

## ALSTON MOOR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Alston Moor Parish Council held on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2015 at 7.15pm in Garrigill Village Hall.

**Present:** Cllrs: A. Martin (Chair), B. Aves, D. Athey, A. Green, E. Grew, P. Godwin, T. Haldon, M. Herdman, D. Phillips, A. Robertson,

**Apologies:** Cllrs: R. Miller, R. Thomson, J. Glendinning.

**Absent:** G. Wright

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

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

**Highways** - Patching and repairs to the road are continuing with a number of diversions and road closures. Work is ongoing on Hartside for the Tour of Britain.

**Domestic abuse** - the county are reviewing their responsibilities so that when the next incident happens they can do things correctly.

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

*Cllr Hymers reported on the following:*

**Food Enterprise Status** – Eden is one of 17 areas in the country to be given this award by Defra, and a grant of £50,000 to develop a Food Enterprise Zone. This opportunity is for all businesses, which support the food supply network, and farms wanting to develop or diversify. It enables a Local Development Order to be set up to streamline the planning process for certain types of development in a defined area. An example of what might be achieved could be the setting up of a milk-processing centre, as milk producers in the area are disadvantaged by having to send their product further than those in the south and east. There might also be opportunities for universities to set up new food processing courses.

**Tourism** – Eden's tourism team received praise for their achievements in promoting tourism.

**Investment in innovation** – a new group has been set up in Carlisle with the aim of bringing in new ideas into businesses, including signposting grants.

**Tour of Britain** – the event on 10<sup>th</sup> September should be a fantastic boost for Alston and a catalyst for businesses and tourism operators.

**Nenthead business units** – Eden would like to know if Nenthead wants new business units similar to those in Station Yard. Nenthead cllrs agreed to ask the next Nenthead Ward meeting. **Action.**

**Meetings** – Cllr Hymers has met with the Penrith Chamber of Trade and has been appointed as the Eden District Council representative to Alston Moor Partnership.

**Streetlights** – members asked if anything could be done to speed up the re-connection of streetlights by Electricity North West Ltd.

Cllr Godwin reported that there was nothing further to report.

### **1. Minutes**

**Resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2015 be adopted as a correct record. Proposed by Cllr Green seconded by Cllr Phillips. (nem con )

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

#### **2a/JUL/15 Connecting Cumbria**

Re: 1a/JUN/15 An e-mail was received stating that although there were some further issues during testing, Alston Cab 5, near the Exchange, has now been commissioned and all providers notified. The other 4 should be up and running within 4 to 6 weeks. Residents and businesses should be able to order superfast services two weeks from 18<sup>th</sup> June.

Noted that nothing has been heard yet, and the clerk was asked to follow up. **Action**

#### **2b/JUL/15 Transport Group**

Re: 2a/JUN/15 An e-mail was received from Cumbria County Council to say that the start date of the Garrigill Community Wheels bus is Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July. There will be driver route familiarization on 7<sup>th</sup> July and drivers trained to use the smartcard reader used to take passengers fares. A drivers' rota needs to be

set up, and a leaflet drop organised. Residents have several means available to sign up to get a rural wheels card; this can be by post, phone, on-line or through Local Links.

For an Alston to Carlisle summer service to run there needs to be a realistic estimate of passenger numbers each week to enable the County Council to work out a flat fare, information which is needed from the steering group. Evidence of demand as to the best day of the week and additional volunteer drivers may be needed.

A member of the Transport Group County responded confirming that they had spoken with Local Links, and discussed flyers and distribution on the Garrigill route with the County Council. It was suggested that the drivers might be best placed to set up a rota, although Cllr Grew said she would offer if no one came forward.

It might be best to run the Carlisle bus during the week, as this could assist people needing to access the job centre, although it was stated that most job seekers go to Penrith, and the Job Centre have confirmed that residents will not be sanctioned for failing to attend when they have no means of transport. Noted that the Transport Group member intended to contact bus users to find out their preferred day.

#### **2c/JUL/15 Greencastle Buildings**

Re: 2c/JUN/15 An e-mail was received from Eden District Council after the clerk had forwarded information from the Bat Conservation Trust, which was copied to Davis and Bowring, the applicant's agents so that they were aware of the parish's concerns. EDC confirmed that no bat and barn owl survey had been received, and were not aware of one commissioned prior to the demolition of the buildings. Natural England had previously made the applicant's agents aware that they should ascertain whether protected species were present prior to any demolition.

If anyone suspects that a criminal offence has been committed through the demolition of these buildings they should contact the police without delay. Noted that it would be difficult to confirm the presence of bats now the buildings have been flattened.

#### **2d/JUL/15 Appleby Fair**

Re: 2d/JUL/15 An e-mail was received from Eden District Council asking for feedback following the Fair. Two members of staff came up on the 4<sup>th</sup> June to clear up any mess including some horse muck on the running track. They did not witness any serious incidents, although were not there all the time. The wet weather made a mess of Makepeace's field, and probably put some people off staying there. The toilets at both locations were well used. An Eden officer and the new police sergeant Mike James are willing to attend a council meeting if requested.

A referendum on the travellers was suggested, but others pointed out that there are other issues including motorbikes that affect the community, and it might be as well to accept the fact that the Fair takes place each year and deal with it to the best ability of all concerned.

Agreed to invite the officers to the next council meeting. **Action.**

#### **2e/JUL/15 Consultation on an extended Alston Moor Schools Federation**

Re 5/JUN/15 Acknowledgement of the parish council's comments was received and confirmation that 91% were in favour of federation, 8% against and 1% disqualified out of the 300 votes received. The school governors' results were counted separately and both schools voted for federation, which will come into place in September.

#### **2f/JUL/15 CALC Training events**

Re 6a/JUN/15 A training session will be held in Melmerby on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July 7pm – 9pm with a few spaces left. The cost is to be divided by the number of attendees, and is currently standing at £13.75. Anyone interested was asked to contact the clerk.

#### **2g/JUL/15 Condition of Tynehead Road**

Re: 2f /JUN/15 The clerk was asked to write to the agents for Crossgill Farm again, as the condition of the road is no better. **Action.**

### **3. Planning**

**3a/AUG/15** 15/0468 Reserved matters. Approval of all reserved matters associated with planning approval 15/0062 agricultural workers dwelling, Hill Farm, Garrigill CA9 3HF

Cllr Green declared an interest.

**Recommended** for approval. Proposed by Cllr Herdman and seconded by Cllr Grew. (nem con)

**3b/JUL/15** 15/0472 Full application. Proposed general purpose agricultural building. Sheep Riggs Farm, Alston CA9 3BD for Mr A. Richardson.

**Recommended** for approval. Proposed by Cllr Herdman and seconded by Cllr Green. (nem con)

**3c/JUL/15** 15/0474 Full application. Rebuilding of derelict farmhouse to provide two market houses and one affordable house. Cotterill House, Dykeheads, Nenthead, CA9 3PY for Mr I. Pickering.

**Resolved** to adjourn the meeting for 5 minutes to allow the public to speak.

*The first speaker stated that there is a huge demand for affordable rented properties in Nenthead, and additional housing such as the one proposed would help support the village school, shop and other services in the area. The proposal has been revised to reduce the height of the building and the number of houses from 4 to 3 to make it less prominent, with a similar height to houses down the hill. It will be screened by trees to help it blend into the hillside.*

*The second speaker spoke on behalf of several residents, pointing out that the property was a small ruined farmhouse on a prominent rise surrounded by fields in an open landscape in a location not related to the local service centre, and with a long history of planning refusals, the latest being March this year. The new application looks like a suburban house. The original dwelling was a one and a half storey building, with much of the floor space used for farming purposes, whose character would be lost with the new proposal. A large area has been allocated for vehicles, which would harm the character of the landscape.*

**Questions** – *the first speaker confirmed that building work has not started, and he did not consider building up the wall to be part of the work. The proposals are on the footprint of the old building, but modern building standards would not allow a one and a half storey building. The trees and hedges to the north of the building were not considered in the application.*

The council reconvened.

Noted that there was a petition in support of two dwellings, which might be more in character with the area. Nenthead is hard to define as it developed with houses scattered throughout the countryside, although Cotterill is clearly outside the main cluster. The Local Plan is in favour of renovation in the open countryside, but will not be passed until next year. The parish council had supported one of the applications, which was refused, and it is a fact that complete rebuilding is sometimes required when a building is beyond redemption.

**Recommended** for refusal on the grounds that this application is visibly very similar to the last and much larger than the original farmhouse. The parish council would be in favour of one or two less ambitious dwellings. The council are also concerned about the proximity of the proposed package treatment plant to a grove of mature beech trees to the north of the development. Proposed by Cllr Herdman and seconded by Cllr Green. (5+ 1- 4 abs)

**3d/JUL/15** 15/0487 Full application Variation or removal of condition 1 of approved application 97/0684 relating to local occupancy restriction. The Swallows, Nenthead CA9 3LW for Mrs H. Craigs.

**Recommended** for refusal on the grounds that a Local Occupancy Clause helps to keep a property more affordable for local residents, and time should be given to see if there are any local purchasers. Proposed by Cllr Herdman and seconded by Cllr Green. (7+ 3 abs)

**3e/JUL/15** 15/0567 Full application. Proposed single storey self-contained annexe. Garrigill House, Garrigill CA9 3DS for Mr D. Greenhalgh.

Cllr Robertson declared an interest.

**Recommended** for approval. Proposed by Cllr Aves and seconded by Cllr. Herdman. (1 abs)

#### **Decision Notices**

None received.

**Resolved** to adjourn the meeting to allow a local business to speak.

*Hags Bank Bunkhouse's campsite is subject to a planning investigation based around change of use, and they have been asked to submit a retrospective application. They are looking for a letter of support from the parish council for the activities run on the site, which includes local groups running wildlife studies and other courses run by the North Pennines AONB. The business contributes towards the local economy and encourages tourism. Recently participants in an orienteering event spent £4.5k on Alston Moor including fuel, eating out in local pubs bringing money into the area.*

*The planners are still in discussion as to what is needed for the application.*

The meeting reconvened.

**Resolved** to write a letter of support for the business activities at Haggs Bank Bunkhouse. Proposed by Cllr Aves and seconded by Cllr Athey (9+ 1 abs)

#### **4. Nenthead Community Works – funding for snowplough**

Cllr Aves declared an interest.

An e-mail was received from Nenthead Community Works stating that they have a cash-flow problem caused by exceptional repair costs incurred last winter and the simultaneous need to continue to repay substantial loans provided by 4 of the members to enable the purchase of a gritter truck in 2013. There was a trading loss of £1,500 this year, and as a result they will run short of funds before December when the annual payment from the County Council is due. To improve the short-term financial situation they have applied for an additional severe weather payment from Cumbria Highways, as allowed under their contract, because of the high number of call outs last winter. In the longer term they have approached two funding bodies that might be able to give a grant towards maintenance costs, although the decision timetable means that it is unlikely they could provide assistance before next year.

It was suggested at a recent Nenthead Ward meeting that they should apply for support from AMPC and would be appreciative of any support that could be offered, either as a one-off payment or as a regular precepted annual grant for future years.

It was suggested that the group apply to the Neighbourhood Forum or local members scheme. The clerk to pass on contact details. **Action.**

An amendment to the resolution of a £100 contribution, proposed by Cllr Phillips and seconded by Cllr Haldon, was not carried.

**Resolved** to contribute £500 to Nenthead Community Works. Proposed by Cllr Grew and seconded by Cllr Godwin. (6+ 2- 2 abs)

The clerk was asked to request a copy of the accounts, and if eligible nominate Nenthead Community Works for the Skipton Building Society awards. **Action.**

**Resolved** to ask all future applicants for funding for a copy of their accounts before considering a request. Proposed by Cllr Green and seconded by Cllr Athey. (nem con)

#### **5 Bridleway 302112 and footpath 302124 – Dykeheads**

A further request has been made to the County Council for information on the original claim form under the 1949 act on where the north-western end of FP 302124 is stated to terminate, but nothing further has been heard as yet.

It was confirmed by a site visit that the formerly blocked bridleway 302112 has had a gate fitted so that it is now usable by horse riders.

Cllr Phillips reported that the adjacent landowners are aware that people use the path, as they leave the gates open. He was not happy about the amount of time taken to deal with minor rights of way, caused by the failure of the County Council to register any of the footpath and bridleway routes that had vehicular rights, and the repeated unsuccessful requests for information held by the County. He is now aware of three people who regularly use the route on foot, but the correct status is a restricted byway. It might be useful to involve the British Horse Society as they have an interest in bridleways.

Agreed to invite a representative from the Rights of Way team to the Traffic Management meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> August, to discuss the issues and to try and work together to reach a solution.

#### **6 Street Lights**

A copy of the completed streetlights report from Eden District Council was circulated before the meeting. An e-mail from Eden District Council stated that light no 56 outside Daffenside, Church Road and no 63 outside Kenby, Garrigill Road are due to be replaced, but may take a few weeks to complete as the columns have to be concreted into place, the lamp heads put on at a later date and the electric supply connected by Electricity North West Ltd. (ENWL)

Noted that Cllr Hymers has offered to see if anything can be done to speed up the re-connections and Cllr Godwin will report the street light in Nenthead that is flickering.

#### **7 Street naming and numbering – Joseph Gardens, Nenthead**

Eden District Council received a request from the developer of the above property to name the new street Joseph Gardens after the deceased landowner. The name will be accepted if the parish council agrees.

It was observed that the land was used for allotments at one time, so use of the term Gardens was appropriate.

**Resolved** to approve the name Joseph Gardens. Proposed by Cllr Aves and seconded by Cllr Herdman. (nem con)

### **8 Seat for Henderson's Wood**

The Community Warden has been offered £200 by a local business, Total Postweigh, to put a bench in Henderson's Wood. He wants to know if this is acceptable to the parish council and whether they would accept a seat made of recycled plastic to keep costs down. There were no objections to the use of recycled plastic for the seat.

**Resolved** to accept the offer of a recycled plastic seat for Henderson's Wood subject to it being firmly secured to deter vandalism. Proposed by Cllr Herdman and seconded by Cllr Grew. (nem con)

### **9 Annual tree survey contract**

A draft specification for a periodic tree and woodland inspection was circulated earlier. The agent appointed to oversee the Henderson's Wood project has offered to meet with the parish council, should they wish to discuss what might be required, but wanted to point out that as he is not a qualified tree surgeon so could not offer specific advice on individual trees.

Cllrs Athey and Robertson volunteered to meet with him for further discussions. **Action.**

### **10 Correspondence for information**

#### **10a/JUL/15 Skipton Building Society**

Information from Cllr Robinson about potential funding for community groups. The deadline is 31<sup>st</sup> July.

#### **10b/JUL/15 Notice of events/meetings**

EDC Meet the councillors Tuesday 7 July at 6pm Alston Town Hall

Risk management seminar 9<sup>th</sup> July at Wigton

Planning training session – Alston Town Hall Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July

Appleby Horse Fair public meeting to discuss the outcome of Appleby Horse Fair 2015 – 20 July in Appleby

AMP AGM Tuesday 28 July 7.30 Garrigill Village Hall

#### **10c/JUL/15 Literature received**

Clerks and Councils Direct July 2015

Hospice at Home – summer 2015

Alston Moor police newsletter

### **11. Reports from working groups and representatives**

#### **11a/JUL/15 Tour of Britain meeting**

Cllr Grew reported that she had attended the Tour of Britain meeting in Penrith, and had already circulated a report. It is anticipated that around 5,000 people will want to be present for the stage finish at Hartside top and many of them will pass through Alston. Villages on the route are being asked to put up yellow bikes, bunting and knit miniature jumpers. Cllr Phillips reported that he attended the Garrigill meeting, which had more up to date information on what was happening.

**Resolved** that the chair could organise a public meeting to gather ideas on what Alston could do to celebrate the event. Proposed by Cllr Phillips and seconded by Cllr Grew. (nem con)

There will also be an opportunity to submit a bid to the Eden Community Fund for up to £500 to help with promoting the local area.

#### **11b/JUL/15 Alston Ambulance**

The clerk reported that she was concerned that the second round of applicants has not been contacted after submitting their application forms for the beginning of May. Cllr Grew reported that she had attended a meeting in Penrith in June, but no one from North West Ambulance Service (NWAS) turned up, although they managed to have a phone conference, so the time was not totally wasted. The next meeting will take place on 13<sup>th</sup> July as a phone conference. The parish council office could be used if required.

To date 9 people have gone through the training, and provided they pass the final exam and the course on driving the ambulance, they should be ready to start. There have been a few teething problems

including some confusion over the injections required, which can now be done at Alston surgery instead of Carlisle.

NWAS intend to set a timetable to look at the new applications in June, applicants should be told by the end of June, and the successful candidates start training in July. They will be re-imbursed for time off work, and will all have to fit in with the training schedule and arrange their own childcare. The expectation is that there will be around 14 applicants with a 50% drop out rate and an aim of 16 people in total to provide enough cover for 24/7.

A decision on where to keep the ambulance also has to be made, it has to be garaged so a building has to be found, ideally this should be at the hospital or nearby so it can be easily restocked.

#### **11c/JUL/15 Transport Group**

Cllr Phillips reported that it had been suggested at the meeting that the representation should be widened to include transport companies including Wright Bros.

#### **12. Items for information/next month's agenda/urgent business**

Confidential matters relating to the elections were minuted separately.

#### **13. Finance**

##### **13a/JUL/15 Bank statements**

The statements as of 1<sup>st</sup> July 2015 were as follows:-

Alston Moor Parish Council tr/ac	£24,968.90
Alston Moor Parish Council bus/ac	£12,663.99
Eden Credit Union	£7,008.58

##### **13b/JUL/15 Accounts for Payment**

The following accounts were for payment:-

<i>Summary of accounts for payment:-</i>	£2,027.65
<i>Summary of income received since last meeting:-</i>	£327.00
<i>Summary of accounts paid since last meeting:-</i>	£143.44

**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 Herdman. (nem con)

*The meeting closed at 9.35pm*

Signed: .....

Dated: .....