

ALSTON MOOR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Alston Moor Parish Council held on Monday 2nd October 2017 at 7pm in **Garrigill Village Hall**

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

Apologies: Cllrs D. Athey, S. Hill, A. Green.

Absent: none.

Declarations of interest: listed under specific agenda items. As a district councillor, Cllr PG declared an interest in planning matters. 8/OCT/17 Cllr JG.

1. Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the parish council meeting held on Monday 4th September 2017 be adopted as a correct record with the following amendment: 6g/SEPT/17 Cllrs ES and BA are Nenthead Chapel shareholders.

1a Update on the Community Speedwatch Scheme

A police officer from the Penrith force reported that the Community Speedwatch scheme is running very successfully in other parts of Cumbria. They are working on introducing a scheme in Eden and looking for around 6 volunteers from the community. The police will provide everything needed for the scheme to operate successfully, including equipment and a short training session of about an hour. The guns are calibrated by the police and hand delivered, as the kit is expensive. The police are keen for the parish council to encourage people to come forward, and to contact them if they are interested.

11 schemes have started in the villages outside of Carlisle, and are operating successfully, with the number of people caught reduced to half numbers on the second session. The equipment has been rotated around the villages, with 4 sessions per year. Drivers get a warning letter when they are caught, and from the evidence so far it does seem to be working in reducing speeds in the 30-40mph areas.

The scheme has to be operated within the 30-40mph zones for safety reasons, so could only be used in Alston and Nenthead, as Garrigill has no 30mph speed limit. The police will carry out a safety check before the volunteers set up, to ensure they are operating out of a safe space.

Garrigill members explained that a speed limit was proposed, as residents were concerned about speeding through the village, but there were objections to the number of signs needed.

There was a question as to whether the volunteers received a backlash from within the community, but this has not been a problem in other areas. It has been found that most people receiving a warning understood that the aim is to get people to slow down and reduce accidents. The police get a lot of complaints about speeding and the speed van cannot be everywhere, so the scheme can provide longer term assistance to communities.

Our PCSO will be moving to another patch this month and replaced by 2 new PCSO's. The clerk was asked to pass on the council's comments that he has done an excellent job, built up good relationships and that members are sorry to see him go.

2. Progress Reports

2a/OCT/17 Ashgill bridge footpath to waterfall

Re: 2c/SEPT/17 The clerk reported that there are two options for adding the path from the bridge at Ashgill to the point it joins FP 302037, as the County Council state that it is not on the definitive map. Their view is that FP 302037 terminates at the waterfall. The landowner could dedicate the route as a right of way, or the community could submit a claim based on over 20 years use, which given the popularity of this route should be possible. The Rights of Way officer mentioned that there may still be an ECCP signpost lying near the stile, which they took down when surveying the footpaths.

The clerk spoke to the agent, who will take a look at the path when he is next in Weardale. He suggested making it a permissive path, but this would mean that the County Council will not be able to undertake any improvements.

2b/OCT/17 Update on Alston Ambulance

Re: /SEPT/17 A letter was received from the North West Ambulance Service in response to the concerns raised over training. NWAS are committed to ensuring that the volunteers are provided with the training to enable them to go live with the first group. They are planning to deliver the first driver training course commencing 2nd October, although only 3 trainees are available then. They are considering how to fit in training for the rest of the cohort, around their internal training programme, as there is a limited supply of instructors. Once training is complete the volunteers can join the rota, with the final group joining once they have completed their driver training.

It was agreed that the council needs to keep up to date with progress.

2c/OCT/17 Laptop purchase

Re: 8c/SEPT/17 The clerk reported that Eden District Council will only supply laptops to the very small parish councils, so the council will have to provide their own. The cheapest laptops have very limited memory, and the advice given is that second hand equipment may be a better buy.

Resolved to set a budget of up to £300 to buy a laptop for use with the projector.

The clerk reported that no progress has been made with exchanging the projector for a smaller model.

3. Progress reports from working groups and council representatives

3a/OCT/17 Coal Authority consultation meetings

Cllr ES reported that the Nenthead scheme is on hold for the time being, and that the Coal Authority have decided on the Hudgill (Foresfield) site for Haggs Bank. She thought people were getting a bit weary of the consultations as the events were not well attended. The meeting with Rory Stewart MP went ahead, with draft notes from his secretary and from the Nentsberry community group circulated.

Cllr AM reported that the CA made it clear at the meeting that the Port of Tyne would be the main beneficiary, as 10,000 jobs were said to depend upon it, and the costs of clean-up are huge. Alston Moor will get no direct benefit, other than eventually greater diversity in the Nent, but there is a strong feeling that there should be some compensation. She intends to contact the local MPs to ask them to pursue this. There are many local projects that could benefit including renovations to Nenthead village hall, and Front Street cobbles. Cllr Aves offered to help. **Action AM/BA.**

3b/OCT/17 Report from Alston Moor Care Alliance

Cllr AM reported that there have been no meetings since the last council meeting. However, within the next six months it should be possible to get consultations with consultants through a video link.

3c/OCT/17 Nenthead Ward Meeting

Cllr ES reported that Nenthead Mines are involved in an asset transfer with the county council for this scheduled ancient monument site, with a time frame of around 6 months for completion.

There is to be a meeting about Nenthead Chapel on Thursday in Nenthead Village Hall.

3d/OCT/17 Sheep Show & wall at Tyne Willows

Cllr CH reported that the intention had been to build a wall where the gap between the caravan park and Tyne Willows is, but there was too much rubble and rubbish for it to be practicable. The landowners have agreed to clear the site and dig foundations so the wall could be built next year.

4 County Councillor's Report.

Apologies from Cllr Driver.

District Councillor's Report

Cllr Godwin reported on the following:

Askham lighting model – Askham parish council are purchasing lights to be installed on selected housing in the village, and are paying householders a nominal sum for electricity costs. There are other models where householders participate voluntarily in providing lighting that benefits the wider community. She has asked if this information can be produced as part of the guidance on devolution.

Apologies from Cllr Sharp who sent a written report.

Appleby Fair site – She has discussed the problems raised by the landowner with Eden District Council, who will be following them up.

5. Public open session

A Garrigill resident asked to speak about the proposals for a noticeboard and Christmas tree for the village green, agreed at the last Ward meeting. He stated that a majority of residents did not know about

the ward meeting, and had signed a petition against a noticeboard and Christmas tree for the village green. The village green should be protected from unnecessary development, and he suggested an alternative site on the roadside for the noticeboard. The petition had been signed by 82 people. The parish council were thanked for arranging to crown lift the lime trees on the green.

6. Planning

6a/OCT/17 17/0597 Non Material Amendment. Bingsteads House, Nenthead, CA9 3LS. Non material amendment comprising of replacement of approved chimney with flue, attached to approval 14/0394 for Mr David Paisley.
Approved prior to the council meeting.

7 Proposed Townhead Parking restrictions

An e-mail was received from Cumbria County Council stating that they propose to introduce 'No Waiting at any Time' and 'No Waiting 8am-6pm' restrictions on lengths of the A689 and B6277 at Townhead. This is intended to address the problem of larger vehicles being unable to negotiate the junction when vehicles are parked there. Any comments should be made before 6th October 2017.

Noted that the Traffic Management meeting asked the County to consider parking restrictions at Townhead.

Members agreed that cars parked on the junction obstruct visibility. It was observed that it would be safer to allow cars to park on the opposite side of the road to the side beside the old police station where they currently park, as they could be seen by oncoming traffic. There is also the issue of an A road giving way to a B road, an historic anomaly as both roads were B roads when the markings were set out.

Residents have been in contact to express concern about the proposals and the need for dedicated parking for locals.

Resolved to recommend a mini-roundabout to avoid the need for more yellow lines, and if this is not feasible to support the proposed restrictions. Proposed by Cllr GW and seconded by Cllr EG. (nem con)

8 Use of Tyne Willows Car Park as a temporary stopping point

Cllr JG declared an interest as an Alston Community Gym director.

A report from Cllr TH was circulated before the meeting. The report stated that the parish council has made considerable efforts to assist the travellers, who have used land in and around Alston as a temporary stopping point for many years. The car park at Tyne Willows has been made available and conditions for its use listed on the Multi Agency Strategic Co-ordinating Group's website. However, the Community gym see its use as causing a number of problems, and the conditions are impossible to enforce.

The clerk reported that she had circulated a response from one of the gym directors to the request for written confirmation that they understood the implications if the site was removed from the list of temporary stopping places, unless a safe and effective means of preventing access was achievable. The directors stated that it was not their concern.

Cllr TH proposed making the northern part of the field available to the Appleby Fair travellers, but as this area encroaches onto the area leased to the school, their permission will be needed. He added that the car park could be divided from the access road with cones or barriers and signs erected saying 'Parking for gym users only'. A temporary fence or tape barrier could be erected to indicate the area available to travellers and their horses, which should not be allowed onto the playing field area. If EDC continue to be willing to provide toilets and a skip these could be placed on the car park, without reducing the space available for the gym users to park.

Members stated that they were concerned about damage to the field, as wet weather makes a quagmire of the out of town site and that a temporary barrier might not be respected.

There was no seconder for the proposal.

The chair then stated that he would like a decision on how to proceed before the New Year.

Cllr JG was invited to speak from the floor. He said that the concern is not with the bow tops, which stay for just a couple of days before moving on, but with the number of caravans and other vehicles, which block access and increase the potential for an accident.

It was explained that although desirable to just allow bow tops onto the site, in practice this does not work as it splits up families. A number of suggestions were put forward:

- The best option may be to put the barriers up on the car park to restrict parking around the gym, and to leave them up for the duration. Attend to the gap that is wide enough to let bow tops onto the field, and to restrict the dates the travellers are allowed onto the site.
- Another option is to terminate the lease with the gym, which would be the most prudent way forward, but one that no-one would want to see happen. A section of the car park could be fenced permanently for use by gym clients.
- The parish council intended to make part of the car park available to enable the gym to extend, but the area included in the lease is greater than needed. Members said that they have filled in potholes on the car park voluntarily, but this should really be the gym's responsibility. It is impossible for the parish council to control access onto the site, and there should be no expectations of this. A re-negotiating of the area allocated to the gym more appropriate to their needs and amendment to the lease should be considered.
- The gym could be asked to consider closing for the days the site is difficult to access, and to work out what the financial implications would be.
- A potential site at Banks Farm might not be practical as it has very steep access, although the site itself is level. It is too far out of the town, and there may be an issue with the travellers who regularly camp at Blagill as they prefer to keep to themselves.
- The car park could be extended behind the recycling centre and existing boundary as far as the wall, which would increase the area of hardstanding and create a useful facility for vehicles attending events on the field.

Resolved to organise a meeting with Eden District Council, the police and interested parties preferably before the next council meeting.

Actions: Clerk to contact local contractor to discuss rough estimate for the cost of extending the car park, and to follow up query with Eden about insurance and risk assessments undertaken by other organisations involved with the fair. **CI.**

9 Garrigill Christmas tree – decision on whether a permanent Christmas tree should be planted on Garrigill Village Green

It was stated that the petition was flawed as it contained signatures from people who did not live in the village, some people had signed for other household members, some were listed twice, and it did not include addresses or postcodes. The ward meeting followed a democratic process, and was advertised on the village hall noticeboard and shop. Two meetings have been held with both the noticeboard and Christmas tree proposals supported unanimously.

If residents failed to notice the meeting being advertised, the implication is that the village needs a noticeboard.

It was pointed out that parish councils do not always have to accept the recommendations from ward meetings, and there was one occasion when the parish council refused to accept the proposal from the Nenthead Ward that they take on Hags Bank. However, it is fundamental to the democratic process that those whose views count are those who turn up to meetings.

Resolved to accept the report from the Garrigill Ward and to submit a planning application which will give objectors the opportunity to object to the proposals.

10 Consultations and Correspondence

10a/OCT/17 Correspondence

Eden District Council – Call for sites: Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment and Brownfield Land Register – this is an opportunity for residents, landowners, agents and developers to promote sites for future housing and employment development. Information collected through the call for sites will help to inform the Council's preparation of its Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA) and Brownfield Land Register. EDC is responsible for preparing and keeping up-to-date a SHELAA to help inform future plan making. The SHELAA gathers information on potential sites for housing and economic development and assesses their suitability, but does not allocate land for development. It is increasingly important for Eden to understand the deliverability of sites. The requirement for Eden to prepare and maintain a Brownfield Land Register came into force in April 2017, and they are required to publish, by 31st December 2017, a register of brownfield land that is suitable for

residential development. Sites submitted for inclusion must be previously-developed land, and the register's purpose is to help housebuilders identify suitable sites quickly to speed up the construction of new homes.

Royal Air Force Centenary Celebrations – on 1st April 2018 the Royal Air Force will celebrate one hundred years since its formation, during WW1. Next year will be marked by special events, activities and other initiatives at local, regional and national level from 1st April to the end of September 2018. They would like to promote the 'Royal Air Force in Bloom', with flower displays used to display the RAF colours, or celebrate the RAF in some way. They are still at the ideas stage, but would like to be informed of any initiatives.

The clerk reported that several cllrs e-mailed to say they would like to encourage businesses to use the red, white and blue in their flower displays. Local Links said they would be interested in helping out with a display in the exhibition room along the lines of the WW1 exhibition.

10b/OCT/17 Notices of events/meetings

Talk on Saving Nenthead Chapel – 5th October

CALC AGM – 18th November 2017

Eden Tourism Summit – 18th October

10c/OCT/17 Information received

Eden Tourism Newsletter

Nenthead Ward Meeting – 31st July 2017

Local Council Review – Autumn 2017

Hospice at Home – Autumn/Winter 2017

Clerks & Councils Direct – September 2017

CALC newsletter

11 Administration

11a/OCT/17 Update to periodic tree survey

The clerk reported that she noticed the bankside erosion at the Dooker recently and asked if the council wanted to arrange for an update to the tree survey. She was asked to contact the contractor currently working for the council to ask for a quote. **Action CI.**

11b/OCT/17 Date for Devolution of Services working group meeting

The clerk reported that she had suggested a date of Monday 9th October. The main task is to look at the footway lighting list to identify which lights on the approved list to take on.

11c/OCT/17 Date for Neighbourhood Planning and Vision meeting

The clerk reported that she asked Eden to suggest a date, but they asked for 10th October when a visit to Wooler is taking place. To pursue. **Action CI.**

11d/OCT/17 Requests for Traffic Management agenda

The next meeting will be held on Friday 20th October. There is an issue with overhanging branches at the Horse and Wagon, and road signs needing cleaning.

11e/OCT/17 Precept requests for 2018/2019

It was agreed to put a notice in the December Alston Moor Newsletter inviting local organisations to submit requests for funding. The clerk has sent out the donation report form to organisations in receipt of annual donations.

11f/OCT/17 Update to Clerk's contract

Cllrs TH and AM agreed to look through the revisions with the clerk. **Action TH/AM.**

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

12a/OCT/17 Alston crimes

Members were concerned about the number of robberies in Alston and suggested writing to the Police and Crime Commissioner, or the chief inspector.

12b/OCT/17 Fly posting

It was suggested that the missing cat poster on the market cross should be removed. There is a wider issue of overlage banners for the market cross, as flapping ties could be a hazard to passers-by.

13. Finance

13a/OCT/17 Bank statements

The statements as of 2nd October 2017 were as follows:-

Alston Moor Parish Council tr/ac	£32,770.21
Alston Moor Parish Council bus/ac	£12,680.33
Eden Credit Union	£7,008.58

13b/OCT/17 Accounts for Payment

The following accounts were for payment:-

<i>Summary of accounts for payment: -</i>	£238.50
<i>Summary of income received since last meeting: -</i>	£50.00
<i>Summary of accounts paid since last meeting: -</i>	£914.21

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 9.35 pm

Signed:

Dated: