

ALSTON MOOR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Alston Moor Parish Council held on Monday 6th June 2016 at 7pm in Nenthead Village Hall

Present: Cllrs: A. Green (Chair), D. Athey, J. Glendinning, P. Godwin, T. Haldon S. Hill, A. Martin, D. Phillips, A Robertson, R. Thomson.

Apologies: Cllrs: E. Grew, B. Aves, R. Miller, G. Wright, M. Herdman.

Absent: none.

Declarations of interest: listed under specific agenda items.

1. Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the annual parish council meeting held on Monday 9th May 2016 be adopted as a correct record. Proposed by Cllr Thomson and seconded by Cllr Robertson. (nem con).

2. Progress Reports

2a/JUN/16 Local Links Management Board

Re: elections/MAY/16 Confirmation has been received that meetings of the Management Board would only be held if there were any urgent matters to attend to, as keeping in touch by e-mail has proved satisfactory.

2b/JUN/16 Parish Council meeting venues

Re: 2c/MAY/16 The clerk reported that she has moved the August meeting from Nenthead to Alston Town Hall to avoid the road closure. Other than making enquiries with potential venues nothing further can be done until confirmation is received that the Town Hall will have a regular Monday evening user.

2c/JUN/16 Further consultation – Haggs Mine Water Treatment scheme

Re: 3b/MAY/16 An e-mail was received from the Coal Authority stating that they will undertake further works over the proposed mine water treatment scheme, since it was clear from the meeting that residents are concerned. Both the Coal Authority and Environment Agency acknowledged that they underestimated the level of concern and desire of the local community to be more involved in developing the proposed scheme.

In a further e-mail the Coal Authority said they would be interested in discussing the proposals further with the parish council; they are undertaking a programme of engagement with the local community during the summer, and suggested liaising around August to agree an appropriate meeting date.

3. Progress reports from working groups and council representatives

3a MAY/16 Alston League of Friends meeting to discuss the future of Alston Cottage Hospital and ratification of appointment of representative

Cllr Martin confirmed that she had attended a meeting with representatives from the League of Friends, Cllr Godwin and Cllr Hymers but the group did not wish their discussions to be made public at this stage. However, the community needs to prepare for a fight and the most useful thing everyone can do at the moment is to write to the Success Regime with their views. A form letter has been put together, which can be used as a basis for individual letter writers, and contact details of who to write to are on facebook.

3b/MAY/16 Alston Ambulance meeting

Cllr Martin reported that there were no matters that could be discussed publicly at present.

3c/ MAY/16 Alston Traffic Management meeting

The minutes from the meeting were circulated earlier. Actions arising are:

Parking and redundant signs survey – a request for improvements to the signage for the town centre came originally from Alston Moor Business Association, but members agreed that the survey could be extended to the whole of Alston Moor. Cllr Martin reported that AMBA would like a ‘free parking’ sign in the town to encourage visitors to stay. Cllr Glendinning offered to carry out the survey.

Alston War Memorial – highways were reluctant to move the 30mph sign besides the war memorial as they said it had been there for many years. However, the funders for the restoration project do not like it and have requested that it be moved. There is also an issue with the lower steps having been tarmaced over, because the ground level has altered over the years. Highways are willing to see if anything can be done here.

Agreed that Cllr Robinson would ask Highways to meet with Cllr Glendinning. **Action.**

3d/MAY/16 Nenthead Ward meeting

Cllr Phillips reported that there was nothing requiring the parish council to take action over. The meeting received reports from the hydro scheme, and Nenthead chapel, which are both starting to make progress. Due to a misunderstanding over dates the school gave the report intended for the AGM and confirmed that it is not in danger although numbers are not immediately expected to improve.

3e/MAY/16 Woodland tree survey and recommended actions

Cllr Robertson had circulated a report from the meeting held to look at the trees identified in the tree survey. He also spoke with the contractor who confirmed that everything listed in category b should be dealt with, although it was not necessary to do the work immediately. The two trees 15 and 22 giving rise to concern do need action within the next 12 months. Tree 15 was pruned by a local contractor last year, and the brash left for wildlife. Despite this work, the tree is now listed as a possible hazard and the survey recommends that it is cut down completely and the brash removed. The clerk confirmed that the contractor had been asked to leave the brash for wildlife.

Agreed to ask the contractor to provide a written statement that he considers the tree to be safe. **Action.**

Prices to be obtained for cutting back tree 22. **Action.**

Agreed that a better map is needed for cllrs. **Action.**

3f/MAY/16 Repairs to causeway under bridge and parish seats

Cllr Herdman has repaired the causeway under the bridge, but has other commitments that are preventing him carrying out more repairs to the seats. He wondered if anyone else might be willing to take on this task.

It was agreed to make a start by cataloguing and photographing parish seats. Cllr Godwin mentioned that she could ask a local couple who go out walking regularly to help identify the seats. A local resident who has recently repainted the seat at Springfield also offered to help. **Action.**

4 County Councillor's Report

Cllr Robinson had nothing new to report as the County meeting is tomorrow. Road maintenance continues, and she urged local organisations to apply to the neighbourhood forum and Eden Community fund.

District Councillor's Report

Noted that Cllr Hymers has resigned, so a by-election will have to be held.

Cllr Goodwin reported on the following:

Eden Community Fund - a large number of applications have been received for the first tranche, and Eden will hold some funds over for the next round of applications, but there will be nothing further until the next financial year. Anyone considering applying is advised to get their application ready for next month.

5. Planning

5a/JUN/16 15/1107 Full application. Change of use of land to camping and caravan site including associated groundworks, buildings, temporary shed and containers, hardstanding. Conversion of Candle House to holiday accommodation and outline planning permission for the erection of a manager's dwelling, storage and site office, with approval sought for access. Higgs Bank Bunkhouse, Nentsberry, Alston CA9 3LH for Mr D. Taylor.

Cllr Robertson declared an interest.

Recommended for approval. Proposed by Cllr Haldon and seconded by Cllr Athey. (1 abs)

5b/JUN/16 16/0318 Conservation Area. Subdivision into two separate dwellings with demolition and rebuild of NW gable to reduce width of building. Brook House, Overburn, Alston CA9 3SH for Mr A. Carr.

Recommended for approval. Proposed by Cllr Athey and seconded by Cllr Robertson. (1 abs)

5c/JUN/16 16/0433 Full application. Proposed general purpose agricultural building. Meadow Flatt, Alston CA9 3DE for Mr N. Ridley.

Recommended for approval. Proposed by Cllr Robertson and seconded by Cllr Thomson. (1 abs)

5d/JUN/16 16/0395 Full application. New vehicular and pedestrian access on main road A689. Foul Loaning, Alston CA9 3BD for Mr J. Brown.

Recommended for approval. Proposed by Cllr Athey and seconded by Cllr Robertson. (2 abs)

Decision Notices

i/JUN/16 15/0606 Full application. Proposed installation of a Tozzi Nord TN535 10kw domestic wind turbine to generate electricity. Coatlith Hill Farm, Alston CA9 3JZ for Mr C. Harrison. Permission granted with conditions.

ii/JUN/16 15/1128 Full application. Retrospective planning application to build a poultry shed. 4 Hilltop Cottages, Nenthead CA9 3PB for Mr P. Drew. Permission granted with conditions.

iii/JUN/16 15/1147 Full application. Conversion and extension of redundant farm building to a holiday cottage. School House, Leadgate Road, Leadgate CA9 3EL for Mr & Mrs A. Thompson. Permission granted with conditions.

iv/JUN/16 16/0098 Full application. Proposed rear extension to house, extension to outbuilding and new garage. Bunkershill, Garrigill CA9 3EW for Mr C. Jennings. Permission granted with conditions.

v/JUN/16 Alston Town Hall – Cllr Robertson reported that detailed plans for the town hall door have been submitted, but he has not heard back from the planners as yet.

vi/JUN/16 A query was raised about the planning application at Whitehall as no decision has been received as yet. The clerk reported that she contacted the planners early in the year and was advised that anyone who had raised an objection would be informed when the plans come up for a decision.

6. Garrigill Tree Survey

It was agreed to ask the Catholic Trust if they would take responsibility for the trees on Garrigill Village Green.

7. Review of Saturday drop-in sessions and decision on either setting up a rota or ending the sessions

Cllr Haldon reported that Alston Moor Partnership have allowed Saturday parish council drop in sessions to take place in the shop for the last couple of years. Although it is generally fairly quiet people do come in with questions most weeks, and it is an opportunity for people to meet their cllrs. However it is time for a review and a decision made on whether to continue as it tends to be the same few cllrs every week. Cllr Phillips reported that a notice has gone in the newsletter stating the drop in sessions run from 11am to 12.30pm, so it should not be closed within the next three months.

Although not everyone was supportive of the surgeries, it was agreed that as long as there are willing volunteers it should continue and a rota set up. Cllrs Haldon, Phillips, Godwin and Martin offered to go on the rota. **Action.**

8. Parish Council website – progress needed to meet legislative requirements

The clerk reported on a lack of progress with the parish council website, and advised that something needed to be done to meet the legislative requirements for posting information on the web. It was agreed that specifications should be drawn up to enable the work to be put out to tender. It was suggested that CALC might be able to offer advice. **Action.**

The office computer is not functioning well at present, and it was agreed that it could be taken to a computer specialist, but, although the council would normally recommend a local contractor, because of the confidential nature of the records a company off Alston Moor should be used. **Action.**

9. Consultations & Correspondence for information

9a/JUN/16 Letter of thanks from Alston Gala Committee

Thanks were received from the Gala committee for the donation to help with expenses on Gala day.

9b/JUN/16 CCC – rescheduled works A689 Raise Bank, Alston

Notice that the works have been rescheduled and are due to commence on 28th June for 2 days.

9c/JUN/16 CCC – Consultation on the draft Cumbria Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2015-2030 Publication Version

Noted that the deadline for comments is 4th July 2016. No action taken

9d/JUN/16 Notices of meetings/events

EALC 22nd June. A letter of introduction was received from the new chairman, David Huxley.

The Vielle Montagne Zinc Mining Company of Belgium International Conference – 6th & 7th August 2016

Talk at Miners Arms on Vielle Montagne by Alastair Robertson – date to be confirmed.

18th June - Cumbria Museum of Military life in Alston Town Hall

9e/JUN/16 Information received

Penrith Today – May 2016

Nenthead Ward minutes – March 2016

Highway's England Request for evidence of current network issues of major roads in Cumbria

CALC training sessions – the chair was asked to attend the Code of Conduct training session on behalf of the council, but declined.

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

10a/JUN/16 Damage by contractors – The Raise

It was reported that the contractors working on the Raise had hit the wall and damaged it. It was agreed to mention this to the tenant should he wish to follow up.

Resolved to adjourn the meeting to allow a resident to speak.

It was reported that St Ives in Cornwall has recently held a referendum on second homes, resulting in certain restrictions on the type of house that can be sold as a second home, with the aim of benefitting full-time residents as the owners do not contribute to the local economy and there are guest houses and holiday lets that could be filled. 2nd homes increase the cost of houses, so it can be difficult for residents in a low wage economy to buy their own home.

Cllrs responded that although sympathetic to the views expressed, not all 2nd home owners make no contribution to the local economy and some are a positive asset to the community.

The clerk reported that the referendum in St Ives was held as part of their Neighbourhood Plan and Cllr Godwin reported that they are a lot of work, but provide an opportunity for the local community to make decisions on such matters as housing allocations and appropriate sites. Developers tend not to be very keen on starter homes, but if that is what is wanted, sites could be identified. When complete the whole plan has to go for a referendum.

Members observed that the issue of 2nd homes could be a minefield, and there is the other problem of properties left empty, although there are some things the district council could do such as charge extra council tax on empty properties. There is a risk that a ban could be detrimental to Alston Moor.

It was agreed to put a discussion on the Neighbourhood Plan back on the agenda for next month and to set up a working group to look at taking forward the Neighbourhood Plan.

11. Finance

17a/JUN/16 Bank statements

The statements as 6th June 2016 were as follows:-

Alston Moor Parish Council tr/ac	£37,593.01
Alston Moor Parish Council bus/ac	£12,670.62
Eden Credit Union	£7,008.58

11b/JUN/16 Accounts for Payment

The following accounts were for payment:-

<i>Summary of accounts for payment :-</i>	£506.04
<i>Summary of income received since last meeting :-</i>	£407.00
<i>Summary of accounts paid since last meeting:-</i>	£814.87

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 Robertson. (nem con)

11c/JUN/16 Revision to Financial Regulations

Resolved to accept the update to the Financial Regulations. Proposed by Cllr Haldon and seconded by Cllr Robertson. (nem con)

11d/JUN/16 Internal auditor's report

The auditor reported that 5 items of expenditure had been missed off the monthly financial summary, and a typing error on the payment for manuals. Two BACS payments were missed off the income side for July.

Two councillors should sign-off the bank balances.

The clerk reported that, as Cllr Haldon is a cheque signatory, a third cllr needs to join the Finance Committee to sign-off the bank balances.

Cllr Thomson offered to join the Finance Committee.

11e/JUN/16 Approval of Annual Governance Statement

Members worked through the list of statements on the annual audit sheet.

Resolved to approve the Annual Governance Statement. Proposed by Cllr Athey and seconded by Cllr Green. (nem con)

11f/JUN/16 Approval of Accounting Statement

Resolved to approve the Accounting Statement. Proposed by Cllr Athey and seconded by Cllr Green. (nem con)

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm

Signed:

Dated: