



## ALSTON MOOR ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

The minutes of the proceedings of the **ANNUAL MEETING** of Alston Moor Parish Council (AMPC) followed by the **MONTHLY MEETING** held on **Tuesday 5th May** at 19:00hrs in the Garrigill Village Hall.

### Present:

#### Councillors:

Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Martin, Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Robertson, Cllr. Monk, Cllr. Robinson, Cllr. Crossley.  
Cllr. Ho (arrived 19.07hrs), Cllr. Edgar (arrived 19.04hrs).

#### Clerk/RFO:

Claire Thomson

#### Also in attendance:

#### Members of the Public: 2

- 2627/1 To consider appointment of Chairperson for 2026-2027**  
Cllr. Robertson proposed Cllr. Miller to continue as Chair for 2026-2027, Cllr. Robinson seconded the proposal.  
*Vote: All in Favour (All those present at the time)*  
**Resolved: Cllr. Miller accepted post of Chairperson.**
- 2627/2 To receive Chairpersons declaration of acceptance of office**  
**Resolved:** Raymond Miller signed the declaration of acceptance
- 2627/3 To consider appointment of Vice-Chair for 2026-2027**  
Cllr. Bondi proposed Cllr. Martin, Cllr. Monk seconded the proposal.  
*Vote: All in Favour (All those present at the time)*  
**Resolved: Cllr. Martin accepted post of Vice-Chair & signed declaration of acceptance.**
- 2627/4 To receive Apologies for Absence & consider for approval of the reasons.**  
Cllr. Davies, Cllr. Best, Cllr. Hanley. Cllr. Mary Robinson (UC)
- 2627/5 To Consider Committees, working groups & any actions required.**
- i. Committee**  
Development, Governance & Personnel (DGP) – which includes staffing  
**Resolved** all Councillors are committee members – R.Miller, A.Martin, A.Bondi, B.Davies, A.Green, H.Ho, P.Best, E.Edgar, E.Grew, D.Monk, A.Roberston, R.Robinson, J.Crossley.
  - ii. Group Representatives**  
AMERG (Alston Moor Emergency Response) as representatives: E.Edgar, A.Martin, M.Hanley, E.Grew (+ representative from Nenthead)  
Alston Moor Fitness – as representatives: P.Best, B.Davies, R.Miller  
Alston Moor Partnership – as representatives: B.Davies (not present tbc)  
Alston Moor Traffic Management – as representatives: R.Miller, E.Edgar, E.Grew, A.Martin, M.Hanley (+ representative from Nenthead)  
Tree Wardens - as representatives: R.Robertson, B.Davies, Handyperson (B.Hopper)  
Tyne Willows Management – as representatives: P.Best, A.Robertson  
Alston Moor Health Group – as representatives: E.Grew, A.Bondi, D.Monk, A.Martin, M.Hanley (+3 members of the public)

*Ruth*



## ALSTON MOOR ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

Place Action Group (PAG) – as representatives: M.Hanley, A.Bondi, A.Martin, E.Grew

*Motion: To accept all*

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

**Resolved – all representatives agreed for both DGP & group representatives**

**2627/6 To consider Adaption, Review or Updating of Policies**

All policies were reviewed late 2025, early 2026 therefore no action was required at this time other than ensuring all up to date policies are on the website. The clerk is to check all policies are up to date by the end of May 2026.

**2627/7 To review council insurance**

The clerk advised that there had been no invitation for renewal as yet, it will be received later on in May & will be discussed/approved in June's meeting.

**2627/8 To approve meeting dates for 2026/2027**

5th May 26, 1st June 26, 6th July 26, 3rd August 26, 7th September 26, 5th October 26, 2nd November 26, 7th December 26, 5th January 27 (Tuesday), 11th January (Precept) 1st February 27, 1st March 27, 5th April 27, 19th April 27 (Annual Parish Meeting)

*Motion: To approve dates*

*Proposed: Cllr. Miller Seconded: Cllr. Bondi*

*Vote: All in Favour.*

**Resolved: to accept dates for meetings.**

### Commencement of ordinary business of the council

**2627/9 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 S**

**2627/10 Declarations of interest & requests for Dispensation**

1. To receive declarations of interest for agenda items – None  
To receive dispensation – 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).

**2627/11 Minutes of the Last Meeting of Alston Moor Parish Council**

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 7th April 2026 were considered.

*Motion: To authorise the chairman to sign, as a correct record, the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 7th April 2026. Proposer: Cllr. Robinson, Seconder: Cllr. Monk, Vote: Favour – Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Robinson, Cllr. Monk, Cllr. Crossley, Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Martin, Cllr. Edgar. Against – None Abstention – Cllr. Ho, Cllr. Robertson, Cllr. Grew.*

**Resolves: to accept the minutes of the previous meeting**

**Chair brought the public participation (2627/14) & planning (2627/22) forward to this point in the meeting.**

*R Miller*



## ALSTON MOOR ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

### 2627/14 **Public Participation (Timed item 15 minutes)**

Danny Taylor spoke about his planning application & was happy to answer any questions that arose from the councillors.

### 2627/22 **Planning Applications & Decisions**

**2627/22.1 Applications received Haggis Bank Bunkhouse Nentsberry** – re-consultation. The council were extremely bemused as to why this application was still ongoing, explanations from Danny referenced failures in the planning department to address this in a timely matter. The council unanimously agreed to support this application.

*Motion: to fully support the application*

*Proposer: Cllr. Robertson Seconder: Cllr. Martin Vote: Favour - Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Crossley, Cllr. Robertson, Cllr. Monk, Cllr. Edgar, Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Robinson, Cllr. Ho, Cllr. Martin. Against – None Abstain – None.*

**Resolved: to fully support the application**

### **2026/0364 Land off Park View Lane Alston**

New information on the drainage had been received.

*Motion: to approve application in light of new evidence*

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

**Resolved: to approve application.**

### **2024/0788/LBC Bridge End House Garrigill**

Part retrospective listed building consent for the improvements inside & out.

*Motion: to approve application with some requests that Buildings Control visit the site regularly to ensure works are carried out as they should be & request the conservation officer to visit the site*

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

**Resolved: to approve application with some requests that Buildings Control visit the site regularly to ensure works are carried out as they should be & request the conservation officer to visit the site.**

### 2627/12 **To consider matters arising & actions required.**

- Alston Moor Community Development Officer – discussed in depth on how this role could be continued after the funding from Royal Countryside Fund comes to an end in June 2026. Much of the council felt that the role, if possible, should be continued although finding a way needs more thought and advice & guidance from CALC & Westmorland & Furness HR; the clerk is to obtain this information. Alston Town Hall was also suggested as to engage in this & a meeting is to be arranged as soon as possible for this to be explored.

*Motion: to obtain advice to assist in any decisions made, giving the council more time to discuss the CDO further. The council suggests Alston Town Hall may want to engage with this.*

*Proposed: Cllr. Edgar Seconded; Cllr. Robertson Vote: Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Crossley, Cllr. Robertson, Cllr. Monk, Cllr. Edgar, Cllr. Robinson, Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Martin. Against – None Abstain – Cllr. Ho.*

**Resolved: to get more information to help make an informed decision, to organise a town hall meeting asap at the end of this meeting.**

*R. A. H.*



## ALSTON MOOR ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

- Live streaming group – Cllr. Grew wanted to add herself to the working group once it was formed, if she was not present at that time.

2627/13

**To note councillor vacancies & review any co-option candidates**

2 applications were received but 1 withdrew as the other was a member of the Nenthead community. The application has been circulated to all councillors, and they will attend the June meeting for introductions and voting.

An error on the agenda – item 2627/15 is also the same as 2627/13

2627/16

**Chair's Report** - The Chair had no report

2627/17

**AGAR progress** – the clerk reported that the internal auditor had been in contact to advise that section 1 & section 2 had been signed too early. The correct procedure is to have the internal audit first, so therefore the forms require re-signed. Cllr. Ho confirmed that this was the correct process to be done.

**To agree & sign forms after internal audit which was completed on 27<sup>th</sup> April.**

**Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2025/2026** – The Clerk had reprinted out Section 1 to be agreed & signed, with no changes.

***Motion:** to agree that correct procedures for accounting statements have been done up to year ended 31<sup>st</sup> 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. Monk, Cllr. Edgar, Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Martin, Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Crossley, Cllr. Robertson, Cllr. Robinson, Cllr. Ho. Against – None Abstain – None.*

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

**Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2025/2026** – The Clerk had reprinted out Section 2 to be agreed & signed, with no changes.

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

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

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

**AGAR – Notice of Public Rights & Publication of Unaudited Annual Governance & Accountability Return**

– The Clerk was pleased to say that the dates to approve were the standard dates of Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June, Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June to Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2026.

***Motion:** to agree the public notice dates*

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

**Resolved: The Clerk to put up notice on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2026.**

2627/18

**Grisedale Croft – update/actions required**

Cllr. Martin updated the council on the progress so far, Westmorland & Furness Councillor Pat Bell, the cabinet councillor has agreed to an informal chat with Cllr. Martin. Cllr. Martin would like the Clerk to be there if possible. Cllr. Martin discussed that the W&FC Annual Plan clearly states that “their intention is to keep

*R. Miller*



## ALSTON MOOR ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

people close to home", which in Alston's case has sadly not happened. As W&FC are considering closing Grisedale Croft and this is intending to go out to consultation, this would go against W&FC's Annual Plan. It has also become clear that consideration of the Ruth Lancaster James Hospital in Alston must be in their future plans. Cllr. Martin has made a website for the working group as well as the community to keep updated with progress on this. Cllr. Martin asked if this could be noted on the parish council website, it was suggested as a "pin" on the opening page would be the most suitable.

2627/19

### **Council to receive Reports (if any)**

**Westmorland & Furness District Councillors' Report** – neither representative was present at the meeting. Only written reports have been circulated to all councillors & placed on the website.

**Nenthead Ward Meeting** – Cllr. Crossley advised there had been no further meetings, but it had been noted that several trees are suffering from ash die-back. These trees are the responsibility of highways at W&FC and therefore need reporting to them.

2627/20

### **To Consider Committees, working groups & any actions required.**

#### **i. Committee**

Development, Governance & Personnel (DGP)

#### **ii. Group Representatives**

AMERG

Alston Moor Fitness

Alston Moor Partnership

Alston Moor Traffic Management Group – meeting moved to 15<sup>th</sup> May 10.30am in the Annex at Alston Town Hall

Tree Wardens

Tyne Willows Management

Alston & Fellside Place Action Group

Alston Health Group – just what has been said in 2627/18

2627/21

**Website & Facebook** – It was discussed what should be put on the parish councils website & Facebook pages. Suggested that it should only be relevant to the parish council and not advertising for houses to rent, like Eden Housing asking the parish council to advertise for them. Links can be added to their individual pages/sites.

*Motion: to only have items advertised that are relevant to parish council business but able to add links to other websites/pages.*

*Proposed: Cllr. Bondi Seconded: Cllr. Grew Vote: Favour - Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Martin, Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Edgar, Cllr. Robinson, Cllr. Robertson, Cllr. Monk, Cllr. Crossley. Against: None. Abstain: Cllr. Ho.*

**Resolved: to only have items relevant to parish council but provide links to other websites/pages.**

2627/23

### **Finance Reports & Accounts**

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

#### **2627/23 1. Current Balance of the Community Account as at 30/04/2026**

£62923.65

#### **2627/23 2. Consider payments for approval**

| Date       | Order No | Total   | Description | Supplier                     |
|------------|----------|---------|-------------|------------------------------|
| 04.05.2026 | 431      | £14.50  | bins        | FCC Waste Management Limited |
| 04.05.2026 | 430      | £684.26 | Maintenance | Jewson Hexham                |



## ALSTON MOOR ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

04.05.2026 429

£175.00 Audit

CheckMate Independent Internal Auditor

Motion: to approve payments and precept payments.

*Proposed: Cllr. Miller Seconded: Cllr. Bondi Vote: Favour - Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Robertson, Cllr. Crossley, Cllr. Monk, Cllr. Edgar, Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Robinson, Cllr. Martin. Against - None Abstain - Cllr. Ho.*

**Resolved: to approve payments**

### **2627/23 3. Approve any payments required between meetings**

Clerk advised that she was still waiting for the handyperson's invoice to come in.

*Motion: to approve handypersons invoice for payment.*

*Proposed: Cllr. Miller Seconded: Cllr. Monk Vote: Favour - Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Robertson, Cllr. Crossley, Cllr. Monk, Cllr. Edgar, Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Robinson, Cllr. Martin. Against - None Abstain - Cllr. Ho.*

**Resolved: to pay invoice once received.**

**2627/24**

### **Note the status of assets & consider any action required**

**Tyne Willows Playing Field** –Appleby Fair is 4<sup>th</sup> June, Cllr. Miller has had details from the relevant authorities on its plans. The toilets are arriving on Tyne Willows on 26<sup>th</sup> May & being removed on 12<sup>th</sup> June. Travellers can access Melmerby Green from 1<sup>st</sup> June so Alston may get an influx of travellers staying, leading up to this date. Suggested to allow them to go on a section of Tyne Willows, using a temporary fence to try and deter them spreading over the whole field & having camp fires on the new tarmac, as it will destroy it. Opening the gate will stop them breaking the padlocks as they did on several occasions last year. To help reduce the inconvenience to gym members and the community who use the playing fields, recycling centre and the carpark, allowing the travellers on the field may help this situation. Alston Natural Stone have been asked to place some large stones/boulders on the left hand side of the gym to prevent vehicles accessing the playing field, as they did when the trees were felled, again this is also to be in place before the travellers arrive. The cost is being negotiated and will be circulated once received, first quote was over £3000 but a more acceptable cost would under £3000. Cllr. Miller said we as a parish council can only try to see if this helps, it is better than just letting them do what they want. A tender for a temporary fence will be advertised to get the fence in place before they arrive. The cost needs to be reasonable & allowing the clerk to agree the price. Any tenders received will be circulated to all councillors for any feedback.

*Motion: To go ahead in principle, accept price for boulders if under £3000 but circulate to all councillors. Get the best quote for the fence & circulate to all councillors.*

*Proposed: Cllr. Edgar Seconded: Cllr. Robertson Vote: Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Crossley, Cllr. Robertson, Cllr. Monk, Cllr. Edgar, Cllr. Ho, Cllr. Robinson, Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Martin. Against - None Abstain - None.*

**Resolved: to go ahead in principle due to time restraints.**

**2627/25**

**Note status of Open Spaces/ Trees & consider any action** – Nothing to report  
**Benches** – Bench already agreed to be purchased, to be sited in Nenthead in the "Eye" right next to the recycling centre. Contact the Highways Team at Westmorland & Furness Council for permission & ask for ownership of damaged/broken bench further down from that section.

**2627/26**

### **Correspondence – Received**

- 1. Question raised about the grass cutting on Tyne Willows** – asked if the grass can be cut nearer the walls. The Clerk to contact the contractor.

*R Miller*



## ALSTON MOOR ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

2. **Speeding & permission for traffic mirror** – the Clerk received an email regarding the speeds of vehicles on the Nenthead Road from the changes from 40mph to 60mph (Crook Bank) to past the cemetery when it changes to 30mph, past their house. Asking if parish council happy to contact Highways to address the problem. This will be brought up at the traffic management meeting next week. Also asking for email or telephone number for Weardale estate so can ask permission for a traffic mirror, Clerk to ask Ian Grey as he may have the contact for Weardale Estate. Cllr. Bondi mentioned that some red squirrels have been run over on the same stretch of road, can it be requested that some signage is put up warning drivers and maybe better being a continuous 40mph to the 30mph section rather than as it is at present.

**2627/27 Items for the Next Meeting of the Parish Council**

Health Campaign, Community Development Officer, update on travellers.

**2627/28 To consider any councillor or officer training**

Cllr. Monk mentioned a HR training & will send the Clerk the details once found.

**2627/29 Date and Time of Next Meeting**

The next **PARISH COUNCIL** meeting to be held on Monday 1st June 2026 at 7.00pm. Meeting to be held Garrigill Village Hall.

Cllr. Robinson asked to speak to the council, the chair allowed this.

Cllr. Robinson read out a letter of resignation along with reasons.

The council were very sad to hear this news but accepted the letter of resignation along with the return of the AMPC iPad.

**2627/30 Exclusion of public & press (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960)**  
**Resolve to close the meeting at 21.00 hrs.**

• **Staffing –**

**2627/31 To close Parish Council Meeting - 21.05hrs**

**2627/32 Open Fairhill Charity Meeting**

**2627/33 Closed Fairhill Charity Meeting – closed at 21.08hrs**

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

Chair Signature:

R Miller

Date:

1.6.2026

Clerk Signature:

Clare Thomas

Date:

1.6.2026