

ALSTON MOOR PARISH COUNCIL

Emergency Meeting — Tuesday 28 April 2026

Proposed Resolutions: Grisedale Croft Care Home Consultation

This paper sets out fourteen proposed resolutions for adoption at tonight's emergency meeting in response to the public consultation on Grisedale Croft Care Home opened by Westmorland and Furness Council on 21 April 2026.

The resolutions are organised in four parts: **(A) the Council's position; (B) ratification of work already undertaken; (C) authorisations going forward; and (D) working arrangements.**

If time is short, the priority resolutions are **1, 4, 5, 6, 8 and 12**. Tick boxes are provided for the Chair to record adoption.

Section A The Council's Position

- Resolution 1 — Opposition in principle**

That Alston Moor Parish Council formally opposes any closure of Grisedale Croft Care Home unless and until a legally-binding, fully-funded and operational alternative — including equivalent residential, dementia, respite and re-ablement / intermediate-care provision — is confirmed in advance and located within Alston Moor.

- Resolution 2 — The 2018 commitment**

That the Council formally records its position that Grisedale Croft is the last surviving element of the joint NHS-and-Council replacement package promised to Alston Moor in 2017–2018 when the inpatient beds at the Ruth Lancaster James Cottage Hospital were closed, and that any decision on its future must be taken jointly with NHS partners and not by Westmorland and Furness Council alone.

- Resolution 3 — The human cost**

That the Council formally adopts as part of its campaign position the argument that displacement of elderly Alston Moor residents to out-of-area care homes causes demonstrable harm — through loss of daily contact with friends and family, isolation, and the institutional rather than intimate quality of care and end-of-life care away from home — and that this argument shall be reflected in the consultation response, all correspondence with elected representatives, and all media communications.

Section B Ratification of Work Already Undertaken

Resolution 4 — Letter to Cllr Patricia Bell

That the Council ratifies the letter sent in advance of this meeting to Cllr Patricia Bell, Cabinet Member for Adult Care, requesting withdrawal of the consultation pending a joint review with NHS partners, and adopts that letter as reflecting the Council's position.

Resolution 5 — FOI programme

That the Council formally endorses the programme of Freedom of Information requests already submitted to Westmorland and Furness Council (FOI-208440-2026), the North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (FOI ICB 26-033), North Cumbria Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust, Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Cumberland Council, the Care Quality Commission, and NHS England — and authorises any necessary follow-up correspondence, including a challenge to WFC's aggregation of the five WFC FOIs under a single reference.

Section C Authorisations Going Forward

Resolution 6 — Formal consultation response

That the Council resolves to submit a formal corporate response to WFC's 12-week consultation, and instructs the Clerk and the working group (see Resolution 12) to prepare the draft for ratification by the Council well in advance of the consultation deadline.

Resolution 7 — Correspondence with elected representatives and statutory bodies

That the Clerk be authorised, on behalf of the Council, to write this week to:

- (i) Cllr Mary Robinson (Independent, Alston and Fellside; Leader of the Independent/Green Group on WFC);
- (ii) Cllr Michael Hanley (Labour, Alston and Fellside);
- (iii) Markus Campbell-Savours MP (Penrith and Solway);
- (iv) the Director of Adult Care at WFC;
- (v) the North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board;
- (vi) Healthwatch Cumberland; and
- (vii) the Chair of the WFC Health and Adults Scrutiny Committee.

- Resolution 8 — Legal advice**

That the Council authorises the seeking of preliminary legal advice on (a) legitimate expectation arising from the 2017–2018 NHS commitments; (b) the validity of the consultation structure under the Gunning Principles; and (c) WFC's compliance with its duties under the Care Act 2014, the Public Sector Equality Duty, and Article 8 of the Human Rights Act 1998.

- Resolution 9 — Public statement and publicity**

That the Council authorises the Chair, with the Clerk, to issue a public statement and to engage proactively with local and regional media — including the Cumberland News, BBC Radio Cumbria, ITV Border, and trade press — to publicise the Council's position.

- Resolution 10 — Petition**

That the Council resolves to launch a public petition — both physical (in shops, the post office, and the Town Hall) and online — addressed to the Director of Adult Care and Cllr Patricia Bell, to be presented formally as part of the consultation response.

- Resolution 11 — Evidence-gathering from affected families**

That the Council authorises the launch of the planned online Google Form (and parallel paper route via the Clerk's office) to gather evidence from families whose relatives have been affected by displacement to out-of-area care, with all information held confidentially and used only in support of the Parish Council's consultation response.

Section D Working Arrangements

- Resolution 12 — Working group**

That the Council establishes a Grisedale Croft Working Group with a remit covering:

 - (a) drafting the consultation response;
 - (b) identifying potentially suitable buildings in Alston Moor that could host replacement provision (engaging directly with WFC's stated preferred option);
 - (c) exploring community-ownership models and seeking early advice from Locality and Power to Change;
 - (d) considering an Asset of Community Value registration under the Localism Act 2011; and
 - (e) liaising with the Alston Moor League of Friends and with Linda Bell (NCIC Partner Governor — League of Friends).

- Resolution 13 — Public meetings**
That the Working Group be authorised to organise public meetings in Alston, Garrigill and Nenthead during the consultation period.

- Resolution 14 — Reporting and review**
That the Working Group reports to every meeting of the Parish Council during the consultation period, and that an extraordinary meeting may be convened at the Chair's discretion if a material development requires a Council decision before the next scheduled meeting.

Record of Adoption

For the Clerk's use during the meeting:

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| Resolutions adopted (numbers): | |
| Resolutions amended (note): | |
| Resolutions deferred (numbers): | |

Signed (Chair):
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Date:
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Signed (Clerk):
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Date:
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