

ALSTON MOOR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Alston Moor Parish Council held on Monday 2nd July 2018 at 7pm in Garrigill Village Hall

Present: Cllrs: T. Haldon (Chair), D. Athey, A. Green, R. Miller, E. Grew, A. Hewison, H. Ho, A. Martin, M. Shepherd.

Apologies: Cllrs: C. Harrison, P. Godwin, J. Glendinning, D. Phillips, B. Aves.

Absent: G. Wright.

Declarations of interest: listed under specific agenda items.

1. Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the parish council meeting held on Monday 4th June 2018 be agreed as a correct record with the following amendment: Cllr CH missed from the attendance list.

2. Progress Reports

2a/JUL/18 Fly tipping – bring sites

Re: 7/JUN/18 Eden District Council do not currently have any plans for the use of CCTV at bring sites, but have offered to ask the Principal Environmental Protection Officer who would action this through the Community Wardens.

Members reported that Alston recycling centre is regularly full before the weekly collection, and suggested that more frequent collections are needed, probably two per week.

The clerk was asked to find out who to contact from the gym, so that anyone can ring in to report the bins are full, and to request more frequent collections. **Action Cl.**

2b/JUL/18 Coal Authority planning application additional information & decision on date for public meeting

Re: 6c/JUN/18 Discussed under planning application 6i/JUL/18.

2c/JUL/18 Market cross pigeons

Re: 3a/JUN/18 County Cllr CD will update the council on the concerns about the pigeons on the Market Cross. Some members have tried pressure washing the space, but as the pigeons were still in residence it was just as bad the next day.

3. Progress reports from working groups and council representatives

3a/JUL/18 Transport Working Group

It was reported that Cumbria County Council officers advised that the Community Minibus needs to be used more, or it could be deployed to a different area. The group are looking into whether drivers can receive payments.

The clerk reported that she had not circulated the notes, as the meeting is run by the County Council. Agreed to circulate if permission is granted. **Action Cl.**

A member reported that she wants to set up a group for lifts on Facebook. It was mentioned that this had been done before, but there were issues in that while people were happy to give lifts, they did not want to be committed to set times, so could not be relied upon for anyone needing to travel on a daily basis. It was agreed that it would be useful to try again.

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

As the group had not met there was nothing to report. A member reported that she is trying to establish a website to promote the work of the Alliance. Our County Cllr is currently finding out what is happening in Brampton.

3c/JUL/18 Report from the Dementia Action Alliance

An open evening was held two weeks ago with the aim of promoting dementia-friendly businesses, and for people to get to know each other. About 30 people attended, but it was disappointing that not many shopkeepers came along. The meeting was opened by the chair of Eden Dementia Action Alliance, with talks from the Director of Public Health and a local resident who explained how it really is from the perspective of a daughter of parents with dementia. There is to be a follow-up meeting, and plans for a public meeting for Alston Moor residents, although the date has not yet been set.

4 County Councillor's Report.

Cllr Driver reported on the following:

Pigeons – an officer from the County Council is coming out this week to look at what can be done about the pigeons on the Market Cross. They are considering spikes or coils, which are less obtrusive than netting. Noted that seagulls have recently been plaguing the town.

Front Street improvements – another drop-in session was held, and boards produced for this will be put in the AMP shop window. Anyone is welcome to discuss the proposals with CD.

Alston Alliance/Grisedale Croft – the new Integrated Care manager for Eden will be meeting with the Alliance next week. Appleby has trialed a successful system with the Occupational therapist, and a similar scheme has been set up in Alston. Discussions on possible services are underway, including positive dialogue between Cumbria County Council and Eden Housing on the best use of space for bed provision at Grisedale Croft.

Supporting vulnerable people in emergencies meeting – this was held at Newton Rigg and was well supported. CD explained how Alston had coped during the snow, and how the community had come together to help those in need. Communities were encouraged to put together emergency plans.

Full Council – the cabinet reviewed self-help policies for farmers, and parish councils that might want to carry out work on the highway. They are becoming less risk-averse, with the aim of enabling communities to get involved if they want to. The detail is still to be decided, but she will circulate the link. **Action CD.**

Alston Primary school – a director from Alston Moor Partnership has come forward to help with the first stage of project management. The working group would like to be in a position to gain access to the building before next winter, and the next step is to work with Cumbria CVS to look at various aspects of business planning, and the pros and cons of the various management structures. Cumbria County Council will not transfer a liability to a community group unless they are confident it will work. There is potential funding from Eden District Council, but there is a lot of work to do around the need to generate revenue streams.

A Community Asset transfer is a long process, taking at least 12 – 18 months, but initial thoughts are for a lease arrangement to minimize the risk to whichever group takes on the project. This would mean the County Council continuing to maintain and insure the building, but with the local group covering ongoing costs such as all utility bills, so a solid committed plan is essential.

Issues raised by parish councillors

Alston Market Cross – there are gaps in the stonework around the back of the Market Cross where children could get their feet stuck, and one corner is unstable.

The clerk was asked to e-mail a request for an update on progress with the maintenance list. **Action CI.**

New access at Redwing – it was reported that the old gate was removed and two separate internal gates added, including a new access onto the road. The member reporting this was asked to send a photo and pin on a google map to identify the location. **Action AH.**

District Councillor's Report

Apologies from Cllrs L Sharp and P. Godwin.

5. Public open session

Minewater treatment scheme proposals – a resident reported that the application had Isaac's Tea Trail footpath, which goes through the site, marked incorrectly. He understood from conversations with the County Council that the Coal Authority said they will enter into a 25 year agreement to maintain the path, and will replace the existing styles with kissing gates. They have also acknowledged that there are protected species on the site boundaries.

AECOM produced a response to comments made about the application from various agencies including the parish council and the MEP for Cumbria. The resident has made a rebuttal of the AECOM report, which he sent to the planning authority, but pointed out that responses from individuals are not listed on the County Council website, and anyone wishing to see them has to travel to Kendal. Could the parish council forward the observations he sent them?

The main points are that the Coal Authority states that as there will be no smell beyond the site boundary, there is no need to produce a public health risk assessment. The site is classified as a Development Low Risk Area, but he has been unable to find out what the criteria is for this status.

The site is experimental, and as it is a natural process it is impossible to be precise about what will happen. A lot of the figures are based on computer models or data supplied from work carried out at Force Crag, which was faulty in that no account was made of the hydrogen sulphide which escaped into the atmosphere.

The hydrogen peroxide to be used to treat odour emissions will have to be brought onto the site by tankers, and it has not been possible to find out the level of concentration, which if too great could present a risk of explosion.

The council were asked to request details of how the Coal Authority will honour their pledge to shut the site down, since the natural processes will carry on working.

Extreme weather conditions will affect the running of the site, which could lead to a build-up of hydrogen sulphide that has not been taken into account.

The meeting re-convened.

6i/JUL/18 for comments.

6. Planning applications

6a/JUL/18 18/0293 Full application. Erection of garage and storage building. Rose Bank, Leadgate, Alston CA9 3EL for Mr S. Catlin.

Resolved that not enough information was received to make an informed recommendation, but the council has concerns that the proposed building appears to be about a third bigger than the existing building and seems out of character with the area.

6b/JUL/18 18/0449 Full application. Proposed embankment stabilisation works to prevent metal mine diffuse pollution to the river Nent. Land to the eastern bank of river Nent adjacent the Nenthead Mines, Nenthead, Alston for The Coal Authority – Mr J. Bagnall.

Recommended for approval on condition that stone from Alston Moor quarries is used.

6c/JUL/18 18/0456 Full application. Re-culverting a section of Garrigill Burn. Land adjacent to B6277 north east of Garrigill for The Coal Authority – Mr J. Bagnall.

Recommended for approval. Proposed by Cllr TH and seconded by Cllr EG (7+2 abs)

6d/JUL/18 18/0457 Full application. External alterations. Aldenstone Barn, Townhead, Alston CA9 3SL for Mr A. McIntyre.

Recommended for approval.

6e/JUL/18 18/0477 Full application. Extensions and alterations to existing hotel. Cumberland Hotel, Townfoot, Alston CA9 3HX for Mr G. Harmer.

Recommended for approval.

6f/JUL/18 18/0486 Full application. Discharge of condition no 3 (Window detail) attached to approval 13/0854. The Old Police Station, Townhead, Alston CA9 3SL for Mr & Mrs Johnson.

Recommended for approval.

6g/JUL/18 18/0502 Listed building. Alterations to front elevation including repairs to windows and replacing render. Alston Clock Shop, Market Place, Alston CA9 3QH for Mr P. Docherty.

Recommended for approval.

6h/JUL/18 18/0520 Full application. Proposed dry stone walling, associated repair works, installation of leaky dams and localised watercourse widening to reduce metal mine pollution. Land at Garrigill Mine Site, Garrigill for the Coal Authority – Mr A. Langrick.

Recommended for approval.

6i/JUL/18 3/18/9001 Notification of further information submitted in relation to a planning application accompanied by an Environmental Statement. Land between Blagill and Nentsberry, Alston for establishment of a scheme for minewater treatment comprising construction of an interceptor manhole chamber; provision of transfer pipes; erection of 2 no buildings to house, respectively, pumping and odour abatement treatment equipment, creation of 3 no compost based treatment ponds and 2 no. aerobic reedbed ponds; construction of outfalls; creation of access tracks and hardstanding areas; and associated development. Comments to be received by Monday 23rd July 2018.

Members agreed that there was insufficient time to organise a public meeting as suggested last month. Residents had the opportunity to attend and speak at an extraordinary council meeting and as there are unanswered questions it would be more helpful to get answers to these.

Resolved to respond to the document and to ask for answers to the questions raised by residents. Also to include copies of the papers submitted by the residents.

Decision notices

i/JUL/18 18/0225 Full application. Installation of 9m high street pole with one antenna, on concrete base, associated cable and ductwork linking to Leadgate Regulator. Highway Verge opposite Leadgate Regulator off A686 Leadgate, Alston CA9 3BN. Permission granted with conditions.

ii/JUL/18 18/0316 Listed building. Listed building consent for internal and external works and retention of internal and external alterations made. Orchard House, Townfoot, Alston CA9 3HX for Mr & Mrs J & K Reeds and Watson. Permission granted with conditions.

7. Request for litter bins – Nenthead & Alston

A request was received for 3 litter bins in Nenthead, and 1 in Alston, and a site plan circulated.

Nenthead – 1 besides the primary school, 1 at the junction leading to the school and 1 on the main road near the picnic area.

Alston – near SKS.

Resolved to put the request for additional litter bins to Eden District Council.

The clerk was asked to mention that some litter bins are not fixed firmly into the ground. **Action CI.**

8. Condition of public toilets - Nenthead

It was reported that the public toilets in Nenthead are not being properly maintained, or cleaned properly, and noted that the parish council and presumably the district council are contributing towards their maintenance. If the Nenthead Community Toilets group do not have the capacity to manage them adequately then consideration needs to be given as to what to do in future.

Resolved to write to the chair of the Nenthead Community Toilets group to explain that there have been complaints about the condition of the toilets, and to ask for details of how they are managed.

9. Appleby Fair update

Cumbria County Council have organised public meetings to discuss Appleby Horse Fair, with the next being on Monday 16th July at Appleby. There is also a feedback form on the dedicated Horse Fair website.

A gym representative reported by e-mail that their impression was that numbers were down on last year for both bowtops and other vehicles. Staff were able to park in the car park most days, there were no confrontation issues with gym staff and the agreed police presence was welcomed. The protective barriers in front of the gym worked well and remained in place, and the siting of the toilets, bag distribution and disposal worked well. Rubbish was dumped at various times, but some of this was known to be by locals. The gym provided water which was used by the travellers.

Other points included:

A sign destroyed before the travellers arrived.

6 to 8 bowtops parked around the pavilion on the grass, moving some of the stone blocks.

The barriers put up by Highways around the turn off to Park Lane were removed by the travellers. They were installed without consultation with the working group.

The gym have not had time to analyse member attendance compared to a normal fortnight or speak to all staff/gather customer feedback.

It was reported that two caravans are still on site, enquiries were made and conflicting reports given. The clerk was asked to check the facts with gym representatives. **Action CI.**

Mention was made of problems with parking in other areas, so the reduced site availability in Alston, which led to greater use of the sites at Melmerby and Carts Bog, may need to be monitored in future years.

10 Consultations and Correspondence

10aJUL/18 Notification of Public Spaces Protection Order for dog control

A letter was received from Eden District Council who introduced a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) in November to replace the previous dog control orders. The order specifies an area where activities are taking place that are or could be detrimental to the local community's quality of life. The controls are over dog fouling, dogs on leads and dog exclusion. Anyone committing an offence under any of the three provisions may be issued with a £75 fixed penalty notice. The Community Warden team are the key contact for all dog-related PSPO issues. Specific questions can be directed to the Community

Wardens using the contact method in the new leaflets and new complaints should be made via Customer Services or on-line.

10b/JUL/18 Castles & Coast Flat vacancy – Jollybeard Gate

An e-mail was received from Castles & Coast stating that there is a vacant flat at Jollybeard Gate that they are finding it difficult to find a tenant for. If the council are aware of any local people looking for housing could they draw their attention to this vacancy.

10b/JUL/18 Notices of events/meetings

Greenprint Convergence – 8th September 2018 from 4pm at Alston Town Hall rsvp needed

Alston Flower Show – 8th September 2pm at SKS

Presentation on Alston Benchmarking review – 11th July at 5pm rsvp needed

CALC - Training events for new and experienced members

Cllrs MS & EG were interested in attending.

Resolved to pay for 2 cllrs to attend.

Devolution of Services Working Group – Monday 16th July 7pm

10c/JUL/18 Information received

Alston Moor Police Update

Alston Town Benchmarking Report – March 2018

11. Administration

11a/JUL/18 Fairhill Car Park

Complaints have been received about the entrance to the car park at Fairhill, as there is a dip in the entrance which could potentially cause damage to cars.

It was reported that Highways are discussing this with Eden District Council.

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

12a/JUL/18 Traffic Management agenda items

The County Council may postpone the August meeting if there are no substantive agenda items.

12b/JUL/18 Alston Town Centre – weed killing

Agenda item for next month.

12c/JUL/18 Footpath to Alston Primary School

It was reported that the electricity cable on the steps behind the Firs leading to the old primary school has been exposed and should be reported.

13. Finance

13a/JUL/18 Bank statements

The statements as 30th June 2018 were as follows:-

Alston Moor Parish Council tr/ac	£51,840.43
Alston Moor Parish Council bus/ac	£12,686.01
Eden Credit Union	£7,008.58

13b/JUL/18 Accounts for Payment

The following accounts were for payment:-

<i>Summary of accounts for payment: -</i>	£339.98
<i>Summary of income received since last meeting: -</i>	£150.09
<i>Summary of accounts paid since last meeting: -</i>	£845.79

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 9.10pm

Signed:

Dated: