

ALSTON MOOR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Alston Moor Parish Council held on Monday 9th January 2017 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, E. Stewart.

Apologies: Cllr: S. Hill, G. Wright.

Absent: none

Alastair Robertson has sent a letter of resignation, as he has decided to concentrate on matters he can make a difference with, but is willing to carry on with some of the voluntary work he does with the Town Hall.

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 5th December 2016 be adopted as a correct record. Proposed by Cllr Stewart and seconded by Cllr Grew. (nem con).

1a Discussion with Eden District Council and the Police about the sites in Alston used for Appleby Fair

The officers most closely involved with planning for Appleby Fair from Eden District Council and the Police are both leaving before the next fair, but there will be new faces, and the police officer who will be taking over attended the meeting. The Multi-agency strategic group is still in place and the plans made last year will continue.

There was mixed feedback about Tyne Willows last year. The Eden officer came up every day and the people she spoke to at the gym were fine about the travellers, but were less positive after the event, and wanted the travellers camped away from the gym building. The cones were successful at first, but were taken down a bit too early, so this could be a lesson learnt for the future. It is advisable to set out the rules for using the site well in advance, as many of the travellers look at the website and the majority are willing to comply with local requests.

Specific complaints were that several horses were tethered too near the gym, and a few were let loose. The number of trailers and caravans accompanying the bow tops were thought by some to be too many, contributing to a problem with access to the gym. The council had worked with the traveller's representative, but it was found that not all the travellers knew him, or were aware of the decisions taken about how the site should be used.

The police suggested that clear signage, and barriers to designate assigned areas, along with visible guardianship should do a lot to help, as would someone with understanding about horses willing to speak to the owners of loose horses. They come to Alston on a daily basis during the fair weeks.

It was suggested that the horses be restricted to the area used by the agricultural society, and that they be kept on short tethers. It would also help if SKS were prepared to get the grass cut short on the playing areas and running track. Another option might be to allow the bow tops onto the playing field, but this could be hard to control, and the contractor for the toilets would not want to site them on the grass.

Members who had organised the barriers with highways last year, said they did not want to take on the task again.

It was agreed that a decision on what to do needed to be made, as the information for the website had to be ready for the first week in February.

Resolved to keep the barriers to the same area as last year, and to try and improve the policing of the site. Proposed by Cllr Miller and seconded by Cllr Athey. (nem con)

2. Progress Reports

2a/JAN/17 Lighting, Overwater, Nenthead

Re 2bd/DEC/16 The clerk reported that she had spoken with the landowner, who is considering putting an LED light on his property that might also light up the footway. It was agreed that this could be a positive solution.

2b/JAN/17 Boundary wall, Tyne Willows

Re: 2d/DEC/16 It has been confirmed that the caravan site owner does not want a gap left in the wall adjoining the playing field. The agricultural show would be asked to build up the wall, but would need stone bringing in. It could be left besides the gap, if anyone had any to spare. If it were to be decided to use stone from the tumbledown wall between the playing field and Henderson's wood, permission from Spar is needed.

2c/JAN/17 Request to meet in February with EDC and CALC officers to discuss the devolution of services

Re: 6/DEC/16 An e-mail was received from CALC asking for possible dates to meet with the parish council to continue the discussion on the devolution of services, and the need to think how these things can be made sustainable.

It was agreed to suggest the second or third Monday in February, to meet in Garrigill and to ask for a copy of the agenda. **Action CL.**

2d/JAN/17 Precept meeting

Re: 8f/DEC/16 The clerk reported that the Brownies could not easily move their meeting from the Town Hall, so she was trying to find out if it would be possible to set up something in the Masonic Hall.

3. Progress reports from working groups and council representatives

3a/JAN/17 Meeting with Young Cumbria and CCC Neighbourhood Services

Cllr Stewart reported on a meeting held on the 8th December with representatives from Young Cumbria, Neighbourhood Service, CAfS and Alston Moor Partnership. There is some funding that could potentially be used to help 11-19 year olds on Alston Moor for youth clubs or other activities. The aim is to get something sustainable going on Alston Moor, organised through the community. The youth worker, who is employed until March, was asked to contact Samuel Kings School to start consultation with parents. She is also looking for young people to get involved in a potential steering group.

3b/JAN/17 Private lighting scheme policy

Cllr Godwin will follow this up. **Action PG.**

3c/JAN/17 Hospital community vote

Held over to agenda item 6.

3d/JAN/17 Alston recycling site

Cllr Glendinning reported that he had spoken to the gym about the site. They have set up a book to note when the site has been inspected, and said that Eden have been good about clearing the bins and fly tipping when reported. Although they are cleaning the site at present, they are short-staffed and may not want to continue in the longer term.

4 County Councillor's Report

Apologies from Cllr Robinson.

District Councillor's Report

Cllrs Godwin and Sheriff had nothing to report ahead of Thursday's meeting.

5. Planning

5a/JAN/17 16/1035 Full application. Extension to agricultural building intended to house sheep in winter months to aid in the protection of the Moor House Site of Special Scientific Interest. The proposed building is to be steel framed. To meet our objective of making the building match the existing surroundings it will be clad in a single concrete panel approximately one meter high from the floor and timber ventilation boards from there to the eaves. The roof will be olive green box profile sheeting. Hole House Farm, Garrigill, Alston CA9 3HF for Mr G. Carrick

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

5b/JAN/17 16/1081 Full application. Proposed erection of two storey dwelling. South area of land at Gossipgate, Alston for Mr M. Younger.

Recommended for approval. Proposed by Cllr Haldon and seconded by Cllr Miller (3 abs).

5c/JAN/17 16/1082 Full application. Proposed erection of two storey dwelling. North area of land at Gossipgate, Alston for Mr J. Younger.

Recommended for approval. Proposed by Cllr Haldon and seconded by Cllr Miller (3 abs).

5d/JAN/17 16/1085 Listed building consent to construct a new Platform 2 and canopy over Platform 1 and 2 and track bed in-between. Works to existing Station building comprising refurbishment of the existing windows and internal alterations. The Railway Station, Station Road, Alston CA9 3JB for South Tynedale Railway.

Recommended for approval. Proposed by Cllr Haldon and seconded by Cllr Grew. (2 abs).

Decision Notices

None received.

6. Parish Council's role in the possible integration of hospital and social care services

Cllr Martin reported that the community vote was unanimous, and well attended with a steady stream of people coming to vote all day. An interesting side effect was extra sales for the shops.

The day before the vote County Cllr Robinson organised a meeting with Sir Neil McKay from the Success Regime and the League of Friends. He agreed that the proposal from the League could go forward to Cumbria Commissioning Group to agree and progress. It was said that the ambulance had only been achieved through pressure from the community, and there were concerns that without someone to monitor progress, the NHS might allow these proposals to fade. The parish council could have some input, as should the League of Friends who were the driving force behind it, as should the practitioners as they will have an understanding of how care can be integrated.

Cllr Grew asked to be kept informed of progress, as she would like to be involved.

The proposals can be found on the Alston Moor health website.

7. Proposed policy that contractors and agencies comply with when working on utilities and digging up roads on Alston Moor

Councillor Martin reported that she was concerned about the failure of the utility companies to make good the cobbles after work on the road, and asked for support from the council in raising this issue at the next Traffic Management meeting. The intent would be to set up a policy for the companies to comply with.

Resolved to include a request for a policy on digging up the roads by utility companies on the next Traffic Management meeting agenda. **Action CL**

8. Drainage issues on path used by SKS pupils to access Tyne Willows Playing Field

The clerk reported that SKS are concerned about the water flow across the footpath to the playing field. It was agreed at the Tyne Willows Management Committee meeting that it was a matter to be dealt with by the council.

Cllr Green offered to deal with the water flow across the path. **Action AG.**

9. Consultations and Correspondence

9a/JAN/17 EDC discussion paper – vision and opportunities for Eden to 2050 and request for the parish council to assist in developing a collective vision

An e-mail was received from the leader of Eden District Council, who is thinking about how Eden District is to develop in the future. The District Council has developed a cross party discussion paper called 'Vision and Opportunities for Eden to 2050' with the aim of agreeing a shared vision on how we can work together to prepare for the future. Many of the challenges are around developing new infrastructure, and improving the access around major arterial routes such as the M6 and A66 around Penrith could provide economic benefits, reduce traffic congestion and improve traffic flow and air quality. The vision also has to address the sustainability of rural communities, make provision to care for the aging population, create opportunities for the younger generation to thrive and to protect the natural environment.

The parish council were invited to take part in developing a collective vision, and have included a template document to record ideas and aspirations for Alston Moor until 2050. To be returned by 6th March 2017. Agenda item for the next meeting.

9b/JAN/17 Coal Authority meetings

The Coal Authority are looking to hold further consultation events and workshops in March, with possible dates of 13th and 14th March. They intend to include Alston residents, as the potential area for the mine treatment works has been extended into the Alston ward.

9c/JAN/17 Meeting of Town Councils in Eden

Penrith's Mayor would like to meet with the chair and clerks from Alston, Appleby and Kirby Stephen to discuss the EDC Vision, Devolution, the Success Regime/Social Care and Public Transport. The parish were asked if this would be a worthwhile meeting. Appleby Town Council have already agreed and offered a room to meet in. Cllr Green agreed to attend.

9d/JAN/17 Commemorations for end of WW1

Battle's Over – A Nation's Tribute 11th November 2018. An e-mail was received stating that it will be 100 years since the end of WW1 on this date, and to commemorate it beacons are being lit across the country. Detailed co-ordination will begin in April 2017, and the organisers would like confirm involvement before the end of March 2017 to ensure inclusion in the 'Guide to Taking Part' publication.

Mount Hooley was suggested as a possible venue. It is owned by a shooting syndicate. Agenda item for next month.

9e/JAN/17 Meetings & events

AMP – Burnside Vision, talk on how this community is tackling the issue of becoming a sustainable, dynamic and thriving community Wednesday 18th January 2017

Cumbria CVS Emergency and Resilience Planning events in January

CALC – Developing your skills – Cllr Phillips asked to be booked onto the 'aspiring chairman' course

9e/JAN/17 Information received

Cumbria Health and Wellbeing Board – report on Community Pharmacies

Clerks & Councils Direct – January 2017

10. Ratification of grants policy

The clerk reported that she updated the grants policy to include suggestions made by experienced officers, and will look again at the grants form as comments have just been received.

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

11a/JAN/17 Report on Alston Schools in Cumberland Herald

Cllr Miller reported that the local press printed an article about the allocation by the County Council of £1.1 million to spend on the two Alston schools during the coming financial year. This caused consternation as the staff and governors had heard nothing from the county council ahead of the report. The head put together a report for parents stating that they have not received official word and there is no agreed plan as yet to invest this money, although discussions have been taking place between the head, governors and local authority since the last round of consultations took place over two years ago.

It was agreed that to have received the information through a press report was unfortunate, but it was probable the press attended an open meeting of the council when the funding was discussed. Cllr Robinson could be asked to comment. **Action CL**

11b/JAN/17 Agenda items for next Parish Council meeting

No additional items.

11c/JAN/17 Agenda items for Traffic Management meeting

Agenda items for the Traffic Management meeting/highways related issues included trees to be trimmed on the edge of Garrigill village green, slow signs for the Firs, the proposed re-instatement policy for utilities work on disabled parking space in front of the Co-op. This has been discussed and requested many times in the past, but has never been formally agreed with highways.

A potential sewerage leak was reported besides Brewery Bridge.

12. Co-option of Alston Ward Councillor

Resolved to co-opt Chris Harrison to fill the Alston Ward vacancy. Proposed by Cllr Phillips and seconded by Cllr Martin. (nem con)

13. Finance

13a/JAN/17 Bank statements

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

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------------|
| Alston Moor Parish Council tr/ac | £25,963.92 |
| Alston Moor Parish Council bus/ac | £12,676.55 |

Eden Credit Union

£7,008.58

13b/JAN/17 Accounts for Payment

The following accounts were for payment:-

| | |
|---|-----------|
| <i>Summary of accounts for payment: -</i> | £668.12 |
| <i>Summary of income received since last meeting: -</i> | £1.51 |
| <i>Summary of accounts paid since last meeting: -</i> | £1,275.82 |

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 Martin. (nem con)

The meeting closed at 8.50pm

Signed:

Dated: