

ALSTON MOOR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the annual meeting of Alston Moor Parish Council held on Monday 8th May 2017 at 7pm in Samuel King's School

Present: Cllrs: T. Haldon (Chair), D. Athey, B. Aves, J. Glendinning, E. Grew, T. Haldon, C. Harrison, S. Hill, H. Ho, A. Martin, R. Miller, D. Phillips, E. Stewart, G. Wright.

Apologies: P Godwin, A. Green.

Absent: none

Declarations of interest: listed under specific agenda items. 5b/MAY/17 Cllr Aves.

Election of Chair & Vice-chair

Cllrs Haldon and Green were proposed for chair. Voting was by secret ballot.

Resolved to appoint Cllr Haldon as chair.

Cllrs Green and Martin were proposed for vice-chair. Voting was by secret ballot.

Resolved to appoint Cllr Martin as vice-chair.

Resolved to propose a vote of thanks to Cllr Green for his many years as chair of the parish council.

Proposed by Cllr Haldon and seconded by Cllr Phillips.

Election of Committees/working groups/representatives

Devolution working group – Cllrs Glendinning, Grew, Ho, Martin, Phillips and Stewart.

Finance working group – Cllrs Aves, Harrison and Haldon.

Alston Moor Hospital Working group – Cllrs Grew, Martin and Phillips offered to stand, but as the remit for this group was not clear, it was agreed that clarification was needed on its role and how it differed from the League of Friends working group

Mine Treatment works working group – Cllrs Aves, Hill and Stewart and co-oped member Judith Wood. Noted that the chair could attend all meetings if required.

Election of council representatives

Alston Moor Traffic Management (Cumbria County Council) – Cllrs Athey and Wright

Alston Moor Community Wheels Working Group (Cumbria County Council) Cllrs Athey, Phillips and Martin.

Alston Moor Fitness Club – Cllr Ho

Parish Highwayman – Cllr Athey

Friends of Alston Town Hall – it was agreed that as the group no longer hold an AGM it would not be appropriate to send a representative at present.

Tyne Willows Management Board – Cllrs Green, Martin and Wright.

Alston Moor Partnership – Cllr Haldon

Resolved to appoint the cllrs named above to the working groups and as representatives.

1. Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the parish council meeting held on Monday 3rd April 2017 be adopted as a correct record with the following amendment 11/APR/17 2nd paragraph *Cllr Phillips said that NALC stated that to be passed a motion requires a majority and if chair fails to cast his casting vote because equality is not a majority the motion is lost.* Proposed by Cllr Wright and seconded by Cllr Phillips. (nem con).

2. Progress Reports

2a/MAY/17 Safety signage for Firs & Henderson's Wood

Re 2b/APR/17 The clerk reported that the estimate for the signs came in at £192, and, as this is a reduction to the original quote, she has ordered them.

2b/MAY/17 Alston Fitness Club notice of application for planning permission

Re: 6/APR/17 Formal notice of the application for planning permission has been submitted.

2c/MAY/17 Tourist signage

Re: 7/APR/17 An e-mail was received from Road Link to explain the definition of Tourists' signs in the DMRB Volume 8 Section 2 Part 3 TA93/04. *'The main purpose of tourist signs is to guide visitors to a pre-*

selected destination along the most appropriate route at the latter stages of their journey, particularly where destinations are difficult to find. Like any form of traffic signing, tourist signs are only an aid to safe and efficient navigation which complement, but cannot replace pre-planning material such as maps and atlases.'

As the Lakes are not within the A69 corridor it would be unlikely that a request would be approved. Alston is adequately signposted at various locations along the A69. However, they will contact Highways England and Road Link to let us know. The clerk reported that she has not heard about the M6 junction 40 signage, but thought signage to the North-East would probably also not meet the criteria.

Da??? signage expensive.

2d/MAY/17 Nenthead noticeboard

Re: 3d/APR/17 The clerk reported that she had spoken to the local joiner, who made the Co-op noticeboard, and given him time to think about it, as he was concerned about the exposed location. It might be worth looking into recycled noticeboards, but they may be prohibitively expensive. Cllr Stewart confirmed that the Nenthead ward meeting resolved that they wanted a free standing noticeboard. To follow up. **Action CI**

2e/MAY/17 Scrutiny work programme

Re: 9/APR/17 Acknowledgement of the council's suggestions. A decision on which topics to take forward will be made towards the end of May.

2f/MAY/17 Meeting venues

The clerk reported that she had spoken with Nenthead village hall about the possibility of borrowing some of their older tables for use in the playgroup annex. If they were wanted the council would need to arrange transport. The offer will be discussed at the next Town Hall meeting.

2g/MAY/17 Chair's casting vote

Re: 11/Apr/17 Cllr Phillips reported that he will liaise with Cllr Godwin before drafting a letter for NALC about Eden District Council's statement that abstentions count as a vote.

3. Progress reports from working groups and council representatives

3a/MAY/17 CA Mine Treatment Works working group

Cllr Aves reported that he was appointed chair at the initial meeting last week. The group agreed terms of reference and agreed to co-opt Judith Wood from the Nentsberry Community group. It was agreed that Cllrs Aves and Stewart would meet with Andy Bell from the community group, and to put a proposal to full council that a letter be sent to the Coal Authority expressing residents' concerns over the proposals.

Rory Stewart MP was in Alston at the weekend, and discussed the proposals with representatives from the group. He has agreed, provided he is re-elected, to organise a meeting with the Coal Authority and Environment Agency and working group outside of the public meetings.

Resolved to write to the Coal Authority with a request that the mine treatment works are sited far away from residential properties. Proposed by Cllr Aves and seconded by Cllr Athey. (nem con).

The clerk was asked to circulate to everyone before sending. **Action CI.**

3b/MAY/17 Devolution of Services Working Group

Cllr Martin said there little to report, as detailed costings are needed. The group agreed that residents should be consulted before any decisions are taken. None of the services offered will generate income, which is a concern, and the Station Yard units have not been included in the services offered, but the district council are prepared to discuss this further.

The group raised the issue of the district council's policy change over the annual donation of £500 for the toilets at Nenthead and Garrigill and the failure to inform community groups that they would have to apply for the funds instead of receiving the money automatically as originally agreed.

3c/MAY/17 Traffic Management meeting

It was reported that the Front Street road closure in September to put the crossing points in will go ahead, but Highways are now thinking about going out to consultation with three possible options including a straight replacement of the cobbles, cobbles as far as Church Road, or tarmac. There are no formal proposals yet, and English Heritage will have a view on what can be done.

It was suggested that the works should be seen as an opportunity rather than a nuisance. It might be an opportunity to hold a conference, bringing in experts on cobbling.

Cllr Harrison said that the parish council should have a view on what they wanted. He was asked to draft out a proposal for a future meeting. **Action CH.**

3d/MAY/17 Youth Work – Cllr Stewart

Cllr Stewart reported that Young Cumbria were looking for local people with an interest in youth work to make use of funding from the County Council. EdenVentures have come forward with an interest in organising outdoor activities, and possibly setting up a youth club.

3e/MAY/17 EDC Electronic Planning meeting

Cllr Godwin sent an e-mail to say that she and Cllr Sheriff attended the meeting about digitised planning. Some parishes were keener than others to get involved with it. She is in favour of retaining the system that we have currently, but can see the benefits of being able to display the planning applications digitally at meetings, especially when there are members of the public attending. Besides having access to the equipment, it would need someone to operate it. .

Resolved to write to Eden Planners to re-iterate that the parish council is not satisfied with the proposals to move onto a digital system and would like to continue with the current system. Proposed by Cllr Phillips and seconded by Cllr Grew. (nem con)

3f/MAY/17 Hospital Campaign group

Cllr Martin reported that that following the decision to take away the medical beds from the cottage hospitals, the only chance to do anything was with the County Council's Health Scrutiny Committee (which includes district as well a county councillors) who could have lodged an objection with the Secretary of State. However, the HSC voted against this, leaving the local community concerned that they have no leverage now. Two members from the campaign group are looking at starting legal action against the Clinical Commissioning Group, as the only possible means of challenging the way the decision was made. Initially they will need to raise £5k, with a member eligible to apply for legal aid, with the intention of setting up a crowd funding campaign. The group's view is that the Clinical Commissioning Group should be looking after the interests of the population, and have failed to take into account the real impact of travel.

Resolved to offer parish council support to the campaign. Proposed by Cllr Wright and seconded by Cllr Aves. (nem con)

4 County Councillor's Report.

Cllr Driver was congratulated on her success at the recent elections:

County council representation – the appointment of a Labour candidate for Alston and the East Fellside, has resulted in no one party controlling the council, and is a first for Alston Moor.

District Councillor's Report

Cllr Godwin emailed to say there was nothing to report.

5. Planning

5a/MAY/17 17/0279 Full application. Extensions and improvements to sports pavilion. Alston Moor Fitness Club Sports Pavilion. Tyne Willows Playing Fields, Station Road, Alston CA9 3HZ for Christopher Reed.

No comment was made as the parish council own the property.

5b/MAY/17 17/00295 Full application. Proposed outbuilding. 7 Hillersdon Terrace, Nenthead CA9 3PG for L. Lambeth.

Cllr Aves declared an interest as a neighbour.

Recommended for approval. Proposed by Cllr Wright and seconded by Cllr Miller. (nem con).

Decision Notices

No decision notices were received.

6 Additional cash point in Alston Town Centre – Cllr Aves

Cllr Aves reported that the Co-op were trying to get another cash point, but nothing has been heard recently. He mentioned that some towns in Norfolk, which have lost their banks have had Nationwide open up building societies and put in cash points, so he suggested it might be worth asking Nationwide about coming to Alston.

It was noted that businesses have been affected by the lack of a reliable cash point, but earlier approaches had not been successful as the footfall is too small.

Cllr Aves was asked to draft a letter to Nationwide, which could possibly also be sent to the Cumberland Building Society. **Action BA.**

7 Actions arising from the Annual Parish Meeting

No specific actions were required from the parish council.

8 Funding application for youth activities May half term from EdenVentures

An application to the Community Fund was made on behalf of EdenVentures. The group was set up last year to continue the 'summer weeks' project delivered for the last 18 years by the charity Eden Community Outdoors which has now closed. This year they are expanding their activities to include an outdoor adventure club, taster sessions, and are hoping to start a youth club in Alston later in the year. During the May half term EdenVentures will be hosting two days of outdoor activities for local children aged 7-13 in Alston. The sessions are likely to include a mixture of environmental and arts activities, skills and crafts, and outdoor adventures. If grant funding is available they will offer either fully or partially funded places to residents of Alston Moor meeting their criteria. The grant application is for £280.

Resolved to grant £280 under the Community Grant scheme. Proposed by Cllr Ho and seconded by Cllr Grew. (11+ 2 abs)

9 Consultations and Correspondence

9a/MAY/17 Alston Fitness Club – bring site

An e-mail was received from Chris Reed of Alston Fitness Club explaining that Eden District Council had complained that the Bring Site was untidy. The gym staff have now undertaken to keep it tidy, and as of yesterday it was fine, with the exception of some fly tipping, which Eden take responsibility for. What is an issue is that the compound is not large enough, as the bins extend beyond the site, which is unsightly and a potential health and safety risk. EDC have been informed, and it was suggested to them that they consider extending the fence to the east by about 5 metres, which would contain the stray bins and screen a bit more of the bring site.

The area to the east of the Bring Site is a mess and overgrown, but could be tidied up. The compound fence could be extended, the post and wire fence renewed, brambles and overgrown vegetation cleared and topsoil laid to bring the ground to the level of the manhole covers, hen planting to brighten up the area and deter dogs. CR would be happy to organise this, but would need volunteers and some funding for the rear fence, topsoil and planting. He would also need permission from the parish council, and if forthcoming would talk to the adjoining owner.

There is some fly tipping dumped near the pavilion, which would be the parish council's responsibility to remove as it is not besides the Bring site. There are also a number of vehicles parked to the east of the pavilion, some seemingly abandoned. He asked for the parish council's views on these.

It was agreed to wait until after Appleby Fair before looking into the issue of parked cars.

Resolved to support in principle the idea of tidying up this corner, and to ask for costings. Proposed by Cllr Haldon and seconded by Cllr Phillips. (nem con)

9b/MAY/17 Notices of events/meetings

Alston Hustings –the clerk reported that she is still waiting for confirmation, but Saturday 20th May is the preferred date.

CALC – would like to know if there is any interest in investment options for parish councils if they organise an expert to come along contact . No, as the parish has insufficient reserves.

Fishermen's Mission, North Shields. There is to be a Coast-to-Coast sponsored ride, and the organisers would like to use the Market Cross for collection buckets. It was suggested to Cllr Athey that he asks them to contact local newspapers to publicise the event.

9cMAY/17 Information received

Alston Area Police Team newsletter
Status report from Coal Authority
Clerks & Councils Direct – May 2017

10 Administration

10a Model Standing Orders

A proposal to adopt the model standing orders was not carried. The Alston Moor standing orders were adopted in June 2014. A suggestion to re-adopt them was not carried.

Resolved to take no action over re-adopting the Alston Moor Standing Orders, other than updates provided by Cllr Phillips. (nem con) Proposed by Cllr Haldon and seconded by Cllr Miller.

Cllr Ho pointed out that the model standing orders give clear directions for new councillors. As not everything is covered in the Alston Moor standing orders there could be an agenda item for the next meeting. Cllr Ho was invited to submit any additions. **Action HH.**

10b Resolution on eligibility for General Power of Competence for 2017/2018

Resolved that the parish council continue to be eligible for the General Power of Competence. Proposed by Cllr Haldon and seconded by Cllr Miller. (nem con).

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

11a/MAY/17 Henderson's Wood trees

Cllr Harrison reported that he thought two trees alongside the road in Henderson's Wood were dead. They are sizeable and will need a tree surgeon to take down.

12. Finance

14a/MAY/17 Bank statements

The statements as of 30th April 2017 were as follows:-

Alston Moor Parish Council tr/ac	£57,231.73
Alston Moor Parish Council bus/ac	£12,676.55
Eden Credit Union	£7,008.58

11b/MAY/17 Accounts for Payment

The following accounts were for payment:-

<i>Summary of accounts for payment: -</i>	£11,970.56
<i>Summary of income received since last meeting: -</i>	£42,107.88
<i>Summary of accounts paid since last meeting: -</i>	£1,012.14

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 Wright and seconded by Cllr Grew. (nem con)

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm

Signed:

Dated: