

## ALSTON MOOR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Alston Moor Parish Council held on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2015 at 7.15pm in Alston Town Hall.

**Present:** Cllrs: A. Martin (Chair), B. Aves, D. Athey, A. Green, J. Glendinning, E. Grew, T. Haldon, M. Herdman, S. Hill, R. Miller, D. Phillips, R. Thomson, G. Wright.

**Apologies:** Cllrs: A. Robertson, P. Godwin (CHECK)NB

**Absent:** none.

**Declarations of interest:** listed under specific agenda items.

### **County Councillor's Report**

*Apologies from Cllr Robinson.*

### **District Councillor's Report**

*Cllr Hymers sent apologies and a written report:*

**Footway lights** – the war memorial light will be replaced and maintained, with a new supply line to the new post. A complaint has been made to Electricity North West Ltd about the delay in connecting the lights on Vicarage Terrace.

Noted that lights which flicker on and off are dangerous, as is happening with the light at the bottom of the Firs and the light at Physic Hall.

### **1. Minutes**

**Resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2015 be adopted as a correct record with the omission of the first paragraph from 13b/OCT/15. Proposed by Cllr Phillips and seconded by Cllr Herdman. (3 abs)

### **2. Matters Arising from the Minutes**

#### **2a/NOV/15 Local Delivery of Services**

Re: 2c/OCT/15 Eden District Council have produced a spreadsheet on the services they deliver, with space for the parish council to include the services they are responsible for. They have also set out the terms of reference for their Community Advisory Group.

The clerk reported that she filled in the form and circulated to members for comment. Organisations involved in providing services to the community have been included to give a more accurate picture of tasks carried out by the community. Several members contacted her with suggestions, and they have been added to the list.

Cllr Grew noted that a litter bin on the village green in Garrigill has been removed. **Action.**

#### **2b/NOV/15 Nenthead Election Results**

Re: 2i/NOV/15 Cllr Phillips thanked Cllr Glendinning for finding proof that the Eden District Council election results for Nenthead were changed from the original posting to reflect the actual results. The document was faxed to the district council and an acknowledgement received that the case is now closed. However, no apology has yet been received by those affected. Cllr Phillips confirmed that he would advise Eden that he would be attending the meeting at Lazonby tomorrow if the apology was not issued.

#### **2c/NOV/15 Refurbishment of Lazonby's tennis courts**

Re: 5/OCT/NOV/15 An e-mail thanking the council for their support was received.

#### **2d/NOV/15 Alston Ambulance Fund**

Re: 7/OCT/15 The clerk suggested that the Ambulance Fund needs to be kept on the agenda, and that it might be useful to discuss what might be needed with some of the people involved with the ambulance. She was asked to contact a representative. **Action.**

#### **2e/NOV/15 Barclays Bank ACTM**

Re: 13b/OCT/15 The clerk reported that she had contacted a member of the Barclays Bank Working Group for advice on the ATM. He replied that he did not have access to Barclay's criteria but it is likely to involve work on the outside wall, security of the internal area where the ATM safe is located, secure parking for the security company, access to the building and ATM for loading and unloading caches of

cash, power supply, probably with uninterrupted capability, appropriate broadband connectivity and a well-lit outside space.

#### **2e/NOV/15 Star Councillor of the Year runner-up**

Re: 14b/OCT 15 Congratulations to Cllr Martin who was runner up in the NALC Star Councillor of the Year awards. She reported that she was enthused by some of the presentations, and especially one from a nonagenarian who said that provided everyone worked together anything could be achieved. It was agreed to hold a short presentation at the start of the next council meeting on The Council of the Year and Star Digital Council.

#### **2f/NOV/15 Dykehead path**

Re: SEP/15- An e-mail from the Rights of Way officer was received shortly before the meeting stating that the claim submitted for the Dykehead path was for a non-statutory application for public footpath, but that he would be making a recommendation that the route should be recorded as having a higher status. The county council is not obliged to process non-statutory applications and it will not appear on the statutory list of formal applications, neither does the applicant have a right of appeal. It also has a lower priority than some other cases because the route is not obstructed or threatened with development. The applicant will be invited to re-submit the application.

### **3. Planning**

**3a/NOV/15** 15/0606 Full application. Proposed installation of a TozziNord TN535 10kw domestic wind turbine to generate electricity. Coatlith Hill Farm, Alston CA9 3JZ for Mr C. Harrison.

**Recommended** for approval Proposed by Cllr Wright and seconded by Cllr Athey. (nem con)

#### **Decision Notices**

None received.

### **4. Consultations & Correspondence for information**

#### **4a/NOV/15 Eden Local Plan – proposed submission version 2014-2031**

A copy of the draft Eden Local Plan was received. At this stage representations can only be made regarding whether the Eden Local Plan 2014-2032 has been prepared in accordance with the legal and procedural requirements, the Duty to Co-operate and whether it is sound.

Nenthead has been included as a key hub.

Cllr Phillips reported that he had contacted the North Pennines AONB Partnership about the statement that villages within the AONB could not become a key hub, and understood that they intended to lodge an objection. Garrigill members were invited to consider whether they wished to follow this up on behalf of the village. **Action.**

#### **4b/NOV/15 CCC – consultation on refreshed Council Plan**

The consultation has been launched with opportunity to comment by 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2016.

**Public consultation on draft Council Plan and budget** - The council needs to deliver savings of £37 million with another £17.5 m to find.

**The integrated risk management plan (IRMP)** – outlines how the fire and rescue service may be managed.

**The Draft Commissioning Strategy for care and support** – provides a framework for adult social care in Cumbria and how the service will be modernised to meet increasing demand.

**The extra care housing and supported living strategy** – sets out how the council intends to deliver a significant increase in the number of extra care housing units in the county.

Members were asked to read the documents which are available on-line, or as a paper copy printed out by the clerk. **Action.**

#### **4c/NOV/15 CCC – Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2016-19**

Comments to be received by 13<sup>th</sup> November 2015.

#### **4d/NOV/15 CCC – Cumbria Minerals & Waste Local Plan 2014-2079 – supplementary sites consultation**

Comments to be received by 9<sup>th</sup> November.

#### **4e/NOV/15 CCC – Notices of events/meetings**

CALC AGM – 14<sup>th</sup> November 2015

Survey on maternity services for pregnant and recent mothers – 16<sup>th</sup> November 2015 at Alston Primary School

#### **4f/NOV/15 Literature**

Clerks & Councils Direct

EdenSave Credit Union – Annual report 2015

#### **4g/NOV/15 Alston Ambulance update request**

A request for an update on progress with training the Alston ambulance staff was received. Some members were aware that the first tranche of trainees have been invited to take part in shifts with the Carlisle and Penrith ambulance crews, and are learning a lot already. **Action**

Cllr Phillips reported that while making enquiries about the Lazonby fire service he was informed that two recent large fires in Alston were attended by Haltwhistle and Stanhope teams. North West Ambulance Service have said that the nearest available ambulance should be used, and this should be remembered since it could be the one based at St John's Chapel. Despite statements to the contrary no-one is aware that this ambulance has ever been used on Alston Moor, but if the fire service can cross county boundaries, the ambulance service could when it is reasonable to do so.

#### **5. Proposal to write in protest to the proposed cuts to the Cumbrian police force and support the letter from Windermere Town Council**

A copy of a letter from Windermere Town Council to the Rt Hon Mike Penin MP (Minister of State) Home Office was read. They are concerned about the level of cuts to the local police force from 2016 – 20 While the cuts are due to the need to balance the national budget, changes to the funding formula will move funds away from Cumbria to other forces.

Although crime rates are lower than some areas, fear of crime is real and the Chief Constable has stated that the cuts will wipe out community policing, leaving us with only an emergency blue light response. Community policing is vitally important, contributes to keeping crime levels low and reassures those in fear of crime.

The clerk reported that she spoke, at a recent surgery in Alston, to Police Commissioner Richard Rhodes, who is very concerned about the proposed cuts which he described as devastating and based on a funding formula that is unfair to some parts of the country, with Cumbria being amongst the worst hit.

Members noted that reported crime rates are different to actual crime rates, and police officers on the ground may obtain evidence by talking to people.

**Resolved** to write in support of Windermere Town Council and to oppose the proposed cuts to the Cumbria police force. Proposed by Cllr Wright and seconded by Cllr Herdman. (nem con) **Action**

#### **6. The future of social care on Alston Moor & request to set up a working group**

Cllr Martin reported that the word on the street is that 5 million is to go from the social care budget, and that this could impact badly on vulnerable residents from Alston Moor. She suggested setting up a working group to look into what could be done locally to minimise the impact.

Members mentioned that there is an issue across Cumbria with people in the community struggling to get home care, partially due to the difficulty in recruiting staff. One suggested way forward is to encourage those in need of care to move into Church Road on managed tenancies, but some residents may prefer to remain at home, and those with dementia and other disabilities will need extra care. It is not possible at present for the staff at Grisedale Croft to deliver care in the community, but this may be an untapped resource.

**Resolved** to set up a working group of the parish council to explore the issues around social care, and to bring in other representatives to assist as required. Proposed by Cllr Grew and seconded by Cllr Wright.

(nem con) **Action**

**Resolved** that Cllrs Grew, Thomson and Martin would form the working group.

#### **7. Support for Lazonby Fire Station**

Cllr Phillips reported that he has drafted a letter, which he read out, in support of retaining Lazonby Fire Station.

**Resolved** to send the letter opposing the closure of Lazonby Fire Station to Cumbria County Council. Proposed by Cllr Aves and seconded by Cllr Grew. (nem con) **Action**

## **8. Periodic tree survey – decision on number of surveys per annum (contract draft circulated)**

The clerk reported that a decision is needed on how many times per year the tree survey should be carried out.

**Resolved** to request one survey per year during the winter, to be reviewed if necessary. Proposed by Cllr Green and seconded by Cllr Herdman. (1 abs) **Action**

## **9. Request for 'Please do not block access' sign – Arch House to Grisedale Croft**

The clerk reported that she was contacted by a resident who was concerned about vehicles blocking the access to Grisedale Croft. She checked with highways to confirm that they have responsibility for the lane. It was noted that the problem may be short lived as builders are currently working on one of the properties. Grisedale Croft has good access from Church Road, which may be a safer route for pedestrians.

**Resolved** to monitor the situation and discuss at the next Traffic Management meeting if the problem persists. Proposed by Cllr Phillips and seconded by Cllr Herdman. (1 abs)

## **10. Parish Council administration**

### **10a/NOV/15 Parish Council training session**

A reminder that the training session will take place on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November, and all councillors were asked to attend.

### **10b/NOV/15 Decision on purchase of recording equipment and microphones for use at council meetings**

**Resolved** to purchase 5 microphones at £29 each. Proposed by Cllr Grew and seconded by Cllr Herdman. (1 abs)

### **10c/NOV/15 Date for precept meeting & precept requests including a decision on the continuation of the Community Warden for 2016/2017**

**Resolved** to hold the precept meeting on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2016.

The clerk reported that the Community Warden could be kept on until the end of the year, but that a decision is needed as to whether to continue next year, so that she could either suspend or cancel the contract with Enterprise.

**Resolved** to keep the Community Warden budget for next year and to suspend the waste bin contract between January and March. Proposed by Cllr Phillips and seconded by Cllr Grew. (nem con)

Members were asked to notify Cllr Miller or the clerk if they are aware of appropriate tasks for the Community Warden. **Action.**

### **10d/NOV/15 Representative to lay wreath for Remembrance Sunday**

The clerk reported that she had been informed that a piper will lead the way to the War Memorial at 11.30am on 8<sup>th</sup> November and the wreaths will be laid there.

**Resolved** to ask former councillor Margaret Bell if she would like to lay the wreath, and that Cllr Martin would stand in or support her.

## **11. Reports from Working Groups & council representatives**

### **11a/NOV/15 Traffic Management Working Group**

The minutes were circulated before the meeting. Highways will check the speed humps in The Firs. The condition of the cobbles in Nenthead has been reported, and a temporary repair carried out. Nenthead cllrs were pleased with the patching work.

## **14. Items for next month's agenda and urgent business**

Cllr Martin to report on star councils.

Consideration of the consultation documents from Cumbria County Council.

## **15. Finance**

### **15a/NOV/15 Bank statements**

The statements as of 5<sup>th</sup> November 2015 were as follows:-

Alston Moor Parish Council tr/ac	£21,490.18
Alston Moor Parish Council bus/ac	£12,666.20
Eden Credit Union	£7,008.58

**15b/NOV/15 Accounts for Payment**

The following accounts were for payment:-

<i>Summary of accounts for payment:-</i>	£3,216.74
<i>Summary of income received since last meeting:-</i>	£75.99
<i>Summary of accounts paid since last meeting:-</i>	£91.92

**Resolved** that sufficient funds are held in balances for the clerk to be authorised to settle all the accounts listed during the coming month (appendix I). Proposed by Cllr Green and seconded by Cllr Wright (nem con)

*The meeting closed at 8.15pm*

Signed: .....

Dated: .....