

ALSTON MOOR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Alston Moor Parish Council held on Monday 5th September 2016 at 7pm in Garrigill Village Hall

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

Apologies: Cllrs: G. Wright, R. Thomson.

Absent: Cllr: A Robertson.

Declarations of interest: listed under specific agenda items.

A letter of resignation was received from Matthew Herdman, who was dissatisfied with the lack of influence over planning applications. He is still willing to help out with voluntary work.

The new district councillor, Tommy Sheriff was welcomed.

1. Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the parish council held on 1st August 2016 be adopted as a correct record. Proposed by Cllr Athey and seconded by Cllr Aves. (nem con).

1a Vandalism on Alston Front Street

It was reported that there has been an increase in petty vandalism, with road salt thrown over cars, broken glass left on the street, the plants on the market cross destroyed, and bottles thrown at doors. Recently a firework was thrown into a hole in the road, which could have caused a serious incident. Residents have also had to put up with racing up the street, and shouting and screaming until 6am in the morning.

The Community Support Police Officer attending the meeting asked if any change had been noticed this week. The police and Eden District Council's licensing officer had visited all the pubs to give advice about selling drink to young people, as the behaviour is thought to be caused by young people getting hold of cheap beer and getting drunk. More visits will follow.

Residents were asked to ring the 101 number to report any incidents and to ensure they are logged, which will help the police identify patterns in behaviour, and assist in allocating resources where they are needed. The police are also working on building up their knowledge of drug problems in the area.

2. Progress Reports

2a/SEPT/16 Report on Alston Ambulance from NWAS

Re 6/AUG/16 A letter was received from North West Ambulance Service stating that the limited response to posts for the new service resulted in a second recruitment process, which incurred additional expense and time. Some candidates have also withdrawn. These issues meant that the new model has not been put into place as soon as NWAS would have wished. They were only advised recently that Alston Ambulance wished to terminate their contract, and are working with partner organisations to obtain funding to ensure the new model can be implemented as soon as possible. The estates work at the Cottage Hospital went out to tender during the last two months, but NWAS cannot site the vehicle and associated infrastructure until the works are complete, after which it will be possible to allow interim cover through cohort 1. Funding has only now been secured to train cohort 2. NWAS is now planning for external providers to undertake the clinical and driver training for this group.

NWAS say they are committed to ensuring a suitable, sustainable and safe solution and despite the delays will move forward as rapidly as possible to implement the new arrangements. The challenges throughout the country of significant financial and recruitment problems do not allow provision for dedicated NWAS resources in Alston until the new solution is in place. In addition NWAS has approached Cumbria Fire and Rescue to discuss the potential for them to respond to life threatening calls across the wider NWAS region.

The Communications team will be in contact to discuss the requirements of community engagement in the program.

2b/SEPT/16 Reply from Success Regime

Re: 8/AUG/16 The clerk consulted with the League of Friends before writing to the Success Regime with several queries. They attempted to clarify the statement in paragraph 7 page 6 of the Success Regime Stakeholder Update briefing August 2016 which stated that 'it may be possible to run community hospitals without beds, but this is not currently a proposal', by stating that there is potential to consolidate beds on fewer sites, but there are no firm proposals yet as they are still considering feedback. There was no comment on the question about continuity of beds should a decision be made to progress the proposal from the League of Friends and Alston GPs.

It was noted that the Success Regime are unlikely to make any concessions at this stage of the consultation process. Cllr Phillips reported that he has produced posters objecting to the closure of beds, which are available from the Town Hall, and Spar. He would like to see them put up in most homes and businesses on Alston Moor, even on properties which are not visible from the road to demonstrate solidarity.

Cllr Martin reported that she was contacted by the press to confirm that the hospital had re-opened, and although she had not personally confirmed this, understood that the beds and accident and emergency would re-open.

Members stated that people need choice, and while some would prefer to die at home, others need the security of a hospital especially if living alone.

2c/SEPT/16 Nenthead Fountain

Re: 2f/AUG/16 The clerk reported that as it is unlikely that a full repair on the fountain will be carried out in the immediate future; she had asked the contractor who had carried out the temporary repairs about costs for preparing and re-painting it.

Cllr Aves reported that he knew of someone who had offered to do the work voluntarily, and offered to check if he was still willing. **Action BA.**

2d/SEPT/16 Tyne Willows Car Park signage

Re: 9/AUG/16 A reply was received from Cumbria County Council highways stating that they are still of the opinion that the access falls below the highway standards for footway width and visibility which are required for it to be signed from the adopted road. Although signing cannot be placed within the highway, CCC would have no issue with the existing signs being upgraded.

The clerk reported that she attended a site visit with highways when the recycling and gym sign was put up, and the only available space is on the wall ends of the properties either side of the access road, so if the council wished to erect a notice permission would have to be granted by the homeowners.

It was observed that few parking spaces are available because of the number of parked up cars.

2e/SEPT/16 Issues with Alston's ATMs

Re: 10/AUG/16 The clerk reported that she has put up signs about where to obtain cash in town, but asked the council if they wanted to follow up with the banks about the frequent lack of cash in the machines. The staff in Spar reported it as a regular occurrence, and it has been mentioned that the Barclay's machine also runs out, although it may not get reported back.

It was agreed that the clerk would contact Clydesdale Bank and Cllr Martin would ring Barclays to discuss the problem of the cash machines running out of cash. **Action CL/AM.**

2f/SEPT/16 Sewerage leak – Tyne Willows

Re: 2d/AUG/16 The clerk reported that a problem had arisen with a sewerage pipe leaking onto the footpath to the playing field during August. The pipe in the Cumberland's garden was repaired, but the problems continued and Northumbrian Water have been out again over the weekend to hopefully fix a second leak. The footpath will need to be monitored to see if this solves the water flow, but if as Northumbrian Water maintained in the past the flow is spring water, thought needs to be put into diverting it away or under the path.

3. Progress reports from working groups and council representatives

3a/SEPT/16 Neighbourhood Planning meetings

Two meetings have been held to discuss Neighbourhood Planning, with Cllr Haldon elected as chair. Efforts have concentrated on scoping out the issues, and considering whether there is a need for one. The Eden Local Plan may cover most of the community's requirements, and the Community Plan is due to be refreshed, so there may be value in waiting to see if there are any issues relevant to Neighbourhood Planning that could be addressed.

Members discussed the recent reversal of a planning decision that had upset Nenthead residents and queried whether consideration would be given by the planners for what residents think and want.

A Neighbourhood Plan does give the community an opportunity to set out where development sites should happen, but it is a challenge to draw up a plan covering every single circumstance for the next 25 or so years.

3b/SEPT/16 Success Regime meeting

There was nothing further to add to the earlier report.

4 County Councillor's Report

Apologies from Cllr Robinson.

District Councillor's Report

Cllr Godwin reported on the following:

Executive meetings – August is a quiet month with no meetings, but next Thursday Cllr Godwin intends to table a supplementary question asking the executive to hold a meeting in Alston in November so they can appreciate the problems with the delay in repairing the footway lighting. She has noticed that the group looking at devolution have charged ahead with a sub-policy on street lights.

5. Planning

5a/SEPT/16 16/0773 Listed Building. Listed building consent to demolish existing facilities block and replace with new accessible facilities, café and kitchen. South Tynedale Railway Preservation Society, Station House, Station Road, Alston CA9 3JB for STRPS.

Recommended to make no comment. Proposed by Cllr Phillips and seconded by Cllr Haldon. (2+ 1- 8 abs)

Decision Notices

i/SEPT/16 16/0343 Full application. Proposed works to exterior of building. Stokoe House, 1-2 Market Place, Alston CA9 3HS for Mr & Mrs Folkard. Permission granted with conditions.

ii/SEPT/16 16/0433 Full application. Proposed general purpose agricultural building. Meadow Flatt, Alston CA9 3DE for Mr N.J. Ridley. Permission granted with conditions.

iii/SEPT/16 16/0468 Full application. Change of use from A1 retail shop to C4 dwelling house. Former Barclays Bank Chambers, Front Street, Alston CA9 3SE for Mr T. Rosenberg. Permission refused.

6. Update on proposals to improve Tyne Willows Pavilion

Cllr Glendinning reported that the gym encountered difficulties in making the building available to community organisations, and have put plans together to make it more useable for everyone.

He introduced the architect who has drawn up plans for how it might look, and who explained the thinking behind them. The building would include a changing area approved by the football foundation, a multi-purpose room for community and gym use, a sauna and treatment room. Heating costs would be kept to a minimum through the use of a ground source heat pump and solar panels. Abbeystown pavilion is an example of a similar project, which although it took a number of years to achieve, is now a popular venue, but having the one regret that they did not specify a larger community room for the number of sporting organisations wanting to use it.

Funding the project could cost between 1/4 and 2/3 million pounds, but there are funding opportunities at present and subject to the parish council's approval the gym will talk to a fundraiser about progressing the project.

Members had a number of observations to make: it is an ambitious plan, but the concept of going for something big could be more achievable than looking to small renovations. The legal position was queried as the parish council took ownership of the building after it was handed over by the Sports and Youth Group. Although the gym are willing to do the fundraising, it might be necessary for the grant applications to be made in the name of the parish council, as funders may not be willing to give to an organisation that is only renting. This is something that will have to be very clear from the start, as will the management of the building, which the gym hope will include other community organisations and the parish council. Concerns were expressed about ongoing costs, since it is relatively easy to obtain capital grants, but then there is nothing for subsequent maintenance. The example here is the current building which has had no work done on it for years.

A request was made for the gym to deal with the problem with the toilets to enable community groups to use the building for events. The toilets are accessible from outside, so it should be possible to restrict access to other parts of the building.

Resolved to agree in principle to support the proposed improvements to Tyne Willows Pavilion to make it into a sustainable community building. The parish council would expect to be involved in all future consultations and decisions about future developments. Proposed by Cllr Haldon and seconded by Cllr Miller. (2 abs)

7. Working groups to consider the future of street lighting in Alston, Nenthead and Garrigill

The clerk said that with the darker nights starting to draw in it would be useful to set up a working group to look at the condition of the street lights.

It was agreed that to have one member from each ward and to invite the district councillors to attend. Cllrs Glendining, Grew and Hill volunteered for the working group.

8. Consultations and Correspondence

8a/SEPT/16 Go North East – simplified fares for young people, students and apprentices from 24th August 2016

Go North East wrote to advise that from 24th August 2016 they are offering young people, those in full time education and in apprentice schemes:

- A simple £1 single fare across the NECA area for all aged 18 and under, with a small number of exceptions.
- The ability for parents to purchase tickets on their mobile and gift it to their child's mobile instantly or in advance.
- The daily ticket price is frozen at £3.75 and weekly and monthly tickets simplified.
- Everyone regardless of age in full time education is eligible for day, week and monthly student tickets.
- Student tickets available to those on apprenticeships.

8b/SEPT/16 Notices of meetings/events/literature

ACT – Community Led Planning Debate & ACT AGM – 9th September 2016

North Pennines AONB – Annual Forum 2016 20th September 2016

8c/SEPT/16 Information received

Hospice at Home - Light up a life 2016 appeal

Clerks & Councils Direct – September 2016

9. Proposal that Alston Moor Parish Council continues to remain eligible to operate under the General Power of Competence

Resolved that Alston Moor Parish Council continues to remain eligible to operate under the General Power of Competence. Proposed by Cllr Phillips and seconded by Cllr Martin.

10. Date for open meeting to discuss precept requests for 2017/2018

It was agreed to hold a meeting ahead of the precept meeting with the community to discuss what ideas might be coming forward. The date was set for 24th October at 7pm in the Town Hall.

11. Appointment of contractor to set up a website for the parish council

Three quotes for setting up a website were received:

£500 + hourly maintenance charge or rolling contract at £20 per month for 2 years, £1,600 and £2,000

Each quote offered slightly different terms.

Cllr Martin reported that she had contacted all three contractors and was satisfied that the contractor offering the lowest quote was competent and understood what was wanted. Cllr Haldon, who had also inspected the quotes said that the most important point was to ensure that the clerk and others had training to be able to post information.

Resolved to accept the quote from ADAM on the rolling contract at £20 per month for 2 years. Proposed by Cllr Martin and seconded by Cllr Phillips. (2 abs)

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

12a/SEPT/16 Representatives to replace Cllr Herdman

The clerk confirmed that she would notify Eden District Council of the vacancy and reported that Cllr Herdman's departure left two vacancies for representatives.

Resolved that Cllr Martin would take over as a parish council representative on the Tyne Willows Committee.

The clerk reported that the Coal Authority wanted to meet with the Chair and Vice-chair before reporting to a full council meeting, but had agreed that a Nenthead representative could also attend.

Agreed that Cllr Hill, and if permissible Cllr Phillips would attend. No date has been set yet.

12b/SEPT/16 Condition of Front Street

The clerk was asked to add the condition of Front Street to the agenda for the next Traffic Management Committee, with a request that highways do some patching if it is going to be some time before the funding comes through to repair the cobbles.

14. Finance

14a/SEPT/16 Bank statements

The statements as 5th September 2016 were as follows:-

Alston Moor Parish Council tr/ac	£31,623.17
Alston Moor Parish Council bus/ac	£12,675.04
Eden Credit Union	£7,008.58

13b/SEPT/16 Accounts for Payment

The following accounts were for payment:-

<i>Summary of accounts for payment: -</i>	£2,190.16
<i>Summary of income received since last meeting: -</i>	£1,871.70
<i>Summary of accounts paid since last meeting: -</i>	£861.11

Resolved that sufficient funds are held in balances for the clerk to be authorised to settle all the accounts listed in appendix 1. Proposed by Cllr Haldon and seconded by Cllr Miller. (nem con)

13c/SEPT/16 Report from BDO on 2015/2016 year end accounts and proposal to approve and accept the auditor's opinion

A letter was received from BDO stating that there were no matters which came to their attention requiring the issuing of a separate additional issues arising report. The clerk confirmed that the audit certificate has been published.

Resolved to approve and accept the audit opinion on the annual return for 2015/2016. Proposed by Cllr Haldon and seconded by Cllr Godwin (nem com)

The meeting closed at 9.15pm

Signed:

Dated: