



ALSTON MOOR PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

The minutes of the proceedings of the **MONTHLY MEETING** of Alston Moor Parish Council held on **Tuesday 7th April 2026** at 19:00hrs in Alston Town Hall.

Present:

Councillors:

Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Monk, Cllr. Edgar, Cllr. Martin, Cllr. Hanley, Cllr. Davis, Cllr. Ho, Cllr. Green, Cllr. Crossley.

Clerk/RFO:

Claire Thomson

Members of the Public: 1 + Cllr. Mary Robinson (UC)

2526/273 To receive **apologies & consider approval of the reasons** given for absence Apologies from Cllr. Robertson, Cllr. Grew & Cllr. Best. None received for Cllr. Robinson.

2526/274 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

2526/275 **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).

2526/276 **Minutes of the Last Meetings of Alston Moor Parish Council**

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 2nd March 2026 were considered.

Motion: To authorise the chairman to sign, as a correct record, the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 2nd March 2026. Proposer: Cllr. Green, Seconder: Cllr. Davies, Vote: Favour - Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Davies, Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Hanley, Cllr. Monk, Cllr. Edgar, Cllr. Martin. Against – None Abstain – Cllr. Ho.

Resolved: to accept the minutes of the previous meeting on 2nd March 2026.

2526/277 **To consider matters arising and actions required**

2526/277 .1 Garden Waste Collections – the clerk read out the information regarding garden waste collections, when they will still be collected up to & how to apply to get the bins collected after the 1st July. Everyone was unhappy about these changes in the garden waste collections. Points raised were how ridiculous it was that if you weren't online or had a credit card you will need to get to Penrith to sort this out. How would the policing of the bins ensure no one is filling up someone else's garden waste bins? Cllr. Green suggested that those with gardens could make compost heaps so no longer needing the garden waste bins collected.

2526/277 .2 Street Lights – the clerk reported the update on the street lights being taken over by Westmorland & Furness which is now progress and they are hoping that the lights on the list will be completed by the end of April. Then they will address those lights that are needed in places and those that are no longer

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needed but it is unclear if all the lights will be replaced. They did stress that if the parish council should advise the local community that if there is a lamp near their home that hasn't worked, then it may do soon, so not to be alarmed if they have light again.

2526/277 .3 Aggregate for Garrigill, by the old school/snooker room – Cllr. Grew asked for the pot holes to be filled in, the clerk needed clarification of ownership of the piece of land. Cllr. Green confirmed that the area is not parish council land but private land and therefore the parish council cannot fill in the pot holes nor paint the outside of the snooker hall.

2526/277 .4 Livestreaming update/to be noted – Cllr. Grew has asked to have this item clarified to Cllr. Ho, as an email sent is not correct. The clerk read out the statement from Cllr. Grew regarding this then read out the email Cllr. Ho had sent. The clerk reiterated what CALC & NALC had replied regarding this. Livestreaming is a long way off being available as the acoustics of the Annex needs improving but this will be costly.

It was suggested that a working group was formed, Cllr. Monk, Cllr. Martin & Cllr. Hanley all wished to be in the working group along with the clerk, as there is a great deal of work to be done to enable local people to see and hear council meetings from their own homes. Cllr. Robinson (UC) said there is potential that the Place Action Group would be interested in following the progress of this.

*Motion: to form a working group Proposed: Cllr. Martin Seconded: Cllr. Hanley
Vote: Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Martin, Cllr. Hanley, Cllr. Monk, Cllr. Green,
Cllr. Crossley, Cllr. Edgar, Cllr. Davies. Against: None Abstain: Cllr. Ho.*

Resolved: to form a working group.

Cllr. Martin asked if there could be an agenda item added to the next meeting about what information goes on Facebook & the website.

2526/278

Public Participation (Timed item 15 minutes) – no participation

2526/279

To note councillor vacancies & review any co-option candidates

One vacancy at Nenthead - no candidates received

2526/280

Chair's Report – the Chair wanted to thank the councillors for their support over the past 12 months.

2526/281

AGAR progress, agree & sign forms ready for internal audit on 27th April.

Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2025/2026 – Clerk took time to verbally explain this in the meeting by talking through each statement, confirming each response, either YES or NO, ensuring that all Cllrs. understood the statement, thus allowing all councillors to raise any queries or issues they had before voting.

Motion: to agree that correct procedures for accounting statements have been done up to year ended 31st March 2026 and approve the Chair to sign the statement and records this in the minutes.

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

Resolved: Chair to sign & date Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2025/2026

Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2025/2026 – The Clerk took time to verbally explain this in the meeting by talking through each section, ensuring that all Cllrs. fully understood the statement, allowing everyone to raise any queries or issues they had before voting.

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Motion: to agree and approve the accounting statements to allow the Chair to sign the statement and records this in the minutes.

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

Resolved: Chair to sign & date Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2025/2026

The clerk had circulated something that the internal auditor had suggested last year to have in place for internal controls. This document clearly demonstrates that Alston Moor Parish Council are entirely compliant with the law. Cllr. Edgar wanted it recorded in the minutes that everything has been done correctly and above the law and everything is lawful since a select few within the community say different.

Motion: To accept the document for internal controls, it to be placed on the website and all confirmed that the finances are all done above the law.

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

Resolved: to confirm that the finances are all done according to the law. Contacting the Police Commissioner & Monitoring Officer at Westmorland & Furness Council as a collective council after recent & prolonged “attacks” on AMPC & its representatives.

2526/282

Cllr. Monk spoke, presenting the following information on behalf of the parish council and not as a personal opinion.

As you are all aware, the Parish Council has been subjected to ongoing online accusations and illegal activities. Despite the Council's numerous reports to the police and Monitoring Officer, the accusations persist, and one Councillor, in particular, is continually being personally attacked, causing significant distress. These relentless attacks have undermined the Parish Council's reputation and eroded confidence in how we manage our affairs. Council members have sought professional advice to gather all evidence and present it in a formal letter to the Cumbria Police and the Monitoring Officer of the Unitary Council, requesting an urgent review of the facts and the harm these accusations have caused both the individual Councillor and the Parish Council. All Councillors received a copy of the letter for your comments, and a copy of a statement that will go to the press and on the Parish Council website. Cllr. Monk requesting the members of this Council today to support this action, as it is crucial that we assure residents that this Parish Council has, and always has, adhered to all necessary policies and procedures in accordance with our Standing Orders and in line with the National Association of Local Councils. As the letter and statement are of a sensitive nature and disclosures, if any member of the council has any genuine concern regarding the content of these items, please inform the chair and this will continue in a private session at the end of the meeting. – **No Cllrs. came forward to the Chair.**

Motion: to propose a resolution for approval of the letter, for the Clerk to forward the letter you have all seen to be sent to the Police and Monitoring Officer, with a view for further action to be taken. **Proposed:** Cllr. Bondi **Seconded:** Cllr. Monk **Vote:** Favour – Cllr. Monk, Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Davies, Cllr. Hanley, Cllr. Crossley, Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Edgar, Cllr. Green. **Against – Cllr. Ho Abstain – Cllr. Martin.**

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Resolution: to approve the letter, the clerk to forward it to the Police & Monitoring Officer.

Motion: to publish the statement to the website and submit to the press for publication. Proposed: Cllr. Monk Seconded: Cllr. Green Vote: Favour - Cllr. Monk, Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Davies, Cllr. Hanley, Cllr. Crossley, Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Edgar, Cllr. Green. Against - Cllr. Ho Abstain - Cllr. Martin.

Resolution: to publish the statement on the website & submit to the press for publication.

Motion: to allow the clerk to respond to the police, if required, in a timely manner. Proposed: Cllr. Monk Seconded: Cllr. Miller Vote: Favour - Cllr. Monk, Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Davies, Cllr. Hanley, Cllr. Crossley, Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Edgar, Cllr. Martin, Cllr. Green. Against - Cllr. Ho Abstain - None.

Resolved: to allow the clerk to respond to the police, if required, in a timely manner.

2526/283

Defibrillator at Nenthead – The clerk corrected the agenda item, as the defibrillator had been purchased using the councils credit card and therefore no pro forma invoice needed approval. The clerk pointed out that she had managed to get the defibrillator cheaper than quoted, hence the purchase with the credit card. The defibrillator will be delivered this week and installed into Nenthead once registered on The Circuit.

2526/284

Westmorland & Furness Councillor's Report – Cllr. Hanley gave verbal reports on social care, safeguarding for children, the changes to refuse & recycling organisation purchasing new vehicles & more staff, hopefully to provide more reliable collections. The collections for both recycling and waste will change to fortnightly, rather than waste collected weekly as it is now. Clear issues with the plans to distribute wheelie bins, no places to store them, blocking pavements & not being able to get them to the roadside for collection. Cllr. Robinson (UC) had nothing to report.

Nenthead Ward Report – Cllr. Crossley reported that at the meeting last Monday everything seemed to be going well. The AGM of The Hive is on 21st April. The village shop has a GoFundMe page as it is struggling with increasing costs & requires a new door. Cllr. Robinson (UC) suggested that they get in contact with her regarding possible grants from Westmorland & Furness Council. It was brought up that the police "drop in" sessions are only advertised on the day they are happening and not private enough as they are conducted in the shop. It was felt that people may be more open & forthcoming if a private space was available for these sessions. It was noted that the private space was lacking for those sessions held in Alston Library too. Local residents have been approached about having "digs" in their gardens looking for artifacts.

2526/285

Westmorland & Furness Council draft recommendation regarding a reduction in parish councillor numbers for Alston Moor.

In discussion there were three points to stress in the response to Westmorland & Furness Council, Alston Moor Parish Council cover a large area with three separate wards and therefore require adequate numbers of councillors for each ward. In comparison to other parishes on the fellsides, Alston Moor's population justifies the requirement of 15 councillors. Given the vast reduction in national

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funding for Westmorland & Furness Council impacting on the services it provides, local parishes will need to do more, for which additional volunteer councillors will be required. The clerk to send a response before the closing date.

2526/286

Samuel Kings request for sponsorship/donation – After the advice given by CALC, the Clerk confirmed a formal written application, confirming how many students are within the parish, to specify what the award will be towards had been received. The agreed donation amount will be made under S137 rules.

2526/287

Small Community Grants received –

Alston Heritage – Cllr. Edgar declared an interest.

Although the application was completed in full, the council objected to what they were wanting to do as it was vague and the council would like more information.

Motion: The council wish to support their venture but cannot accept it as it stands. Proposed: Cllr. Miller Seconded: Cllr. Davies Vote: Favour – Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Davies, Cllr. Monk, Cllr. Green, Cllr. Martin, Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Crossley Against - Cllr. Hanley Abstain – Cllr. Ho, Cllr. Edgar

Resolved: to not support the application as it stands.

Alston Bowls – Cllr. Miller declared an interest.

The council were fully on board to support this local community group.

Motion: to accept the application and award the grant. Proposed: Cllr. Green Seconded: Cllr. Davies Vote: Favour – Cllr. Monk, Cllr. Green, Cllr. Martin, Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Davies, Cllr. Crossley, Cllr. Ho, Cllr. Edgar, Cllr. Hanley. Against: None Abstain: Cllr. Miller

Resolved: to award the grant to Alston Bowls.

Nenthead Community Shop – The council want to fully support this as it is vital for the Nenthead community.

Motion: to accept the application and award the grant. Proposed: Cllr. Martin Seconded: Cllr. Miller Vote: Favour – Cllr. Monk, Cllr. Davies, Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Martin, Cllr. Ho, Cllr. Crossley, Cllr. Hanley, Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Edgar, Cllr. Green. Against – None Abstain – None.

Resolved: to award the grant to Nenthead Community Shop.

Christians on the Moor – this was discussed and there were several issues that prevent the council from supporting the application.

Motion: The council not to support this application. Proposed: Cllr. Miller Seconded: Cllr. Monk Vote: Favour - Cllr. Monk Cllr. Davies, Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Martin, Cllr. Ho, Cllr. Crossley, Cllr. Hanley, Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Edgar, Cllr. Green. Against – None Abstain – None.

Resolved: not to support the application.

2526/288

Committees, working groups & consider any actions required

2526/288.1 Committee – Development, Governance & Personnel (DGP) – which includes staffing –

2526/288.2 Group Representatives

Alston Moor Fitness (Gym) - None.

Alston Moor Partnership – Alston Moor Partnership Directory has been distributed to all homes & is also available in several local outlets.

Alston Moor Traffic Management Group – None.

NWAS Alston Moor Working Group – **to be removed from the list**

PAG (Place Action Group) – None.

Tyne Willows Management – None

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AMERG – due to getting a good reputation it has attracted interest from other groups, one being Lancaster who have asked for guidance. Cllr. Miller asked if Dan Hall been in contact about a log bank? Cllr. Martin replied, no.

Hospital Group – None.

Tree Wardens – None.

2526/289

Planning Applications & Decisions

2526/289.1 Applications received –

2026/0214/FPA Old Methodist Chapel, Garrigill - discussed the application and a suggestion to add a "no comment" as Cllr. Green said this has already been done. *Motion: to provide a no comment. Proposed: Cllr. Davies Seconded: Cllr. Green Vote: Favour - Cllr. Monk Cllr. Davies, Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Martin, Cllr. Ho, Cllr. Crossley, Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Edgar, Cllr. Green . Against – None Abstain – Cllr. Hanley*

Resolved: to give a no comment response.

2026/0440/HOU 5 Clitheroe Alston – discussed the application & accept it. *Motion: to approve the application. Proposed: Cllr. Green Seconded: Cllr. Miller Vote: Favour - Cllr. Monk Cllr. Davies, Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Martin, Cllr. Ho, Cllr. Crossley, Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Edgar, Cllr. Green. Against – None Abstain – Cllr. Hanley.*

Resolved: to approve the application

2026/0441/FPA Land west of Hartside Nursery Alston – discussed in depth, a lot of different opinions from cllrs but the overall benefit to Alston Moor outweighs any other matters.

Motion: to approve the application. Proposed: Cllr. Bondi Seconded: Cllr. Green Vote: Favour - Cllr. Monk Cllr. Davies, Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Martin, Cllr. Ho, Cllr. Crossley, Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Edgar, Cllr. Green. Against – None Abstain – Cllr. Hanley.

Resolved: to approve the application

2026/0457/HOU Steel House Alston – discussed the application and to approve the application. *Proposed: Cllr. Miller Seconded: Cllr. Davies Vote Favour - Cllr. Monk Cllr. Davies, Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Martin, Cllr. Ho, Cllr. Crossley, Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Edgar, Cllr. Green. Against – None Abstain – Cllr. Hanley.*

Resolved: to approve the application

2526/290

Finance Reports & Accounts

2526/290 1. Current Balance of the Community Account as at 31/03/2026

The Clerk reported the balance of the account was £ 77345.37.

2526/290 2. Consider payments for approval –

Date	Total	Description	Supplier	Inv No
09.03.2026	£0.01	Garrigill Green	Catholic Trust	152982
31.03.2026	£500.00	Mill Race Maintenance	Kyle Liverick	
23.03.2026	£14.15	Misc	Mad Hatters	3023
31.03.2026	£18.12	Bins	FCC Waste	P68525
01.03.2026	£818.02	Hire room	Alston Town Hall	ATH2704
01.04.2026	£720.00	Grass cutting	Procut Grounds	4037
April.2026	£443.08	CALC/NALC subs	CALC	

Cllr. Robinson (UC) left the meeting.

Clerk advised an invoice came from Rural Services late this afternoon for £66.16. To be approved also.

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Motion: to approve the invoices for payment.

Proposed Cllr. Miller Seconded Cllr. Davies Vote – Favour Cllr. Monk Cllr. Davies, Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Martin, Cllr. Hanley, Cllr. Ho, Cllr. Crossley, Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Edgar, Cllr. Green. Against – None Abstain –None.

Resolved: Clerk to pay invoices.

2526/262 3. Approve any payments required between meetings – The Clerk had nothing.

Cllr. Ho asked for the bank balances to be sent as she did not have it. Other councillors confirmed that it had been sent to all councillors earlier that afternoon, but the clerk resent it to Cllr. Ho at this point in the meeting so she would have this when she got home.

2526/291

Note the status of assets & consider any action required

1. Meeting of working group held on 4th March –Tyne Willows – discussed & brought to the council - the possibility of making the left side of the carpark between the houses on Station Road to the Gym more secure, preventing vehicles from entering the field. Suggested that a fence be erected, Councillors decided that 3 tenders would need to be sought for this. Planning would need to be contacted as well as Fields in Trust to ensure this is acceptable. Then suggestion from a councillor that siting stone blocks matching the other side of the Gym may be more suitable. This was agreed that the stone blocks was a more suitable option & to contact Alston Natural Stone for this to be done.

Motion: to approve adding more large stones to the left of the gym on Tyne Willows carpark to make the playing fields more secure.

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

Resolved: to add more large stones, contact Alston Natural Stone

2526/292

Note status of Open Spaces/ Trees & consider any action – None

2526/293

Correspondence – Received

1. Update regarding "old ash tip", email has been received from the Senior Enforcement Officer regarding this. All information has been passed on to them.
2. Email received from Nenthead Community Toilets asking if they have been allocated any money from the precept. Clerk advised it may be misleading to provide any information as until confirmation is received from Westmorland & Furness Council, the council can not confirm anything.
3. Letter received from a member of the community asking if something can be done about the "shelters" around the Potato Market. Asking if they can give the wood a lick of paint. The clerk to advise that this cannot be done without permission from the owner and please do not do it without authorisation.

2526/294

Items for the Next Meeting of the Parish Council

Define what to go on website & Facebook page

2526/295

To consider any councillor or officer training

2526/296

Date and Time of Next Meeting – Annual Parish Council Meeting & Monthly Parish Council Meeting 5th May 2026 at TBC

R Miller



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- 2526/297 Exclusion of public & press (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960)
Resolve to close the meeting to the public.
- 2526/298 Close Parish Council Meeting (& Exclusion of public & press)
Meeting closed 21.29hrs
Cllr. Ho left meeting 21.30hrs
- 2526/299 Open Fairhill Estate Charity Meeting

2526/300 Close Fairhill Estate Charity – 21.44hrs

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

Chair Signature: R mella

Date: 5 5 26

Clerk Signature: Clare Thomas

Date: 5.5.26