

ALSTON MOOR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Alston Moor Parish Council held on Monday 7th November 2016 at 7pm in the Masonic Hall.

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

Apologies: Cllr: S. Hill

Absent: none

Declarations of interest: listed under specific agenda items, and cllrs reminded to record interests in the Record of Interests book. As a district councillor, Cllr Godwin declared a regular interest in planning matters.

A letter of resignation was received earlier this month from Rachael Thomson. The notices have been posted.

1. Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the parish council held on 3rd October 2016 be adopted as a correct record with the following amendment 3g/OCT/16 The voting figures were (8+ 3- 1 abs.) Proposed by Cllr Phillips and seconded by Cllr Robertson. (nem con).

1a Update from Nenthead Chapel

Apologies from Kim Hobson.

1b Report from Roe Baker on Alston Moor Greenprint Project

Roe Baker works for Cumbria Action for Sustainability and has just been taken on as the Alston Moor Greenprint project manager for a three-year project funded by the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation. The project will focus on activities to mitigate the effects of climate change. The aim is to have an impact on people's day-to-day life and create long-term benefits for the local economy. She hopes to work with the Parish Council and Alston Moor Partnership (AMP) to develop priorities to be incorporated in the Community Plan and will aim to embed green policy into the Neighbourhood Plan. She attended the Community Planning meetings held by AMP and has offered to work on the environmental aspects, working with a core group to develop a comprehensive community consultation to identify priorities. She will look at what is already available and what the gaps are that could be acted upon. Looking at all aspects of green sustainability could include: green businesses, community renewable energy, public transport, green waste, recycling, opportunities for community food growing, energy-efficient housing, and retrofitting older properties. There is also the issue of population loss and what opportunities there are to reverse this, including effective marketing of the area.

First steps are to find out what the community thinks and prioritises, as there may be some surprises. Priority issues will be mapped out and the second project phase will look for individual pots of funding to progress them. CAFS would like to see energy efficient housing specifications and renewable energy policy adopted into a Neighbourhood Plan. The work should not just be a mapping exercise, but a dynamic project. AMP are committed to starting the Community Plan process, so the opportunity is there to look at Neighbourhood Planning alongside. Cllr Godwin has offered to work through the Eden Local Plan with her to help decide whether a Neighbourhood Plan is needed.

Members mentioned the lack of parking spaces in Alston, and it was noted that the THI public realm scheme should help identify parking spaces. Another issue is that if projects are to progress and become sustainable more people, especially younger ones will need to get involved, as those people already involved in community matters are stretched to capacity. Everyone was urged to join AMP, life membership is only £3, and it would be useful to have more councillors involved with the Community Plan to assist in identifying anything important that has been missed.

2. Progress Reports

(Details in November report)

2a/NOV/16 Code of Conduct

Re 3g/OCT/16 It was agreed that specific training on the Code of Conduct was not needed, as the councillor requesting it has now resigned. It was also agreed to monitor e-mails to see if not discussing council business between meetings led to longer council meetings.

2b/NOV/16 Firs & Henderson's Wood management

Re: 8/OCT/16 It was agreed to take no action at present, and to monitor the tree beside the river identified as being at risk as well as other trees identified in the survey. **Action ALL**

The landowner beside the Pennine Way along Firs Wood has reported that someone is knocking stones off the wall.

2c/NOV/16 Boundary wall – Tyne Willows Caravan Park

Re: 2a/OCT/16 It was suggested that stones from the derelict wall besides Henderson's Wood could be used in the Sheep Show walling competition to block the gap into the Caravan Park. Before contacting the Sheep Show secretary the clerk was asked to speak to the proprietor of Moredun Garage to see if he wanted the gap closed completely, as it was thought residents from the park might want a short cut onto the playing fields. **Action CL**

2d/NOV/16 Appleby Fair travellers

Re: 3b/OCT/16 Eden District Council and the police have offered to attend a meeting to discuss the management of Tyne Willows next year. The clerk was asked to contact them with an invitation to attend the December or January meeting. **Action CL**

2e/Tyne Willows Pavilion proposals

Re: 6/OCT/16 Cllr Glendinning reported that there is still interest in the proposals and a meeting held where a number of ideas were discussed. The management structure is still to be agreed and further discussions held.

2f/NOV/16 Grant application process

Re: 2a/OCT/16 It was agreed that it would not be advisable to hold a public meeting before deciding upon a funding policy for grants. The meeting arranged for Tuesday 22nd November would be used to set up a grants policy.

2g/NOV/16 Website

Re: 2b/OCT/16 The council representatives agreed work would start on the website in November. Members were asked if they would be willing to provide a photo and a short profile with information they are willing to share on-line. It was suggested using a photo of those willing to provide one, mobile rather than house phone number and e-mail address. The clerk was asked to set everyone up with a council e-mail address for use on the web. **Action CL**

3. Progress reports from working groups and council representatives

3a/NOV/16 Alston Moor Traffic Management Meeting

The minutes were circulated earlier. Cllr Grew reported on the issues discussed including the lack of funds left in the highways budget due to work caused by the floods last year. The speed survey at Townfoot will be carried out at the end of November, and the speed checks at Nenthall identified three cars over the speed limit with the remainder travelling at acceptable speeds with an average of 51mph. The repairs to the cobbles in Nenthead used Hodgson's stone as there were not enough original cobbles to complete the works. The speed bumps in the Firs are to be removed following a public consultation. Cllr Glendinning was thanked for carrying out a photographic survey of the signage, and highways have agreed to replace the weathered sign opposite Moredun Garage and remove a couple of other signs.

Resolved to close the meeting for a member of the public to speak.

A resident reported a burst drain opposite the police station, and was advised to report it to Northumbrian Water.

The meeting re-convened.

3b/NOV/16 Nenthead & Nentsberry Mine Treatment Works consultation

Cllr Aves reported that the evening session workshop in Nenthead was not very well attended, and he thought a lot of people were not aware that it would affect the village. Those present asked similar questions to those raised at the meeting last summer at Nenthall County House Hotel. A map of the area under consideration was provided, but it was too small to be of any use, and the consultation team promised to provide better site plans in future. They are keen to ensure that the consultation process is comprehensive and people are given the opportunity to get involved in the decision over sites.

The area required is going to be around the size of one and a half football pitches, and the Coal Authority aim to identify possible sites and return in February for further discussions on both the Nentsberry and Nenthead proposals. They were asked about the option of covering the ponds, as this has been done for some sites in north America, but they were concerned about cost and have no experience of this here. They also said they would not compulsory purchase a site, so there could be problems if people were not willing to sell.

3c/NOV/16 Street lights report

There was nothing to report as yet.

4 County Councillor's Report

Apologies from Cllr Robinson:

District Councillor's Report

Apologies from Cllr Sheriff. Cllr Godwin reported on the following:-

Success Regime proposals – Cllr Godwin intends to put a question to council, asking for support of the League of Friends proposals.

5. Planning

5a/NOV/16 3/16/9017 Application for planning permission for the working of a borrow pit and use of the material for creation of a length of stone aggregate track on land near Cross Gill between Long Man Hill and Round Hill, south of Garrigill, Alston. Grid ref NY734371.

Recommended for refusal as alternatives such as green plastic matting would be less visually intrusive and more environmentally friendly. Proposed by Cllr Green and seconded by Cllr Wright. (10+ 1- 1 abs).

5b/NOV/16 16/0942 Conversion of 1 no 2 bedroom house into 2 no. 2 bedroom houses including alterations and an extension to house no 1. Brook House, Overburn, Alston CA9 3SH for Mr A. Carr.

Cllr Martin declare a non-pecuniary interest as a tenant of the applicant.

It was observed that the provision for one car parking space for two dwellings is inadequate and likely to lead to an increase in congestion on a road that already suffers from inadequate parking.

Recommended that the parish council advise the planning authority that they are concerned there is inadequate parking for more than one car for the two properties. If the parking issue could be overcome there would be no objection to the proposals. Proposed by Cllr Robertson and seconded by Cllr Athey. (8+ 3 abs)

Decision Notices

None received.

6. Success Regime Consultation Document for the future of Healthcare – proposal to object to the failure to include an option to comment on the proposed closure of beds at Alston Cottage Hospital

Cllr Martin reported that many people were disappointed that Alston Moor was not given the option to comment on the proposal to close the beds at Alston Cottage Hospital, and made their views known at the public meeting called by the Success Regime. The League of Friends have an alternative strategy, which the Success Regime are prepared to consider, but a lot of thought needs to go into how it will be delivered, including looking at all the buildings and costs.

The AGM of the Clinical Commissioning Group was held last week and two dozen residents attended to make the point that the consultation process does not provide a tick box option to comment on the proposed bed closures in Alston and wrote to request it be stopped. A local solicitor was consulted over the reply received and wrote back to say that in his opinion the process is flawed, but has not received a response as yet. The intent now from the local activists is to seek legal advice to initiate a legal challenge. Initial costs are around £500, and this sum has been offered in pledges from individuals.

The 'Chatty van' staff thought there was a good turn-out. It is understood from discussions there that a decision on the consultation will be made by a consultancy company in London. Local people are seeking information about the company and have also submitted a Freedom of Information request on what the Success Regime is costing.

Resolved to write to the Success Regime stating that in the opinion of the parish council the consultation process is flawed and a legal challenge is to be initiated. Proposed by Cllr Martin and seconded by Cllr Wright. (nem con)

7. Request from Eden District Council to consider the devolution of footway lighting to Alston Moor Parish Council

An e-mail was received from Eden District Council, who are looking to move the Devolution of Services project forward with Alston Moor Parish Council. They would like to select Alston as a specific footway lighting project, and would install LED lights on the lights on the approved list. The parish would then take on all responsibilities for them, including pending lights and the lights on the not-approved list. There would be funding implications such as the cost of disconnection and removal of lights when they come to the end of their useful life, or funding for replacements. The council would also have to continue to maintain the lights and pay for the electricity, which could be paid for by the parish and administered through the existing footway lighting contract and utility payments for lights that meet the approved design.

The clerk forwarded several queries with the following responses:

There will be no council tax reduction if the parish council takes on the lights.

The current running costs are approximately £73 per annum. (At the start of the review there were 131 footway lights on Alston Moor). A column costs £2,500 to erect. Eden do not currently insure the footway lights.

CCC will only accept lights fitting their street light criteria, and must form part of a scheme where a light is provided every 50m. The A689 and A686 do not meet this criteria and will not be accepted by the County Council.

*Victorian style LED lights are available, but the parish would have to fund the difference between a normal light and a Victorian style LED light. The clerk was asked to find out what the cost of an LED light would be and the additional cost for the town centre lights. **Action CL.***

An agreement would have to be reached with Local Links if faults were to continue to be reported through them.

It is for the parish to decide if the burden would be too much, but no additional staff time from Eden has been offered.

Resolved that the parish council rejects the idea of any consideration of the devolution of footway lights until the district council is willing to discuss a sustainable equitable offer. It is also recommended that the district council progress the LED replacement programme out of their budget sooner rather than later as costs continue to rise. Proposed by Cllr Robertson and seconded by Cllr Godwin. (nem con)

The clerk was asked to query whether the offer to devolve footway lighting has been made to any other parish.

Light no 4 in Overwater, Nenthead was discussed, as the original request for more information on future responsibilities and a site plan had not been responded to by the district council. A site plan has now been submitted. Eden want the parish council to take over the ownership of the land, which will be open for public use. The light will be transferred to the approved list. They would pay for a replacement light, but the parish would have to find all other costs including the £2,500 for a new column and connection and any legal fees.

Cllr Aves offered to speak to the owner to establish what terms he was prepared to consider, and to make the suggestion that he consider installing solar lights on his property to light up the road as an alternative solution. **Action Cllr Aves.**

8. Proposed constituency boundary changes

The consultation period lasts until 5th December 2016, and the proposal will see the Penrith and Border constituency abolished, and Alston Moor would become part of the new Penrith and Solway constituency. The new constituency does not include Brampton and Longtown, nor the southern part of Eden, but extends along the Solway Firth to the outskirts of Maryport in the west..

It was observed that the Boundary Commission were obliged by the government to review the boundaries, and given exacting criteria on population numbers. The area we are to be merged with is very rural with similar characteristics to the Penrith and the Borders constituency. Agreed that anyone wishing to comment could do so as an individual.

Resolved to move on to the next business.

9. Consultations and Correspondence

9a/NOV/16 Highlights membership fees

An e-mail was received from Highlights Rural Touring Scheme explaining that venues are asked to pay an annual fee of £65 per year. Highlights have made a successful bid to an Arts Council Fund called Catalyst, who will match pound for pound any money raised. Anyone paying two years membership now will have the second year reduced to £55.

Resolved to pay for two years membership. Proposed by Cllr Phillips and seconded by Cllr Godwin. (nem con)

9b/NOV/16 British Red Cross

An e-mail was received from the Red Cross inviting members from the community to take part in an open garden scheme. Further information is available on their website.

9c/NOV/16 Notice of events and meetings

EDC Chairman's Carol Service -12 December in aid of Eden Flood Volunteers

9d/NOV/16 Information received

Nenthead Ward Meeting – minutes from 26 September 2016

Clerks & Councils Direct

EdenSave Credit Union – notice of vacancy for volunteers

Fields in trust – impact report 2015

CALC Annual Report 2016

Hospice at Home = Autumn/Winter 2016 newsletter

10. Co-option of Nenthead councillor

Two candidates put their names forward to be co-opted and Emma Stewart was appointed by secret ballot.

11. Appointment of representatives

11a/NOV/16 Tyne Willows Management Committee

A representative is required to replace Cllr Thomson. It was agreed to hold the appointment over until new people have been co-opted.

11b/NOV/16 Finance Working Group

Resolved to appoint Cllr Wright to the finance working group.

11c/NOV/16 Additional representative/s to Alston Fitness Club

CALC have advised that an additional representative/s should be appointed to avoid a potential conflict of interest for Cllr Glendinning because of his status as a director of the Fitness Club. Agreed to hold over.

11d/NOV/16 Representative to lay wreath on Remembrance Sunday

Cllr Green agreed to represent the parish council for Alston and Cllr Phillips for Nentsberry.

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

12a/NOV/16 Alston Ambulance

It was reported that an update was given at the public consultation meeting held earlier this month. It will be into December before the ambulance goes live as work on the garage has taken longer than expected and the recruits needed a refresher course because of the delay between start up and their initial training. The new recruits will also have to undergo training in the new year.

13. Finance

13a/NOV/16 Bank statements

The statements as of 7th November 2016 were as follows:-

Alston Moor Parish Council tr/ac	£31, 213.34
Alston Moor Parish Council bus/ac	£12,675.04
Eden Credit Union	£7,008.58

13b/NOV/16 Accounts for Payment

The following accounts were for payment:-

<i>Summary of accounts for payment: -</i>	£1,782.25
<i>Summary of income received since last meeting: -</i>	£0.00
<i>Summary of accounts paid since last meeting: -</i>	£1,206.78

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 Wright. (nem con)

The meeting closed at 9.15pm

Signed:

Dated: