

## ALSTON MOOR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Alston Moor Parish Council held on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2016 at 7pm in Alston Town Hall.

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

**Apologies:** Cllrs: S. Hill, E. Stewart, B. Aves.

**Absent:** none

**Declarations of interest:** Cllr Godwin declared an interest as chair of the Fairhill Recreation Grounds Trust.

### **1. Preparation of financial policy**

**One-off small grant applications** – small grants might be requested in advance of the precept meeting, or needed at any time during the year, due to a crisis or possibly help meet the criteria of other funders for additional funding. Parish councils have an important role in supporting and contributing towards the grant applications of local organisations. There are more tasks falling to local communities to fulfil, and the parish council can sometimes assist with a small grant.

The clerk provided two sample application forms from small parish councils for consideration.

**Resolved** to ask the clerk to prepare a draft grants application form based on the templates provided. Proposed by Cllr Athey and seconded by Cllr Martin. (nem con)

Once approved by the parish council the form will need to be advertised, and it was suggested that an article could be submitted to the newsletter. It would be useful to include contact details for organisations able to offer advice or assistance with funding such as ACT, Cumbria CVS, Cumbria Community Foundation and Alston Moor Partnership.

**Annual donations** – local organisations benefitting from annual donations to assist with running costs are the village halls, playareas, Tyne Willows Pavilion (building not the organisation running it), community run public toilets and a few outside organisations including the CAB, Royal British Legion and Highlights. It was agreed that the local organisations would be asked to submit a report to the precept meeting.

**Provisional date for Precept Meeting - Monday January 16<sup>th</sup> 2017.**

### **2. Request to hold a public meeting on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November re: Success Regime proposals & to update the public on the financial policy**

Cllr Martin reported that the comments submitted during the consultation organised by the Success Regime will be handled by 6 or 7 consultation companies based in the south of the country. None will have a good knowledge of the local area, and there are concerns that feedback from individuals will not be taken into consideration. She had been informed that Barrow had held a referendum about their community hospital and it had been taken into account. Costs for a parish poll would amount to between 3 and 5k, but could generate a lot of publicity for the hospital.

The clerk reported that she was unable to contact the elections team at Eden to discuss the possibility of a parish poll before this meeting, but that the timing was extremely tight for it to be held before the end of the consultation period. The cost of the poll would fall to the parish.

**Resolved** to call a meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> November following the Nenthead Ward meeting to discuss the proposal that the parish council calls for a parish referendum on the future of overnight facilities in Alston Hospital. Proposed by Cllr Martin and seconded by Cllr Phillips. (nem con)