

ALSTON MOOR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Alston Moor Parish Council held on Monday 4th January 2016 at 7 pm in Alston Town Hall.

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

Apologies: Cllrs: G. Wright, J. Glendinning.

Absent: none

Declarations of interest: listed under specific agenda items.

1. Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 2nd December 2015 be adopted as a correct record. Proposed by Cllr Phillips and seconded by Cllr Herdman. (2 abs)

2. Progress Reports

2a/JAN/16 Local Delivery of Services

Re: 2a/DEC/15 A report from the meeting was circulated.

2b/JAN/16 Street lights

Re: 2a/DEC/15

Nenthead footway lights – EDC are discussing the options with ENWL since they complied with their requirements and did not find out that new wayleaves would be needed until after the column was installed. ENWL will only re-connect lights within 5 m of the existing pole.

A request has been made to re-instate the light at the corner of Dene Terrace, which is on private land. This will be discussed at the next EDC working group, to be held in January. One possible option is to make the land over to either the district or parish.

Lights on properties – EDC were told that ENWL would not allow connections on private properties, and if they have connected up lights for a parish they may in future be told they must be disconnected. Their opinion is that only solar lights should be used on properties. However, Askham parish council are considering an alternative solution by setting up agreements with householders to make use of the householder's own electricity supply.

Cllr Hymers contacted a councillor from Askham for further information (details on costing in a separate report) and made the point that if the parish council wanted to place 10 lights strategically around Alston Moor the cost might be around £1,200 plus £100 per annum as a recurring cost. He suggested putting 3 lights in as a trial. An additional comment was received from Askham stating that they did not intend to offer lights to anyone asking for one, but would identify sites for maximum benefit, and install the lights when the existing light failed.

Members commented that agreements with householders could be a problem if the house were sold, but the idea was worthy of consideration, and new lights could be placed strategically. There is also the issue for the Raise that most of the street lights earmarked for eventual removal are already on columns, and the reason for not retaining them was the requirement from Eden to reduce the overall number of lights within the parish if they did not meet their criteria.

Cllr Godwin reported that a point to consider now is that the district council report has not been presented yet, and the programme of repairs and renewal will not take place until it is accepted. It would be premature to do anything too soon. Askham will be written up as a case study.

It was agreed to set up working groups for each ward to consider where lighting would be the most beneficial. Cllrs Godwin, Martin and Thomson volunteered to be on the Alston group. **ACTION**

Another suggestion is for the Garrgill Ward to hold a ward meeting to discuss what is wanted in the community, as so few lights met the criteria that in time they could be left with just 3 lights. The community need to decide whether they want dark skies or alternative lighting schemes.

2c/JAN/16 Letter from Home Office re: police funding

A letter was received from the Home Office stating that the Government has secured a good settlement for the police, which will be protected in real terms over the Spending Review period. The settlement includes extra investment to continue the job of police reform, including investment in the emergency

services and transformation funding to drive closer collaboration between police forces on specialist capabilities. The government still holds the view that further efficiencies can be delivered from improved and better use of technology, greater collaboration between forces and with other public services and from improving workforce productivity. The public should have no doubt that the police will have the resources they need to respond to new threats rapidly and efficiently. Funding allocations for 2016/17 will be set out in the provisional grant report later this month. Decisions on the size, composition and deployment of a police force's workforce are for individual Chief Officers and Police and Crime Commissioners.

Cllr Robinson reported that the County is waiting for a final decision. The situation is in a state of flux and in time it may be that a Mayor responsible for Cumbria may take over responsibility for the fire brigade and police. Rural areas are likely to come off worst.

2d/JAN/16 Missing litter bin in Garrigill/salt bin lids

Re: 2b/DEC/15 – no information received and the clerk was asked to request a replacement. **ACTION**

The clerk has reported the problem of the salt bin lids not being strong enough. No reply received, and she suggested it could be discussed at the next Traffic Management meeting.

2e/JAN/16 Nenthead Fountain

Re: 7/DEC/15 Cllr Godwin reported that she had discussed the fountain with a representative from Nenthead Mines, who offered to send a list of grant funders. The clerk reported that she has been given a contact name to speak to at Bonds, and has discussed the possibility of putting in a quote with a local blacksmith. There may be more than one solution for the repair put forward.

3. Progress reports from working groups and council representatives

3a/ JAN/16 Local delivery of services

Cllrs had nothing further to add.

3b/ JAN/16 Barclay's Bank closure impact assessment

Barclay's produced an impact assessment shortly after closing the branch. It is not very informative, but all the working group can do is put in a report to parliament objecting to the process. The ATM developed a fault over the weekend, and has been taken offline after complaints that people were not getting the right amount of cash. It should be fixed within a few days. Friday last month saw no cash available in the town, clearly demonstrating that at least 2 cash machines are needed.

3c/ JAN/16 Community Gym update

Cllr Haldon reported that the manager has now left and 2 new directors appointed, one experienced in the fitness industry, and a volunteer to manage the accounts. The gym is currently losing about £100 per month, but the situation could easily be turned around with a few more members joining.

4 County Councillor's Report

Cllr Robinson reported on the following:-

Neighbourhood Forum grants – funds are still available, with the next meeting in February. She suggested the Gym make an application especially as specific funding is available to help deal with obesity.

Lazonby Fire Station - the fire crew have been inundated with letters of support, but a decision has not been taken yet.

Garrigill tubs – highways have confirmed that the tubs on the pavement in Garrigill should be removed, and can charge the householder if they fail to remove them within 28 days. Noted that a business has also put barrels on the pavement. An offer was made to speak to the owner. **Action.**

District Councillor's Report

Cllr Hymers reported on the following:-

Planning- Eden District Council can request an applicant submit a retrospective application if it is deemed necessary.

Banking opportunities – following the public meeting, there is still an offer from Santander to discuss how they might help. Rory Stewart, MP is also willing to assist. Barclays Bank Chambers is empty, so there could be an opportunity for an appropriate organisation to discuss leases.

Garrigill ford – an ambulance was stuck there recently having followed the sat nav. Cllr Hymers praised the County Council for their response in dealing promptly with problem of stones in the pipes.

Flooding issues in Eden – praise also for the emergency staff who dealt with flooding throughout

Cumbria. Eden staff are now advising residents and businesses on grants and how to get back into business. Communication remains an issue as many residents are not able to return to their homes, and it will take time to repair and replace bridges. A Bailey bridge is being considered at Pooley Bridge, but the issue of whether rivers should be dredged is still under debate.

Gillwilly Business Park/M6 corridor – there are plans to extend the park, but this is in the longer term. When complete it could lead to higher paid jobs and opportunities for local people, with the possibility of encouraging people to live in Alston. A working party is looking at how more business can be created. Cllr Robinson confirmed that the task will take a long time, and will be for the mayor when he/she is appointed to take a strategic overview. One of the biggest issues currently is encouraging visitors to come back to Cumbria, and a big marketing push will be needed in the spring.

Cllr Godwin reported on the following:-

AONB meeting – a report was given on the tasks that could be undertaken as part of the peatlands programme, including infilling the drainage channels to slow down the run-off of water, and slowly returning the land to sphagnum moss, which retains water. There is evidence that woodland planting also helps. She advised that the issue of dredging rivers should be left to the scientists, and that it would be wise to study the full reports before expressing an opinion.

5. Planning

5a/JAN/16 15/1104 Full application. Alterations to front and rear, change porch and add rear dormer (re-submission of 14/0911). Whitburn Cottage, Alston CA9 3DA for Ms Julie Capewell.

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

5b/JAN/16 15/1118 Full application. Replacement of antenna, 1 x 300mm dish, 1 x 600mm (new) addition of 2 no RRU's and 1 no. Fita Box within existing cabin. Land off A689 Nenthead, Alston CA9 3PB for Vodafone Ltd.

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

5c/JAN/16 15/1147 Full application. Conversion and extension of redundant farm building to a holiday cottage. School House, Leadgate Road, Leadgate, Alston CA9 3EL for Mr & Mrs A. Thompson.

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

The meeting was adjourned to allow a resident to speak.

A planning application for a small wind turbine is to go before committee in February and the applicant has been told that the application will probably be refused because of a ministerial statement that consent will only be granted if the impact on the local community has been fully addressed.

Members noted that they had supported the application at an earlier meeting, and had received no objections from local residents. The site is at a distance from residential properties.

Resolved to write in support of the application for a wind turbine. Proposed by Cllr Haldon and seconded by Cllr Phillips. (nem con)

It was suggested to the applicant that he ask neighbours to write in support.

Decision Notices

None.

6 Consultations & Correspondence for information

6a/JAN/16 Cumbria County Council consultation on refreshed Council Plan

It was agreed that members would comment as individuals if they so wished.

6b/JAN/16 CCC – Notices of events/meetings

Disability Consultation: Adult Commissioning Strategy 11th January 2016

Nenthead Ward Meeting – 25th January 2016

6c/JAN/16 Information received during the last month

Eden Local Plan – submitted 22 December 2016

Barclays Bank Impact Assessment

Notes on Neighbourhood Planning - December 2015, Edition 17

6d/JAN/16 The Future of the External Audit

CALC notice on the future of External Audit for smaller authorities. The Audit Commission ceased to exist on the 1st April 2015 and a new company, Smaller Authorities Audit Appointments Ltd has been created to take over the appointment of external auditors and the setting of audit fees from 2017. The company will formally appoint external auditors for a five year period from 2017/18. This will happen automatically

unless the parish council decides to opt out and set up an independent Audit Panel to procure external audit itself. The deadline for opting out is 31st March 2016.

7. Neighbourhood/Community Planning

The clerk reported that there will be a low carbon neighbourhood planning workshop on Thursday 11th February probably between 6pm and 9pm, although the time has not been confirmed. The parish council are hosting the event, which is open to others to attend and it would be especially useful for all members of the council and the directors of Alston Moor Partnership. The community plan is coming to the end of its life and there may be scope to consider both.

8. Flooding issues – Alston Moor

(moved from 4 to agenda heading)

The clerk reported that Helen Renyard e-mailed to say that she was on leave and had not been able to view the proposed programme for the potential works regarding the mill race other than some funding has been earmarked for the feasibility study within the next financial year (2016/17) with any potential scheme identified in later years. She asked that any questions be forwarded to her.

It was suggested that HR be invited to the next Traffic Management meeting. **Action.**

Several issues were reported.

On Potters Lonning storm water entered the sewerage system with the result that some properties on Potters Lonning were unable to flush their loos. Bonds had a problem with standing water.

The problem of flooding at Hags Mineshop and Holmesfoot have been ongoing for a long time, but there is a need to fully identify the issues to establish if any action can be taken to alleviate future flooding.

Other areas which experienced problems including North Lonning, the Mill Race and Station Yard have already been reported, but concerns for businesses were noted.

An update on the report was requested.

9. Working group to look at community and visitor events for the year ahead

Cllr Martin reported that Alston does not have many organised community events now, and she was aware from attending the star council awards that Frome, who won the best council of the year award, holds 2 events a month aimed at encouraging people to come to the town. What they did was identify niche groups and create events for them.

It was said that Grisedale Croft have started to hold tea dances for the over sixties, which are proving popular, and it would also be useful to encourage more people to go to the events already happening around the community.

Resolved to set up a working group with Cllrs Martin and Miller.

10. Suggestion to put banners on the Co-op wall instead of the Market Cross

Cllr Martin reported that a local resident asked the Co-op if they would allow banners to be put on the wall besides the entrance, and they agreed and are willing to put up fixings, subject to the parish council having no objection.

Resolved that the parish council have no objection to using the Co-op wall for temporary banners. (nem con)

11. New information about defibrillators

Cllr Grew reported that the Garrigill defibrillator was used recently, and she was told by a representative from North West Ambulance Service that the battery will only last 2 years if it is not used, otherwise it may need to be changed earlier. The chest stickers are also dated, but only one comes with the battery supplied by NWAS. The delay in sending out new batteries was due to a supply problem with the company providing them.

12. Items for next month's agenda and urgent business

12a/JAN/16 Litter bins

Cllr Aves reported that the litter bins besides and inside the play area at Nenthead are in poor condition. The clerk was asked to report the one belonging to Eden District Council and it was suggested that the Nenthead Play Area committee think about applying for a grant to replace theirs.

12b/JAN/16 Written reports

It was suggested that district and county cllrs be asked to submit written reports to the council and to allow a maximum of 5 minutes for questions. **Action.**

13. Finance

13a/JAN/16 Bank statements

The statements as of 4th January 2016 were as follows:-

Alston Moor Parish Council tr/ac	£14,560.27
Alston Moor Parish Council bus/ac	£12,668.41
Eden Credit Union	£7,008.58

13b/JAN/16 Accounts for Payment

The following accounts were for payment:-

<i>Summary of accounts for payment :-</i>	£3,261.69
<i>Summary of income received since last meeting :-</i>	£27.21
<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 Haldon and seconded by Cllr Green. (nem con)

14 Alston Ward matters

This part of the meeting was held in confidence.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm

Signed:

Dated: