



## ALSTON MOOR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the annual meeting of Alston Moor Parish Council held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2019 at 7pm in Alston Town Hall.

**Present:** Cllrs: A. Martin (Chair), D. Athey, M. Denoual, J. Glendinning, A. Green, E. Grew, T. Haldon, M. Hanley, C. Harrison, H. Ho, A. Holt, R. Miller.

**Apologies:** Cllr G. Wright.

**Absent:** none

**Declarations of interest:** listed under specific agenda items. Cllr Holt declared an interest in 10/MAY/19

A minute silence was held for Dick Phillips and Jean Ryding who both died recently and had served on the council for many years.

It was suggested cllrs look at planning applications before 7pm, and before the meeting.

### **Election of Chair & Vice-chair**

**Resolved** to appoint Cllr Martin as chair.

**Resolved** to appoint Cllr Wright as vice-chair.

### **Election of Committees/working groups/representatives**

#### ***Finance working group***

**Resolved** to appoint Cllrs Haldon, Harrison and Ho.

#### ***Community Plan working group***

A request has been received from the chair of Alston Moor Partnership that the council appoints representatives onto a steering group.

**Resolved** to appoint Cllrs Martin and Denoual.

#### ***Community Volunteering working group***

**Resolved** to appoint Cllrs Miller, Ho, Denoual, Glendinning and Grew.

#### ***Alston Ambulance garage working group***

**Resolved** to appoint Cllrs Grew and Denoual and to co-opt others as required.

#### ***Tyne Willows Pavilion working group***

**Resolved** to hold over setting up the working group until new directors are appointed.

### **Election of Council Representatives**

#### ***Alston Alliance***

**Resolved** to appoint Cllrs Grew and Hanley, with Cllr Denoual appointed to attend if either were unable to attend.

#### ***Alston Moor Traffic Management***

**Resolved** to appoint Cllrs Athey, Grew and Wright.

#### ***Alston Moor Community Transport***

**Resolved** to appoint Cllr Athey, with Cllr Martin attending as a reserve.

#### ***Alston Moor Partnership***

**Resolved** to appoint Cllr Holt.

#### ***Alston United Charity Nenthead representative***

A letter was received from the vicar asking that a new representative be appointed as Cllr Wright had been unable to attend any of the meetings.

It was agreed to hold over until the two co-opted Cllrs have been appointed.

#### ***Representatives for Appleby Fair week 28 May – 4 June***

**Resolved** to appoint Cllr Athey

#### ***Tree Wardens***

**Resolved** to appoint Cllrs Green and Athey.

#### ***Tyne Willows Management Board***

**Resolved** to appoint Cllrs Miller, Glendinning and Ho.

***Dementia Alliance meetings***

Resolved to appoint Cllrs Ho and Grew.

***Alston Ambulance meetings***

**Resolved** to appoint Cllrs Grew and Denoual

**Resolved** to accept all appointments. Proposed by Cllr Martin and seconded by Cllr Grew. (nem con)

**1. Minutes**

**Resolved** that the minutes of the parish council meeting held on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 be agreed as a correct record. Proposed by Cllr Harrison and seconded by Cllr Athey. (12+1 abs)

**2. Progress Reports**

**2a/MAY/19 Ashgill footpaths**

Re: 7/APR/19 Correspondence from Weardale Estates has been circulated, requesting the council to consider the points raised about the accessibility of footpath 302008 where it passes through the farmyard. It was agreed that users would prefer not to go through the farmyard, but the council would prefer to see the path diverted around it, and considered that there would be objections from users if an application were made to extinguish this section of the footpath. It is not necessary to link this issue with the dedication of the route from Ashgill Bridge, which had historically been thought to be on the definitive map (definitive map version 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 1976).

**Resolved** to wait up to 4 weeks for Weardale Estates from writing to ask them to decide if they are willing to dedicate the path from Ashgill Bridge. Subject to no agreement being reached the parish council will initiate a claim to add the path to the definitive map. **Action CI.**

**2b/MAY/19 Alston War Memorial notification of designation**

Re: MAR/19 The Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport has decided to add Alston War Memorial to the List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest. The building is now listed at Grade II.

Cllr Glendinning was thanked for his assistance. He reported that the names from WW1 will be loaded onto the Imperial War Museum database. He has been asked to make enquiries on behalf of the Nenthall War Memorial.

The wall around the memorial will need some work doing on it at some point in the future. A request to get the wrongly spelt name corrected was made. **Action JG.**

**2c/MAY/19 Electric Car Charge Point at Tyne Willows**

Re: 3e/APR/19 It has been confirmed with Charge My Street that the two electric charge points and associated broadband equipment have been insured by them. The gym were notified and advised to inform their insurance company. Charge My Street also confirmed that the broadband equipment is the same as that supplied by Quickline to other residential customers.

A question was asked during last month's public participation session about the consultation carried out by Charge My Street. Details were provided by Charge My Street and forwarded to the resident along with a copy of the lease agreement and application to Fields in Trust. The wider issue of 5G is beyond the powers of the parish council to address and councillors are advised to refer any future queries and concerns to our MP.

It was observed that an elderly couple had tried to use the electric charge point without success. Members were asked why Charge My Street had been used rather than other local companies. The local connection with Cybermoor was explained.

The clerk was asked to enquire when the broadband will go live. **Action CI.**

**2d/MAY/19 CALC Tree Workshop**

Re: 3/APR/19 The clerk attended the Tree Workshop last month. Amongst the advice given is that it is advisable to carry out a visual survey following heavy storms. The other most useful point is that a written record should be kept of all surveys, so it is important that the two council volunteers who carried out the recent survey confirm with the clerk which of the listed trees needed branches trimmed, and that the condition of the others at the time of survey had not changed.

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

#### **3a/MAY/19 Traffic Management meeting**

A report from the Garrigill representative was circulated. There were no questions.

#### **3b/MAY/19 Alston Moor Care Alliance & Ambulance meeting report**

Reports were circulated, noting that the Alston Moor Care Alliance group did not meet last month. The next step with the ambulance garage is for one or more of the volunteers to meet with a representative from the NHS to discuss the suitability of the existing site for a garage. A further request has gone out for a meeting.

In the meantime it was suggested that a meeting with the ambulance team would be useful, but the decision was left to the discretion of those involved. **Action EG.**

#### **3c/MAY/19 Alston Moor Partnership**

No further meetings have been held.

#### **3d/MAY/19 Fitness Club working group**

No meetings were held.

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

*Apologies from Cllr Driver:*

A written report was circulated and noted.

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

*Cllr Sharp and Cllr Hanley*

**Alston Moor Housing Survey** – the housing survey has been finalized and should be ready for distribution over the next couple of weeks to all households. Residents are urged to fill it in, the responses will affect what Alston Moor's future buildings will look like. It is being advertised through social media and posters, and will also go out to businesses. The opportunity is there to consider workshop space attached to houses, a super aging population, the needs of young people etc.

**Environment and Economy** – an independent review of services is being carried out with the report planned for November 2019. The public has been asked for feedback. It is especially relevant as contracts will be coming up for tender next year.

**Community Plan launch** – Cllr Sharp presented a report on young people and commended the Community Plan which could be a good funding tool for all sections of the community. Local groups and representatives from meetings were consulted during the consultation process.

**Cumberland & Westmorland Herald drop-in sessions** – a reporter from the paper will be at the Town Hall on the first and third Fridays of the month to hold drop in sessions for anyone interested in speaking to him.

**District Council composition** – there is now a hung council with new groupings amongst the various parties.

### **5. Public participation**

*A resident questioned the December 2018 minutes relating to the report from Charge My Street and the parish council resolution.*

(Note: members found it difficult to recall the item in question at the time. With hindsight the questioner was probably asking why 5G had been agreed but subsequently broadband had been installed).

Members pointed out that they were happy with the concept of electric charge points at the pavilion, but had not fully understood what Charge My Street meant by 5G.

*A further question related to the consultation carried out by Charge My Street on social media, and the application to Fields in Trust for electric car charge points.*

(Note: Charge My Street carried out the consultation, and were contacted to ask what this entailed to inform the FiT application.)

**Resolved** to move to next business.

### **6. Planning applications**

**6a/MAY/19** 19/0250 Full application. Replacement of existing agricultural building with general purpose agricultural building. Lambsgate Farm, Alston CA9 3LD for Mr & Mrs R. Tebbs.

**Recommended** for approval. Proposed by Cllr Green and seconded by Cllr Holt. (10+3 abs)

**6b/MAY/19** 19/0266 Full application. Change of use of agricultural land to campsite with WC facilities. Lambsgate Farm, Alston CA9 3LD for Mr & Mrs R. Tebbs.

**Recommended** for approval. Proposed by Cllr Green and seconded by Cllr Holt (6+ 1 – 6 abs)

#### **Decision notices**

**6i/MAY/19** 19/0122 Listed building. Listed building consent for rear porch. Riverside, The Brewery, Alston CA9 3RP for S. & S. Storey. Permission granted with conditions.

**6ii/MAY/19** 19/0124 Full application. Replacement of timber conservatory, windows and doors with UPVC and external alterations. Linden House, Kings Arms Lane, Alston CA9 3JF for Mr & Mrs Cox. Permission granted with conditions.

**6iii/MAY/19** 19/0130 Full application. Outdoor equestrian arena. Ghyll House, Alston CA9 3BL for Mr D. Watson. Permission granted with conditions.

**6vi/MAY/19** 19/0133 Full application. Erection of rear porch. Riverside, The Brewery, Alston CA9 3RP for S. & S. Storey. Permission granted with conditions.

#### **Additional matters**

**6v/MAY/19** Some council members had been asked about the works at the top of Whitfield. This has been confirmed as a booster station for Facebook.

**6vi/MAY/19** The clerk was asked to write to the owners of Steel House to ask what plans they have for the building and the timescale for when it is going to be renovated. The building is in a prominent position and deteriorating. **Action CI.**

### **7. All Victorian style footway lighting not adopted by CCC – to consider adoption subject to CCC upgrading the lights to LEDs**

Following discussions between Eden District Council and Cumbria County Council an offer has been made by the County to fit the lights that are not on Eden's approved list with LEDs. Eden are willing for them to do this on condition the parish council adopts them.

The majority of these lights are in King's Arms Lane, The Butts, but include the light on 2 Townfoot, which lights the point where a wall juts out onto the pavement, and Norwood, which lights the access to the playing field. If the lights are not adopted Eden will keep them until they fail.

It was mentioned to new members that the issue of the footway lights has a long history and it would be helpful to ask former district councillors to explain.

**Resolved** to adopt the Victorian style footway lights that Cumbria County Council are able to convert to LEDs. Proposed by Cllr Haldon and seconded by Cllr Harrison. (7+ 2- 4 abs)

### **8. SKS request for the parish council to carry out recommended tree works on Tyne Willows**

SKS carry out regular tree surveys, which includes Tyne Willows Playing Field and have obtained one quote for the works recommended. (The survey report has been circulated). The work has been prioritised with two tasks listed as more urgent: removing a snapped branch from a spruce tree and clearing a failed branch in a willow. The council needs to consider what it wants to do with the report and what actions to take, but has been advised that no work should be carried out during the bird breeding season.

It was agreed to set up a meeting with Cllrs Athey and Green to review the tasks. **Action CI.**

### **9. Request from SKS to move the gate into Tyne Willows Playing Fields or the recycling bins to allow easier access onto the field**

The suggestion of moving the gate was made during a site visit with an officer from Eden District Council held to discuss additional recycling bins, but no decision was taken as the district council's contractors did not think it necessary. However, some of the bins are obstructing the gate.

The padlock has also been damaged, and contact made with the Environment Agency about repairing it and supplying additional keys. The clerk has agreed to inform them of the outcome of the decision on moving the gate.

There are other issues to consider if the EA take time to deal with the gate as the Appleby Fair travellers are due to arrive around the 28<sup>th</sup> May. Eden intend to lock the recycling bins on 24<sup>th</sup> May for two weeks.

As the ground is soft beyond the gate entrance members were advised to leave the gate where it is, and to make sure the recycling bins do not obstruct it. Cllr Harrison was asked to check with the farming community if they had any plans to put down extra hardstanding. **Action CH.**

If the Environment Agency have not taken any action by the 28<sup>th</sup> May the clerk was asked to obtain a temporary padlock. **Action CI.**

Noted that Eden District Council want to encourage residents to use the green bins rather than the recycling centres.

#### **10. Nenthead Playarea Community Grant application**

Circulated. An application has been received for a grant of £300 towards rejuvenating Nenthead Play Area with new equipment and activities.

Cllr Holt declared an interest as a committee member.

**Resolved** to grant the sum of £300 to Nenthead Play Area. Proposed by Cllr Ho and seconded by Cllr Athey. (nem con)

#### **11. Safer crossing for pupils and pedestrians at Townfoot**

The Traffic Management group asked for a pedestrian crossing near the Spar, but were advised by Highways that their survey did not indicate that the road was busy enough to warrant this.

Cllr Miller reported that there had been a near miss recently involving a child. A 'Safer Routes to School' scheme had operated at the old primary school, and could be considered here. It was agreed that the County Council should be asked again at the next Traffic Management meeting to consider what can be done to improve safety. **Action CI.**

#### **12. Alston Fitness Club**

Cllr Martin reported that she is concerned about the situation at the gym, and counselled keeping a watching brief, since it is a community asset. Members were invited to find out what help is needed.

It was reported that there are two new directors to be appointed, including someone who is a personal trainer, and that £10k has been obtained for equipment. Agreed to help where possible.

#### **13. Consultations and Correspondence**

##### **13a/MAY/19 Report from Alston Moor Fitness Club**

A report was received from the directors of Alston Moor gym to say that the funds allocated will be going towards the maintenance and repair of the pavilion exterior. Scheduled works include painting the exterior walls, renewing rotten fascia's, cladding new fascias and soffits, and new rainwater goods. The funds will be put towards materials, with a reliance on volunteer labour. Members have been invited to help paint the exterior walls.

##### **13b/MAY/19 Cumberland & Westmorland Herald drop-in surgeries**

Reported by the district councillors.

##### **13c/MAY/19 Notices of events/meetings**

CALC training session on 22<sup>nd</sup> June. Cllrs Denoual, Holt, Ho, and Martin were interested in attending.  
North Pennines AONB Partnership Annual Forum – 22 May 2019

##### **13d/MAY/19 Information received**

Police report

CALC newsletter

Local Council Review – Spring 2019

Clerks & Councils Direct – May 2019

Nenthead Ward Meeting 20 May.

Free Sunday roast at chapel 19 May 2pm

Garrigill Ward meeting 15 May

#### **14. Administration**

##### **14a/MAY/19 Signatories for bank mandate**

**Resolved** to re-appoint the current signatories and to include Cllr Wright. The signatories will be Cllrs Martin, Haldon, Miller, Green, Wright and the clerk for administration purposes.

##### **14b/MAY/19 Confirmation of the Power of Competence eligibility for 2019-2023**

The parish council despite needing to co-opt two Nenthead councillors continues to be eligible for the Power of Competence.

**Resolved** that Alston Moor Parish Council meets the eligibility criteria to continue with the Power of Competence. Proposed by Cllr Holt and seconded by Cllr Denoual. (nem con)

**14c/MAY/19 Co-option of two Nenthead Councillors**

It was agreed to think about co-opting two councillors for the Nenthead Ward and to advertise the vacancies. **Action CI.**

**14d/MAY/19 Cllrs e-mail addresses and volunteer management of 1&1**

Cllr Haldon reported that a resident and former councillor had assisted with managing the council internet account, which should be put on a formal basis in the event of queries about access. There was a recent article in the Herald which questioned the use of private e-mail addresses by district councillors, and all councillors should be asked to use the e-mail address provided by the council. Cllr Martin offered to help with setting them up and suggested holding a training session. Another point for the council to consider is whether it would be helpful to purchase 15 tablets for use by members (to be returned at the end of a councillor's term of office).

The parish council and town hall Dropboxes should also be accessible to all members. Cllr Haldon was asked to circulate the Dropbox details to everyone. **Action TH.**

**Resolved** to hold a training session on the use of e-mail addresses. Proposed by Cllr Haldon and seconded by Cllr Holt. (11+ 2 abs)

**Resolved** that I. Johnson be appointed to assist with managing the council's internet access on a voluntary basis, and to be asked to set up e-mail addresses for all councillors. Proposed by Cllr Martin and seconded by Cllr Holt. (nem con)

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

Concerns about Comex works on the Hartside road should be reported to Cllr Driver as soon as possible.

**16. Finance**

**16a/MAY/19 Bank statements**

The statements as of 30<sup>th</sup> April 2019 were as follows:-

Alston Moor Parish Council tr/ac	£92,179.42
Alston Moor Parish Council bus/ac	£12,700.88
Eden Credit Union	£7,008.58

**16b/MAY/19 Accounts for Payment**

The following accounts were for payment:-

<i>Summary of accounts for payment: -</i>	£ 20,315.52
<i>Summary of income received since last meeting: -</i>	£53,917.50
<i>Summary of accounts paid since last meeting: -</i>	£993.03

An amendment requesting that the grant to Garrigill Play Area be held back due to a complaint about the frequency of grass cutting was not carried.

**Resolved** that sufficient funds are held in balances for the clerk to be authorised to settle all the accounts listed in appendix 1 with the exception of the £500 Community Grant to Alston Fitness Club, to be held over until further notice. Proposed by Cllr Haldon and seconded by Cllr Martin. (9+ 4 abs)

**16c/MAY/19 Internal audit report**

It was agreed that Cllr Martin and the clerk would meet with the internal auditor to discuss some aspects of his report that did not directly impact upon financial matters, and to request that this section be removed from the conclusion. The internal audit would be put before the council again at the next meeting. **Action CI.**

*The meeting closed at 9.20 pm.*

Signed: .....

Dated: .....

