

## ALSTON MOOR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Alston Moor Parish Council held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2018 at 7pm in Nenthead Village Hall

**Present:** Cllrs: T. Haldon (Chair), D. Athey, B. Aves, J. Glendinning, P. Godwin, A. Green, C. Harrison, R. Miller, E. Grew, A. Hewison, H. Ho, A. Martin, D. Phillips, M. Shepherd.

**Apologies:** Cllrs: G. Wright.

**Absent:** none.

**Declarations of interest:** listed under specific agenda items.

### **1. Minutes**

**Resolved** that the minutes of the annual parish council meeting held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2018 be agreed as a correct record with the following amendment: 6e/MAY/18 Cllr BA transposed as AB.

### **2. Progress Reports**

#### **2a/JUN/18 Eden Housing - Grisedale Croft Flats**

Re: 2a/MAY/18 The clerk reported that Eden Housing are to meet with Cllr Driver and a representative from the Alston Alliance on 7<sup>th</sup> June, and will update the parish council, so there is no need for a separate meeting with the council.

#### **2b/JUN/18 Devolution of Services legal agreement**

Re: 7/MAY/18 The legal agreement has been circulated, and members informed that Eden District Council agreed to move the deadline to the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2018. As a result it was agreed to defer the Devolution working group meeting to Monday 16<sup>th</sup> July.

A letter accompanying the legal agreement stated that councils signing before the deadline will be eligible for 100% of the 2018/19 funding. Eden currently contracts with Amey to provide the maintenance and repair of the lights, and councils are advised to continue with this and the current electricity contract. The costs for this are as follows:

**Basic maintenance** - First year £22.96 per light per annum and £22.96 per annum plus indices uplift.

**Electricity supply** - £46.82 per annum which may go down slightly if negotiations with suppliers are successful.

Total estimated re-charge costs for the first year are £69.78 per light per annum.

Noted that the legal agreement includes light no 18 outside Vicarage Terrace which was never connected and the pole removed last year. Also, the request to take several lights off the list between the Firs and the old primary school was not acted upon, but the council may want to reconsider this in view of the proposals for the old primary school.

It was agreed that all lights on the list should be checked before signing, and members suggested this should be done in the evening when it is dark.

The clerk reported that she discussed the timing of taking on the public toilets in Alston with an Eden District Council officer who mentioned that it may be possible to delay this until the end of the contract with Amey.

#### **2c/JUN/18 Front Street roadworks**

Re: 3a/MAY/18 County Cllr CD will update the council on the concerns about the replacement tarmac.

#### **2d/JUN/18 Access to Henderson's Wood**

Re: 10/MAY/18 Spar have improved the access into Henderson's Wood by removing part of the barrier, so it should now be possible for wheelchair users to enter the woods.

#### **2e/JUN/18 Eden Local Plan training session**

Re: 2b/MAY/18 One point which arose from the training session is that the Planning Team at Eden would find it helpful if the parish council included reasons for their recommendations. They pointed out that a response of 'no comment' is not helpful. It was observed that there are times when 'no comment' is the appropriate response.

### **3. Progress reports from working groups and council representatives**

#### **3a/JUN/18 Community Volunteering working group report**

Circulated. Actions from the meeting included the chair and vice-chair drawing up a list of tasks. They have met but not written them up yet. The working group also recommended setting aside funds for printing costs to advertise the electronic newsletter which has been set up independently. A volunteer has offered to distribute the leaflets.

**Resolved** to accept the Community Volunteering Working Group minutes and to allocate £50 from the VC budget towards printing costs.

### **3b/JUN/18 Nenthead Ward meeting**

The minutes of the annual ward meeting were circulated. There were no actions for the parish council, who were reminded that the meetings take place on the last Monday of each alternate month.

### **3c/JUN/18 Report from Alston Moor Care Alliance**

A written report was circulated and accepted.

## **4 County Councillor's Report.**

*Cllr Driver reported on the following:*

**Front Street roadworks** – a formal statement is to be sent, but in the interim an e-mail to Cllr CD was read. Initially the team laid 10mm hard stone binder hot lay tarmac, but recently switched to 20mm following instruction from Cumbria County Council Highways. Normally there would be a guarantee of between 2 and 3 years following a full and final reinstatement. However this reinstatement is seen as an interim measure as the County plan to follow the works with a reconstruction of the highway, so the reinstatement would not be guaranteed under the HAUC specification. Typically there is 6 months to complete a permanent reinstatement, but in this case a site walk with a highways representative will be undertaken at the end of the project to identify any potential defects that may need to be reworked.

A section of the highway that has slightly deteriorated, laid prior to the bad weather, near the old primary school will be re-worked.

To minimize the risk of air voids and to ensure the excavations can be reinstated as quickly as possible concrete foam has been used for the entire trench at base level.

Cllr CD will forward the final statement when she receives it. The county are also negotiating with United Utilities over a potential contribution towards the Front Street roadworks to make up the difference had they replaced like for like by replacing the cobbles instead of tarmac.

**Front Street drop-in session** – 27<sup>th</sup> June 2018 between 3pm and 6pm. This is an opportunity for the project team to discuss the feedback from the initial session. The focus now is on fundraising, with an indicative timeline as to the next steps. A request has been made to AMP to allow the team to use half of the shop window for a display on the Front Street Regeneration project.

**Cumbria-wide Mental Health Services review** – there are likely to be significant developments over the next year. It is a difficult service to deliver in a rural area, and the service will be undergoing scrutiny over the next 12 months.

**Community Resilience Co-coordinator** – Cumbria CVS have made an appointment to this 2-year post, which will provide a link between the strategic overview and the community response. The officer will map activity across the county to establish what is happening, and identify the gaps. She may want to speak with parish councils at some point.

**Market Cross pigeons** – there is an ongoing problem with birds around the market cross, and the solution of netting had not worked in the past due to vandalism. A resident used to clean around the cross, but this person has now moved away and cleaning does not deal with the root cause. The Market Cross is owned by the County Council, but Eden District Council are responsible for vermin control. Cllr CD agreed to take this forward with the County.

## **District Councillor's Report**

*Cllrs L Sharp and P. Godwin reported on the following:*

**Litter** – the rubbish dumped at the old primary school should be collected tomorrow.

**St Paul's former Methodist Church** – there was another leak in the building and the water has now been turned off at the stopcock. There is no update on the legal process.

**Scrutiny review** – Eden are looking at how to get young people more involved.

**Committees** – Cllr LS is on the housing committee

**Dementia Alliance** – the launch will be on the 26<sup>th</sup> June 2018.

**Alston Primary School** – a working group site visit will take place tomorrow to look at plans with the County Council.

#### **5. Public open session**

*A resident reported that there is to be a music festival on the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2018. She was concerned about the potential impact on local tourism businesses, and the fact that neighbouring properties had not been properly consulted. They have just received a hand delivered letter. The event is organised for the same day as Alston Gala, with funds raised going to the Air Ambulance.*

*Eden District Council were contacted and said they were operating a hands off approach. The site is opposite Greenends, where the horse stables were and has poor access and no running water.*

Members stated that there was nothing the parish council could do at short notice, other than to advise residents to monitor the event, put any complaints in writing and discuss any issues with Eden District Council. If it looked to be turning into an annual event, the parish council could ask Eden about what controls could be put in, but they would expect there to be some requirements to meet certain standards. Previous applications to hold a festival in this area had been turned down by the district, and there are alternative sites, such as those owned by the applicant or the village green in Nenthead that might be more suitable.

*Other residents wished to discuss the Coal Authority application for a mine treatment works and the proposals on the drawing board for further treatment works at Nenthead and Alston. The Capelcleugh and Carrshield mines are around 10 times more heavily laden than the Haggs mine, with greater potential to release toxic hydrogen sulphide. They stated that Haggs is just the first of many such sites, along the Tyne and elsewhere.*

Members explained that 5 minutes was insufficient to properly discuss such a complex issue. They are aware that it is a serious matter which will have a big impact on the area, and suggested that it should either be brought up as a specific agenda item or be the subject of a separate meeting. *Discussed under 6c/JUN/18.*

#### **6. Planning applications**

No new plans were received.

**6a/JUN/18** 17/0940 Var/Removal of S106 Removal of section 106 Agreement attached to 11/0175 and 12/0321 Land at Sunnyside, Wardway, Nenthead CA9 3PX will be placed before Planning Committee on Thursday 14 June 2018 at 10.30am. Anyone intending to attend is asked to confirm this in writing by 12pm on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> June.

**6b/JUN/18** 18/0225 Installation of a 9m high street pole with one antenna on concrete base, associated cable and ductwork linking to Leadgate Regulator. This application will be placed before Planning Committee on Thursday 14 June 2018.

**6c/JUN/18** 3/18/9001 Haggs Minewater Anaerobic Digester protected species update. The parish council were copied into a response from the county council to a local resident. They stated that the Coal Authority is looking to submit further information this month. Once this is received there will be further consultation, and the earliest date the application could be presented to committee for a decision is 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2018.

**Resolved** to hold a separate public meeting to discuss the Coal Authority application after the additional information is received.

#### **Decision notices**

None received.

#### **7. Fly tipping – Tyne Willows bring site**

The clerk reported that a representative from the community gym reported that a large number quantity of waste, approx. 20 black bags, had been dumped at the recycling centre on two occasions. Both were reported to Eden. Informal discussion with the representative concluded that it may be worth considering installing cctv to deter offenders if an appropriate site for the equipment could be found.

It was reported that the Nenthead bring site experiences similar problems. The use of CCTV has been discussed at Eden District Council with the possibility that they could set up something, so the first step is to contact them to see what is available. **Action CI.**

It was reported that a joint initiative is taking place with Alston Moor Business Association and others about recycling, including work with the schools. Action taken could include posting photos of the fly tipping on facebook. Another positive action could be to encourage people to bring redundant items to the Repair Café.

## **8 Consultations and Correspondence**

### **8aJUN/18 Letter of thanks from Alston Gala Committee**

A letter of thanks was received from Alston Gala Committee for the donation from the parish council.

### **8b/JUN/18 Notices of events/meetings**

Alston Moor Volunteering Fair – 7<sup>th</sup> June 2018

Supporting vulnerable people during emergencies – Cumbria CVS 28<sup>th</sup> June 2018

Alston Gala 30<sup>th</sup> June

### **8c/JUN/18 Information received**

Update from Coal Authority

Seafarers UK - fly a Red Ensign flag on Merchant Navy Day 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2018.

Confirmation of Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 Public Spaces Protection Order 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2018

## **9. Administration**

### **9a/JUN/18 AMPC Code of Conduct**

The discussion continued from last month on whether members should leave the room when they have a non-pecuniary registrable interest, or alternatively be able to stay in the room, speak on the matter, but not vote. There was a concern that people would be discouraged from sitting on committees if they were to be barred from voting, and many councillors do have an involvement with other local groups. It was pointed out that Eden District Council members are now advised that they should vote according to their conscience. If the matter under discussion is for a community interest, or in the interest of the whole community, members should be able to vote. The public can see members' Register of Interests and if they feel someone has acted improperly they can report them to the Standards Board. Members can abstain from voting, but should they also have the right to vote if they consider they are doing something for the benefit of the community?

A proposal that members could stay in the room and speak but not vote on registerable non pecuniary interests was not carried on the Chair's casting vote.

**Resolved** to use the NALC Model Code of Conduct.

### **9b/JUN/18 Approval of the Annual Governance Statement**

A report from the Finance Working Group was circulated earlier, and a copy of the governance statement provided for members to work through.

**Resolved** to approve the annual governance statement and to note the new requirement to include dates for the internal audit. Due to the change of internal auditor the May 2017 internal audit was not listed on the audit papers.

### **9cJUN/18 Approval of the Accounting Statement**

**Resolved** to approve the accounting statement which was circulated earlier.

### **9dJUN/18 Approval of draft policies**

The following policies were circulated earlier and presented to the council for approval.

- GDPR policy
- GDPR privacy notice for residents
- GDPR privacy notice for staff and councillors
- Risk management policy
- Anti-fraud and corruption policy
- Council representatives policy
- Lone worker policy

**Resolved** to adopt the policies listed under 9d/JUN/18.

### **9eJUN/18 Appointment of representatives to Traffic Management Committee**

It was confirmed that any member may attend the Traffic Management Committee if they have a specific interest or wish to speak on an agenda item. Urgent or routine highways matters can be reported through

the hotline or fed through the Parish Highwayman or the County Councillor. Cllr CD confirmed that she wanted Cllr GW to represent Transport groups, but would prefer the parish council to just appoint two representatives.

**Resolved** to appoint Cllrs DA and EG to the Traffic Management Committee.

**10. Items for next month's agenda/urgent business**

**10a/JUN/18 Gate onto highway**

It was reported that a gate opening onto the public highway has been put in past High Redwing on the Leadgate Road. Cllr CD said she would follow this up. **Action.**

**10b/JUN/18 Appleby Fair**

Agenda item for next month.

**10c/JUN/18 Nenthead toilets**

A resident raised a concern about the condition of the public toilets in Nenthead. Agenda item for next month.

**11. Finance**

**11a/JUN/18 Bank statements**

The statements as of 31st<sup>h</sup> May2018 were as follows:-

Alston Moor Parish Council tr/ac	£63,065.26
Alston Moor Parish Council bus/ac	£12,686.01
Eden Credit Union	£7,008.58

**11b/JUN/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.

**11c/JUN/18 Annual pay review & update to Clerk's contract**

Held in confidence.

*The meeting closed at 9.10pm*

Signed: .....

Dated: .....