

ALSTON MOOR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Alston Moor Parish Council held on Monday 7th September 2017 at 7pm in Nenthead Village Hall.

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

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

Absent: none

Declarations of interest: listed under specific agenda items. As a district councillor, PG declared an interest in planning matters. 6a/SEP/17 BA, 6g/SEPT/17 BA & ES, 6i/SEPT/17 TH, 7/SEPT/17 RM.

1. Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the parish council meeting held on Monday 7th August 2017 be adopted as a correct record.

2. Progress Reports

2a/SEPT/17 Proposed new litter bin

Re: 2a/AUG/17 Confirmation has been received that the request for a litter bin on the Brampton Road has been passed to the Services Portfolio holder.

2b/SEPT/17 Coal Authority meeting with Rory Stewart, MP

Re: 3c/AUG/17 A meeting with representatives from the Mine Treatment Works Working Group and from Nentsberry Community Group is to be held on 15th September.

2c/SEPT/17 Rights of Way Issues

Re: 8c/AUG/17 **Gossipgate – Blagill** . the Rights of Way team are awaiting Environment Agency consent to undertake the work, which is scheduled for March 2018, although some elements may be completed before then. A copy of the proposed works was sent.

Bridleway from Loaning Head . following a report of an accident, the route was inspected and a contractor commissioned to carry out vegetation clearance and to remove some loose material that has fallen onto the bridleway. There is also a blocked drain causing water to run down the surface for around 10 m, which he has been asked to investigate.

The clerk was asked to request that the handrail be inspected. **Action Cl.**

Ashgill Force rights of way . the Rights of Way team were contacted about the condition of the path from the bridge, and responded that it was not on the definitive map as a registered footpath, they listed it as a permissive path, so it would not be eligible for repairs. The clerk contacted two former ECCP officers, who were surprised at this interpretation. Clerk to follow up. **Action Cl.**

Volunteer opportunities . volunteers would need to be insured to work on the public highway, and health and safety issues such as risk assessments, manual handling would have to be addressed. The ROW team suggested that it might be useful to have a discussion with the Allenheads Trust, who have an existing volunteer system. This information was passed to Alston Moor Partnership, who said they are at an early stage of working on the Community Plan and that it would be at least a year before anything could be put into action.

3. Progress reports from working groups and council representatives

3a/SEPT/17 Appleby Fair Sites update

Re: 2a/AUG/17 Cllr CH reported that he has spoken with the landowner's son about use of his field for Appleby Fair travellers and confirmed that they were prepared to make it available for next year, but would welcome the parish council's offer of a skip.

District Cllr LS gave her report as it was relevant to this agenda item. The site owners had a number of concerns over their experience this year. Eden District Council only carried out one visit, some travellers arrived early before the toilets were delivered, and when they did come they were not emptied for the two weeks and blocked up early on. Not enough bin bags were delivered. Some of the travellers brought heavy vehicles, some behaved in an anti-social manner and were abusive towards the owner, expecting water to be provided. In the past good relationships had been built up with the travellers, but there were different

people this year and a new person had to be found to collect the money. All in all they felt unsupported by the district and parish councils.

It was pointed out that parish councillors were unable to offer any support as no-one had contacted them, and that the majority of issues needed to be discussed with EDC. The officer who worked with the travellers for many years has retired, and that may have caused some of the problems.

Cllr CH mentioned that the water comes from a borehole he owns, and if not managed properly could be expensive to repair. He suggested asking Eden to put a water barrel on the field.

Cllr HH stated that she had spoken to someone about the possibility of a site on the Blagill road. She was asked to follow this up. **Action HH.**

3b/SEPT/17 Report from meeting with Alston Community Gym

Cllr TH reported that he and Cllr HH met with the gym directors last month and had a useful discussion. The directors are concerned that Tyne Willows car park is on the list of approved sites, as their lease includes part of the car park. He suggested taking it off the list of approved sites.

There are implications if this action is taken. Eden District Council would no longer provide portaloo and to date no safe or effective measures have been found to restrict access, so the travellers may still want to use the site. Members said that if the gym wanted to take this course of action they must take responsibility for managing it.

It was agreed to put on the agenda for next month, and to ask the clerk to write to the gym for written confirmation that they wished to ask the parish council to request that the car park be removed from the official Appleby Fair stopping points, and that they understood the potential implications. **Action CI.**

In the meantime members were asked to think about possible alternative sites. **Action ALL.**

3c/SEPT/17 Report from Alston Moor Care Alliance

Cllr AM had nothing to report as there have been no meetings since last month. The legal action is complete, and the County Council have committed to working with the Alliance, and to support their proposals. It means that the group can now have access to data from social care. In addition she and two other group members have been invited by the Leader of the County Council to meet the new head of the Trust to discuss what is to happen.

3d/SEPT/17 Report from devolution of services meetings & decision on taking on some footway lights and Alston public toilets

Cllr TH reported that he had circulated a report from the meeting held on 30th August, and Cllr PG circulated a paper from Eden District Council on the devolution of services.

Eden are anxious for the parish to take on the approved footway lights and public toilets, and having made a formal decision that they will close if not taken on, want the parish to make up their mind. They will contribute 100% funding for 2018/19, 75% for 2019/20, 50% for 2020/21, and 25% in 2021/22 with the parish to pay all costs after this. Special expenses have also been removed from Eden's budget, although this only amounts to around £1,500.

Funding to convert the footway lights to LEDs will be allocated first to those parishes, which have agreed to accept their lights. Most of Alston's approved lights are working and can be converted, although with the County Council having failed to provide lights on A roads, Alston has been penalised in having far more footway lights than Penrith and the other larger towns.

It was suggested that if taken on the parish could gradually increase the precept to avoid a steep rise after 2022. It was also noted that the council might want to consider which lights they would agree to take on, as some, such as the four lights on the footpath to the old primary school were only included as part of a safe route to school.

Eden have a contract with Amey to clean the toilets, and this arrangement would have to continue for the immediate future.

Cllr PG declared an interest as a district cllr.

Resolved to accept the majority of the approved lights, subject to further discussion with Eden District Council and Alston public toilets.

4 County Councillor's Report.

Apologies from Cllr Driver who sent a written report:

Alston Primary School . The current position is that the County Council is looking to offer a temporary lease/licence (probably 12 months) for the whole of the property once it becomes vacant in early November, while a thorough appraisal of options for the permanent use of the site takes place.

The community right to bid allows community groups to bid for community assets. It has to be on the Eden community assets register, and once a community group has made the bid they have six months to find the funding before the asset can be sold.

Front Street repairs. nothing further has been heard since the Traffic Management meeting, CD is following up with officers.

Council meetings . the next full council after the August break is on 6th September, when there will be more to report.

District Councillor's Report

Cllr Godwin reported on the following:

Askham model for lighting . Cllr PG has asked a supplementary question requesting that as a matter of urgency the options proposed by Askham for lighting attached to houses is written up, to assist councils considering alternative means of lighting. This could enable residents to fit or retain lights on their property, with the cost paid either by themselves or through a grant from the council.

5. Public open session

A representative from Garrigill brought a petition signed by 82 residents opposed to having a noticeboard and permanent Christmas tree on the village green, as resolved at the Garrigill Ward meeting. He stated that there were plenty of places to display notices in Garrigill, and that the tree would be out of character for the village, since the Christmas tree is put up and taken down at appropriate times.

Members said that they were disappointed more people had not attended the Ward meeting to make their views known, but as the parish council lease the village green they will consider the issue at a future meeting. *Agenda item.*

6. Planning

The clerk reported that she had received a memory stick in the post, but despite leaving messages asking about the replacement projector and laptop no one had contacted her.

6a/SEPT/17 17/0638 Full application. Replacement of wooden single glaze sash windows with UPVC sliding sash windows, tilt and turn and double glazed windows. 5 no windows on front of property which look onto Kings Arms Lane. Parkside View, Kings Arms Lane, Alston CA9 3JF for Mr & Mrs Robson.

Cllr BA declared an interest.

Recommended for approval.

6b/SEPT/17 17/00663 Conservation Area. Demolition in a conservation area, comprising of demolition and rebuilding of flat roof extension area. Spring House, Front Street, Alston CA9 3HU for Mr N. Seed.

Recommended for approval.

6c/SEPT/17 17/0665 TPO application to carry out works to protected trees. Lime trees T1,2,3,4,5,6. Crown lifting and side works to height of BT cables over highway to allow movement of high sided vehicles. The Village Green, Garrigill CA9 3DT for Alston Moor Parish Council.

The application has been approved.

6d/SEPT/17 17/0677 Full application. Erection of a two-storey rear extension and incorporation of 2 no openings to north-west elevation (gable). Archway House, Overburn, Alston CA9 3SH for Mr Andrew Carr.

Recommended for approval.

6e/SEPT/17 17/0685 Full application. Re-roofing of dwelling within conservation area using slate tiles. Spring House, Front Street, Alston CA9 3HU for Mr N. Seed.

Recommended for refusal.

NOTE (this recommendation was based on a misunderstanding that the property had previously had stone slates, so was not passed on to EDC.)

6f/SEPT/17 17/00697 Erection of stable including feed storage and implement and other storage. Gossipgate Cottage, Alston CA9 3JT for Ms C. Penny.

Recommended for approval.

6g/SEPT/17 17/00701 Listed building. Listed building consent for the relocation of electricity cables. Methodist Church, Nenthead CA9 3PF for Purdham . Electricity North West Ltd.

Cllrs BA and ES declared an interest as shareholders.

Recommended for approval.

6h/SEPT/17 3/17/9010 Mineral County Matter. Land at Black Ban, Rotherhope Fell, Garrigill) NY728 393)

to work a borrow pit for Mr & Mrs Townshend.

Cllr AG noted that historically Garrigill residents had a right to use the stone from the pit, but this has never been documented.

Recommended for approval.

6i/SEPT/17 17/0727 Full application. Part retrospective application for garage workshop extension. 1 Gatehead, Garrigill CA9 3EB for Mr T. Haldon.

Cllr TH declared an interest as landowner.

Recommended for approval.

6j/SEPT/17 17/0398 Outline application for residential development with all matters reserved. Land at Nenthead Village Centre, Nenthead, Alston. This application will be placed before the Planning Committee on Thursday 14th September. A representative from the parish council would be entitled to speak on the relevant points.

7 Tyne Willows issues

Cllr RM reported that the Gala committee were asked about adding horse classes to the gala, but would need permission to go ahead. They will use the far end of the field to avoid the pitches, and hold show classes that do not include jumps.

Cllr RM declared an interest as a member of the gala committee.

Resolved to grant permission for a horse based event.

8 Alston Ambulance

Cllr RM said he wanted to question why the ambulance was not fully operational by now. Everyone has been trained, but when the drivers have been working in other areas Alston has not been on the list for call outs, even when drivers have been on call. There is a concern that some have never been out on a shift so unless they go out soon they will need more training.

Cllr AM reported that a meeting of the trained ambulance crew had been held to identify the issues, which are to be reported back to NWAS by a representative from the League of Friends.

Resolved to write to NWAS to ask why the ambulance service is not fully operational as all the crew are trained, and to send the letter to the League of Friends before sending. **Action C1.**

9 Community consultation on future of public services

No action taken.

10 Consultations and Correspondence

10a/SEPT/17 Tree Preservation Order No 186 2017

Notice that a Tree Preservation Order has been served on trees at High Plains Lodge, Alston.

10b/SEPT/17 Notices of events/meetings

The Coal Authority public meetings . 21st September and 22nd September, Nenthead Village Hall

Mental Health Awareness Event . 9th September

CAfS . various events 16th . 24th September (leaflet to follow)

CALC AGM . 18th November 2017

10c/SEPT/17 Information received

Coal Authority August report

11 Administration

11a/SEPT/17 Neighbourhood Planning & Vision for Eden meeting – Neighbourhood Planning Working Group

Eden District Council would like to meet with the working group during September. The clerk reported that as the working group had not re-formed at the AGM, it was agreed to confirm who would be interested. The working group will include Cllrs AM, TH, DP, EG, PG, and HH.

A meeting date of Wednesday 20th September was set.

The following two agenda items were considered in confidence at the end of the meeting.

11b/SEPT/17 Future management of PAYE for parish council staff

11c/SEPT/17 Update to Clerk's Contract

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

No additional items to those discussed earlier.

13. Finance

13a/SEPT/17 Bank statements

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

Alston Moor Parish Council tr/ac	£34,623.37
Alston Moor Parish Council bus/ac	£12,680.33
Eden Credit Union	£7,008.58

13b/SEPT/17 Accounts for Payment

The following accounts were for payment:-

<i>Summary of accounts for payment: -</i>	£593.00
<i>Summary of income received since last meeting: -</i>	£31.26
<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.

13c/SEPT/17 Audit of Parish Council Accounts Year Ended 31st March 2017

The auditors have completed the audit with no matters for attention requiring a separate additional issues arising from the report.

The meeting closed at 9 pm

Signed:

Dated: