley, Cllr. Hanley, Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Ho & Cllr. Green.

Clerk/RFO:

Claire Thomson

Members of the Public: 5

- 2526/183** To receive **apologies & consider approval of the reasons** given for absence Cllr. Davies, Cllr. Best, Cllr. Martin, Cllr. Robertson & Cllr. Mary Robinson.
- 2526/184** 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
- 2526/185** **Declarations of interest & requests for Dispensation**
1. To receive declarations of interest for agenda items – Cllr. Edgar – see 2526/199.2
 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).
- 2526/186** **Minutes of the Last Meetings of Alston Moor Parish Council**
The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 1st December 2025 were considered.
Motion: To authorise the chairman to sign, as a correct record, the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 5th December 2025. *Proposer:* Cllr. Robinson, *Seconder:* Cllr. Green, *Vote:* Favour - Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Hanley, Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Robinson, Cllr. Green, Cllr. Monk, Cllr. Crossley, Cllr. Edgar. *Against* – Cllr. Ho. *Abstain* - None.
Resolved: to accept the minutes of the previous meeting on 5th December 2025.
- 2526/187** **To consider matters arising and actions required**
Gritter – The Chair read out the notes provided by the Clerk regarding the correct procedure carried out under “emergency powers” available to the Clerk. Cllr. Grew asked if the gritter could be used in other areas like Garrigill or Nenthead. It was suggested by the Chair that each village hall could apply for a community grant to purchase their own gritter machines to use in Garrigill & Nenthead.
- 2526/188** **Public Participation (Timed item 15 minutes)**
- 2526/189** **To note councillor vacancies & review any co-option candidates**
One vacancy at Nenthead - no candidates received
- 2526/190** **Chair's Report**



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The Chair firstly wished everyone a Happy New Year. He then addressed the issue of the Christmas Tree lights or lack of them. The lights gave up the ghost on 23rd December and could not be fixed these will need replaced for Christmas 2026, along with new lights for the Market Cross & around the Town Hall in Alston.

2526/191 Tenders received for Tree Works on Tyne Willows – The Clerk advised that the 3 tenders have been received & will be opened in the closed session (2526/206).

2526/192 Benches – The Clerk provided some prices for plastic benches to be purchased, and distributed catalogues with her preference. This will be discussed further in the asset working group on 19th January & any decisions to be made will be brought to the next parish council meeting in February 2026.

2526/193 Westmorland & Furness Councillor's Report – Cllr. Mary Robinson (Unitary) was not present so Cllr. Hanley briefly reported on the following:-

Problems with re-admissions to hospital within four weeks, putting additional pressure on the NHS, a team is working to reduce this happening, which is proving to be working. Best Start Hub is a new government project, that is to provide help & support to parents & families, guiding them through various stages of becoming & being a family. At present this is held at Samuel Kings School but Cllr. Hanley thought it would be more suited to be based at the cottage hospital that is standing empty. Cllr. Grew asked Cllr. Hanley about the email from Westmorland & Furness Council the Clerk had circulated regarding the increase in council tax this next year of 4.99% + other charges. Cllr. Grew was intrigued to find out what the "other charges" will be. Cllr. Hanley said he would try and find out and report back.

Nenthead Ward Meeting - Cllr. Crossley reported that the next ward meeting is the end of January. The new Christmas lights looked nice & The Hive are running a Warm Hub every other Friday but are struggling to get funding for it. There were two volunteers present at the meeting from the Nenthead Warm Hub. They were asked to apply for a community grant of up to £300 from the Parish Council & the Clerk said she could advise on other potential sources of help for next year as she thought this year's funding had closed. The Place Action Group are looking at possibly funding these types of groups in the future, which will be discussed at their next meeting.

Police Report – Sadly an email had been received from Tony, one of our local police officers, advising that there will be no more monthly reports provided by them. Tony advised that a general report will be produced but each parish must sign up for it. The Clerk advised that she had not received any correspondence to enable this, Cllr. Grew & Monk both knew how to do it & the Clerk asked if they could pass on the information. The new reports will not provide detail, like the ones received in the past, which won't be as helpful.

This "police report" will be removed from this section.

2526/194 Westmorland & Furness Council potentially increasing Council Tax & reducing services, budget consultation launched – This is what Cllr. Grew spoke about earlier with Cllr. Hanley, who will try and find out more information.

2526/195 Draft Budget – The Clerk asked if there were any further input from any councillors before the precept meeting on the 12th January 2026.

2526/196 13 precept applications – all applications have been sent to councillors ready for discussion and decision making at the precept meeting on 12th January 2026.

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- 2526/197 Committees, working groups & consider any actions required**
2526/197.1 Committee – Development, Governance & Personnel (DGP) –
which includes staffing –
2526/197.2 Group Representatives
Alston Moor Partnership – No update
Alston Moor Traffic Management Group – The next meeting is on 16th January 2026.
NWAS Alston Moor Working Group – The two new car responders have settled into their new roles & were on duty over the festive period.
PAG (Place Action Group) – Next meeting is 8th January 2026.
Tyne Willows Management – No update
AMERG – Cllr. Hanley & Cllr. Bondi reported that there is now an AMERG website – <https://www.amerg.org/>
Hospital Group – No update
Tree Wardens – No update

- 2526/198 Planning Applications & Decisions**
2526/198.1 Applications received
2025/2201/FPA Rice Head Farm, Alston CA9 3DB – demolition of existing dwelling & construction of replacement self-build dwelling.
Motion: to approve the planning application. Proposed: Cllr. Grew Seconded: Cllr. Bondi. Vote:- Favour - Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Robinson, Cllr. Monk, Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Edgar, Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Crossley. Against – None. Abstain – Cllr. Green, Cllr. Ho, Cllr. Hanley.
Resolved – to approve the planning application.
2025/2289/HOU Steel House, Townhead, Alston CA9 3SL – Retrospective application for the removal of peeling paint on the front elevation & subsequent coating of the front elevation with a limewash to match the underlying layer.
Motion: to approve the application. Proposed: Cllr. Grew Seconded: Cllr. Miller. Vote:- Favour - Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Robinson, Cllr. Monk, Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Green, Cllr. Edgar, Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Crossley. Against – None. Abstain – Cllr. Ho, Cllr. Hanley.
Resolved – to approve the retrospective planning application.
2526/198.2 Decisions - none

- 2526/199 Finance Reports & Accounts**
2526/199 1. Current Balance of the Community Account as at 31/12/2025
The Clerk reported the balance of the account was £78179.42.
2526/199 2. Consider payments for approval – Cllr. Edgar declared an interest and did not vote.
The Clerk reported that there was only one invoice to approve, from J F Edgar that was for 5 real Christmas trees to replace the damaged trees.
Costing £27.50 each, totalling £137.50.
Motion: to approve the invoice for payment.
Proposed Cllr. Grew Seconded Cllr. Robinson Vote – Favour Cllr. Robinson, Cllr. Monk, Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Green, Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Hanley, Cllr. Crossley.
Against – None Abstention – Cllr. Ho, Cllr. Miller.
Resolved: Clerk to pay invoice.
2526/199 3. Approve any payments required between meetings – The Clerk advised that she had not yet received an email from the handyperson.
Motion: to approve invoice from parish handyperson.

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

Resolved: Clerk to pay invoice, once received.

2526/200

Note the status of assets & consider any action required

1. To form a working group – a meeting on 19th January 7pm in Annex & via Zoom to discuss all the below. Any decisions to be made will come to the next parish council meeting.

Tyne Willows Playing Field –

Firs Woodland Walk -

Pavilion –

Seats & Benches –

Bus shelters -

Notice Boards –

Defibrillators –

Nenthead Fountain –

Footway Lighting –

Christmas Trees & Lights –

2526/201

Note status of Open Spaces/ Trees & consider any action –

Tree retendering – see 2526/206.

2526/202

Correspondence – Received

1. The Chair reported that the Clerk had received an email raising concerns about Myth Buster Facebook page. The Clerk responded to the email regarding the concerns raised.

2526/203

Items for the Next Meeting of the Parish Council

Nothing mentioned in meeting

2526/204

To consider any councillor or officer training

Cllr. Grew requested to be enrolled onto a course. Cllr. Bondi advised she had already enrolled onto a course and had emailed the Clerk regarding this earlier.

2526/205

Date and Time of Next Meeting – 2nd February 2026 at 7.00pm. Meeting to be held at Alston Town Hall.

2526/206

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

Resolve to close the meeting to the public at 19.49hrs

2526/207

Close Parish Council Meeting

Meeting closed 20.17hrs

2526/208&209 Fairhill Charity Estates Meeting – nothing to discuss

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

Chair Signature: *CR Miller*

Date: 2 2 2026

Clerk Signature: *Clavemoman*

Date: 2/2/2026