

## ALSTON MOOR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Alston Moor Parish Council held on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> August 2017 at 7pm in Alston Town Hall.

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

**Apologies:** Cllrs: G. Wright, D. Athey.

**Absent:** none

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

### **1. Minutes**

**Resolved** that the minutes of the parish council meeting held on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2017 be adopted as a correct record with the following amendment: County Cllr's report should read *attends the Health and Wellbeing forum*.

### **2. Progress Reports**

#### **2a/AUG/17 Proposed new litter bin**

Re: 7/JUL/17 The clerk reported that she attended a site visit with Cllr PG and an Eden District Council officer to assess the suitability of potential sites for a litter bin. The sites were: 1) on the grass verge besides Park Lane and the Leadgate Road, 2) besides the BT broadband box on the Brampton Road, 3) on the grass verge at the junction with the Brampton and Penrith Road. The most suitable site appeared to be site 2 as this would cater for both residents and people using the Wardway.

**Resolved** to ask Eden District Council to put the litter bin on site 2 besides the broadband box on the Brampton Road.

#### **2b/AUG/17 Devolution Meeting**

The clerk reported that the meeting planned for last week has been postponed until Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> August, as it was felt that the whole council should be involved in discussions. Although no formal notification has been given as yet, it is understood that Eden District Council have decided that they will prioritise repairs and improvements to footway lights that parish councils have agreed to take on. This could mean that a decision on what to do will need to be made with more urgency than had been thought. It was agreed that the working group would meet before the 30<sup>th</sup> August.

#### **2c/AUG/17 EDC Neighbourhood/Community Planning Meeting**

Re: 8c/JUL/17 The meeting was held last week and one matter that is possibly more urgent is the future of the Alston Primary School building. Eden District Council have been allocated funds from the government to help offset the issues facing communities with a high number of second homes. It was flagged up that the building may meet the criteria for a Community Asset Transfer with potential for developing the site for something along the lines of semi-sheltered housing for the elderly to meet the needs of those who do not need to go into a care home, but whose lives would be improved by living close to services.

### **3. Progress reports from working groups and council representatives**

#### **3a/AUG/17 Appleby Fair Sites update**

Re: 2a/JUL/17 Cllr CH reported that he spoke with the site owners and they might be willing to allow the travellers to continue to use the site if the council were to provide a skip. However, as there is one more person to be contacted, the matter is to hold over until the next meeting.

#### **3b/AUG/17 Report from Alston Moor Care Alliance**

Cllr EG reported that the Alliance are developing a business case to put forward to the CCG (Clinical Commissioning Group), which should be ready by December. The hope is in the long term to rebuild, a purpose-built facility; until then the current buildings can be used.

The staff have been able to go on training courses and increase the range of services they can offer, saving journeys to Carlisle or Hexham. One example is the diabetes clinic. The Alliance can make the

case that they can contribute to cost-saving by keeping patients in Alston who might otherwise go into an acute hospital, unnecessarily.

### **3c/AUG/17 Report from the Traffic Management meeting**

It was reported that the meeting focused on the Front Street works, and that the County Council's next step is to appoint a project team. They are not obliged to consult the local community, but are intending to. The intent is to work up a design based on a reduced cobble footprint from just above Church Road to below the Co-op with speed control measures at the entry points. The Traffic Management group will be meeting to look specifically at the Front Street works and make sure that the THI works tie in with it. There will be an opportunity for residents to feed in their comments. The proposed design works does not pre-empt a final decision.

The action plan was reviewed, and C. Cllr CD hopes to get a comprehensive signage review underway. It was mentioned that Cllr JG had surveyed the signage, with some actions agreed, but there is more work to do.

### **3d/AUG/17 Open meeting to consider Coal Authority proposed sites for the mine treatment works**

It was reported that proposed sites were discussed at the Nenthead Ward meeting, with all present concerned that the issues of odour control had not been properly addressed by the Coal Authority. Cllr BA said that he and the Nentsberry group had approached Rory Stewart, MP, who offered to arrange a meeting, but has heard nothing further.

The clerk was asked to contact RS to progress the meeting. **Action CI**

### **3e/AUG/17 Nenthead Ward meeting**

Cllr ES reported that the Community Warden visited Nenthead and told people they should put their dogs on leads in the village. Cllr PG said that the warden was correct and that dogs should be on leads within the 30mph limit. The clerk offered to check if this was stated in the leaflet produced by the district council.

**Action CI.**

## **4 County Councillor's Report.**

Cllr Driver reported on the following:

**County Council website** – the county council are redoing digital platforms on the website to make it more intuitive. The aim is for users to log in and create their own profile, to do away with the need to keep logging in. They want to involve the parish council in some testing.

**Speeding** – the police have been doing some research work on speeding along Station Road and Nenthead, as there have been complaints about speeding. Speed checks on Station Road indicated that majority of drivers travel at less than 30mph. However, they will be doing more work between Spar and the bridge, around Lowbyer and at Nenthead. One task is to try and establish a speed watch with volunteers, and they may come to the parish council to help identify volunteers.

## **District Councillor's Report**

Cllr Godwin reported on the following:

**Devolution report** – a report was passed in early July about footway lights and devolution, which Cllr PG will get copied and circulated. **Action PG.** They expect to replace all lights on the approved list with LEDS by the end of the current financial year, but those councils that have agreed to devolution will get their lights replaced first. Anyone aware of non-functioning lights should let PG know, although any not approved and at the end of their life will be switched off.

**Community Warden** – the warden has been looking into fly tipping, and has sent a letter out to all residents in The Firs asking them not to dump garden waste as it damages land. It was noted that there is one repeat offender, who if it continues will have their contact details passed on.

**Resolved** to get a sign made for the top end of the Firs Walk.

## **4. Public open session**

A Nenthead resident said he had attended the Coal Authority open meeting in Nenthead, and followed up with a visit to Force Crag. He was surprised at the smell and warning notices about gas and peat mud, and the amount of noise generated by the water moving in and out of the ponds. He lives near two of the proposed sites, and thought there ought to be other more suitable sites, up towards Nenthead Mines and Priorsdale where there are very few houses (note: this may be unsuitable as above the source of the polluted water.) Another issue is that there is a lot more water coming out of the Nenthead mines than

there is at Force Crag, so the ponds may not be as effective as envisaged. The sites are virgin land that does not need cleaning up, and have been grazing land that supplied the community with milk in former years. He thought the CA were looking at the easiest options.

No reports have been issued yet on the consultation.

The clerk reported that the CA intend to publish something before the next consultation event in September.

## **6. Planning**

**6a/AUG/17** 17/0549 Full application. To replace top floor side window and rebuild garden wall at front of property and add railings. Albert House, Townhead, Alston CA9 3SL for Miss Joanne Lee.

**Recommended** for approval.

**6b/AUG/17** 17/00563 Full application. Erection of agricultural livestock/storage building. Far Galligill, Nenthead CA9 3LW for Mr Tim Ellis.

**Recommended** for approval.

**6c/AUG/17** 17/00584 Full application. Part retrospective application for erection of poly tunnel and proposed sunroom and detached garage workshop. Valley View, Nenthead, CA9 3NA for Mr & Mrs John and Pippa Baker.

**Recommended** for approval.

**6d/AUG/17** 17/00610 Full application. Removal of financial housing contribution S106 agreement attached to approval 13/0262. Bank Foot View, Nenthead, CA9 3NP for Mr Ian Pickering.

**Recommended** for refusal. Proposed by Cllr AG and seconded by Cllr SH (10+ 3 abs)

**6e/AUG/17** 17/0617 Full application. Change of use of outdoor activity centre to family dwelling and holiday cottage. High Plains Lodge, Alston CA9 3DD for Mr Dermot Walters.

It was reported that the owners hope to retire and that the sale of the building depends upon the outcome of the application. Members noted that the condition of the building was deteriorating and it would be the best outcome for the proposed works to go ahead.

**Recommended** for approval.

**6f/AUG/17** 17/00634 Tree Works. T1 and T2 Poplar trees. Pollard to approx. 4-5m high. Both trees are blocking light into the garden, Garrigill Conservation Area. 1 Gatehead, Garrigill, CA9 3EB for Mr Tim Haldon, Rowantree, 1 Gatehead Garrigill Alston Cumbria CA9 3EB

Cllr TH declared an interest as the applicant and left the room.

**Recommended** for approval.

**6g/AUG/17** 17/00635 Tree Works. T1 and T2 sycamores. Removal of epitomic growth at base of both trees to open up view into churchyard and pull away from the drystone wall. Garrigill Conservation Area for St John's Church, Garrigill CA9 3EB for St John's DCC Garrigill.

No comment as the work has already been done.

### **Decision Notices**

The clerk reported that decision notices are no longer sent to parish councils, so members were advised that they can be viewed on Eden District Council's website. Any member wishing to comment on a decision will be asked to contact the clerk to arrange for it to be included on the agenda.

### **New system from September**

The clerk reported that a projector has been provided, but was not the smaller lighter model, so she has requested a replacement and as the council were told that laptops will also be made available to councils that do not have one, has asked for one.

## **7 Application from Alston Moor Federation PTA to the Community Grant Fund**

The application was for £300 towards a community bonfire and children's lantern workshops. It is not intended to charge for the event. The total costs are estimated to be around £1,000.

Cllr RM declared an interest as a committee member.

It was reported that the intention is to use Fairhill, or Tyne Willows as an alternative and that the PTA has insurance that will cover the bonfire. Noted that a check may need to be made to establish whether the site used also needs insurance cover.

**Resolved** to approve the grant application for £300.

## **8 Rights of Way issues arising from the Traffic Management meeting**

The clerk reported that this item was referred from the Traffic Management meeting. A member of the Alston Moor Business Association walks leaflet group pointed out that some funding had been received through the Tyne Rivers Trust to do work on the footpath along the Nent, but the money was spent before reaching the section nearest Alston. The section from Lovelady Shield to Blagill is done, but another section between Gossipgate bridge and the higher waterfall has deteriorated to the extent that walkers have to clamber down to the river and up again, requiring some agility. There have been complaints about the leaflet, and the group are wanting to know when the work will be done, since they only published the leaflet on the assurance from the County Council that this work would be done.

They would also like to know if the County Council would be prepared to co-operate if a group of volunteers could be found to do footpath work. What would be needed is training, help with negotiations with landowners and possibly supply materials.

Members observed that it was hoped that the Walkers are Welcome group would be interested in this sort of work, but they were contacted and are not interested. Two additional footpath related issues were reported: the condition of the footpath through Dowgang Hush and the footpath to Ashgill Force.

C Cllr CD said that the county has a tiny budget for footpath work, but she will follow up with the ROW officers. The Mines Heritage group are involved in an asset transfer of the land around Dowgang Hush.

**Resolved** to write a letter of support for the proposals from the AMBA walks leaflet group. **Action CI**

## **9 Consultations and Correspondence**

### **9a/AUG/17 Eden Local Plan 2014 – 2032 further background documents to the Main Modification Consultation**

All comments on the Proposed Main Modifications must be received by Monday 21<sup>st</sup> August.

### **9b/AUG/17 Cumbria Minerals & Waste Local Plan – Inspector’s Report**

This can be viewed on the County Council’s website.

### **9c/AUG/17 Notices of events/meetings**

CAfS Greenprint events – 18<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> Sept

18<sup>th</sup> Sept Greenprint & Community Planning consultation

20<sup>th</sup> Sept Could Alston Moor become an innovative/alternative area for affordable architecture?

21<sup>st</sup> Sept Organic Composting event

22<sup>nd</sup> Sept Love Food Hate Waste & Real Nappies

23<sup>rd</sup> Sept Repair café

Cllr TH asked for a meeting with the gym directors and parish representative to open discussions about the lease. **Action TH**

### **9dAUG/17 Information received**

Coal Authority report – July 2017, potential dates for next event w/c 18<sup>th</sup> Sept or w/c 25<sup>th</sup> Sept.

Noted that a provisional booking had been made for the first week, but as this will clash with the Greenprint events the clerk was asked to suggest the second week to the CA. **Action CI.**

NALC Legal Topic Note July 2017 Protection of ownerless common land and village greens

Clerks & Council’s Direct

CALC Circular – July/August 2017

## **10 Administration**

### **10a/AUG/17 Update to Alston Moor Standing Orders**

Cllr DP circulated a revised draft of the standing orders that included a paragraph on the new format for public participation. Up to 15 minutes would be allocated, and a requirement to contact the clerk or chair if the matter to be discussed was not included on the agenda.

**Resolved** to leave out the requirement to contact the clerk in advance, as the council did not want to do anything to deter people from coming to meetings. Proposed by Cllr TH and seconded by Cllr AM. (10+ 3)

**Resolved** to adopt the revisions to the standing orders with the exception of the agreed amendment.

### **10b/AUG/17 Parish Council Surgeries**

Cllr DP reported that he did 13 of the last 14 surgeries, but they are not being supported by the public or councillors. He is not considering giving up, but will need someone to do the 9<sup>th</sup> September between 11 and 12.30. Cllr AM offered to cover. **Action AM**

### **10c/AUG/17 Fields in Trust invoice re: consent to develop Tyne Willows Pavilion**

The clerk reported that an invoice had been received from Fields in Trust for the legal work done for the application to develop the pavilion. The council needed to decide if they will pay for it or re-charge the Community Gym. Cllr JG said that the gym would be willing to pay.

**Resolved** to pay the invoice as it is made out to the parish council and when the funds allocated to the extension are called upon, to reduce the donation.

**10d/AUG/17 Budget for laptop purchase**

Dealt with earlier.

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

**11a/AUG/17 Tyne Willows walling at Sheep Show**

The clerk reminded the council that the Sheep Show had been asked to rebuild the wall between the caravan park and Tyne Willows as part of the walling contest, and if more stones were needed a decision has to be made on where this it to come from. Cllr CH agreed to follow up. **Action CH.**

**12. Finance**

**12a/AUG/17 Bank statements**

The statements as of 30<sup>th</sup> July 2017 were as follows:-

Alston Moor Parish Council tr/ac	£36,376.10
Alston Moor Parish Council bus/ac	£12,679.07
Eden Credit Union	£7,008.58

**12b/AUG/17 Accounts for Payment**

The following accounts were for payment:-

<i>Summary of accounts for payment: -</i>	£2,511.96
<i>Summary of income received since last meeting: -</i>	£1,738.17
<i>Summary of accounts paid since last meeting: -</i>	£880.45

**Resolved** that sufficient funds are held in balances for the clerk to be authorised to settle all the accounts listed in appendix 1

Noted that there was a problem recently with the mill race when water poured out of the manhole cover.

**13 Quotes for tree works – Henderson's Wood & Garrigill Village Green**

Three quotes were received. The clerk reported that only one of the contractors had included costs for a road closure while the dead branches are removed. She had confirmation in writing from Highways that this would be necessary. The crown lift for the trees on Garrigill village green require planning permission as they are within the conservation area, and an application has been submitted.

**Resolved** to accept the quote from Wark Forest Landscapes for £1,050 + vat to include traffic management at approx. £550.

**14 Nominations to EDC Chairman's Dinner**

*The public were asked to leave to enable the council to consider this matter in confidence.*

*The meeting closed at 9 pm*

Signed: .....

Dated: .....