

ALSTON MOOR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Alston Moor Parish Council held on Monday 5th November 2018 at 7pm in Alston Town Hall.

Present: Cllrs: A. Martin (Vice-chair), D. Athey, B. Aves, E. Grew, J. Glendinning, A. Green, P. Godwin, C. Harrison, R. Miller, A. Hewison, H. Ho, M. Shepherd, G. Wright.

Apologies: Cllrs: T. Haldon

Absent: none

Declarations of interest: listed under specific agenda items. 7a/NOV18 Cllr AM and 7b/NOV/18 Cllr RM. A letter from Cllr Haldon was received tendering his resignation as chair. Cllr AM chaired the meeting in his place.

Resolved that as a large number of residents (approx. 50) were present the reports on the Traffic Management meeting, and social media and the public participation be moved up on the agenda.

1. Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the parish council meeting held on Monday 1st October 2018 be agreed as a correct record. Proposed by Cllr GW and seconded by Cllr CH (13+ 1 abs)

The minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on Monday 29th October 2018 will be presented to the next council meeting.

1a Discussion with North Pennines AONB representative on digital interpretation in Alston

This agenda item has been held over until next month.

1b North West Ambulance Service representatives – discussion on issues with the Alston Ambulance

Three representatives from NWAS attended the meeting. They reported that the Alston ambulance currently has 18 staff, 16 are operational and 2 are still in training. It was a slow start, as the recruitment process was difficult, leading to two separate cohorts undertaking the training.

There were 290 ambulance cases from Alston Moor for a six-month period between December 2016 and May 2018, with the bulk of these being GP booked admissions into hospital. The average number of cases for the Alston ambulance team is 1 – 2 per week or around 8 per month. The relationship between NWAS as a provider and Cumbria Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) as the commissioner was explained, and should the parish council wish to change the provision it should be discussed with the CCG.

The future looks to be challenging as the EMT 1 entry qualification has changed from an internal six week course to an 18 month full time national course, a level 4 Diploma in Associated Ambulance Practitioner. This is the equivalent to year one of a Paramedic degree or a diploma. It will not be possible for part time staff in the future to become EMT 1s, so it will be necessary to review recruitment and training for Alston.

Questions and answers from NWAS

Notes taken at the meeting held 5 years ago mentioned that the ambulance would be provided with a full kit, a higher level of training and a local committee to oversee the ambulance.

NWAS pointed out that there were no formal minutes from the public meeting, so from memory several options were discussed, including a Community First Responder model, but the EMT was the model chosen for Alston.

Early follow up meetings looked at potential models to adopt and discussed what emergencies the crew could attend, including those they should not: paediatric cases, violent and aggressive persons, hazardous house fires, major traumas, and road traffic accidents. The crew were trained in the areas deemed appropriate, which is the model they are delivering today. They have the opportunity to meet once a month for training.

The issue locally is that there are trained people willing and able to help out as ambulance crew, but they are not allowed to transport patients and have to wait for another ambulance to arrive. This does not seem to be what was agreed when the programme was first set up.

NWAS said that the initial model allowed for clinically appropriate patients to be transported into the cottage hospital. *(Members disagreed with this, but there were no publically available minutes that discussed the programme in detail.)*

NWAS originally believed it was the right thing to do in not taking the ambulance out of Alston, but they intend to explore the potential to transport non-acute cases to Carlisle with the agreement of a clinician. The chief difficulty is that the Alston crew simply do not attend enough cases to gain the necessary experience.

NWAS were asked why blue light training was not offered.

It was explained that there will be no blue light driver training for the Alston ambulance crews. It is a full time 4 week course. To be safe crews have to see a lot of patients, which the Alston team do not do. They also do not meet the required standards to work as part of a two person front line crew to gain that experience. Each member of the Alston team is required to have 2 contact shifts per year with their allocated SP objectives set for the following 12 months. This brings them into line with the rest of the teams in NWAS. These shifts take place in Carlisle, as this is where their SP is based and therefore able to observe. They are the third crew member to enable supervision to take place and any problems highlighted and discussed. If any further voluntary observation shifts are requested by team members this is accommodated at Carlisle, but can be facilitated in Penrith also if requested in advance and space is available.

Why is Alston not entitled to the same service as elsewhere, since an ambulance from away takes too long to arrive.

NWAS stated that North Cumbria as a whole is outperforming the targets. Alston does not receive a second class service; Alston is unique in Cumbria with the current scheme which is far more advanced than any other community who depend upon a CRF type response.

It has been a massive journey to get to where we are now. If it is possible to transport patients safely within the guidelines, it can be introduced. The ambulance will have a life pack which will be delivered within 2 weeks and additional refresher training will be provided to the crews.

It is not practical or financially viable to base paramedics on Alston Moor, as there are not enough call-outs. (It is possible to obtain data on response times.) Currently the biggest concern is over future recruitment, and the community were invited to work together to find a solution.

A question was asked about the garage, which is just a canopy and is inadequate in severe weather.

NWAS confirmed that the rumour that £30k had been provided by the League of Friends to build a garage was simply false. It was agreed 5 years ago that the League of Friends would work with the Cumbria Partnership to provide a canopy, and NWAS would provide a shore line charger. The foundations for a canopy have been laid at the site where the ambulance is currently parked up,

If the parish council or community can find a new home for the ambulance NWAS would have no objection, and provided there was a power source would fund moving the shore line to a new location.

Cllrs flagged up the possibility of making use of the ambulance at St Johns as the centre here is still staffed, and is the nearest station to Alston Moor.

NWAS said they were willing to work together with the local crews and with the parish council if required.

The Chair enquired what process to follow should the wish be to fund a 24 hour resource in Alston.

NWAS said annual costs would be around £600k per annum for a RRV and around £1.2m per annum for a full ambulance. Should the community be able to raise the funds they would be willing to be approached to set up work with the CCG.

ACTIONS: NWAS agreed to investigate the possibility of transporting some patients to hospital. To work with the community to try and resolve the issue of training replacement crews. To move the ambulance and associated services to a new site if a better one can be provided by the community.

Resolved to write to the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to request that a senior decision maker attend a council meeting. Proposed by Cllr AM and seconded by Cllr GW. (nem con)

The team were thanked for coming.

1c Traffic Management Meeting report (formerly 4b)

The chair reminded residents attending the meeting that the parish council engaged in a campaign for the ambulance, the hospital, the banks and post office and as a result the community has lost less than it would have done. She set out the timeline for the works on Front Street, which started with discussions held 18 months ago at the County Council-run Traffic Management meeting. Sections of the cobbles were no longer safe, and would have to be taken up, with the initial plan to replace most of the setts with tarmac, while

retaining a small section around the Market Cross. This could be achieved within the £300k allocated budget.

Our County Councillor got involved and persuaded the County Council that a regeneration project was needed. The County then engaged a consultancy firm, Mott MacDonald to assess what was needed. They advertised and ran consultation events, which were attended by a number of people. No decisions have been made yet either on the materials or the layout, but plans have been produced which people are welcome to comment on. The consultation exercise was conclusive in that the community wanted most spending to be allocated to the area around the Market Cross.

Meanwhile sections of the cobbles had to be taken up for safety reasons, and as is known the gas and water companies have been working on improvement schemes.

Cumbria County Council have apologised for the lack of communication. They had produced a press release, which would have been adequate in some areas, and had simply not expected the level of concern from the public. Local representatives were not aware until 4 days before the last parish council meeting that the cobbles would be lifted.

Future plans for communication include a leaflet drop to all properties on Alston Moor and a display board in the town centre, probably near the Co-op, with a timeline, that will be updated regularly. Information will be provided in Local Links and residents will be able to subscribe to a County Council webpage dedicated to Front Street.

Work will be starting soon on the Potato Market, which is a separate project funded through the Townscape Heritage Project (THI), which is a Heritage Lottery-funded scheme.

1d Social media (formerly 11d)

The chair explained that much of the anger and upset about the removal of the cobbles and road closure had been levelled at county and parish councillors. This was unpleasant, inaccurate and not in the best interest of Alston Moor. She called for an end to this abuse, pointing out that while it is acceptable for people to hold different views there is no place for rudeness and intolerance.

2. Progress Reports

2a/NOV/18 Nenthead Ward Co-option

Re/OCT/18 Notification has been received that no request for an election has been made so the council may proceed to co-opt a replacement councillor for the Nenthead ward.

2b/NOV/18 Query about need for planning permission re: cabling

Re: 3d/OCT/18 Confirmation was received from Eden District Council that ordinarily permission is not required to install internet cables, but appropriate consent may be required if the cables were being attached to a Listed Building. Planning permission would not be required to remove the cables, and any redundant cables would be a matter for landowners to take up with the cable installer.

The Quickline contract has been cancelled, but the company has refused to re-imburse the council for the two months without internet access.

2c/NOV/18 Internet security

Re: 3d/OCT/18 The Town Hall manager has provided contact details for the County Council officer responsible for installing the Wi-Fi, and a request has been made for clarification. The office computer is password protected, and the laptop encrypted.

2d/NOV/18 Parish seats

Re: 3d/OCT/18 Comments from the public are that it would be good to have a seat on Tyne Willows Playing Fields. A member of the walking group has offered to assist in finding and photographing the seats. There was one objection to the use of plastic as a replacement material.

2e/NOV/18 Ashgill footpaths

Re: 3f/OCT/18 An e-mail has been sent to the land agent stating the council's view that they would be willing to support an application to divert the footpath around Ashgill farmhouse, but are not able to contribute financially. The preferred option is to dedicate the path down from the bridge.

It was agreed to move to the next meeting to await a response.

2f/NOV/18 Remembrance Sunday

Re: 3h/OCT/18 The Vice-Lord Lieutenant intends to attend the Remembrance Day service at the church and laying of wreaths at the Alston War Memorial. Cllr HH reported that she had other commitments and had asked a former parish council chair if she would carry out the task.

2g/NOV/18 Gate between Redwing and High Skydes

An e-mail was received from Eden District Council to confirm that a site visit was undertaken, and that they had no plans to progress enforcement action. Their view is that the recent gate installation is the replacement of a section of dry stone walling and is deemed a replacement of a means of enclosure, rather than the formation of a new access. There appears to be no form of formal access track associated with the gate, the grass verge is intact and there are rock and stones on the inside of the gateway, which also suggests it is not used for access.

3. Progress reports from working groups and council representatives

3a/NOV/18 Nenthead public toilets

It was reported that conversations with the Nenthead toilets group suggest there is not a problem with the toilets. The group will continue to look after them and deal with any problems that are reported. They are aware that the tap in the ladies isn't working properly and there is a problem with the urinals. A door is to be replaced, but they were let down by the contractor and intend to appoint someone new.

It was noted that there were some inconsistencies in the report that Nenthead members might wish to discuss.

3b/NOV/18 Alston Moor Traffic Management meeting

Report moved to 1c.

3c/NOV/18 Tyne Willows Pavilion

Clerk's report circulated. CALC advised that the parish council take no action because, as the Fitness Club insure the building and are responsible for paying the water bill, the matter is between them and United Utilities.

It was reported that United Utilities have now stated that the water should not have been turned off, and that they intend to carry out some work themselves to look for the leak. There may be an issue if the pipe is metal as it could need replacing, but its condition is unknown until it is exposed.

3d/NOV/18 Alston Moor Care Alliance

There will be a public event held on the 1st December, which will be advertised nearer the time.

4 Chair's Report

Circulated and noted.

5 County Councillor's Report

Apologies from Cllr Driver. A report was circulated.

District Councillor's Report

Written reports were received from Cllrs Godwin and Sharp and verbal updates given.

Alston & Garrigill Conservations Areas – the conservation officer for Eden should be coming back to Alston for a public consultation, and will welcome involvement in the Conservation Area appraisal. Alston has been added to the Heritage at Risk category, due to a number of factors, some of which the Townscape Heritage Initiative aims to address.

Social media – Cllr LS will share information on Facebook, but will not engage in discussion.

New directory to signpost services for local residents – this has been posted on the Eden District Council website and is a list of organisations offering practical help.

The former St Paul's Methodist Church – has been boarded up by the owners following the planning enforcement procedure. Officers undertook a compliance site visit, and were satisfied, but there are still pigeons and the gutters are still full of vegetation, and a question over whether part of the roof is missing. These concerns have been forwarded to building control.

Dementia training event – to be held on 7th November and open to anyone wishing to attend.

County and District surgeries – it is intended to start holding regular surgeries, which will be advertised, and it is hoped the parish council will get involved. Another idea is to put a noticeboard in the Town Hall to provide information on all council representatives, with information on what they do.

Community grants – the next round of Eden District Council grants will open on 11th January 2019.

Universal credit – this is now being rolled out. Officers have been trained and have asked for members to get involved.

Master plan for Penrith – there are concerns that the 4,000 houses planned for Beacon Edge in Penrith could reduce the viability of the smaller towns, so efforts need to be directed towards avoiding a negative effect.

Eden Local Plan – this has just been adopted and will go on-line, although it is not up yet. Draft copies are available from Local Links. The ‘pile of stones’ policy is specific to Alston Moor and will enable former dwellings to be rebuilt.

6. Public open session

Residents commented that the cobbled street should be replaced, whatever the cost in money and labour. They were also concerned about safety issues with the tarmac, as vehicles travel noticeably faster on it, and wanted to know what was happening with the old cobbles.

Questions about road safety had been raised at the Traffic Management meeting, and the engineers stated that the tarmac surface is safer with greater slip resistance. The cobbles are in storage at Coppice Wood, and will be re-used on areas of low traffic if possible.

A resident urged people to read the consultation document, which in his opinion has some flaws and to pass on their comments to the County Council. There is for example no differentiation in the plans between the pavement and road surface. Residents should also look out for the consultation events.

The plans have been divided into ‘gold, silver and bronze’, the final decision on which to go for will depend upon finance. It was explained that surveys have demonstrated that traffic moves more slowly when there are no raised kerbs.

There was concern that no-one knows what the plans are for the Potato Market.

It was confirmed that no decisions have been made yet, and that the funding for the Potato Market is entirely separate from the Front Street works. Alston Moor Partnership are managing the funds, and are working with the County Council on a scheme, which will be shared with the community and displayed in at least two places.

7. Planning applications

7a/NOV/18 18/0806 Full application. Conversion of redundant school buildings into two dwellings. The Old National School, The Butts, Alston CA9 3JQ for Mr W. McNab.

Cllr AM declared an interest as a neighbour.

Recommended for approval. Proposed by Cllr CH and seconded by Cllr MS (6+ 2- 5 abs)

7b/NOV/18 18/0830 Tree works (CA) G1 Cypress x2: Remove trees (outgrown location and dominating the view); G2 Cypress x 14: Remove overgrown hedge/screen; T1 Willow: Reduce crown to side of house to create 2m clearance. Crown raise over drive to 3m, prune 1m ‘window’ around telephone wires; Alston Conservation Area. Dorville, Front Street, Alston CA9 3SG for Mr T.A. Thompson.

Cllr RM declared an interest.

Recommended for approval. Proposed by Cllr DA and seconded by Cllr AG. (12+1 abs)

7c/NOV/18 18/0847 Full application. Proposed installation of 4 no. rooflights. Churchgates Cottage, Front Street, Alston CA9 3HU for Mr & Mrs I. Walton.

Recommended for approval. Proposed by Cllr CH and seconded by Cllr HH (9 + 5 abs)

7d/NOV/18 18/00672 Garrill Village Green noticeboard. Eden District Council wrote to explain that under the Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) (England) Regulations 2007 the proposed noticeboard appears to fall into Schedule 3, Part 1, Class 1 – functional advertisements of government departments and their agencies, local authorities... Under this class advertisement consent would not be required and the advertisement would have deemed consent if it met the following description.

- a) Is reasonably required to be displayed for the safe or efficient performance of those functions, or operation of that undertaking, and
- b) Cannot be displayed by virtue of any other specified class.

There are two options available for the parish council

1) To continue with the application as it is, which is considered to meet policy requirements and any approval granted would have the standard conditions attached to it. This option allows for all comments to be considered through the planning process

2) The other option is to withdraw the application. All interested parties would be advised.

Resolved to inform Eden District Council that the parish council would like to progress the application.

Proposed by Cllr EG and seconded by Cllr MS. (7+ 1 – 6 abs)

Decision notices

None received.

8 Rental agreement for a charging point location at Tyne Willows Pavilion with Charge My Street Ltd

A request has been received from Charge My Street for the parish council to sign a rental agreement, as owner of the pavilion, with Alston Moor Fitness Club, the tenant, and Charge My Street Ltd. The agreement is for 2 electric vehicle charging points and wireless broadband equipment for 12 months and then from year to year.

An e-mail was received last month from one of the Fitness Club directors to provide an update on the situation. An agreement in principle was made at the May 2018 meeting, and the electric charging points installed as well as a 5G connection. As the current directors were unaware that the 5G connection was going to be installed, and a member of staff complained that it was affecting her health, the 5G connection has been disabled while investigations with Public Health England are ongoing, and Charge My Street advised that a new application for the 5G installation should be made.

It was agreed to invite a representative from Charge My Street to the next council meeting to explain the 5G project and provide an update on Public Health England's opinion on the health implications of 5G.

Action CI.

9 Proposal to ask NWS for a defibrillator for Tyne Willows Pavilion and to purchase a cabinet from existing parish council funds.

The clerk reported that there is approximately £1,350 reserved for the defibrillator, but the costs of purchasing a defibrillator, cabinet and associated costs would have to be explored.

It was confirmed that the Fitness Club would like one installed on the outside wall of the pavilion and would be prepared to monitor it, but not undertake training. Agreed to follow up. **Action CI.**

10 Consultations and Correspondence

10a/NOV/18 Public toilets exemption from business rates

The Chancellor of the Exchequer has announced that public toilets will receive new mandatory business rates relief. The commitment to exempt public toilets will apply to both public and privately owned conveniences.

10b/NOV/18 Advice on Tree Surveys

A note has been received from CALC about the need to carry out intermittent checks on trees on parish council land following a legal decision, which decreed a three year cycle of tree inspections was inadequate. Agenda item for next month, as the council will need to consider appointing someone to update the last tree inspection. **Action CI.**

10c/NOV/18 Notices of events/meetings

Eden Association of Local Councils - 8th November 2018

CALC AGM – 10th November 2018

Carol Service – 17th December at St Andrew's Church, Penrith

10d/NOV/18 Information received

Alston Police newsletter – November 2018

Coal Authority update

CALC 2018 Annual Report

Local Council Review – Autumn 2018

11 Administration

11a/NOV/18 Proposal to accept the revised application form for co-option of new councillors

Due to the lateness of the hour this item is to be held over to next month.

11b/NOV/18 Proposal to accept the revised annual donation/grant and grants policy request form

The clerk pointed out that as the council had resolved to change their policy on annual donations the existing form had to be revised, and until this was agreed organisations could not be contacted about their plans for the following year.

Resolved to accept the revised annual donation form and grants policy request form. Proposed by Cllr AM and seconded by Cllr MS. (nem con)

11c/NOV/18 Approval of revised policies

Resolved to approve the updated Freedom of Information policy, Protocol on the recording and filming of council meetings, Press and media policy, Retention of documents policy, and Dignity at work policy. Proposed by Cllr GW and seconded by Cllr EG. (13+ 1 abs)

11d/NOV/18 Proposal to ask CALC to organise a training session to support the implementation of the dignity at work and social media policies.

Resolved to ask CALC to organise a training session to support the implementation of the Dignity at work and social media policies. Proposed by Cllr AM and seconded by Cllr MS. (9+ 5 abs)

11e/NOV/18 Precept meeting

The clerk pointed out that the week following the January council meeting was the usual time to hold the precept meeting as Eden District Council were unable to supply information on the Council Tax Reduction scheme or the Council Tax base figure until late December. Organisations would also not have the usual length of time to get their reports back if the meeting were to be moved forward.

Resolved to move the meeting forward to 10th December at the request of Cllr AG. Proposed by Cllr GW and seconded by Cllr JG. (nem con).

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

A request was made to discuss the white lines on the road at Yad Moss.

13. Finance

13a/NOV/18 Bank statements

The statements as 31st October 2018 were as follows:-

Alston Moor Parish Council tr/ac	£51,879.94
Alston Moor Parish Council bus/ac	£12,688.71
Eden Credit Union	£7,008.58

13b/NOV/18 Accounts for Payment

The following accounts were for payment:-

<i>Summary of accounts for payment: -</i>	£991.31
<i>Summary of income received since last meeting: -</i>	£6,736.00
<i>Summary of accounts paid since last meeting: -</i>	£1,172.44

Resolved that sufficient funds are held in balances for the clerk to be authorised to settle all the accounts listed in appendix 1. Proposed by Cllr GW and seconded by Cllr DA (13+ 1 abs)

13c/NOV/18 Acceptance of Financial Statement

Resolved to accept the financial statement to 31st October 2018. Proposed by Cllr GW and seconded by Cllr RM (10+ 4 abs)

The meeting closed at 10.10 pm

Signed:

Dated:

