

ALSTON MOOR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the annual meeting of Alston Moor Parish Council held on Monday 9th May 2016 at 7pm in Alston Town Hall.

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

Apologies: Cllr: G. Wright.

Absent: none.

Declarations of interest: listed under specific agenda items.

Election of Chair

Cllr Martin was proposed by Cllr Haldon and seconded by Cllr Grew.

Cllr Green was proposed by Cllr Thomson and seconded by Cllr Athey.

Resolved to appoint Cllr Green as chair.

Election of Vice-Chair

Cllr Haldon was proposed by Cllr Martin and seconded by Cllr Godwin. No other nominations were received.

Resolved to appoint Cllr Haldon as vice-chair.

Election of Committees, working groups and representatives

Finance working group

Resolved to appoint Cllrs Haldon and Aves. Agreed that Cllr Aves would continue as the council representative signing off the balances.

Alston Moor Traffic Management Committee – 2 representatives

Resolved to appoint Cllrs Athey and Grew.

Alston Moor Transport Committee

Resolved to appoint Cllrs Athey, Martin and Phillips

Alston Moor Fitness Club

Resolved to appoint Cllr Glendinning

Parish Highwayman

Noted that the representative should also be a member of the Traffic Management Committee

Resolved to appoint Cllr Athey.

Friends of Alston Town Hall

Resolved to appoint Cllr Robertson.

Tyne Willows Management Board – 3 representatives

Resolved to appoint Cllrs Herdman, Miller and Thomson

Local Links Management Board – 1 representative

A query was made as to whether the board was still active, which would have to be checked with Eden District Council, who set up the meetings.

Resolved to appoint Cllr Robertson.

Representative to Alston with Garrigill Educational Endowment

Resolved to appoint Cllr Miller.

1. Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 4th April 2016 be adopted as a correct record with the following amendment: 2d/APR/16 points arising from the tree survey ...it may be necessary to purchase a bigger scale map Proposed by Cllr Phillips and seconded by Cllr Herdman. (nem con).

2. Progress Reports

2a/MAY/16 Brewery Bridge Causeway repairs

Re: 2a/APR/16 The Environment Agency confirmed that permission is not needed to repair the causeway, and Cllr Herdman has offered to carry out the repair and look at the loose step. He was thanked. **Action.**

2b/MAY/16 Dene House Street Light

Re: 2e/APR/16 No further information has been received from Eden District Council. Cllr Hymers offered to follow up. **Action.**

2c/MAY/16 Parish Council meeting venues and dates after September 2016

Re: 3b/APR/16 The clerk reported that some members are unable to attend on Tuesdays. She was asked to find alternative venues. It was noted that it might not be practical to use Garrigill and Nenthead between November and March due to the risk of inclement weather.

2d/MAY/16 Letter of thanks

Re: 1b/APR/16 A letter of thanks was received from St John's churchwardens for the donation agreed last month.

2e/MAY/16 Tree survey

Re: 2d/APR/16 It was suggested that the next tree survey include the trees on Garrigill village green.

3. Progress reports from working groups and council representatives

3a/ APR/16 Garrigill Ward Meeting

Cllr Grew reported that the meeting was held on the 11th April and those present voted 15 against and 10 in favour of a speed limit. Those against said they were willing to have a 'drive carefully' sign, but there is one up already and no-one takes any notice of it. A petition against the speed restriction was submitted with 122 signatories, but it was not valid as the names had not been printed or addresses included. She will report back to the Traffic Management meeting. It was suggested that more care should be taken over the setting up of petitions, although this might not be possible if the initiators did not make themselves known.

The noticeboard was agreed.

Cllr Robinson reported that the feedback indicated that there was little appetite for a speed limit and it wouldn't be taken further at present. However, it will be possible to re-consider at a later date. She stressed that there is a big problem with speeding on Alston Moor, speeds in excess of 80mph have been recorded within the 30mph speed limit and there are plans in the pipeline to properly enforce the speed limit.

3b/ APR/16 Proposed Hags Mine Treatment works meeting

It was reported that due to a confusion over timing, thought to have been caused by a note put out by one of the organisations invited to attend, many people turned up an hour early. This was dealt with by running the presentation twice. The presentation was detailed and responses to questions well researched.

Members reported that many of those present, while not opposed to the plans to clean up the pollution, thought the site was in the wrong place. Alternative suggestions were made, although it was noted that the Coal Authority has no powers of compulsory purchase and are progressing with purchasing the site. As the plans have not been submitted yet, no formal comments were made. Cllr Hill reported that the Coal Authority have removed tons of toxic waste from Nenthead, and had not informed the parish council.

3c/ APR/16 Roof of England meeting

Cllr Martin reported that around 50 people attended the meeting, with enthusiasm for branding the North Pennines the 'Roof of England'.

3d/ APR/16 Alston Community Gym

Cllr Thomson reported that there have been complaints about the recycling site on Tyne Willows, and the new management at the gym hadn't realised they were expected to keep the site tidy. Eden District Council are sending out a new agreement for consideration. Cllr Godwin reported that they were not expected to deal with fly tipping, which should be reported to the district council, just the smaller bits of litter. The gym need to decide if they want to continue looking after the site under the new agreement.

Noted that commercial waste is being taken to the recycling sites in Alston and Nenthead.

4. County Councillor's Report

Cllr Robinson reported on the following:

Success Regime public meeting – the meeting on 10th May will discuss the report on health services and the pressure on funding which will require new thinking on how to manage health issues across rural areas. If services are to be retained it will be necessary to keep the pressure up as much as possible.

Highways maintenance – extra funding has been received to carry out maintenance work, and the teams are currently carrying out patching work on Hartside.

District Councillor's Report

Cllr Hymers reported on the following:

Hags Bank bunkhouse planning application - is ready to be submitted.

High Mill – a meeting was held with Heritage England on progress with the High Mill application. Agreements are in place with the owner, EDC and HE as regards the funding for the groundworks, structural survey and also the usage survey. Heads of terms underway between EDC Legal and HE so that HE can confirm their matched funding offer within a week.

Alston Moor Newsletter – Cllr Hymers has re-introduced an Alston Moor Newsletter, along the lines of the one put out by Bryan Metz, but using e-mail about Eden developments and any pertinent matters. Anyone interested in receiving a copy can reply by e-mail.

Cllr Phillips requested that as there has been the Alston Moor Newsletter in existence for many years and the publication from Bryan Metz was called the Independent News, to avoid confusion another name should be used.

Garrigill Ford – the county have plans to re-do the ford and use bigger pipes to reduce the flooding problem.

Eden Arts - are planning a major Appleby venture and street market this summer, which if as successful could be replicated in Alston.

Future employment opportunities - agreement was gained at the Executive meeting last week to bring the “Delivering Major Capital Schemes and Employment Initiatives” to full Council for approval and implementation. This could have major and positive implications for employment for Alston Moor residents.

Growing the future for Cumbrian Farming - is an initiative between EDC, Newton Rigg and other partners for a meeting be held on 23rd September on food and processed food export, diversification, apprenticeships in farming, LDO's, succession and business planning among other topics. It should be of interest to Cumbrian farmers.

New Police and Crime Commissioner – Peter McCall was the successful candidate.

Cllr Godwin had nothing further to add.

5. Planning

5a/MAY/16 16/0305 Tree Works (CA) Remove T1 Poplar; Garrigill Conservation Area. 1 Gatehead (Rowan Tree), Garrigill, Alston CA9 3EB for Mr T. Haldon.

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

5b/MAY/16 16/0324 Full application. Application to extend planning permission 12/0920 (proposed residential development to provide two dwellings). Land adjacent to Clarkhall Cottage, Garrigill, Alston CA9 3EB for Mr D. Hymers.

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

5c/MAY/16 16/0339 Full application. Proposed erection of a two storey dwelling. Land east of Nentholme. Gossipgate, Alston for Mr J. Younger.

Recommended for approval. Proposed by Cllr Aves and seconded by Cllr Robertson. (4 abs)

5d/MAY/16 16/0340 Full application. Proposed erection of two storey dwelling. Land east of Midrow Cottage, Gossipgate, Alston for Mr M. Younger.

Recommended for approval. Proposed by Cllr Robertson and seconded by Cllr Athey. (4 abs)

5e/MAY/16 16/0343 Conservation Area. Proposed works to exterior of building. Stokoe House, 1-2 Market Place, Alston CA9 3HS for Mr & Mrs Folkard.

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

Decision Notices

16/0015 Listed building. Replacement of emergency exit doors to rear. Alston Town Hall, Front Street, Alston CA9 3RF for Alston Town Hall Trust. Permission granted with conditions.

6. Actions arising from woodlands tree survey and request for a 'no tipping' sign

Following on from the tree survey, the contractor recommended that the branches on tree 15 and tree 22 are borderline and recommended that cllrs look at these. The other works could be left until next winter.

Council representatives had some concerns about the potential costs involved in carrying out all the works suggested in the survey, and agreed that Cllrs Athey, Green, Herdman and Robertson would meet to inspect the trees listed, determine what action to take and report back to the next meeting. **Action.**

The clerk reported that a local resident had asked if he could dispose of the fallen fir tree in Henderson's Wood. This was agreed. **Action.**

Cllr Godwin reported that Eden District Council will remove fly tipping, described as anything bigger than something that will fit into a blue bag. Agreed to take no action over a 'no tipping' sign at the entrance to Firs Wood, to monitor the site and report any fly tipping to Eden District Council.

7. Actions arising from Annual Parish Meeting – proposed meeting in October with residents to discuss precept requests and request that the council exercise consistency in planning the budget for future years

Agreed to a meeting in October. **Action.**

8. Request from Alston Moor Business Association – site for coal tubs and requirement that the parish council enter into a legal agreement with the County Council

Alston Moor Business Association would like to put two coal tub planters on the grassy area below the Town Hall, possibly between the stone benches. They contacted Highways who said this should be acceptable as the site is within the 30mph restriction, but passive safety requirements have to be taken into account considering the number of motorcyclists using the A686. If permission were to be granted the County Council would need to be indemnified against all legal and maintenance liabilities through an agreement with the parish council.

Resolved that the parish council would enter into an agreement with the County Council for the coal tubs to be sited on the grass below the Town Hall between the stone benches. Proposed by Cllr Thomson and seconded by Cllr Herdman. (3 abs)

9. Agenda items for the next Traffic Management meeting

1. Proposed changes to yellow lines and parking signs. Cllr Martin reported that a suggestion has been made to remove the yellow lines between Country Kitchen and the former HSBC to increase the number of parking spaces in the town.

Members had some concerns that the suggestion would encourage parking too close to the narrows.

Resolved to put changes to yellow lines and parking on the agenda of the Traffic Management meeting for discussion. Proposed by Cllr Thomson and seconded by Cllr Martin. (2 abs)

2. 30 mph Garrigill speed limit

The meeting was adjourned for five minutes for a resident to speak.

A resident pointed out that the cobbles on Front Street are in a very poor condition, and potentially dangerous for the less able to cross. He suggested putting in a crossing place between the Co-op and Blueberries.

It was observed that a crossing point is included in the THI plans, but the County Council has indicated that replacing the cobbles will not happen this financial year.

10. Consultations & Correspondence for information

10a/MAY/16 Police contact during Appleby Horse Fair

A reminder to use the 101 number for non-emergencies and 999 for emergencies.

10b/MAY/16 Letter on parish council budgeting

A further letter of complaint about the parish council budget was received. Noted that residents will have the opportunity to stand for election in 3 years' time.

10c/MAY/16 Temporary road closures

B6294 Coatley Hill, near Blagill for replacement of electric overhead cables to underground cables 4th July for 8 weeks

U3112 Nenthead for repairs to cobbles 18th July for 3 weeks. Noted that this closure may cause difficulties for attendees at the Vielle Montagne event in Nenthead in August.

10d/MAY/16 Notices of meetings/events

Success regime meeting 10th May 2016

Mind Suicide awareness meeting 16th May 2016

Alston Community Gym – clients can be referred for free sessions on Tuesdays
Nenthead Ward meeting 23rd May 2016

10e/MAY/16 Information received during the last month

Change to Highways Hotline number - 0300 303 2992

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

11a/MAY/16

Tree survey for Garrigill village green.

Although not an agenda item a vote of thanks was made to Cllr Martin for her able chairmanship over the past 3 years, at a time when some very difficult issues for the community have arisen.

12. Finance

12a/MAY/16 Bank statements

The statements as 9th May 2016 were as follows:-

Alston Moor Parish Council tr/ac	£47,234.08
Alston Moor Parish Council bus/ac	£12,670.62
Eden Credit Union	£7,008.58

12b/MAY/16 Accounts for Payment

The following accounts were for payment:-

<i>Summary of accounts for payment :-</i>	£13,424.28
<i>Summary of income received since last meeting :-</i>	£41,841.00
<i>Summary of accounts paid since last meeting:-</i>	£137.86

Declarations of interest were made by R. Miller (Alston Gala), D. Phillips (pecuniary interest - Alston Moor Newsletter), P. Godwin (Fairhill Recreation Grounds Trust), S. Hill (Nenthead Community Works)

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 Aves and seconded by Cllr Athey. (nem con)

12c/MAY/16 Revision to Financial Regulations

As not everyone had read the document it was agreed to wait another month before adopting the updated financial regulations.

The meeting closed at 8.55 pm

Signed:

Dated: