

ALSTON MOOR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Alston Moor Parish Council held on Monday, 13th April 2015 at 7.15pm in Alston Town Hall.

Present: Cllrs: A. Martin (Chair), A. Bondi, B. Cooper, D. Athey, A. Green, E. Grew, T. Haldon, M. Herdman, I. Johnson, R. Miller, D. Phillips, P. Thompson. T. Pennell.

Apologies: Cllrs: M. Bell, B. Aves

Absent: none

Declarations of interest: listed under specific agenda items.

The chair thanked everyone for giving their time and involvement in the many issues that have arisen over the past four years. Cllrs Bell and Pennell have been long standing members and along with Cllr Cooper, in not standing for re-election will be greatly missed for their skills and interests. Also thanks to Cllr Bondi for putting together the press releases.

County Councillor's Report

Apologies from Cllr Robinson.

District Councillor's Report

Cllr Harrison reported on the following:

Street lighting – at last the street lights work is underway.

Planning comments – parish councillors were reminded that when they object to an application the plans go before committee, and this increases the workload for officers. If members have strong views about a particular application they should go and speak at the planning meeting.

Cllr Godwin reported on the following:

Broadband delivery – there was a briefing on the role out of broadband in Cumbria, especially to remote rural areas. They are happy about broadband on Alston Moor.

1. Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 2nd March 2015 be adopted as a correct record. Proposed by Cllr Herdman and seconded by Cllr Grew. (nem con)

2. Matters Arising from the Minutes

2a/APR/15 Subsidised Bus services

Re: 2a/MAR/15 An e-mail was received from Rory Stewart MP stating that he was happy to ask for further clarification on the letter from NALC, but that the minister was very busy and it might take a while to get a response. He pointed out that the General Power of Competence (GPC) would enable the parish council to fund a local bus, funding permitting, and suggested the council contact Shap and Appleby parish councils to find out how they had subsidised their local bus routes.

The clerk said that it would be possible, if the council so wished, to apply for the GPC after the elections, as there were sufficient councillor nominations to be eligible. Agenda item for next month. **Action.**

It was mentioned that the Prince's Trust will fund community action, provided it can be shown that the work will support particular groups of people. Agreed to look into. **Action.**

2b/APR/15 Footway Lights

Re: 2b/MAR/15 An e-mail from Eden District Council confirmed that 2 lights (49 & 53) have been budgeted for the Nenthead Road, and work should commence early April. Eden District Council have decided to take over the lights on A roads and these lights are included as part of the consultation process. A further visit to the Brampton Road and the Raise will be made to look at the lights that were not discussed at the earlier site visit. EDC noted that the ENWL project for some lights was not viable for the parish council to take on.

In separate e-mails it was reported that light No 3 opposite Bankfoot View, Nenthead is due to be replaced in the next few week and light 20 to the rear of Force Cottages, Station Road. The light outside Spring House, Front Street No 17 needs a replacement control box and depending upon costs a decision

has to be made to either repair the control box or replace the column. The clerk reported that she asked to be kept informed as this street light is one of the heritage style lights within the Conservation Area. It was observed that the new light in Overwater light is shorter than old one.

2c/APR/15 Alston Ambulance Meeting

Re: 2c/MAR/15 Cllr Martin reported on the meeting with the Ambulance service last month. They said more people need to come forward as the Alston ambulance is not viable with the numbers currently training, and agreed to produce a leaflet for circulation. The leaflet, although several weeks late, has now been circulated, expressions of interest received, and those people given an application pack. The deadline for applications is 1st May. However, members were asked to continue to encourage people to apply as between 15 and 20 people are needed for the service to run.

2d/APR/15 Henderson's/Firs Wood

Re: 2d/MAR/15 A report on the defective beech tree on Firs Walk has been obtained. The tree was splitting in two and pruned to remove the fork over the footpath leaving the primary limb intact. Since February the condition has deteriorated, with the split opening up, and when the tree comes into leaf there will be up to 20% increase in weight, which is likely to open up the split even more. This could result in a fall across the Pennine Way footpath, and as such represents an unacceptable risk to the footpath and users.

Also noted were a few other problems:

- There is a dead conifer by the salt bin on the bank up to the hospital which is liable to stem failure and could fall across the road.
- Adjacent to this, lower down the bank and near the road, a Lawson cypress conifer has split in the upper crown and is now resting in the crowns of trees beneath it.
- Immediately adjacent to the entrance to the youth hostel there is a large dead conifer at risk of falling across the access road.

The clerk reported that she had contacted the contractor, shown him the report and asked him to look again at the original tree on Firs Walk She has not had time to look for the other trees yet.

2e/APR/15 CCTV Survey, Tyne Willows

Re: 2g/MAR/15 The contractor found a blockage and has cleared it, but had to dig up a section of the road. He has put in a temporary repair, and will come back to complete the job with a proper join to the pipe and backfill with gravel. This will cost an additional £100.

The underlying problem is that the drains are not very deep, have been covered with boulders, and the regular visits by heavy recycling wagons mean there could be issues in future. If the council wish they could get a price for work on the whole section. In the meantime, the contractor suggested that it might be possible for the community gym to claim accidental vehicle damage on their insurance.

The clerk was asked to check whether Northumbria Water had any responsibilities as it might be a mains sewer. **Action.**

Resolved to pay the additional £100 to complete the repair work. Proposed by Cllr Miller and seconded by Cllr Athey. (nem con)

2f/APR/15 Planning training event

Re: 4a/MAR/15 Three other councils, Langwathby, Morland and Kirkby Stephen have expressed an interest in the training and CALC has offered to help with the arrangements. The parish council were thanked for offering the Town Hall as a venue, and CALC will get in touch after the elections.

2g/APR/15 Financial regulations

Re: 2i/MAR/15 The clerk reported that it is going to take time to set up the debit card system as the bank require evidence that the legislation has changed, and with the elections so close it seems sensible to wait until the new council is in. She was able to set up a direct debit for BT and ICO to avoid having to use personal credit cards for these payments.

2h/APR/15 Snow Champions

Re: 12/MAR/15 The minutes from the Traffic Management meeting held on 18th January 2013 stated that the County Council provided Snow Champions with a shovel and safety jacket, but would offer Alston a two wheeled barrow with sprinkler to spread grit on the pavements and a lockable storage bin for the salt. This was conditional on finding a suitable space to keep the equipment and on the understanding that the whole length of the footways is gritted.

2i/APR/15 Community Warden

Re: 14/MAR/15 Vince Peart was appointed as Community Warden by the interview panel and has started work. David Miller another applicant, stood down but has asked to carry out voluntary work for the council. It was noted that the new Community Warden has already been very active, and has cleared litter from some of the persistent blackspots. Cllrs Miller, Grew and Aves are the monitoring group, and responsible for ensuring the Community Warden does what is wanted.

There is a lot of rubbish along the Hartside and Leadgate roads, and the road between Leadgate and the Hartside road with piles of empty cans in the laybys. It was suggested that anyone who knew the age groups most likely to contribute towards this, could have a word with them.

3. Planning

3a/APR/15 14/0974 Full application. Replacement of four front windows to UPVC, one front bathroom window to UPVC and one new front door. School House, The Butts, Alston CA9 3JQ for D. Hodgson.

Cllr Martin declared an interest as a neighbour.

Recommended for approval in principle with the caveat that the windows are a good quality sliding sash. Proposed by Cllr Bondi and seconded by Cllr Cooper. (11+ 2-)

3b/APR/15 15/0129 Full application. Installation of two temporary portable buildings to be made permanent. Bond Precision Castings Ltd, Potters Loaning, Alston CA9 3TP for Mr J. Forsyth- Bonds Precision Castings Ltd.

Recommended for approval. Proposed by Cllr Green and seconded by Cllr Thompson. (11+ 1- 1 abs).

3c/APR/15 15/0235 Full application. Upgrading of the Rotherhope track plus construction of two car parks and spur track to car park 2. Rotherhope Track, Rotherhope Moor, near Leadgate, Alston for Mr & Mrs Townshend – c/o R. Howsen Esq.

Recommended that the existing track to Greencastle is approved, but the extension to Slaggyburn is an unnecessary addition to the existing network and functionality can be achieved without a new track. Proposed by Cllr Green and seconded by Cllr Athey. (12+ 1 abs)

3d/APR/15 15/0226. Tree Works (CA) T1 Remove cherry tree, T2 crown lift cherry tree to 5.2m over road; Alston CA9 3JQ for Mrs Susan Condon.

Recommended that both trees are pruned instead of being removed. A consultation with residents before the land was sold by Eden District Council led to an agreement that the trees would remain in part of the garden, and these are the last remaining trees. Proposed by Cllr Bondi and seconded by Cllr Green (nem con)

3e/APR/15 150109 Outline application. Demolition of existing agricultural building and proposed development of seven two-storey terraced houses. Gatefoot Farm, Garrigill, CA9 3DU FOR Mr T. Bell.

An e-mail confirmed that the applicant and individual parish councillors requested that the parish council reconsider the recommendation made last month.

It was reported that parish councillors discussed the proposal with residents, and the extension on time has enabled the parish council to re-consider the decision reached at the last meeting. Residents like the idea of new housing, but felt there were too many for the plot size, and disliked the corner houses. They wanted to know if they will be marketed with any restrictions and were concerned about footway lighting, the lack of a pedestrian walkway, and adequate parking for residents and visitors.

It was noted that these points are design matters which can be addressed later once a full application has been received.

Recommended for approval. Proposed by Cllr Green and seconded by Cllr Miller (12+ 1 -)

Decision Notices

3i/APR/15 14/0991 Full application. Multi-purpose extension to factory to provide office space, additional production space and 3 independent workshop units. Bond Engineering Ltd, Potters Loaning, Alston CA9 3TP. Permission granted with conditions.

3ii/APR/15 14/1123 Listed building. Demolition of existing north-east single storey extension, construction of new WCs and café/waiting room, renovation to ticket hall and re-instatement of station canopy and new west platform. The Railway Station, Station Road, Alston CA9 3JB. Permission granted with conditions.

Planning correspondence

3iii/APR/15 UPVC windows in the conservation area

An e-mail was received from Daniel Addis from Eden District Council stating that the principle planning officer is currently preparing a response to Opus Architecture about the use of UPVC windows in Alston.

He suggested that it would be useful to have a conversation about how future applications are considered when the response has been made.

3iv/APR/15 Planning Committee meeting

14/1076 Proposed change of use of disused barn to residential accommodation Low Park Farm, Alston will go before the planning committee on Thursday 16 April.

4. Requests/ information for action

4a/APR/15 Closure of HSBC Alston branch

An e-mail was received from Norman English about the closure of the Alston branch of HSBC, which will impact on businesses especially. Personal account holders will be able to use the post office, but there will be a charge for business users. (business cheques, but not cash can be paid in.) The intention is to start a petition to try and get some HSBC service.

It was noted that small organisations will be affected, as it is unlikely a new bank will want to take on these very small accounts. Also that the law is about to change, and in a few months' time banks will have to consult the community about proposed closures.

Cllr Martin reported that the Cumberland Building Society want to meet with parish and other representatives to see if there is a possibility of having a presence in the town. Agreed to put on the agenda for next month. **Action.**

4b/APR/15 CCC - consultation of the draft Cumbria Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2014-2029

Any comments need to be received by Monday 11th May 2015. The Local Plan sets out the Council's policies for the provision of mineral working, for safeguarding mineral resources and associated mineral developments and for waste management. Once adopted the Local Plan will replace the Cumbria Minerals and Waste Development Framework's adopted Core Strategy and Generic Development Control Policies.

The main changes are polices for lower activity levels of radioactive waste, much lower estimates of the need for landfill capacity, reduced need for minerals as a result of the recession, the renewed interest in deep mining of coal and the potential for the exploitation of unconventional hydrocarbons within the Plan period.

Members agreed to comment as individuals as the next meeting was after the deadline.

4c/APR/15 Victory in Europe (VE) Day Celebrations

An e-mail was received from CALC stating that the government has announced three days of commemorations to mark the 70th anniversary of the VE day between 8th and 10th May. Local communities are encouraged to light a beacon. Noted that there are to be national celebrations in the autumn, and recommendations to hold street parties.

Resolved to take no action. Proposed by Cllr Bondi and seconded by Cllr Martin. (nem con)

5. Correspondence for information

5a/APR/15 CALC – notice of training events

Several events have been planned for after the elections.

5b/APR/15 ICO Data Protection and Freedom of Information workshop

The clerk reported that she is booked on the training session on 16th April

5a/APR/15 Annual audit 2015

The annual audit will take place on 27th July 2015

5c/APR/15 Notice of meetings and events

The Hustings – Thursday 23rd April 2015

Fairhill Recreation Grounds AGM – 20th April 7.30

Parish end of term meal – Friday 24th April 2015

4g/APR/15 Literature received

CALC circular April 2015

Police newsletter – April 2015

Local Council Review Spring 2015

Pennine Journey Supporters Club update

Hospice at Home – Spring/Summer 215

6. Planning for Appleby Fair

Cllr Martin reported that she has been in touch with the gypsy leader she met with last year. He has agreed to collect donations from Tyne Willows and Makepeace's field to give to the air ambulance. It was also agreed to allow the grass to grow in the areas where horses can graze, and to limit numbers to avoid grazing on the pitches. 20 horses was suggested as a maximum number.

Cllr Martin was thanked for doing this and it was suggested the council try out the offer to see how it goes. However, it needs to be made clear to the travellers that there is a lot of opposition, and the parish council will be watching to see that it is properly monitored.

It was mentioned that Eden District Council have set arrival and departure times for Makepeace's field as they are keen to discourage travellers from arriving too early. Tyne Willows is listed as bow tops only, and the clerk was asked to contact Eden to request that the same dates are listed for Tyne Willows. **Action.**

7. Proposal by Cllr Phillips that in grateful recognition of his time, skill, dedication and goodwill in installing audio systems during meetings throughout the winter, the council awards an honorarium of £50 to Patrick Vercambre

Resolved to accept the proposal that in grateful recognition of his time, skill, dedication and goodwill in installing audio systems during meetings throughout the winter, the council awards an honorarium of £50 to Patrick Vercambre. Proposed by Cllr Phillips and seconded by Cllr Herdman. (nem con)

8. Proposal by Cllr Grew that a donation be made for the restoration of the roof on the building on Garrigill recreation grounds

The recreation grounds building is used as a store for equipment for the allotments, but the roof has blown off and the windows are out. It is estimated that the overall cost of repairs is around £2,000.

Resolved to contribute £300 towards the restoration of the building on Garrigill recreation grounds. Proposed by Cllr Grew and seconded by Cllr Pennell. (6+ 6 abs 1-)

9. Decision on following up the suggestion that a competent person is appointed to carry out an annual survey of the parish woodlands

It was agreed that the parish council have a responsibility for the safety of people using the woodlands and should ensure that they are inspected regularly. If there is no one with the expertise on the council to do this then specifications need to be drawn up and estimates sought. **Action.**

10. Tyne Willows: request to SKS to take down the rugby posts, encroachment onto access road and usage of Tyne Willows Pavilion by local groups

Rugby posts - the clerk was asked to contact SKS to ask them to paint and take down the rugby posts, as they are currently across the running track and not in good condition. **Action.**

Encroachment - the working group who inspected Tyne Willows noted the encroachment by Moredun Garage onto the access road. This took place about 10 years ago when the fence was taken down and replaced by the containers. The landowner had been told of the encroachment at the time, but has taken no action. It was questioned whether it would be worthwhile taking action other than to remind the landowner that the parish council were aware of the encroachment. Agreed to defer.

Community use of Tyne Willows Pavilion – the clerk reported that she had been contacted by a member of the Festival committee about various issues and suggested that the parish council representative meet with the Gym directors to discuss and hopefully resolve any problems.

It was noted that there needs to be parity as to how organisations are treated. Cllrs Haldon and Thompson offered to meet with representatives from the gym.

11. Requests from Community Warden: ID badge, that access to The Crown garages is restricted, fly tipping sign for Firs and Henderson's Woods and use of planings or mud patches in Henderson's wood

ID badge – Cllr Johnson offered to put together the artwork together for an ID badge and a local business has offered to produce it.

Crown Garages – the clerk was asked to contact the owners of the Crown garages to ask if they could restrict access because of improper use. **Action.**

Fly tipping signs – agreed to make up some laminated signs for the woods. A suggestion was made to contact the community warden from Eden District Council about fly tipping, as they can come out and look for evidence to prosecute.

Public access skips – it was mentioned that Culgaith has a skip in the village for residents to use, but believed to be paid for by the parish council.

Tar planings for mud patches – they are not the right material for this use.

12. Agenda items for Traffic Management meeting

Suggestions for the agenda included: parking at Townfoot, the cobbles at Nenthead besides the Village Hall, the sign at the Ayle road end is the wrong height as it obstructs visibility for tractors and wagons, and the retaining wall at Gudham Gill which is leaning.

13. Reports from Working Groups & Council Representatives

13a/APR/15 Nenthead Annual Ward Meeting

It was reported that there was a good turnout. Cllr Herdman has been re-elected as chair, Dick Phillips as vice-chair and Dee Phillips as secretary.

13b/APR/15 Defibrillator training

The sessions in Alston and Garrigill were well attended and a further training session organised for the 18th May in Nenthead.

14. Items for information/next month's agenda/urgent business

None received.

15. Finance

15a/APR/15 Balances

The balances as 13th April 2015 were as follows:-

Alston Moor Parish Council tr/ac	£8,953.47
Alston Moor Parish Council bus/ac	£12,661.78
Eden Credit Union	£7008.58

18b/APR/15 Accounts for Payment

The following accounts were for payment:-

<i>Summary of accounts for payment:-</i>	£2,319.65
<i>Summary of income received since last meeting:-</i>	£1,142.46
<i>Summary of accounts paid since last meeting:-</i>	£108.40

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 Grew (nem con)

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm

Signed:

Dated: