

ALSTON MOOR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Alston Moor Parish Council held on Monday 6th November 2017 at 7pm in Alston Town Hall annex.

Present: Cllrs: T. Haldon (Chair), D. Athey, A. Martin, A. Green. P. Godwin, E. Grew, C. Harrison, H. Ho, R. Miller, D. Phillips, E. Stewart.

Apologies: Cllrs, S. Hill, B. Aves, G. Wright, J. Glendinning.

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 4th October 2017 be adopted as a correct record.

1a Introduction to Alston Moor Police Community Support Officers

Alston has two new PCSOs, Tony Labram and Chris Newbury, a trainee, who will be the main contacts for Alston. They will start their day in Penrith, and then base themselves at the station in Alston. Members agreed that they were happy to continue the arrangement that the police will provide a short report, but not attend meetings on a regular basis unless asked specifically. They will be on foot, covering Nenthead and Garrigill as well, and have been issued with police push bikes to get around. Hopefully, the recent concerns about thefts from business premises have been addressed.

They were welcomed to Alston.

2. Progress Reports

2a/NOV/17 Ashgill bridge footpath to waterfall

Re: 2a/OCT/17 The Weardale Estates land agent intends to carry out a site visit, but has not been in the area recently, although he hopes to be able to get across soon.

2b/NOV/17 Planning application for Garrigill Village Green

Re: 9/OCT/17 Cllr TH is putting an application together, which should be ready to submit next week.

3. Progress reports from working groups and council representatives

3a/NOV/17 Traffic Management meeting report

Front Street repairs – the group were asked to explain to the public that the proposed works are a long-term project with many management issues to consider, so the process is going to be about getting it right, not about getting the work done quickly.

Townhead traffic restrictions – a lot of work has to go into a proposal for a mini-roundabout, and the group were persuaded that they should consider a Traffic Regulation Order first, and only if it failed investigate other options. They were also asked to think about parking provision around Townhead.

Garrigill speed restrictions – Highways have been asked to put further thought into what can be done in the village.

3b/NOV/17 Meeting with EDC – update to Alston Moor Vision document

Cllr Haldon reported that the Alston Moor Vision document has been updated following the meeting with Eden District Council, who asked the parish council to include their aspirations for the Eden Vision to 2050. The document had been circulated and received a comment about the inclusion of the recommendation not to advertise Alston as the Highest Market Town. Members were reminded that it is not set in stone and circumstances will undoubtedly change.

Members stated that Alston has always been known as the Highest Market Town, having taken back this accolade from Buxton, when it was disputed in the last century.

Resolved to accept the Alston Moor vision to 2050, but to take out the reference not to refer to Alston as the Highest Market town. Proposed by Cllr TH and seconded by Cllr AM. (nem con)

3c/NOV/17 Devolution meeting

Working group members were asked to look at the lights on the footpath to the old primary school 76 77, 78, 79 and the light in the Crown car park no 85, which has been hit a number of times by vehicles. The working group suggested that the Co-op could be asked about putting in lights to illuminate the car park. It was stated that the Crown car park light usefully illuminates the car park, and that EDC should make it safe and fit for purpose before it is handed over.

Resolved to take on light no 85 in the Crown car park, but the 4 lights 76,77, 78, 79 would not be taken on, with the expectation that they should continue to be maintained by EDC until such time as they fail.

Eden e-mailed to say that they had carried out a risk assessment for the light at the entrance to Jollybeard, and for health and safety reasons and highway safety a lighting column cannot be installed here.

Resolved to ask Eden District Council to look into installing a light at a point where it is safe, and to contact the Manse to enquire about the possibility of a light on the Askham model.

3d/NOV/17 Report from Alston Moor Care Alliance

Reported under CCC report.

3e/NOV/17 Appleby Fair sites meeting update

Cllr TH reported that, following the working group meeting with the gym directors, it has been agreed to hold a further meeting with a working group to go through the draft risk assessment and report back to the December meeting. It was acknowledged that the travellers will continue to pass through Alston, and their presence is welcome, but there is a need for further discussion to ensure that everyone has their concerns addressed and to minimise disruption.

A representative from the corner field site also attended the meeting, raising a number of concerns, most of which are to be referred to Eden District Council.

3f/NOV/17 Transport Group meeting

Cllr DP reported that more volunteer drivers are needed, since the shortage meant that the community bus did not run during half term as no one was available to drive it. However, it will run during the December holidays. More community groups are using it now, and it is important that it continues to be well used, as other communities will be happy to take it on. ES offered to let people know about the need for drivers through the Ward meeting.

4 County Councillor's Report.

Cllr Driver reported on the following:

Front Street – will not be a quick project, and the original plan to start next year has been put back. In the meantime work is going on with United Utilities upgrading the infrastructure. It is vital to take the time to get the work right, put together a funding package and fit in with the public realm regeneration work. If the cobbles are to be fully re-instated additional funding will have to be found, as the County Council will not be able to fully fund the works.

The first sub-group meeting is tomorrow, meeting the project management team manager to discuss the broad outline of the project. Cllrs CH and GW have volunteered to represent the parish council. The aim is to put in place the right support for the community and businesses, and achieve something that will last for over 20 years. One advantage of what has been done so far in Front Street is that it looks temporary. Cllr CD met with the Deputy Director of the County Council who is keen on generating innovative ideas and stated that one of the priorities is to protect the sense of heritage, which is important for Alston since visitors like to see Alston's cobbled streets.

Townhead TRO – the purpose of a mini-roundabout is to address traffic flow issues, but the issue at Townhead is inconsiderate parking on a junction. An experimental 18 month trial of parking restrictions is now being considered, to enable feedback and amendments before a final decision is reached. The request for parking permits for residents cannot be considered unless all residents can have one. There have to be double yellow lines to enable parking officers to enforce the restrictions, although the police can enforce on a junction if an obstruction has been created. Advisory notices are possible, but double yellow lines make enforcement easier.

The parish council will be given the opportunity to comment on the proposals.

Top school – there has been a lot of interest from the community on the future of the school, although there has been no commercial interest or intent to put the site on the market. A complication is that there are strict rules on the disposal of schools, and the DfE has 10 years where it can get back to the County Council with a requirement to re-invest any funds realised in another school. The youth group and

community gym have shown interest, and a meeting is to be set up to discuss further. This could be a good model for shared community use, with the possibility that something could be set up quickly provided suitable arrangements can be agreed. In the meantime the County will maintain the grounds.

A need for extra care housing has been identified, although a fit for purpose new build would be more appropriate for this.

Better Care Eden - has an allocation for health and wellbeing, and have opted to support a subsidy for Pass Plus courses for newly qualified drivers, with the advantage that it makes them safer and reduces their insurance costs. The course is fully subsidised.

Alston Hospital - is to hold a Community Drop-in day on the 18th November from 11am to 4pm to give people the chance to see what is being proposed for the integrated care facility. Community Plan consultation concerning other 'external providers' will be taking place, with some of these providers present. The hospital beds had been taken away for staffing reasons, but the NHS has made a firm commitment to look seriously at telemedicine to enable some consultations to take place in Alston rather than Carlisle or elsewhere. This is a big task and will need the consultants to agree. It is also intended to continue developing the nurses' skills and to provide training for health and care assistants.

District Councillor's Report

Cllrs Godwin and Sharp reported on the following:

Eden Tourism summit – Cllr Sharp attended and noted concerns that the loss of the cobbles could have an economic impact upon Alston. Visit Britain say here has been a 3% visitor increase throughout Eden, with people interested in the natural beauty of the area, attractions and heritage sites. 73% visited heritage sites.

Scrutiny proposals – a decision should be made by 14th December on which will be pursued.

Alston Old Methodist chapel – building control were contacted after a section of guttering fell off and nearly hit someone. An enforcement case was taken out last week and the landowner given the opportunity to address the issues within the next 2 months.

5. Public open session

None present.

6. Planning

6a/NOV/17 17/0839 1 Raise Hamlet, The Wardway, Alston CA9 3AS. Demolition of outbuilding and erection of rear sunroom and internal alterations for Mr & Mrs Roe.

Recommended for approval.

6b/NOV/17 17/860 Garrigill Conservation Area, Thorneycroft, Garrigill CA9 3DY/ T1 Rowan: Crown reduce by 1-2m: Crown lift to 2.5m: Reduce crossing branches for Mr Charles Brownhill.

Recommended for approval.

6c/NOV/17 17/0853 Moor View, Garrigill, CA9 3EB Two storey rear extension for Dr C. Bradshaw.

Recommended for approval.

6d/NOV/17 17/0906 Estate of Lovelady Shield Country House Hotel, Lovelady Lane, Alston CA9 3LX for Mr P. Haynes. Outline application for conversion of existing hotel, holiday let and owner's accommodation to provide 22 no holiday let units. 12 no. new build holiday let units. Demolition of Colleton and replace with 4 no new build holiday let units. Total 38 no. holiday let units. New build leisure and catering facilities, and additional car parking, with approval sought for access and layout.

It was reported that there would be little visual impact from the road as the site is screened by trees. However, there are concerns about the foul water drainage, and as the site is next to a watercourse there may be a flood risk.

Recommended for approval, but noted there are concerns over issues with foul water drainage that may need to be addressed.

6e/NOV/17 17/0940 Removal of section 106 Agreement attached to 11/0175 and 12/0321.Land at Sunnyside. Wardway, Nenthead CA9 3PX for Mr I. Pickering.

It was noted that the property has been advertised for three months without any interest.

Recommended for refusal, as the parish council would like to see the S106 agreement retained.

7 Garrigill noticeboard funding

Cllr TH reported that he is putting a planning application in place for the parish council noticeboard for Garrigill Village Green. As £200 has been precepted and the anticipated cost is likely to be around £700 residents are to be invited to make pledges.

8. Consultations and Correspondence

8a/NOV/17 Correspondence

None received.

8b/NOV/17 Notices of events/meetings

CALC AGM – 18th November 2017

EALC AGM – 15th November 2017

LCAS Annual risk management seminars – cost £30

Agreed that the clerk and Town Hall manager should attend the nearest venue if possible.

CALC Data protection courses 7th & 8th March 2018

EDC Chairman's Christmas Carol Service – 11 December 2017

Hospice at Home appeal 2017

Oil Club

8c/NOV/17 Information received

NALC Legal briefing – Payment of fees to the Information Commissioner's Office

Status report for Coal Authority – October 2017

9 Administration

9a/NOV/17 Representative to Remembrance Sunday

Resolved that Margaret Bell is invited to represent the parish council in Alston and for Cllr DP to attend Nenthall.

Cllr DP read out the wording of a dedication he had written which covered all who fell in the two world wars. Members confirmed they were happy with the wording.

9b/NOV/17 Protocol for parish council standing orders – non-pecuniary interests for council meetings (excluding precept meeting)

It was reported that although the Code of Conduct is clear on the declaration of pecuniary interests, the declaration of other interests is left to the discretion of the individual unless the standing orders provide guidance. This has led to uncertainty for members, and a question as to whether a paragraph should go into the standing orders.

To avoid over complicating matters there should be an exemption for the kind of minimal interest a member of the public might have. Cllr PG offered to check EDC's code of conduct and report back.

Action PG.

9c/NOV/17 Date for Precept meeting

Monday 15th January 2018

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

10a/NOV/17 Press reporting of Alston residents

When court cases are reported in the papers, the offender is referred to as 'an Alston, or Penrith etc man, and quite often this is someone who has just moved into the area, but gives Alston a bad name. The council were asked if they should take the matter up with the papers.

It was thought this might be difficult as the court reports would be unlikely to give the necessary detail.

10b/NOV/17 Garrigill trees

Cllr AG reported that the trees on Garrigill village green had more taken off than expected, and the specifications for the work were questioned. He would like the contractor to return to complete the work to his satisfaction.

The clerk stated that the council had asked for the branches overhanging the road, that might be caught by passing farm vehicles, to be cut back, and this was what the contractor was asked to do. If something different was required, she should have been told before being asked to obtain quotes.

11. Finance

11a/NOV/17 Bank statements

The statements as of 6th November 2017 were as follows:-

Alston Moor Parish Council tr/ac	£30,951.7021
Alston Moor Parish Council bus/ac	£12,680.33
Eden Credit Union	£7,008.58

11b/NOV/17 Accounts for Payment

The following accounts were for payment:-

<i>Summary of accounts for payment: -</i>	£2,539.57
<i>Summary of income received since last meeting: -</i>	£126.39
<i>Summary of accounts paid since last meeting: -</i>	£1,556.40

Resolved that sufficient funds are held in balances for the clerk to be authorised to settle all the accounts listed in appendix 1, with the exception of the tree works, which would be deferred subject to confirmation that the work had been carried out according to the specifications. Proposed by Cllr EG and seconded by Cllr DP (nem con)

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm

Signed:

Dated: