



# ALSTON MOOR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Alston Moor Parish Council held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at 7pm in the Masonic Hall.

**Present:** Cllrs: A. Martin (Chair), D. Athey, B. Aves, M. Denoual, A. Green, E. Grew, J. Glendinning, P. Godwin, T. Haldon, C. Harrison, H. Ho, R. Miller, L. Moncrieff, G. Wright.

**Apologies:** Cllr: M. Shepherd.

**Absent:** none

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

## **1. Minutes**

**Resolved** that the minutes of the parish council meeting held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2019 be agreed as a correct record. Proposed by Cllr Glendinning and seconded by Cllr Aves. (14+ 1 abs)

### **1a Report from 5GRIT on 5g proposals for Alston Moor**

Representatives from Charge My Street, Quickline, Lancaster University and the North Pennines AONB attended the meeting. The chair had prepared a list of questions, which were answered on paper and copies circulated to those present.

It was explained that as an organisation Cybermoor has always been keen to look at new digital innovations, and aimed to explore how 5g technology could benefit Alston Moor. The team have obtained government funding to test out 5g in rural areas covering parts of Scotland including Invernesshire, Monmouthshire and Lincolnshire as well as Alston.

The intent in Alston is to use the existing Mount Hooley mast and using the TV whitespace which was freed up when the TV channels switched over to digital. They will also use 5.8 GHz currently used by WiFi networks and broadband services and 863-870 MHz radio frequencies, which is similar to digital television channels. This technology has been used successfully in the USA and Canada.

They are aware of concerns about health risks, but the equipment intended for Alston will use less power than broadcast TV transmissions which are on continuously, and will only transmit when data is being sent. There have been safety trials funded by government experts who have looked at the technical reports and are happy that the proposals conform. Higher frequencies will not be used on Alston Moor.

Nenthead Mines has the only live connection at present, with the aim of improving visitor experience. They are also hoping to work with upland farms to identify how they could benefit from 5g. There is a serious issue with sheep rustling, so sensors on the sheep or on gates could help keep track of illegal activities. There may be other identifiable uses, arable farmers in North Yorkshire are looking to use drones to count crops. The project also aims to benefit tourists and local people by providing virtual reality and augmented reality apps, with the aim of encouraging visitors to extend their visit and find out more about the area. The project finishes in September.

#### *Questions and answers*

Any eligible households wishing to be part of the trial will be able to apply for a connection, and will require an aerial and router, much like a TV aerial.

A copy of reports from the health and regulatory bodies will be sent to the clerk. **Action DH.**

The 5g connection is needed for the electric car charge point as the 3g/4g signal is poor and users cannot use the app on their phone to activate the charger. 5g would provide a WiFi connection, so users do not have to plug in their car and then go as far as the Town Hall to log in.

The scheme costs between £60 -£100k funded by a DCMS grant and contributions from Cybermoor and Quickline for the work around Alston Moor.

Concerns from Gateshead about 5g are unfounded as Gateshead Council have confirmed they do not have 5g, but they are upgrading their street lights to LED.

When the trial ends in September it will be partially supported by the North Pennines AONB and Quickline. If the services proves commercially viable, it will be kept going, but if there is not enough interest it will eventually be turned off. However there are potential benefits for households that currently

don't get access to superfast broadband. It is not necessary to have sight of Mount Hooley for a connection to work.

The ambulance cannot contact control in some places on Alston Moor, 5g might bring about improvements but not for everywhere. The team agreed to discuss this with NWAS, and asked for contract details. **Action AM/EG.**

The 5g should not interfere with existing TV signals, WiFi automatically selects the most appropriate channel.

There is a legacy of redundant cables around Alston that the parish council would like removed. As DH knows which are active he agreed to work with Quickline to get the redundant cables taken down. **Action Cybermoor/Quickline.**

### **1b Public Participation**

*Request to use part of the spectrum has to be agreed with Ofcom, who know where the TV channels are, and there should be no interference with TV signals. The TV whitespace has been used for 100 years without any evidence of health risks. It has been suggested there will be more data in the airwaves. The team have had discussions with experts at King's College and agreed that there will be a relatively small amount of data compared to the old TV signals which broadcast 24 hours.*

*The team will get further advice on insurance and will report back. **Action DH.***

*The team are working with tourism providers to gain an understanding of how tourists use the app, they will be happy to discuss the research findings with the parish council.*

## **2. Progress Reports**

### **2a/MAR/19 Alston & Nenthead Bring Sites**

Re: 2d/FEB/19 An e-mail was received from Eden District Council stating that the contractors did not consider additional bins necessary for Alston, as records showed that there was some spare capacity. They will monitor the site to assess if any more bins are needed.

### **2b/MAR/19 Overhanging branches – The Firs**

Re: 2e/FEB/19 Cumbria Highways have taken down the tree overhanging the BT lines.

### **2c/MAR/19 Ashgill footpaths**

Re: 2f/FEB/19 Cumbria County Council Rights of Way team have not heard from the Weardale Estate about a proposal to dedicate the path from Ashgill bridge or plans for diverting the footpath around the buildings at Ashgill Farm.

The clerk was asked to write again to Weardale Estates to enquire about progress. **Action CI.**

### **2d/MAR/19 Alston Moor Fitness Club amendment to report**

Re: 3d/FEB/19 An e-mail was received from the Fitness Club to correct an error in the report given last month that they were concentrating on weight training at the expense of other equipment. They stated that only one treadmill is out of action, with other equipment: rowing machine, exercise bikes, cross trainer and the other treadmill being used regularly. There is also a private low impact room.

### **2e/MAR/19 Nenthead playarea litter bin**

Re: 3e/FEB/18 The playarea committee have been in contact with Eden District Council to say they want to replace the litter bin with one of their own choosing.

### **2f/MAR/19 Nenthead Gala Funding**

Re: 3e/FEB/18 An e-mail was received from the Gala treasurer to say that the committee has resigned, with no-one new coming forward, and they have not been approached by the village hall committee about running the gala. The donation was put towards the cost of music and other entertainment.

They have been asked to complete the annual donation report, and to send a copy of the accounts and a recent bank statement.

The clerk to issue a reminder to send in the report and financial details. **Action CI.**

### **2g/MAR/19 Comex restoration works**

Re: 3g/FEB/18 Comex confirmed they never leave a site without rectifying all remedial works, but the challenging conditions on Hartside meant that due to the weather some things had to be left before the final re-instatement work can be carried out. When the project is complete the whole works will be inspected with a council representative and anything that fails will be rectified.

### **2h/MAR/19 Response from Rory Stewart MP on Front Street re-development**

Re: 3h/FEB/18 An e-mail was received stating that Rory Stewart MP has written to the Chief Executive and Assistant director of Highways at Cumbria County Council to ask for the replacement of the setts to take priority, while the Front Street Redevelopment Plan takes a back seat. He has requested a plan with costings, and will let us know when he receives a reply.

### **2i/MAR/19 Application to the Community Housing Fund**

Re: 8/FEB/18 The application has been submitted and acknowledged.

### **2j/MAR/19 CCTV systems**

Re: 12a/FEB/18 A reply was received from the Police to say that 10 towns in Cumbria are interested in buying into the CCTV scheme. Indicative costs are at present approx. £6,008 for a camera unit. Annual maintenance around £800 with no costs for monitoring. They have not succeeded in identifying any funding streams.

### **2k/MAR/19 Footway lighting**

Re: 12b/FEB/18 Prior to organising a meeting the clerk contacted Askham parish council to enquire about progress with replacing footway lighting on houses that Eden District Council deemed unsuitable. Although suggestions had been made earlier for a parish-run lighting scheme, Askham parish council decided they would rely on individuals to provide lights on houses for most of their lighting. They intend to hold further discussion with Eden about recommending suitable lights, but at present all their lights are working.

Eden District Council were also contacted and have provided answers to questions raised, and are willing to discuss them with the council if requested.

**Ownership** – electricity poles are owned by ENWL, and the bracket light owned by EDC. Lighting columns are owned by EDC; for lights on buildings, the bracket light is owned by EDC with permission from the property owner with wayleaves.

**Lights 18 & 28 – Norwood & 2 School Terrace** – the lights could be upgraded as they have separate control boxes, unlike the majority of lights on buildings, but Eden are unable to do this due to their policy of not replacing lights on buildings. They are unable to assist with funding should the parish council wish to upgrade them, but could ask for a quote from the contractor. No decision on who this will be has been made yet. The lights will have to meet the specifications required by ENWL for using the feeder pillars for street furniture.

If the council wanted to go down the route of installing their own light when the existing ones fail, they would not need to meet the specifications for footway lighting. To do this permission would be needed from the property owner to use their supply and come to an agreement on a contribution to their electricity bills.

**Light 24 – 1a Holmesfoot** – this is included in the Cumbria County Council lighting scheme along with lights 17,40,41,44 and 85 as it falls within the zone they are covering. (Note light 17 – 10 Vicarage Terrace - was included in the agreed lights, but not lights 40-85.)

**Sole use poles** – if the parish council were to adopt a sole use pole, it would require a maintenance programme and eventual replacement. Eden are unable to provide costs so the council would have to liaise with ENWL. If the pole is not adopted, Eden will continue to maintain it until the end of March 2022. The light would only be removed if it is condemned by their contractor or they receive notice from ENWL that the light will be removed. If the light is still in position after March 2022 it will remain in place until it fails. It is the responsibility of the owner to remove any columns that fail. ENWL are only responsible for the removal of lights on poles that they have given notice on. Eden are aware there are some old columns still in situ, and they will be arranging for these to be removed in the new financial year.

As the council will shortly be going into purdah before the elections, and there are cost implications which are currently unknown, the council may want to wait until after the May meeting before setting up a working group meeting.

Noted that Eden's programme of footway light removal is resulting in dark spots around Alston and the villages, so there is a task in identifying where these are. Sites on The Firs and along the Nenthead Road were mentioned.

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

### **3a/MAR/19 Alston Moor Care Alliance & Ambulance meeting report**

No new meetings have been held. However, a meeting is to be held on 20<sup>th</sup> March for anyone interested in becoming a Community First Responder. Posters will go out about it, with the hope that a number of people will be interested.

It was mentioned by an emergency medical technician that the hospital might not be suitable for garaging the ambulance as the road up to it is not gritted. Cllrs thought this was a matter that could be addressed and requested that it be put on the next Traffic Management meeting.

### **3b/MAR/19 Alston Moor Partnership**

No further meetings have been held.

### **3c/MAR/19 Fitness Club working group**

Nothing further has been heard about meeting with the directors, who said they would contact the group. Agreed that this should be followed up as the council needs to know what is happening. **Action Working Group.**

United Utilities have determined that there were two connections on the pipe line to the pavilion, so would be responsible themselves for dealing with leaks.

### **3d/MAR/19 Tree survey working group**

The group have not met yet, and were asked to carry out the survey this month. **Action Working Group.**

### **3e/MAR/19 Publicity working group**

The group met and agreed that they would like to encourage people to stand for elections, especially as a number of councillors are planning to retire. A draft leaflet was circulated, with revisions to be agreed. It will be printed on 2 sides of A5 and the group were looking for volunteers to assist with distribution.

**Resolved** to print and distribute leaflets to all household to encourage new people to stand for elections. Proposed by Cllr Haldon and seconded by Cllr Martin. (nem con)

Cllrs Grew and Denoual offered to help with Garrigill and the Nenthead area.

### **3f/MAR/19 Front Street Steering Group**

The chair reported that she has been invited to attend a meeting of the Front Street Steering Group tomorrow in Penrith, but will use Skype to attend.

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

*Apologies from Cllr Driver who is attending another parish council meeting.*

### **District Councillor's Report**

*Reports were received from Cllrs Godwin & Sharp.*

**Footway lights** – a request has been made for a properly-explained breakdown of costs to replace footway lights that are not on the approved Eden District Council list.

**EDC council tax** – has been signed off. Eden's council tax has not gone up, and the parish council's went down this year, but Cumbria County Council has had to increase to take into account increasing costs for social care and policing.

**Planning meetings** – consideration is being given to changes to presentations from the public, who currently are invited to make a presentation and can then be questioned, which can be grueling.

**Mole damage** – it has been confirmed that moles are not on the list of pests.

**Damaged wall at Park View Lane** – this was damaged by a bin lorry a year or so ago, but although a number of people were said to have witnessed the incident after the time delay it has been difficult to pinpoint which one was responsible. Discussions have been ongoing with the County Council about the repairs. The steps and path are to be fixed next week.

It was suggested that the damage might have been reported to Penrith Town Hall when the incident took place.

## **5. Planning applications**

**5a/MAR/19** 19/0078 For information. Reserved matters Discharge of condition 3 (environmental management plan) attached to approval 17/0362 Field near the Old Chapel, Nentsberry, Alston for the Coal Authority.

**5b/MAR/19** 19/0122 Listed building. New porch. Riverside, The Brewery, Alston CA9 3PR for S. & S. Storey.

**Recommended** for approval. Proposed by Cllr Martin and seconded by Cllr Athey. (12+ 2 abs)

**5c/MAR/19** 19/0130 Full application. Outdoor equestrian centre. Ghyll House, Alston CA9 3BL for Mr D.

Watson.

**Recommended** for approval. Proposed by Cllr Wright and seconded by Cllr Aves. (13+ 1 abs)

### **Decision notices**

None received.

### **6 Replacement noticeboard for Nenthead**

It was reported that the posts are still usable and that a recycled plastic noticeboard would be acceptable.

**Resolved** to allocate £200 towards a replacement noticeboard, with the suggestion that the remaining costs be raised by the community.

### **7 Consultations and Correspondence**

#### **7a/MAR/19 Eden District Council – Housing Supplementary Planning Document**

Eden District Council are producing a Housing Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) which will provide further guidance on the housing policies in the Eden Local Plan 2014-2032. There will be an informal consultation followed a formal public consultation at a later date. Comments should be submitted by Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

Agreed to forward individual comments to the clerk. **Action all.**

#### **7b/MAR/19 Alston War Memorial**

An e-mail was received from Historic England stating that they are considering adding Alston War Memorial to the List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest. They will assess the memorial before making a recommendation to the Secretary of State as to whether the building should be on the list. Further information or comments about the memorial can be sent at this stage, and following the preliminary assessment they will contact the parish council again to send a copy of the consultation report.

Cllr Glendinning offered to help with the process. **Action JG.**

#### **7c/MAR/19 CCC Working together**

Information has been received about the Cumbria County Council Working Together initiative with a list of questions and answers about it on their webpage. They aim to get in touch with parish councils from April 2019 to discuss what agreements could be put in place. There will be the opportunity to attend workshops, and a dedicated Working Together Officer appointed to work with each parish to understand how they would like to enhance the local environment and the additional services they would like undertaken. From this, bespoke agreements will be created to suit individual needs. An activity matrix listing what low/medium risk activities could be undertaken can be found on the webpage.

#### **7d/MAR/19 Draft Council Plan 2019-2023 Consultation**

Eden District Council have invited parish councils to comment on the draft Council Plan for 2019-2023 setting out the vision for Eden over the next 4 years. The three main priorities are Council – efficiency and cost effectiveness; Economy – supporting business, tourism and communities; and Health and Wellbeing – homes, warmth, happiness and health. The deadline for a response is 19<sup>th</sup> March.

The clerk was asked to re-send the document for members to complete as individuals. Cllrs Martin and Wright agreed to respond on behalf of the parish council. **Action.**

#### **7e/MAR/19 Notices of events/meetings**

Final draft Community Plan meeting – 6<sup>th</sup> March

Community Food Growing & Local Food Enterprise site visits 8<sup>th</sup> March & 20<sup>th</sup> March

EALC & CCC workshop on Supportive Communities – 20<sup>th</sup> March

NWAS – Become a CFR in Alston Moor – drop in session 20<sup>th</sup> March

EALC & EDC workshop on Trees – 10<sup>th</sup> April 2019

#### **7f/MAR/19 Information received**

Police newsletter

Clerk & Councillors Direct – March 2019

Coal Authority update on open meeting 28<sup>th</sup> February 2019

### **8 Administration**

#### **8a/MAR/19 Report & acceptance of risk assessment review & financial regulations**

**Resolved** to accept the risk assessment review undertaken by the working group, noting that the council only has public liability for its assets. Proposed by Cllr Wright and seconded by Cllr Grew. (nem com)

**8b/MAR/19 Draft volunteer policy**

The risk assessment meeting recommended putting together a volunteer policy for use by both parish council and Alston town hall. (circulated)

**Resolved** to accept the volunteer policy. Proposed by Cllr Wright and seconded by Cllr Denoual. (nem con)

**8c/MAR/19 Parish Council elections**

The timetable for the elections has been drawn up starting with the publication of the notice of election on 20<sup>th</sup> March. Nomination papers, which have to be delivered to Eden District Council by hand can be delivered from the date stated on the notice of election until 3<sup>rd</sup> April.

**8d/MAR/19 Annual Parish Meeting Planning**

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on the 16<sup>th</sup> April 2019. It was agreed to invite prospective district and parish councillors to speak. Other suggestions for the agenda to be discussed. Garrigill members reported that they will hold a separate hustings in Garrigill.

**9 Items for next month's agenda/urgent business**

None received.

**10. Finance**

**10a/MAR/19 Bank statements**

The statements as of 28<sup>th</sup> February 2019 were as follows:-

Alston Moor Parish Council tr/ac	£41,760.47.70
Alston Moor Parish Council bus/ac	£12,695.04
Eden Credit Union	£7,008.58

**10b/MAR/19 Accounts for Payment**

The following accounts were for payment:-

<i>Summary of accounts for payment: -</i>	£1,056.39
<i>Summary of income received since last meeting: -</i>	£50.00
<i>Summary of accounts paid since last meeting: -</i>	£796.92

**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 Wright and seconded by Cllr Aves. (12+ 2 abs)

**11 NALC recommendations on update to parish council employee pay scales & clerk's contract**

Held in confidence.

*The meeting closed at 8.35 pm.*

Signed: .....

Dated: .....