

ALSTON MOOR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Alston Moor Parish Council held on Monday 5th March 2018 at 7pm in Garrigill Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs: T. Haldon (Chair), J. Glendinning, P. Godwin, A. Green, E. Grew, C. Harrison, H. Ho, A. Martin, R. Miller, G. Wright.

Apologies: Cllrs: D. Phillips, D. Athey, B. Aves.

Absent: none

Declarations of interest: listed under specific agenda items.

1. Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the parish council meeting held on Monday 5th February be adopted as a correct record with the following amendments: 8/FEB/18 'A letter was received from Alston Moor Fitness Club, but not discussed at the meeting.....' and under the section on insurance it should state '...Cllr HH thought it wrong that the gym insure the pavilion

1a Report from the Public Health Locality Manager Eden, on the Good Neighbour Scheme & discussion on how it might work for Alston

Apologies were received due to the continuing bad weather. It was agreed to re-schedule the meeting.

2. Progress Reports

2a/MAR/18 Nenthead Ward Vacancies

The two vacancies have been advertised, and subject to confirmation from Eden District Council that no call for an election has been made, the council will be asked to co-opt. Agenda item for the next meeting

2b/MAR/18 Funding request to Coal Authority

Re: 3d/FEB/18 No response to date.

2c/MAR/18 Working Group meeting to discuss Appleby Fair

Re: 8/FEB/18 A meeting has been arranged for the 16th March with representatives from the Fitness Club, Eden District Council and the Police. In the meantime Eden have responded to the letter from the Club.

2d/MAR/18 Appointment of an Internal Auditor

Re: 10b/FEB/18 The clerk reported that she contacted the people suggested at the last meeting, all of whom decided the task was not for them. However, one person has shown interest and she has arranged to meet with him later this week for further discussions. It was suggested that anyone else interested contact the clerk.

2e/MAR/18 Devolution of services

Re: 2a/FEB/18 CALC are now seeking specific legal advice from a solicitor on the footway lighting agreement, and the advice remains not to sign the agreement yet. For the public toilets CALC suggested sending the contract, when received, to the same firm to find out how much it would cost for them to check it. Alternatively the council could take advice from their own solicitor. CALC advised that it is better to spend money now to ensure the council is not left with problems in the future.

2e/MAR/18 Road closures

Re: 4/FEB/18 The weather has caused delays to the road closure at Meathaw Hill and Brewery Bridge, with a new date of 12th March for the gas works. The County Council have not confirmed a revised date for their works.

3. Progress reports from working groups and council representatives

3a/MAR/18 Ashgill Force paths meeting

Re: 3a/FEB/18 The meeting has not taken place yet, and the clerk was asked to re-arrange a meeting.

Action CI.

3b/MAR/18 Report from Alston Moor Care Alliance

Cllr EG reported that a meeting was held on 19th February, and they meet again later this week. The Alston Plan has been delayed until 4th April, and is to be sent along with the plans for the other hospitals whose beds are closing. The plans are expected to be approved on the 5th April. The CCG (Clinical

Commissioning Group) are keen that when the medical beds close, this should be accompanied by positive developments.

The Alston representatives were asked to enquire at the next meeting how well the Care in the Home scheme had worked during the recent extreme weather.

Finances are being sought for video appointments, which can be used for follow-up appointments with Carlisle-based consultants, but the initial appointment has to be attended in person with the consultant. A nurse will be in attendance to assist during video sessions.

A recruitment process has been initiated because one of the practice medical team is moving on, and another will be on a 6 week sick leave, but there is no cause for concern as there will be locum cover during this period. There is also an initiative underway to seek nursing staff from Bulgaria to work in Cumbrian hospitals.

Grisedale Croft has two rooms, which are classed as hospital beds, but not medical, for patients needing more support than they can get at home. There are plans to reconfigure some rooms to create more space. The cost is estimated at around £20k, but funding still has to be identified. It was noted that the flats have been described as not being fit for purpose and are not being re-let. The clerk was asked to write to Eden Housing Association to enquire about the problem and what plans they have for their future.

Action CI.

The group are interested in the possibility of extra funds to set up a Good Neighbour scheme, and would be delighted if the parish council got involved. The hospital staff were enthusiastic about the idea, and interested in having an input into it.

4 County Councillor's Report.

Apologies from Cllr Driver.

District Councillor's Report

Cllrs LS and PG reported on the following:

Budget – it has been decided there will be no increase in council tax this year.

Homelessness briefing – the council now has a statutory responsibility to deal with homelessness, and are looking into how they can take a more proactive role. There is a concern that benefit changes could increase the number of vulnerable people.

Recycling – not everyone is aware that recycling across Eden is a pilot project. The second stage is looking to roll out a different recycling system, to include food bins, and reduce the amount of single use plastics.

Members commented that the green bags supplied to households are not sufficiently robust, and that if food is involved it must be collected regularly to avoid encouraging vermin. Garrigill does not have a recycling centre, as no suitable site could be identified. There is an issue with overuse of the bins at Tyne Willows, but there is not enough space to increase the capacity. Cllr LS agreed to pass on a list of dates for bin collection. **Action LS.**

5. Public open session

A resident spoke about the planning application for a minewater treatment scheme, which runs to many pages of documents. He was concerned that time needs to be allocated for people to read the application, and noted that the site is now situated within the Alston Ward. The application was only posted on-line of the 1st March, and he was advised by the clerk that the paper copies for the council and Local Links had not yet been received.

6. Planning

6a/MAR/18 18/00103 Listed building. Internal alterations. Kearton House, Market Place, Alston CA9 3HS for Alston Wholefood Co-operative.

Recommended for approval.

6b/MAR/18 3/18/9001 Establishment of a scheme for minewater treatment comprising construction of an interceptor manhole chamber; provision of transfer pipes; erection of 2no. buildings to house respectively, pumping and odour abatement equipment; creation of 3no. compost based treatment ponds and 2no. aerobic reedbed ponds; construction of outfalls; creation of access tracks and hardstanding areas; and

associated development. Land between Blagill and Nentsberry, Alston, Cumbria.

It was agreed to hold a meeting on Monday 26th March in Nenthead to discuss the application, to enable residents to view the paper copy in Local Links, and to ask for a time extension if needed.

6c/MAR/18 18/0152 Full application. Proposed new domestic garage Brookside Cottage, Nenthead, Alston, CA9 3NP for Mr K. Bell.

Recommended for approval, as the proposal will move cars off the road.

6d/MAR/18 18/0161 Kitchen extension. Gainford Cottage, Alston CA9 3DA for Mr & Mrs A. Hewison

Recommended for approval.

Decision notices

i/MAR/18 17/1084 Full application. Reinstatement of historic shopfront and first floor windows. Harvest Home, Front Street, Alston CA9 3H for Mr C. Redshaw. Permission granted with conditions.

7. Final version of Eden's Vision 2050 for comments

The document was circulated earlier. The clerk was asked to re-send. **Action CI.**

8. Appointment of two trustees to Alston United Charities

A letter was received from the secretary to Alston United Charities inviting the parish council to nominate Alston and Nenthead trustees, as the current trustees' four-year term of office ends in March. They thought it would be helpful to have at least one representative from the council. Individuals can apply for up to £250.

Resolved to appoint Cllr Wright for Nenthead and Cllr Martin for Alston.

9. Consultations and Correspondence

9a/MAR/18 Proposed introduction of a Public Spaces Protection Order

The council were invited to comment on the proposal to replace the existing PSPO in Alston and elsewhere.

Members commented that the signs used to advertise the order do not present a good image to visitors to the town. It was suggested that Eden District Council be asked if anyone had been arrested in Alston under the Designated Public Place Order.

Resolved to write to Eden District Council to say that the proposed Public Spaces Protection Order is not necessary in Alston, as the parish council considers the police already have sufficient powers of arrest.

9b/MAR/18 Traffic Regulation Orders

Notice was given that Amey will carry out phased utility works.

- Phase 1 Front Street, Alston from the junction with Church Road extending in a south easterly direction for approx. 230m from 19th March for 4 weeks.
- Phase 2 Front Street, Alston from its junction with Church Road extending in a westerly direction to its junction with Station Road.
- Kings Arms Lane, Alston from its junction with Front Street extending in a northerly then north eastern direction for a distance of approx. 170m. From 23rd April 2018 for 2 weeks.

Notice was given that Cumbria Highways will carry out resurfacing and associated works from 26th March 2018 which are anticipated to take 5 days. The works are:

- B6277 Alston from the junction with the U3693 Bruntley Meadows, extending in a north westerly direction for approx. 135m
- A689 Alston from its junction with the B6277, extending in a north westerly direction for a distance of approx. 135m.

Both Orders will maintain a way for pedestrians will be maintained at all times and a suitable alternative route for vehicles signed. The provision for these arrangements remain in force for eighteen months.

9c/MAR/18 Priority Services Register questionnaire

The Rural Services Network are working with Electricity North West to assist people in rural areas who may find themselves in vulnerable circumstances. There is a Priority Services Register which is operated by utility companies, which allows the people on it to receive special consideration and action especially in the event of disruption of power or water supply. They are carrying out research to see if there are parishes interested in working with them and the utility companies in an exercise designed to increase the

level of registration.

The clerk was asked to complete the questionnaire and express interest in the project. **Action CI.**

9d/MAR/18 Notices of events/meetings

Nenthead Chapel Project open event -15th March 7.30pm

Alston Pantomime - 10th April – Sat 14th April

9e/MAR/18 Information received

Police newsletter – March 2018

Nenthead Chapel project update

Pennine Journey Supporters Club newsletter

Clerk & Councils Direct March 2018

10. Administration

10a/MAR/18 AMPC Standing Orders, advice from CALC & recommendation to accept the Model Standing Order on S13 Code of Conduct

A discussion was held on Standing Orders and the Code of Conduct and a suggested wording put forward by Cllr RM. Opinions varied as to whether members should be required to leave the room for non-pecuniary interests. A proposal to adopt the NALC standing orders was not seconded.

It was agreed that a decision needs to be made, and that in the meantime the clerk would be asked to circulate the model standing orders. **Action CI.**

Resolved that until a decision has been made on Standing Orders a councillor with a declared interest will not vote on that agenda item. Proposed by Cllr TH and seconded by Cllr PG. (nem con)

10b/MAR/18 Dispensations authorisation

It was reported that the council need to decide on whether the granting of a dispensation is to be made by the Clerk (Proper Officer), a meeting of the full council, or committee.

Resolved that the Proper Officer would be asked to deal with dispensations. Proposed by Cllr TH and seconded by Cllr AG (nem con)

10c/MAR/18 AMPC Code of Conduct

The clerk reported that when a decision on Standing Orders s13 is made the council will need to decide what interests are to be included in the Code of Conduct.

10d/MAR/18 Approval of risk assessment report and actions noted, including confirmation of assets not insured

The chair pointed out that the risk assessment is a working document, which is approved once a year, but can be updated as required.

It was noted that assets including the war memorials, Nenthead fountain and bus shelters are not insured, due to the cost of insuring them. No action would be taken over the pavilion insurance until it is known whether the gym intend to move.

Resolved to accept the risk assessment for 2017/18.

10e/MAR/18 Review and approval of Financial Regulations

Resolved to make no change to the Financial Regulations.

10f/MAR/18 Planning for the Annual Parish Meeting

The clerk was asked to invite representatives from local organisations. No other suggestions for the meeting were put forward.

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

11a/MAR/18 Unauthorised activities

It was reported that there appears to be a used car business operating out of Front Street.

11b/MAR/18 Town Twinning

It was suggested that Alston could consider twinning with Olsztyn in Poland, although as this is likely to be expensive setting up informal links could be discussed.

11c/MAR/18 Dog muck

Dog muck is an ongoing issue. Dog poo posters and leaflets from Eden District Council.

12. Finance

12a/MAR/18 Bank statements

The statements as of 5th March 2018 were as follows:-

Alston Moor Parish Council tr/ac	£23,008.15
Alston Moor Parish Council bus/ac	£12,683.80
Eden Credit Union	£7,008.58

12b/MAR/18 Accounts for Payment

The following accounts were for payment:-

<i>Summary of accounts for payment: -</i>	£577.15
<i>Summary of income received since last meeting: -</i>	£2.21
<i>Summary of accounts paid since last meeting: -</i>	£804.84

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

The meeting closed at 9.15pm

Signed:

Dated: