

## **ALSTON MOOR PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the meeting of Alston Moor Parish Council held on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2016 at 7pm in Garrigill Village Hall

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

**Apologies:** Cllrs: A Robertson

**Absent:** none.

**Declarations of interest:** listed under specific agenda items. D. Phillips and M. Herdman – 5c/JUL/16

A tribute was held to Dennis Langhorne, a former parish councilor who died last month.

### **1. Minutes**

**Resolved** that the minutes of the parish council meeting held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2016 be adopted as a correct record with the deletion of Cllr Aves from the list of attendees. Proposed by Cllr Athey and seconded by Cllr Hill. (nem con).

### **2. Progress Reports**

#### **2a/JUL/16 Garrigill tree survey**

Re 6/JUN/16 The clerk reported that she contacted the Land Agents for the Catholic Trust to enquire about responsibility for the trees. The agents had a letter dated 15<sup>th</sup> February 1966 from Alston with Garrigill Rural District Council for a 20 year lease, with the RDC taking responsibility for all repairs, which the agent took to mean that the council are responsible for necessary works to the trees. The parish council paid the 1d later 1p annual rent each year. The only correspondence was in 1997 when a suggestion was made to increase the rent to £5, which was negotiated down to 1p by the parish council.

The Catholic Trust commissioned a tree health and safety survey last year, and if the village green was included they will inform the council.

It was noted that the lease has not been formally renewed, and should be discussed when the next bill is sent. **Action.**

#### **2b/JUL/16 Firs Wood tree survey**

Re: 3e/JUN/16 The clerk reported that the tree surgeons who dealt with the damaged beech in Firs Wood have agreed to look at it, with a view to producing a written statement, but may charge.

#### **2c/JUL/16 Parish Council website**

Re: 8/JUN/16 The clerk reported that she has produced a draft specification for a website, and will include an appendix listing the suggested content before it goes out to tender.

Cllr Haldon offered to assist with contact details for contractors. It was agreed to advertise on-line.

#### **Action.**

The clerk reported that problem with the office computer may be caused by the software recommended by HSBC as a security measure. A volunteer looked at the computer, improving it a little but may still need looking at by a computer specialist.

#### **2d/JUL/16 Nenthead Fountain**

Re: APR/16 The contractor has completed the repairs to the fountain, and included a photo in his report. He noted that the canopy is loose, and as this may be a danger to the public the clerk asked him to make it safe in addition to the other work. She informed the chair and vice-chair of this action.

#### **2e/JUL/16 Damage to wall along the Raise**

Re: 10a/JUN/16 The damage to a wall along the Raise has been reported to the tenant, whose responsibility it is to follow up if there are any issues.

### **3. Progress reports from working groups and council representatives**

#### **3a JUN/16 Parish seats**

Re: 3f.MAY/16 Cllr Godwin contacted two residents who are keen walkers, who are keen to help by identifying seats around the parish and photographing them.

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

Cllr Robinson sent apologies and a written report.

**The Firs Estate** – patching will not be until September at the earliest due to the need to complete next year's surface dressing. The letter about the sleeping policemen should go out at the end of the week.

**War Memorial steps** – a highways officer met with Cllr Glendinning and agreed that no works are required on the A686 side of the steps, but the A689 side will be tidied up, Cllr Glendinning confirmed that highways have agreed to move the sign.

**Gudham Gill retaining wall** – highways are unable to source a 17T Rubber Duck (excavator with tyres rather than metal tracks) which is required to lift the 4T gabion baskets into. With the closure imminent for the Nenthead cobbles commencing 18<sup>th</sup> July, which will use this route as part of the diversion, the work is now programmed to commence mid August.

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

Cllr Goodwin reported on the following:

**Staff changes** – a number of senior officers have retired over the last few months, occasioning a report to the council. Cllrs are confident that replacement officers have been or are in the process of being appointed and that Eden has strong leadership.

**Eden Local Plan** – the inspectors have flagged up some concerns about key hubs, the main issue being that communities without daily bus services may not be sustainable. 17 additional dwellings per hub were identified and there is a question as to whether this is enough.

**Neighbourhood Plans** – it is a key criteria that they do not override the local plan, which must be referenced.

**Eden by-election** – notice of the vacancy for a district councillor has been published.

### **5. Planning**

**5a/JUL/16** 16/0531 Full application. Var/Removal of S106 Removal of S106 agreement attached to planning approval 12/0321. Land at Sunnyside, Wardway, Nenthead CA9 3AE for Mr Pickering.

**Recommended** for refusal unless the applicant can demonstrate that there is no need for affordable housing in the village, and identify what has changed since last application. Proposed by Cllr Herdman and seconded by Cllr Wright. (2 abs )

**5b/JUL/16** 16/0468 Full application. Change of use from A1 retail shop to C3 dwellinghouse. Former Barclays Bank Chambers, Front Street, Alston CA9 3SE for Mr T. Rosenberg.

**Recommended** for refusal on the grounds that the parish council want to keep shops in the town centre. Proposed by Cllr Martin and seconded by Cllr Herdman. (1- 2 abs)

**5c/JUL/16** 16/08 Full application. Erection of three market-led and one affordable dwelling. Land adj Fell View, Nenthead CA9 3PS for Mr J. Edgar.

There was a request from Eden District Council that the parish council reconsider their comment that no recommendation be made until the road condition has been assessed and a flood risk undertaken. Highways and the CCC flood team do not consider either report necessary. As the original response is a neutral one, a position of support, object, no comment or observations would allow the application to be determined. The officer stated that the application could be refused under delegated powers, but as an objection has been made if he were to recommend approval it would have to go to the Planning Committee.

An e-mail was received stating that two residents were unable to attend the meeting, but would like to support the spokesperson's comments on behalf of those objecting to the planning application.

**Resolved** to adjourn the meeting to allow a spokesperson for those present to speak.

*A paper listing the objections was circulated with the key points being:*

- *No obvious evidence of pressing demand for, or shortage of housing in Nenthead.*
- *No up-to-date local housing need survey*
- *The proposed development of two pairs of semi-detached houses is completely out of character as all other housing in the vicinity is either terraced or detached.*
- *There is no evidence of an ecology report on the site.*

*It was pointed out that houses built two years ago nearby have remained unsold, and there are many rental properties in the village awaiting tenants. The North Pennines AONB Partnership have criticised the inappropriate infill style development, the lack of evidence of an ecology report and the size of the*

*development in this location.*

The meeting re-convened and Cllrs Phillips and Herdman declared an interest as neighbours.

**Recommended** for refusal on the grounds that the parish council supports the Nenthead residents' views as set out in a paper (Appendix III) and because of the decision by the County Council that a report on traffic safety and flood risk is not needed. Proposed by Cllr Hill and seconded by Cllr Aves. (4 abs)

**5d/JUL/16** 16/0441 Full application. Proposed one additional new dwelling to the Raise Park Development. Raise Park, Brampton Road, Alston CA9 3AA for Mr & Mrs S. Harrison – Raise Park Developments.

**Recommended** for approval. Proposed by Cllr Athey and seconded by Cllr Glendinning. (7 +1- 7abs)

#### **Decision Notices**

**i/JUL/16** 15/0962 Var/Removal of S106. Removal of S106 legal agreement attached to planning approval 12/0321. Land at Sunnyside, Wardway, Nenthead, CA9 3PX for Mr Pickering. Permission refused.

**ii/JUL/16** 15/1013 Full application. Change of use of former workshops, café and museum to residential use. Nenthead Mines Heritage Centre, Nenthead CA9 3PD for Mr B. Maguire. Permission granted with conditions.

**iii/JUL/16** 16/0201 Full application. Proposed goat stable. Foulard Cottage, Nenthead, Alston CA9 3LP for Mr A. Vallance. Permission granted with conditions.

#### **6. Condition of Garrigill Play Area**

Cllr Green reported that the grass around the play area behind the village hall needs cutting, the rubber matting is covered in moss, and that the equipment is ageing and in need of replacement.

Mention was made of the regular inspections required by the Nenthead Play Area insurers, but Cllr Haldon, a member of the Village Hall Committee, confirmed that the Village Hall insurers did not require this.

**Resolved** to write to the chair of the Village Hall stating that some residents are concerned about the condition of the play area, and asked for the matter to be brought up at a parish council meeting. Proposed by Cllr Herdman and seconded by Cllr Wright. (2 abs) **Action.**

#### **7. Neighbourhood Planning & proposal to set up a working group**

It was agreed to set up a working group to explore the potential for an Alston Moor Neighbourhood Plan. Agreed that Cllrs Green, Godwin, Martin, Thomson, Haldon and Phillips would form the working group.

#### **8. Report on Appleby Fair from Alston Gym**

A representative from the Community gym reported on their experience over the Appleby Fair weeks, noting that they had spoken to some travellers about various issues and the offer by the travellers' representative to make everyone aware of the conditions of use. A number said they did not know the representative. The main concerns were that a few horses had been let loose on the field, with the owners unco-operative when asked to tether them, the numbers present and loss of income for the gym because regular users stay away. The recycling bins were not used correctly and the waste contaminated, also resulting in a loss of income to the gym. They felt the other official site was underused in comparison to Tyne Willows.

Cllr Glendinning reported that there is potential for a farmer to generate income by letting out a field. He suggested putting a gate across the access road to control usage, and highlighted the conditions of the lease to Samuel King's School set up by Cumbria County Council. The clerk mentioned that she thought the lease was now with the school, following re-organisation. Also that she had asked Eden District Council about sending a representative to the multi-agency group.

It was stated that if there are to be any changes to site availability the travellers need to know in advance, and that horses pulling the bowtops need to rest before travelling over Hartside.

**Resolved** to set up a working group to investigate options. Proposed by Cllr Godwin and seconded by Cllr Thomson. (nem con)

Cllrs Glendinning, Godwin, Phillips and Green agreed to be on the working group and to invite a representative from the gym to attend.

It was agreed to hold a site visit for all members to ensure that everyone has a good understanding of the layout of the site. The clerk was asked to set a date for the site visit. **Action.**

A request was made to the parish council for funding to offset the loss of income to the gym. It was explained that the parish council have agreed to set up an open meeting in the autumn to discuss community donations and precept requests, as budgets have to be considered and agreed.

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

### **9a/JUL/16 War Graves Commission – Living Memory Project**

Parish councils have been invited to take part in the War Graves Commission Living Memory project, with a small grants fund to assist. The clerk spoke to the Local Links team who said that as the Somme commemorations had already taken place in Alston, it was unlikely to be relevant.

### **9b/JUL/16 CCC – Park Lane, Alston – temporary prohibition of through traffic commencing 8<sup>th</sup> August 2016**

Northern Gas Networks will be carrying out gas replacement works which are anticipated to take around 4 weeks, although the Order may continue in force for a period of up to eighteen months.

### **9c/JUL/16 CCC – A689 Raise Bank, Alston – temporary prohibition commencing 5<sup>th</sup> September 2016**

Northern Gas Networks will be carrying out gas replacement works and should take about 2 weeks, although the Order may continue in force for a period of up to eighteen months.

### **9d/JUL/16 CALC – change to law regarding bankruptcy for local authority members**

A note was received from CALC stating that the law has changed and bankruptcy is no longer an automatic disqualification to serving as a member of a local authority. Cllrs are only disqualified if they are subject to a Bankruptcy Restriction Order (BRO), served on individuals whose conduct has been irresponsible, reckless or otherwise culpable.

### **9e/JUL/16 EDC footway lighting update & replacement lights in Nenthead**

An update report on Footway Lighting – June 2016 was circulated earlier. The report contains information on the parishes that are looking into community footway lighting solutions.

In Nenthead light no 6 outside Eastern House and no 24 outside Holmefoot are due to be replaced in the near future. The process may take some time as the columns have to be concreted into place, the lamp heads put on at a later date, and the electricity supply connected by ENWL.

### **9f/JUL/16 CCC- footpath No 302145 – Garrigill Recreation Grounds, temporary prohibition of pedestrians Order 2016**

The footpath across the South Tyne is to be closed for repairs between the junction with the C3039 and a short section beyond the bridge. The Order came into operation on the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2016.

### **9g/JUL/16 Notices of meetings/events/literature**

CALC circular – June 2016

Clerks & Councils Direct – July 2016

Local Council Review – summer 2016

Cumbria Central Heating Fund- - grants to install central heating in homes for eligible households

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

### **10a/JUL/16**

Use of Tyne Willows during Appleby Fair weeks.

## **11. Finance**

### **11a/JUL/16 Bank statements**

The statements as 4<sup>th</sup> July 2016 were as follows:-

Alston Moor Parish Council tr/ac	£32,257.96
Alston Moor Parish Council bus/ac	£12,672.83
Eden Credit Union	£7,008.58

### **11b/JUL/16 Accounts for Payment**

The following accounts were for payment:-

<i>Summary of accounts for payment :-</i>	£283.05
<i>Summary of income received since last meeting :-</i>	£2.21

Summary of accounts paid since last meeting:- £786.99

**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 Grew and seconded by Cllr Haldon. (nem con)

**11c/JUL/16 Financial Statement**

The financial statement for the first quarter of the year was circulated.

*The meeting closed at 9.10 pm*

Signed: .....

Dated: .....