



ALSTON MOOR PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

The minutes of the proceedings of the **MONTHLY MEETING** of Alston Moor Parish Council (AMPC) held on **Monday 1st June** at 19:00hrs in the Garrigill Village Hall.

Present:

Councillors: Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Martin, Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Hanley, Cllr. Monk, Cllr. Robertson, Cllr. Edgar, Cllr. Davis, Cllr. Crossley.
Clerk/RFO: Claire Thomson
Also in attendance: Cllr. Mary Robinson (UC)
Members of the Public: 3

- 2627/34 To receive Apologies for Absence & consider for approval of the reasons.**
Cllr. Green, Cllr. Best, Cllr. Ho.
- 2627/35 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**
- 2627/36 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).
- 2627/37 Minutes of the Last Meeting of Alston Moor Parish Council**
The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 5th May 2026 were considered.
Motion: To authorise the chairman to sign, as a correct record, the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 5th May 2026. Proposer: Cllr. Robertson, Seconder: Cllr. Bondi, Vote: Favour - Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Martin, Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Monk, Cllr. Robertson, Cllr. Edgar, Cllr. Davis, Cllr. Crossley. Against - None Abstention – Cllr. Hanley.
Resolves: to accept the minutes of the previous meeting
- 2627/38 To consider matters arising & actions required.**
The Clerk asked that everyone had received the insurance documents that were only sent over late this afternoon from the insurance provider. Clerk requested that anything to change or question then please email her by the end of this week. Otherwise, the insurance will be accepted as it is and the invoice will be to approve at the next meeting in July.
- 2627/39 To note councillor vacancies & review any co-option candidates**
1 application has been received – Andy Reay. Andy gave a brief introduction to who he is and what he can add to the parish council.
***Motion:** to co-opt Andy Reay onto Alston Moor Parish Council
Proposed: Cllr. Miller Seconded: Cllr. Crossley Vote: Favour: Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Martin, Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Hanley, Cllr. Monk, Cllr. Robertson, Cllr. Edgar, Cllr. Davis, Cllr. Crossley. Against: None Abstain: None.*
Resolved: Andy Reay welcomed to the parish council, signed the declaration of acceptance of office & joined the parish council for the rest of the meeting.
The Clerk provided all other documents for Cllr. Reay to sign.
- 2627/40 Public Participation (Timed item 15 minutes)**
Tim Haldon addressed the council regarding the community photograph that was taking place on Tuesday 2nd June, asking all who could to attend.

Rnll



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2627/41 Forms to be signed by co-option candidate.

As stated in 2627/39, Declaration of Acceptance of office was signed, Dispensation Request form was signed to allow voting on Alston Town Hall. Other forms were given to be completed and returned to the Clerk within 28 days.

2627/42 Chair's Report - The Chair welcomed Andy to the parish council.

2627/43 AGAR progress – All documents have been submitted to the external auditor Moore. An email had been received asking for more detail on some items submitted which had been duly done by the Clerk.

AGAR – Notice of Public Rights & Publication of Unaudited Annual Governance & Accountability Return will be placed on the notice board for public view on 2nd June 2026.

2627/44 Policies – 17 policies had been sent to councillors, many of which had not been changed and only reviewed. It was felt that not enough time had been given for them to be read through so this is to be added to the next council meeting for adoption of policies. Cllr. Grew thanks Cllr. Monk for looking at all the policies & amending & updating them. Also to thank Cllr. Martin for putting them all on the website ensuring we are all up to date. All councillors agreed.

2627/45 Discuss if appropriate for parish council to speak to planning department (second time on agenda) Again the resident affected failed to turn up to the meeting therefore Cllr. Grew said that this was no longer to be discussed or be put on the agenda if the local resident hadn't turned up again.

2627/46 Grisedale Croft – update/actions required

Cllr. Martin updated the council on the progress so far, the title of the group has been changed to "**Alston Moor Health**" as it has become very clear that there are connections between Grisedale Croft, the withdrawal of the hospital beds & lack of wraparound services. The consultation has failed to carry out the correct requirements such as a proper Equality Impact Assessment, costs not available which form part of the "Gunning principles". The previous "promises" were never followed through on, which has meant that no proper pathways for referral of Alston Moor residents from hospital to Grisedale Croft have happened. Some of the working group met with Cllr. Pat Bell (W&FC) & Nikkie Phipps Assistant Director of Adult Social Care (the officer in charge of the consultation), information was given that funding had already been agreed to purchase another building, but no figures were provided, nor was any site. Cllr. Hanley as a W&F councillor had been told last October that W&FC were looking at somewhere else for the care home. This appears to suggest that the push for the "preferred option" on the consultation paper makes the consultation null & void as it has been predetermined. Cllr. Martin advised the website made for this "alstonmoorhealth.org" is available for everyone to look at the progress of the campaign, please look at it. It was discussed about the expenses incurred by the working group & whether these can be refunded. There were discussions on whether this needed to go to tender, but as no one individual is being paid & it is purely expenses, it was clear that this was not necessary. Cllr. Miller queried whether the website should have been put out for tender before going ahead, discussions that the website for the Alston Health Group was needed for the parish council working group to carry out the work for the parish council, it did not need to go out to tender for making the website for the working group as it was needed for the parish council working group. Input & guidance from Cllr. Mary



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Robinson (UC) also confirmed this was expenses incurred for the parish council working group to carry out its work and this was then put forward as a motion.

Motion: to refund expenses incurred (£90 per month for the AI plus the land registry costs incurred so far) by the working group & any future expenses.

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

Resolved: to refund expenses incurred (£90 per month for the AI plus the land registry costs incurred so far) & pay future expenses that arise.

2627/47

Council to receive Reports (if any)

Westmorland & Furness District Councillors' Report – Cllr. Hanley spoke about meeting the new CEO of W&FC, Miranda Cannon. She confirmed to him that Grisedale Croft Care consultation was part of the council's efforts to save £40million, given the shortfall from central government. Cllr. Mary Robinson didn't have anything to report.

Cllr. Grew raised the concerns about obtaining the stickers for the green waste bin collections; the website is not easy to navigate & there are delays in getting the stickers for the bins.

Nenthead Ward Meeting – Cllr. Crossley reported that Tony Pennell had now retired from the snowplough group. It was agreed that the parish council will write to him to thank him for all his hard work & dedication over the years. The plaque for Dick Phillips memorial bench confirmed that the handyperson has the plaque and when weather better the plaque will be put back on the bench. Fence around war memorial at Nenthall, the Clerk said it was an agenda item further down the agenda. (2627/50). Cumbria Community Fund (Dick Philips legacy fund) was confirmed that there should be money in the pot for local projects on Alston Moor.

2627/48

To Consider Committees, working groups & any actions required.

i. Committee

Development, Governance & Personnel (DGP)

ii. Group Representatives

AMERG

Alston Moor Fitness

Alston Moor Partnership – Cllr. Martin confirmed to become the group representative.

Alston Moor Traffic Management Group – Cllr. Reay agreed to join to represent Nenthead.

Tree Wardens

Tyne Willows Management

Alston & Fellside Place Action Group

Alston Health Group – just what has been said in 2627/46

2627/49

Community Development Co-ordinator & updates – Cllr. Monk spoke about Alston Town Hall not being able to contract the position & possibilities for the parish council to do this via a Direct Award, which waives the standing order. The Direct Award allows the Parish Council to employ a Community Development Coordinator who has the specific credentials for the role. This allows the waiver of Standing order 18a/v. Cllr. Monk discussed what needed to be done to ensure this could be facilitated, offering copies of the correct procedures & regulations that are to be used. These are available from Cllr. Monk for any councillor to see, if required. There were no questions regarding the proposals discussed by Cllr.



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Monk. Cllr. Monk continued to explain the waiver of the standing orders, the job description, contract & scope of practice, to all councillors, there were no questions raised. Sarah Stamford has the knowledge & experience needed (no one else had applied in response to the job description that was publicised). The role is self-employed & would be funded by the council, for a year, although some funding possibilities have been sourced so it is likely that this will now be around six months. The role will be for 15 hours per week. The job description is different to the one at Alston Moor Partnership, tasks are linked to Alston Moor Parish Council, and will benefit the local community, including support for the councillors of Alston Moor Parish Council to get things done. Cllr. Monk finally asked if the council were happy to engage with Sarah Stamford to carry out this role.

Motion: to engage with Sarah Stamford to carry out the role of Community Development Co-ordinator

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

Resolved: to engage with Sarah Stamford to carry out the role of Community Development Co-ordinator.

Motion: to waiver standing order 18 AV (need to go to tender for the post).

Proposed: Cllr. Monk Seconded: Cllr. Grew Vote: Favour - Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Martin, Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Hanley, Cllr. Monk, Cllr. Reay, Cllr. Robertson, Cllr. Edgar, Cllr. Davis, Cllr. Crossley. Against: None Abstain: None.

Resolved: to waiver standing order 18 AV (need to go to tender for the post).

Motion: to accept the annual salary of £19500 (on the understanding that this may only be for 6 months as funding is secured) for self-employed services.

Proposed: Cllr. Monk Seconded: Cllr. Bondi Vote: Favour - Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Martin, Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Hanley, Cllr. Monk, Cllr. Reay, Cllr. Robertson, Cllr. Edgar, Cllr. Davis, Cllr. Crossley. Against: None Abstain: None.

Resolved: to accept the annual salary of £19500 (on the understanding that this may only be for 6 months as funding is secured) for self-employed services.

Motion: to construct a job description, contract & scope of practice.

Proposed: Cllr. Monk Seconded: Cllr. Miller Vote: Favour - Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Martin, Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Hanley, Cllr. Monk, Cllr. Reay, Cllr. Robertson, Cllr. Edgar, Cllr. Davis, Cllr. Crossley. Against: None Abstain: None.

Resolved: to construct a job description, contract & scope of practice.

Cllr. Monk will get the relevant paperwork sorted and liaise with the Clerk to ensure the appropriate procedures are carried out in a timely manner.

Cllr. Hanley thanked Cllr. Monk for all the hard work she has done on this.

Cllr. Martin wanted to thank Cllr. Bondi for having the foresight & pointing it out to the previous council who did not engage with it, then she took it to the Partnership who found a grant to take on this role. If Cllr. Bondi hadn't pushed, this would not be happening now. Cllr. Hanley pointed out that one of Westmorland & Furness Council's buzz words is "**community power**" & it should be pointed out to them, as parish councils are taken too much for granted.

Fence at Nenthall War Memorial – Clerk advised that she was still awaiting a response from the conservation department. She will chase this up copying in Cllr. Hanley & Cllr. Mary Robinson (UC).

2627/50

R. Miller



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- 2627/51 Garden waste bin for Garrigill, Alston & Nenthead** – it was discussed the need for a garden waste bin for Garrigill was discussed; the clerk thought that Alston would also need one. It was asked if there was a need for one at Nenthead too. It will be brought to the next Nenthead ward meeting as to whether Nenthead need a garden waste bin.

Motion: to obtain a garden waste permit/sticker for Alston & Garrigill at a cost of £60 per bin.

Proposed: Cllr. Grew Seconded: Cllr. Miller Vote: Favour - Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Martin, Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Hanley, Cllr. Monk, Cllr. Reay, Cllr. Robertson, Cllr. Edgar, Cllr. Davis, Cllr. Crossley. Against: None Abstain: None.

Resolved: the clerk to contact Westmorland & Furness to purchase 2 garden waste stickers, one for Garrigill & one for Alston.

- 2627/52 Passed back from Traffic Management to Parish Council –**

- **The Butts –**

A long standing issue with vehicles parking causing an obstruction for emergency vehicles needing to access The Butts. Discussions about making a feature of bollard/feature/large planter in the non-parking area, clerk sent information out to all councillors about The Butts being linked to archery. Clerk to check with Laura at Westmorland & Furness about size, dimensions suitable for this.

- **Townhead & Station Road double lines –**

this is to be added to next month's meeting to be discussed further.

- **Red Squirrel signs –**

the Highways department no longer make red squirrel warning signs. The red squirrel group are looking into installing rope bridges across the roads. These have worked well in other places. Alston Moor Parish Council agreed to support the Red Squirrel group in their efforts which will include planning & highways permissions. Cllr. Hanley suggested that the group contact Andrew Ramsey from Westmorland & Furness Council; he is the Red Squirrel officer & can assist in the planning etc required.

Motion: to support the Red Squirrel Group

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

Resolved: to support the Red Squirrel Group

- **Letter regarding parking in Garrigill –**

the clerk had circulated a letter to be sent to the residents in question. Advice had been sought from the Highways team at Westmorland & Furness Council in compiling the letter. It was agreed to send the letters to those residents it relates to.

Motion: to send the letters

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

Resolved: to send the letters

- 2627/53 Planning Applications & Decisions**

2627/53.1 Applications received

2026/0944/HOU – Skelgill Rigg Alston CA9 3LD – remodel existing lean-to workshop to form new garage & workshop, to include new sewerage treatment

R Miller



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plant. The council had no issues with this proposal and therefore went straight to support the application.

Motion: to fully support the application

Proposer: Cllr. Robertson Seconder: Cllr. Davies Vote: Favour - Cllr. Miller, Cllr. Bondi, Cllr. Martin, Cllr. Grew, Cllr. Monk, Cllr. Robertson, Cllr. Edgar, Cllr. Davis, Cllr. Crossley. Against – None Abstain – Cllr. Reay, Cllr. Hanley.

Resolved: to fully support the application

The Clerk had received another application at just before 5pm today & again another just after 5pm, but will ask for an extension on these decisions as they could not be discussed in this meeting. It will be discussed at the next meeting when the councillors have had time to look at it.

2627/54

Finance Reports & Accounts

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

2627/54 1. Current Balance of the Community Account as at 31/05/2026

£131097.16

2627/54 2. Consider payments for approval

Date	Total	Description	Supplier
01.06.2026	£720.00	Tyne Willows	Procut Grounds Maintenance Limited
01.06.2026	£3,420.00	Maintenance	Alston Natural Stone Ltd
01.06.2026	£446.53	ATH-Maintenance	Jewson Hexham
01.06.2026	£6.49	Maintenance	Mad Hatters Hardware
01.06.2026	£720.00	Tyne Willows	Andrew Addison (Fencer)
01.06.2026	£720.00	Tyne Willows	Procut Grounds Maintenance Limited

Plus the invoice received after producing the table today from FCC Waste Collection on Tyne Willows for £14.50

Motion: to approve payments and precept payments.

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

Resolved: to approve payments

2627/54 3. Approve any payments required between meetings

Clerk advised that she was still waiting for the handyperson's invoice to come in. As he is always late in submitting his timesheet it was decided that the work carried out must be noted before payment approved.

Motion: to approve handypersons invoice for payment & ensure that work carried out is noted.

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

Resolved: to pay invoice once received & work is noted in future.

2627/54.4. Email about reserves – Cllr Ho is not present at this meeting so no meeting can be arranged. The council then discussed the amount of time that is spent on explaining or answering unnecessary emails or queries raised that have been misunderstood. The council wishes the clerk to start to document the time taken up doing this so there is a record of the time spent that is paid for by the community.

Motion: the clerk to record time spent unnecessarily going forward

R Miller



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

Resolved: the clerk to record time spent unnecessarily going forward

2627/55

Note the status of assets & consider any action required

Tyne Willows Playing Field – The temporary fence worked well especially with the number of travellers who visited Tyne Willows. Unfortunately, there were a few who did not respect Tyne Willows & the facilities provided. Those were the usual suspects who always spoil it for others. 10 of the fence posts “disappeared” when they moved on to Appleby Fair. This will be something to be looked at again for next year as the majority respected the area without any issues.

2627/56

Note status of Open Spaces/ Trees & consider any action – Nothing to report other than the school have contacted the Clerk as they have been sent a requirement from Westmorland & Furness for a tree survey. The clerk advised that after the last tree survey carried out, action was taken and trees were taken down/cut back on Tyne Willows. The clerk will get in contact with the tree surveyor to establish what is to be done.

2627/57

Correspondence – Received

1. **Speeding** – Crook Bank to Nenthead 30mph sign. This will be added to the Traffic Management Meeting & passed to the Highways Team.
2. **Installation of electricity equipment west of The Firs Alston** – next to where the river bends just past the cemetery.

2627/58

Parish Handyperson & work to be & already carried out – Concerns have been raised regarding what works has been carried out by the parish handyperson. Although the community can see some of what has been done, they are not always fully aware of what else has been done or what will be done. Cllr. Miller read out a list of work to be carried out in the month of June (weather permitting on some items) Garrigill – white lines Nenthead – 2 benches to be replaced once permission given from Westmorland & Furness, check on & tidy recycling centre Alston – complete painting benches at Kirkhaugh, Pennine Way & Highlands plus any others needing attention, bus shelters to be painted in Alston, grass strimming at bottom of The Firs, Brewery Bridge, War Memorial, Tyne Willows all monthly, Litter picking around Alston, Hendersons Wood, recycling centre etc, The Firs Wood safety check monthly & after any storms incurred. Cllr. Miller stressed that more can be added if needed or raised concerns of.

The handyperson has been busy cutting grass, litter picking, repairing benches at Kirkhaugh & work at Alston Town Hall in May 2026.

2627/59

Items for the Next Meeting of the Parish Council

Alston Health Campaign, Community Development Officer update, double yellow lines, tender to go out the council website.

2627/60

To consider any councillor or officer training

Cllr. Bondi is booked on an Equality & Diversity course for 2nd June 2026.

2627/61

Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next **PARISH COUNCIL** meeting to be held on Monday 6th July 2026 at 7.00pm. Meeting to be arranged for Nenthead Village Hall - TBC.

2627/62

Exclusion of public & press (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960)
Nothing was raised to be discussed under this section



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2627/63

To close Parish Council Meeting - 21.21hrs

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

Chair Signature: _____ Date: _____

Clerk Signature: _____ Date: _____

2627/64

Open Fairhill Charity meeting – open 21.21hrs

Meeting Closed – 21.38hrs

Chair Signature: R mller

Date: 5/7/2026

Clerk Signature: Clewernon

Date: 6/7/2026