

ALSTON MOOR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Alston Moor Parish Council held on Monday 6th February 2017 at 7pm in the Masonic Hall.

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

Apologies: Cllr: S. Hill, A. Green, E. Stewart.

Absent: G. Wright

Cllr Hill has now missed 5 council meetings and has written to say that his hospital appointments are on Mondays, so wanted to ask if he should remain on the council.

Resolved to accept the reason given by Cllr Hill that his illness has prevented him from attending council meetings and to allow him to remain on the council beyond the 6 months deadline. The situation will be reviewed after 3 months. Proposed by Cllr Haldon and seconded by Cllr Athey.

Declarations of interest: listed under specific agenda items. As a district councillor, Cllr Godwin declared a regular interest in planning matters.

1. Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the parish council held on Monday 9th January 2017 be adopted as a correct record. Proposed by Cllr Phillips and seconded by Cllr Grew. (nem con).

Resolved that the minutes of the precept meeting held on Monday 16th January 2017 be adopted as a correct record. Proposed by Cllr Phillips and seconded by Cllr Athey. (nem con).

1a Update on Alston Schools from SKS Head

Ian Johnson reported that the governors wanted to consult on the proposals for the schools, so letters and information packs have gone out today to parents of pre-school, primary and senior children. The consultation period will last 4 weeks, finishing Monday 6th March, and during this time parents and residents are invited to look around the site, either individually or in groups.

The initial plans were drawn up by an architectural company in Carlisle, but the work has now been taken on by a firm based in Keswick, who worked with the head and governors, and will consult the school council during the consultation period. The aim is to improve the quality of indoor and outdoor spaces, keep the younger children's areas separate from the older ones and address parking issues. It should enhance education for all ages and secure the future of primary and secondary education on Alston Moor, as all budgets have been stretched in recent years.

Questions were invited.

The chair of governors confirmed that the governors had agreed to go to consultation, and that a final decision would not be made until the community had had the opportunity to comment.

A question was asked about the choice of site, but IJ confirmed that there was not enough money available for new build, SKS is a versatile building, is sound and the inside has a lot of potential. There has been a right of access across Henderson's Garage since 1957. The school was built to accommodate up to 350 children, so with current numbers there will be plenty of space.

Nenthead school will not be affected by the plans, and the school governors are committed to maintain it as long as it is viable. Currently this is around 18-20 children.

The head and chair of governors were thanked for attending.

2. Progress Reports

2a/FEB/17 Appleby Fair

Re 1a/JAN/17 The clerk reported that she had spoken briefly with Highways, who indicated that they are willing to provide barriers to control the use of Tyne Willows car park for Appleby Fair weeks. However, volunteers will be needed to put them up.

2b/FEB/17 Meeting with EDC to discuss devolution of services

Re: 2c/JAN/17 A reminder that the meeting will take place on 13th February in Garrigill. A planning officer would also like to attend to discuss changes to the Local Plan and how this will affect Alston Moor. The clerks from Appleby Town Council, Barton and Brough parish councils have forwarded notes from their meetings with Eden District Council.

2c/FEB/17 End of WW1 tribute

Re: 9d/JAN/17 The clerk asked if she should indicate to the organisers of 'Battle's Over – A nation's Tribute 11th November 2018' that the parish would like to take part and be included in the guide book. If going ahead, a beacon co-ordinator needs to be appointed, willing to provide contact details. The beacon's location should also be indicated.

It was agreed that the end of WW1 should be acknowledged in some way, but that a beacon at that time of year might not be the best way. It might be possible to tie in with whatever the church is planning and to involve more people.

Resolved to not make a decision on what to do to mark the end of WW1 just yet. Proposed by Cllr Haldon and seconded by Cllr Miller. (nem con)

2d/FEB/17 Co-option of Alston Ward Councillor

Re: JAN/17 Notice has been received that no requests for an election have been received so the parish may go ahead and co-opt a replacement for Alastair Robertson. The clerk was asked to advertise the vacancy and to invite people to put their names forward. **Action CI.**

2e/FEB/17 Training for Parish Councillors

The clerk reported that Cllr Green wanted the council to consider holding an in-house training session on the Code of Conduct and declarations of interest. The clerk was asked to enquire if anyone from Eden District Council would be able to do this. **Action CI.**

3. Progress reports from working groups and council representatives

3a/FEB/17 Chair's meeting with Town Councils

Cllr Haldon reported that he and the clerk attended a meeting in Appleby last week with the chair and parish clerks from Penrith, Appleby and Kirkby Stephen to discuss the various issues facing the larger councils. It was a useful discussion focusing on the proposed devolution of services, issues around funding and amendments to the local plan. All were agreed any devolution of services should be cost effective and generate income to cover the running costs. The councils plan to work together to give a stronger voice to the parishes.

It was observed that in the past there was a lot of opposition in Cumbria towards unitary authorities, but with the move to devolve services to the parishes it might be time to revisit this issue.

3b/FEB/17 Traffic Management meeting

Cllr Grew reported on the following matters discussed at the meeting:

Townfoot – speed cameras have been ordered but have not been out yet.

Footpath erosion along the route between Gossipgate and Blagill an ongoing issue with a progress report awaited from the Countryside Access Team.

Shaw House flats – signage completed.

The Firs signage – 'slow' signs have been ordered following complaints of speeding now the speed humps have been removed. A 20mph speed limit would need to go to consultation if it is wanted.

Station Yard flooding – there are issues with flooding above the site that the flood team are investigating.

High House lanning - temporary repairs can be made as it is unlikely to get onto the works schedule in the next couple of years.

Garrigill speeding – a suggestion for rumble strips is to be taken to the Garrigill Ward meeting.

Town Centre repairs to the cobbles – the group suggested the first phased closures could take place in the months before the school holidays, May – July for 6 to 8 weeks. Businesses on Front Street will be consulted, but it will be necessary to close the road for safety reasons and the work has to be done when there is no risk of frost.

It was suggested that 'Business as usual' signage where the diversion signs are put, should be requested. Highways to be advised that Gala Day takes place on the last Saturday in June. **Action CI**

Policy for contractors digging up the roads – there is one already in existence, in extreme cases the county council can make the repairs themselves and fine the utilities companies.

Proposal for disabled car park in front of Alston Co-op – Highways will investigate but think there is not enough space to meet the disabled parking place legislation.

Condition of the Wardway – the road has been damaged by 4 x 4 vehicles, and Highways were asked to look into the possibility of a Traffic Regulation Order to ban certain types of vehicles on the long stretch closer to town. Cllr Phillips reported that the complaint had been made by one individual.

Townhead – although there were objections when parking restrictions went out to consultation last time, there are still issues with parked vehicles that make it difficult for buses and larger vehicles to use the junction safely. Further consultation was requested.

Tourist signage – the suggestion for a 'scenic route to the north Pennines/Newcastle on the M6 and Brampton road end was discussed and Alston Moor Business Association asked to follow up.

3c/FEB/17 Private lighting scheme policy

Cllr Godwin had earlier circulated a summary of the Askham model. She noted that Askham cllrs surveyed the village to work out where lights were needed and whether the aim was to light the footway or road. They have decided to purchase LED lights and to make a contribution of £10 - £20 per year.

This might be a solution to lighting some sections of Front Street where the lights are on houses, especially where they are lighting a junction, but would not work for all areas.

4 County Councillor's Report

Apologies from Cllr Robinson. A report on policing Alston Moor was circulated after the meeting.

District Councillor's Report

Cllr Godwin had nothing new to report as both she and Cllr Sheriff missed last meeting due to the weather.

5. Planning

5a/FEB/17 16/1068 Full application. Removal of condition 1 (local occupancy) attached to approval 97/1064. The Swallows, Nenthead CA9 3LW for Firmrock Associates.

Recommended for approval. Proposed by Cllr Martin and seconded by Cllr Aves. (1 abs).

5b/FEB/17 16/1117 Full application. Reinstatement of shopfront to historical format. Demolition of concrete platform and bridge and reinstate the access to the shop in stone, including replace railings to traditional format. Roof repairs. Mad Hatters Hardware, 2 Front Street, Alston CA9 3HU for Mr & Mrs English.

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

5c/FEB/17 17/0013 Outline application. Outline planning permission to develop up to 10 dwellings. Land west of Bruntley Meadows, Alston for Mr A. and Mrs O. Walton.

Copies of correspondence objecting to the application were received including concerns about access, the problem of flooding which could increase the risk to properties on the Firs, and the environmental impact of the hay meadow, which has now been re-seeded and destroyed.

Resolved to adjourn the meeting for residents to speak and re-convene after 5 minutes.

A spokesman for the residents stated that they have a number of objections to the proposals.

The site has a substantial slope and although it is stated there is no flood risk, there is a fair sized watercourse running underneath, contributing towards the collapse of the bathroom floor in one property above the site. Building on this swampy site is likely to cause problems further downhill on the Firs Estate, and be costly for purchasers who will have to put in much deeper foundations than is standard. There is also a concern about traffic, and the safety of people using the laning, which crosses the site.

The meeting re-convened.

It was stated that the drains are not adequate and there is an existing problem with flooding at the top end of the Firs. Noted that the biggest issue holding back development in Alston is the issue of inadequate drainage and pressure on the sewerage system.

Resolved to recommend refusal because of the major concerns about drainage raised by residents.

Proposed by Cllr Harrison and seconded by Cllr Grew. (8+ 1- 1 abs)

5d/FEB/17 17/0039 Listed building. Listed building consent for roof and chimney repairs including modification of roof junction. The Bluebell, Townfoot, Alston CA9 3RN for Mr B. Parkinson.

Resolved to make no comment as the work has started. Proposed by Cllr Athey and seconded by Cllr Miller. (1 abs).

5d/FEB/17 17/0060 Full application. Proposed conversion of 1 no 2 bedroom house into 1 no 2 bedroom house and 1 no 1 bedroom house. Brook House, Overburn, Alston CA9 3SH for Mr A. Carr.

It was noted that provision has now been made for parking one car, but that the second property will be expected to park on the road.

Recommended for approval. Proposed by Cllr Athey and seconded by Cllr Miller. (4+ 1 – 4 abs).

Decision Notices

None received.

6. Request for the parish council to ask for an additional post box on the Spar site

Cllr Godwin reported that she was contacted by a resident, who thought it would be a real convenience to have a post box at Spar, where the ground is flat and easier to access for disabled people. It was noted that Royal Mail have been removing post boxes, but could be asked about the Spar site.

Resolved to ask Cllr Godwin to draft a letter to Royal Mail to ask if they would be willing to put in a post box at Spar, and to enquire about the request for a post box at Lowbyer made a number of years ago. Proposed by Cllr Phillips and seconded by Cllr Athey. (6+ 4 abs) **Action PG.**

The clerk offered to contact Spar to ask if they would be willing to have a post box on their land. **Action CI.**

7. Consultations and Correspondence

7a/FEB/17 EDC Local Plan consultation meeting

Discussed under agenda 2

7b/FEB/17 Meetings & events

Proposed mine water treatment schemes meetings – 13th March in Nenthead, 14th March Nent Hall Hotel

7c/FEB/17 Information received

CALC – pre-election guidance for town and parish councils

Police newsletter

8. Working parties for the following tasks:

8a/FEB/17 EDC discussion paper

An e-mail was received from Barry Cooper from Eden District Council to say that he and Cllr Elaine Martin would be willing to attend a meeting to discuss the collective Vision for the district's future. They would like responses to the Discussion Paper by 6th March 2017, although this could be difficult as the full council do not meet before 6th March.

Cllrs Haldon, Athey, Phillips, Martin and Grew offered to meet to discuss. **Action.**

8b/FEB/17 Meeting with Alston Fitness Club

Representatives are needed to meet with Alston Fitness Club directors to discuss the insurance situation.

Cllrs Harrison and Godwin offered to meet with the Fitness Club and if possible attend the next meeting on Wednesday. **Action CH/PG**

8c/FEB/17 Annual Parish Council Risk assessment

Cllrs Phillips and Athey offered to meet to review the annual risk assessment. **Action.**

9. Date for Annual Parish Meeting

It was agreed to hold the annual parish meeting on Tuesday 25th April 2017. Cllr Grew gave her apologies.

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

10a/FEB/17 Urgent request to support ATM at Alston Co-op

Cllr Godwin reported that the ATM at the former Barclay's Bank is to be taken out very soon, and that the manager at the Co-op would like a cash machine. She has a meeting with the manager on the 10th February, and would like a letter from the parish council to support the request. It was agreed that the clerk would write a letter of support as a matter of urgency. **Action CI.**

10b/FEB/17 Condition of Tom Collier's road

Cllr Stewart had asked for the condition of Tom Collier's road (U3663) to be reported, as its condition has deteriorated and has a number of potholes. **Action CI.**

10c/FEB/17 Meeting venues/school visit

It was agreed to ask the clerk to set up a site visit at SKS for Tuesday 14th February at 4pm. **Action CI.**

The clerk was also asked to see if it would be possible to move the meetings, as the heating is not working well in the Masonic Hall. **Action CI.**

11. Finance

11a/FEB/17 Bank statements

The statements as of 31st January 2017 were as follows:-

Alston Moor Parish Council tr/ac	£23,340.09
Alston Moor Parish Council bus/ac	£12,676.55
Eden Credit Union	£7,008.58

11b/FEB/17 Accounts for Payment

The following accounts were for payment:-

<i>Summary of accounts for payment: -</i>	£1,876.71
<i>Summary of income received since last meeting: -</i>	£0.00
<i>Summary of accounts paid since last meeting: -</i>	£797.28

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 Miller and seconded by Cllr Aves. (nem con)

11c/FEB/17 Report from internal auditor

A verbal report was received. There were no major issues arising. The clerk to list paid accounts to month end to agree with bank statements.

The meeting closed at 905pm

Signed:

Dated: