



ALSTON MOOR PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

The minutes of the proceedings of the **MONTHLY MEETING** of Alston Moor Parish Council held on **Monday 2ND February 2026** at 19:00hrs in Alston Town Hall.

Present:

Councillors:

Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Robertson, Cllr. Monk, Cllr. Edgar, Cllr. Martin, Cllr. Hanley, Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Davis & Cllr. Best. Cllr. Ho arrives 19.06hrs.

Clerk/RFO:

Claire Thomson

Members of the Public: 3 + Cllr. Mary Robinson (UC)

- 2526/215** To receive **apologies & consider approval of the reasons** given for absence Cllr. Green, Cllr. Crossley, Cllr. Robinson.
- 2526/216** **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**
- 2526/217** **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).**
- 2526/218** **Minutes of the Last Meetings of Alston Moor Parish Council**
The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 5th & 12th January 2026 were considered.
Motion: To authorise the chairman to sign, as a correct record, the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 5th January 2026. Proposer: Cllr. Davies, Seconder: Cllr. Grew, Vote: Favour - Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Davies, Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Hanley, Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Monk, Cllr. Edgar. Against – None Abstain – Cllr. Best, Cllr. Martin, Cllr. Robertson.
Resolved: to accept the minutes of the previous meeting on 5th January 2026.
Motion: To authorise the chairman to sign, as a correct record, the Precept minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 12th January 2026. Proposer: Cllr. Robertson, Seconder: Cllr. Davis, Vote: Favour - Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Hanley, Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Monk, Cllr. Edgar Cllr. Best, Cllr. Davies, Cllr. Martin, Cllr. Robertson. Against – None Abstain – None
Resolved: to accept the minutes of the Precept meeting on 12th January 2026.
- 2526/219** **To consider matters arising and actions required**
2526/219 .1 Gritter – After discussions it was suggested that any gritting machines required for Garrigill & Nenthead would be purchased by the council & not required to complete a grant form as suggested in the last meeting. The legality of volunteers using the machine was discussed & where to store them; this would need to be decided & organised by Garrigill & Nenthead. Cllr. Best did say that, after a discussion, Garrigill Village Hall would not store, maintain or be

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responsible for the gritter due to lack of manpower & responsibilities. The council will await replies from each ward as to whether a grit machine is to be purchased.

Cllr. Ho & Cllr. Mary Robinson (UC) arrived.

Motion: to purchase a grit machine for each ward when instructed to do so.

Proposed: Cllr. Martin Seconded: Cllr. Grew Vote: Favour - Cllr. Miller, Cllr.

Bondi, Cllr. Hanley, Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Monk, Cllr. Davies, Cllr. Edgar, Cllr. Martin, Cllr. Robertson. Against – None Abstain – Cllr. Best, Cllr. Ho.

Resolved: to purchase a grit machine if requested to.

2526/219 .2 Invoice Fairhill Estate Charity for work carried out on the Pasture Fields. The Clerk explained that the council had paid these invoices earlier in the financial year but has since realised these should have been paid by Fairhill Estate Charity itself.

Motion: to raise invoice to Fairhill Estate Charity for works on the Pasture Fields.

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

Bondi, Cllr. Hanley, Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Monk, Cllr. Edgar, Cllr. Davies, Cllr. Ho, Cllr. Best, Cllr. Martin, Cllr. Robertson. Against – None Abstain – None

Resolved: to raise an invoice to Fairhill Estate Charity

2526/220

Public Participation (Timed item 15 minutes) – no participation

2526/221

To note councillor vacancies & review any co-option candidates

One vacancy at Nenthead - no candidates received

2526/222

Chair's Report

The Chair had nothing to report other than the police report received from Cllr. Monk earlier. The police report included reports of damage, shoplifting, burglary, a public order offence and, what seems to be an increase in sexual offences, which is worrying.

2526/223

Tender approved for Tree Works on Tyne Willows – The Clerk advised that Tree Beard had won the tender to complete the tree works required on Tyne Willows. The winning tender was for £5724.00. This will be paid from the funds set aside for Tree Works.

2526/224

Discuss option of having Zoom/livestream for members of the public to attend meetings. – This was discussed and felt it was an option to encourage more attendance to a parish council meeting. Cllr. Ho spoke up and was adamant that NALC says no to this and it would be illegal to do so; that this is a bill going through parliament at present & until it is passed you cannot hold meetings over Zoom or Teams. Several councillors & the clerk tried to explain that what Cllr Ho was talking about was to do with **the council** having a Zoom/Teams meeting, not the members of the public to attend a parish council meeting via Zoom/Teams, or, as Cllr. Martin pointed out, via YouTube livestream. It was suggested that clarification should be sought from NALC/CALC and brought back to the next meeting. Cllr. Ho was asked if she would agree to the findings from NALC/CALC but she said no.

2526/225

Westmorland & Furness Councillor's Report – Cllr. Mary Robinson (UC) started off by saying there was a Place Action Group (PAG) meeting at the Heather Glen in Ainstable on Thursday evening. Some of the councillors said they would be attending. Cllr. Mary Robinson (UC) then discussed the bin collections or lack of them in the previous week, calling it outrageous and poor service. Some collections of blue bags were made the following day, but they were carried out by the "commercial" team rather than the "domestic" team and

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this was reflected in the lack of collections made that day. The garden waste bins were not collected at all. Cllr. Grew advised that these issues had been on going in Garrigill for several months and each time she would report the issue, but this has not improved the service. Cllr. Mary Robinson (UC) asked the Clerk to send a report on this issue, so it could be taken up at Westmorland & Furness as in the cabinet meeting last week it was claimed that 99% of the bin collections were made....which is unbelievable if these issues are happening.

There was a consultation about the parish council boundaries & numbers of councillors. It was reported in the cabinet meeting that Alston Moor Parish Council had not responded, The Clerk advised that an email response was made but no acknowledgement from Westmorland & Furness was received. A further extension to April was decided upon to provide draft recommendations as it was clear that many parish councils hadn't received any information. Cllr. Hanley talked about the housing survey carried out by the Place Action Group (PAG). The results showed that social housing & 2/3 bedroom homes were most needed.

Cllr. Grew had some questions for Cllr. Hanley, regarding extra charges for 2nd garden waste bins, as some residents in Garrigill cut the verges which are not their responsibility and it is unfair to penalise them for showing initiative for the benefit of the community. Cllr. Grew was advised to write to or email Cllr. Giles Archibald of Westmorland & Furness Council.

Nenthead Ward Meeting – Cllr. Robertson reported that 9 members of Nenthead community turned up for the AGM, which was a good turnout. Concerns were raised about grit bins having grit that was solid and unusable, The Clerk advised that this had been brought up at the last Traffic Management meeting and was being addressed. The Village Hall has now got Wifi & new floors. The Community Toilets had had some issues with burst pipes & sadly, some vandalism, & were looking into getting some CCTV installed. Nenthead Community Projects are having the Roll of Honour from the church repaired. There was praise for the snowplough & the volunteers. The defibrillator at the village shop, which is run & maintained by Nenthead, needs replacing but require funding to do this. It has been asked if Alston Moor Parish Council can help, Cllr. Monk & the Clerk will be in contact with Brian Aves regarding this. A thank you to AMERG & the Clerk for dropping off the Emergency Pack for the village hall, it was appreciated. The next meeting is in approximately 6 weeks.

- 2526/226 Westmorland & Furness Council in discussions on Council Tax increases, reducing services, parish boundaries & numbers are all included in its annual budget consultation. It is feared the most vulnerable will be hit. –**
This has been discussed in **2526/225** – parish councils will have to “step up” and that parish councils will have to take on more to reduce the shortfall, which with funding cuts will become increasingly difficult. Discussions will be ongoing as to what can be done and what needs to be done.
- 2526/227 Public footpath consultation “Wardway” –** Cllr. Bondi said that on first looking at this consultation it was misleading as to where the footpath was but then became clear that it was the path from the Wardway down to the main Penrith Road. She also enquired whether it was known if the home owners along the

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route were happy with right-of-way designation. It was clarified the residents had been contacted and were in full agreement of the proposal.

Motion: to approve the public footpath

Proposed: Cllr. Bondi Seconded: Cllr. Grew Vote: Favour - Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Hanley, Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Monk, Cllr. Edgar, Cllr. Davies, Cllr. Ho, Cllr. Best, Cllr. Martin, Cllr. Robertson. Against – None Abstain – None

Resolved: to approve the footpath

2526/228

Potato Market – Cllr. Martin provided some background information on the money from the public realm part of the Townscape Heritage Project. Westmorland & Furness Council, after 5 years of asking (Eden District Council first then Westmorland & Furness Council), have agreed for Alston Moor Partnership to keep the remaining money from the Townscape Heritage Project if it was used for heritage-related projects. Alston Moor Partnership are thinking of using some of this money on the Potato Market. Ownership of this area has never been clear; it is not being suggested that Alston Moor Parish Council take over responsibility but work alongside Alston Moor Partnership to make this area more attractive and encourage its use.

Motion: to work with AMP on the Potato Market

Proposed: Cllr. Robertson Seconded: Cllr. Monk Vote: Favour - Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Monk, Cllr. Edgar, Cllr. Best, Cllr. Robertson. Against – None Abstain – Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Martin, Cllr. Hanley, Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Davies, Cllr. Ho.

Resolved: to approve working with Alston Moor Partnership on plans for the Potato Market.

2526/229

Committees, working groups & consider any actions required

2526/229.1 Committee – Development, Governance & Personnel (DGP) – which includes staffing –

2526/229.2 Group Representatives

Alston Moor Fitness (Gym) – the Gym has had some issues with water leaks and is working closely with their suppliers to resolve this issue, along with keeping Alston Moor Parish Council up to date, as their landlord.

Alston Moor Partnership – Other than 2526/228, they are looking at ways to continue the funded community development work carried out by Sarah Stamford at present. A community directory has been produced, helping to promote local groups & businesses. This will be available online & a hard copy will be produced and distributed to every household on Alston Moor.

Alston Moor Traffic Management Group – Cllr. Hanley read out the report from the last meeting in brief, highlighting sign cleaning, gritting issues, pedestrian crossing at Fairhill, resurfacing roads, drain cleaning, The Butts, double yellow lines.

NWAS Alston Moor Working Group – No update

PAG (Place Action Group) – Next meeting is 5th February 2026.

Tyne Willows Management – No update

AMERG – Next meeting 11th February 2026

Hospital Group – No update

Tree Wardens – No update

2526/230

Double Yellow Lines for Station Road & The Butts parking issues – The need for double yellow lines on Station Road had been primarily agreed for the narrow area at the top of Station Road but it also had been suggested that additional double yellow lines (3 houses up) to be placed on the right hand side

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of the exit to Tyne Willows. This would help visibility on exiting Tyne Willows. Those residents losing their space to park their car will be offered spaces on Tyne Willows carpark. Cllr. Best stepped out of the room.

Motion: to accept & agree to the double yellow lines for Station Road.

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

Resolved: to approve the double yellow lines for Station Road.

Cllr. Best returned to the room.

The Butts was not discussed as more information is needed.

2526/231

Planning Applications & Decisions

2526/231.1 Applications received - None

2526/231.2 Decisions - None

2526/232

Finance Reports & Accounts

2526/232 1. Current Balance of the Community Account as at 31/01/2026

The Clerk reported the balance of the account was £74861.99.

2526/232 2. Consider payments for approval –

Date	Total	Description	Supplier	Inv No
30.01.2026	£400.00	Christmas Lights	Joseph Wright	
30.01.2026	£23.74	MISC	Mad Hatters Hardware	2983
30.01.2026	£152.54	MISC	Mad Hatters Hardware	2660

Motion: to approve the invoices for payment.

Proposed Cllr. Martin Seconded Cllr. Davies Vote – Favour Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Monk, Cllr. Edgar, Cllr. Best, Cllr. Robertson, Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Ho, Cllr. Martin, Cllr. Hanley, Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Davies . Against – None Abstain – None

Resolved: Clerk to pay invoices.

2526/232 3. Approve any payments required between meetings – The Clerk advised that she had only received an email from the handyperson late afternoon so was unable to circulate for approval.

Motion: to approve invoice from parish handyperson.

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

Resolved: Clerk to pay invoice.

2526/233

Note the status of assets & consider any action required

1. Discuss issues raised at working group – benches (to be voted on) Christmas trees & lights, Tyne Willows, lights, milestones, bus shelters, memorial fence.

Seats & Benches – there was a proposal for 4 benches to be purchased; 2 for garden area/annex area of Alston Town Hall, 1 x Pennine Way, 1 x Nenthead. 2 x 2 seater benches for Alston & 2 x 3 seaters for Pennine Way & Nenthead. Costs are £280 each for 2 seaters & £370 each for 3 seaters.

Motion: to approve the purchase of the benches.

Proposed Cllr. Grew Seconded Cllr. Best Vote – Favour Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Monk, Cllr. Edgar, Cllr. Best, Cllr. Robertson, Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Martin, Cllr. Hanley, Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Davies . Against – None Abstain – Cllr. Ho

Resolved: Clerk to purchase benches.

Cllr. Mary Robinson (UC) left the meeting at 20.30hrs

2526/234

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

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The Clerk advised that they had received one tender for the tree survey, but it was agreed that there should be at least 3 tenders. Clerk will contact more specialists to tender and bring to next meeting for a vote on which to accept in the "Exclusion of Press & Public" part of the meeting.

2526/235

Correspondence – Received

1. Bus Services – notification has been received from Westmorland & Furness Council saying funding has been agreed for the bus services to Hexham & to Penrith to continue from spring 2026. These will be assessed so if they're not used they may be lost.
2. Letter from the performing arts department at Samuel Kings School about an exciting opportunity for some students to perform at Disneyland Paris. Funding to help finance this has been asked from local businesses & Alston Moor Parish Council with a Just Giving page. It was felt that advice needs to be sought from CALC as to whether the council can donate. The Clerk is to seek advice and bring to the March meeting.
3. Nenthead Defibrillator, an email from Brian Aves regarding the equipment at Nenthead being discontinued and therefore new equipment must be purchased. As mentioned in 2526/225, Cllr Monk & the Clerk will liaise with Brian Aves, as the cost for a new defibrillator is around £1200.
4. Public conveniences – an email from Westmorland & Furness Council regarding funding available for community run public conveniences. This email has been forwarded to both Nenthead Community Toilets committee & Garrigill Village Hall committee.
5. Internal Audit – the internal auditor from last year has been in touch asking if Alston Moor Parish Council would be happy for them to carry out this year's internal audit. This would be at a slightly cheaper cost as they are now familiar with the accounts programme used. To be added to the agenda & voted on at the March meeting but agreed in principle.
6. Letter from Mrs. R Boylen bringing some issues to the council's attention; Low Byer footpath – Who is responsible? Alston Bus Shelters in need of attention, 2-3 kerbstones are uneven & raised outside The Angel Inn, where a lady fell & broke her femur in early January – Who is responsible? Requirement of a zebra crossing at the Fairhill Carpark entrance to Jollybeard Road End. The Clerk spoke briefly saying both the footpath & kerb stones are the Highways Department responsibility at Westmorland & Furness. The bus shelters are in progress & so is the zebra crossing, this would be explained in an email from the Clerk.
7. The Spine Race (comments made on social media) – the owner of the youth hostel was present and asked permission to speak; the Chair allowed this. Concerns were raised about the bad press the Spine Race had received on social media by a few members of the public, including one from a council member but this was on their personal account. Could Alston Moor Parish Council promote the Spine Race on their Facebook page? It was noted that the council's policy on the Facebook page was only to promote council activities & not anything else. It was asked if this could be looked at for the future.

2526/236

Items for the Next Meeting of the Parish Council

Internal Audit vote, Samuel Kings School funding, livestream for public attendance

2526/237

To consider any councillor or officer training

R mllr



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- 2526/238 None other than Cllr. Martin & the Clerk enrolling on Assertion 10 course.
Date and Time of Next Meeting – 2nd March 2026 at 7.00pm. Meeting to be held at Annex, Alston Town Hall.
- 2526/239 **Exclusion of public & press (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960)**
Resolve to close the meeting to the public at 21.03hrs
- 2526/240 **Close Exclusion of public & press Parish Council Meeting**
Meeting closed 20.13hrs
- 2526/241 **Open Fairhill Estate Charity Meeting**
- 2526/242 **Close Fairhill Estate Charity – 21.30hrs**

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

Chair Signature: R mill

Date: 23 2026

Clerk Signature: Clare Thomas

Date: 2/3/26