



# ALSTON MOOR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Alston Moor Parish Council held on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> August 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, Z. Robson, L. Seaton, G. Wright.

**Apologies:** none.

**Absent:** none.

## **1. Minutes**

**Resolved** that the minutes of the parish council meeting held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2019 be agreed as a correct record. Proposed by Cllr Seaton and seconded by Cllr Haldon. (1 abs)

## **2. Public participation**

*None to report.*

## **3. Progress Reports**

### **3a/AUG/19 VE Day 75 8 -10<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

Re: 3a/JUL/19 The registration process requires the applicant to confirm what their plans are for the weekend. There is to be a meeting with Alston Moor Business Association, the vicar and representatives from Nenthead and Garrigill. The Alston group are willing to register their own event, organise some of the activities suggested on the website and keep the parish council informed, but the villages may want to register separately.

It is open to organisations, including businesses and local groups, to register their own event. Anyone wanting to organise a street party could do so separately, and as the events can take place over the whole weekend there is scope for a number of activities. The event was mentioned at the Nenthead ward meeting, Garrigill may want to organise something, but it would be best if events could be co-ordinated. Enquiries have been made about funding, and although no specific funds have been allocated yet, the County has an events funds and they and the District have community grant schemes.

### **3b/AUG/19 Invitation to police to attend a council meeting**

Re: 8/JUL/19 A police officer is willing to attend a council meeting and has been invited to the September or October meeting.

Noted that the issue of speeding is ongoing, but having a police presence in the area last month made a difference and around 40 fines were issued. Members attending the Traffic Management meeting were told that the police do not have the equipment to measure noise levels, and can only follow up modified vehicles. The speedwatch scheme can only operate in 30mph zones, with warning letters issued to offenders.

**Resolved** to write to the Police Commissioner to ask for more resources for the police to deal more effectively with the issues of speeding, noise pollution and anti-social driving. Proposed by Cllr Holt and seconded by Cllr Grew. (nem con)

### **3c/AUG/19 Appointment of Community Warden**

Re: Confidential/JUL/19 The Community Warden has been taken on as a member of staff from 1<sup>st</sup> August 2019. He has successfully completed the sharps handling course. However, there is an issue over how to dispose of any needles found. The recommended action is to take them to the police station, but this is not a practical option in Alston.

**Resolved** to ask the hospital pharmacy if they could supply the council with a sharps box. **Action CI.**

If there is an ongoing issue with disposing of any needles, it could be brought up at a health alliance meeting.

### **3d/AUG/19 Weed clearance in Alston**

15/JUL/19 As the officer responsible for managing the contracts has been on holiday, he has just picked up the request and is asking Amey for details of when weed clearance has been done, which areas and any outstanding work. This information will be forwarded to the council.

### **3e/AUG/19 Steel House/Conservation grants**

An e-mail was received from the owners of Steel House explaining the difficulties they experienced that have led to the deterioration of the property. They are disappointed that there is no grant scheme in place for exterior restoration to assist with the costs, and suggested that the parish council initiates a long-term scheme of grant aid for the conservation area.

**Resolved** to ask the clerk to draft a reply. **Action CI.**

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

### **4a/AUG/19 Alston Moor Care Alliance & Ambulance meeting report**

Notes were circulated for the ambulance meeting. The next Alliance meeting will be on 19<sup>th</sup> August.

### **4b/AUG/19 Advisory Group on Policy & Development report & ratification of appointment of chair**

The notes were circulated.

**Resolved** to confirm the appointment of Cllr Holt as chair. Proposed by Cllr Haldon and seconded by Cllr Denoual. (nem con)

Everyone was asked to sign at the end of the meeting to state that they had read and understood the Code of Conduct for members.

### **4c/AUG/19 Traffic Management Group**

A report was circulated. Members were informed that the A686 over Hartside will be closed for 3 weeks from the 23<sup>rd</sup> September, including weekends. Drivers will be able to travel by convoy between 6pm and 8am. It will only open during the day for emergency vehicles and during the first week for the Keswick bus at 11.30am.

It was pointed out that the closure will impact badly on the Alston Moor lamb sales at Lazonby on 2<sup>nd</sup> October. This is the most important day in the farming calendar, and vitally important for the farming community across the fells, with some farmers making up to 3 journeys across Hartside. Cllr Driver was asked if it would be possible to open the road, and she confirmed that she would ask, but the contractors and council were keen to avoid slippage, so ultimately it would be up to the contractors.

**Resolved** that Cllr Driver and the clerk would contact the County Council to explain the issue and to request that the road is kept open on 2<sup>nd</sup> October. **Action CI.**

Cllr Harrison agreed to forward specific details about the sale. **Action CH.**

### **4d/AUG/19 Tyne Willows representative**

Cllr Holt reported that he had attended the AGM. New directors have been appointed, and the chair has resigned as he is now a trustee of the Oaklea Trust, and felt it would be a conflict of interest. A number of good ideas were put forward, mainly revolving around the gym moving to the old primary school. The council will need to consider what could be done with the pavilion when this happens.

The issue of tyres left on the playing field needs to be taken up with the new directors. It was agreed that the council would continue to invite representatives from pavilion tenants to attend any discussions about the travellers' use of Tyne Willows. The barriers had been successful in managing parking in the past, but discussions are needed as volunteers have organised this in the past.

### **4e/AUG/19 Nenthead Ward meeting**

**Nenthead recycling centre** – it was agreed to take photos of the site on a regular basis to demonstrate how full the bins get, as Eden District Council officers said they could not justify the need for extra bins. Agreed to ask the Community Warden to help with tidying up around the bins. **Action CL/RM.**

Agreed to ask what the timetable is for the planting that was promised. **Action CI.**

**Councillors' surgery** – The Chapel have offered space in the mezzanine upstairs for ward surgeries. Noted that timing surgeries with events in the building makes a huge difference to attendance, and has worked well in Alston during the makers markets.

**Nenthead noticeboard** – thoughts are that the noticeboard needs to be somewhere between the size of the Alston one and the smaller one at Garrigill. The £200 set aside by the council will not be enough to cover the full cost, so consideration needs to be given to fundraising.

**Nenthead snowplough** – the contract is almost sorted and the County Council have agreed safety equipment for operators including high visibility jackets, and boots.

### **4f/AUG/19 War Memorial errors**

The company appointed to carry out corrections to the historic error on Alston War Memorial will carry out the work when next in the area. Cllr Glendinning agreed to talk to the relatives to explain, and will also ask the company to correct a wrong date on the Nenthall memorial.

#### **4g/AUG/19 Councillors surgery**

Comments received included:

**Road cleaning bottom of Wardway** – a resident thought this area had been missed, but a member living nearby confirmed that the sweeper comes every week.

**Green waste recycling** – residents from Kings Arms Lane, Croft Terrace and part of the Butts have an issue in that their bins have to be taken to Front Street (Town Hall) for emptying. Anyone unable to do this has to have a sick note from the doctors. Another issue is that the bins are not always picked up. They are asking for the same standard of service as elsewhere.

**5G survey** – the survey has been advertised on Facebook, and there are now hard copies in Local Links.

#### **5 County Councillor's Report**

Cllr Driver produced a video report on Youtube, which she is trying as an alternative to a written report. It has the advantage that it can be seen by more people.

**A686 Meathaw Hill closure** – social media posts and press releases will go out regularly, and have already attracted a lot of comments. There are plans to post live updates to show how the work is progressing

**Front Street steering group meeting** – will take place soon.

**Market cross net** – the intention is to follow this up as it is over two years since the pigeon problem was first reported.

**Front Street street lights** – the light opposite the Fish and Chip shop may have problems with its transformer, and has been reported. Another light near Cumbrian Pantry has had a shade added to reduce glare. The clerk was asked to confirm the light numbers with the County Council. **Action CI.**

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

*Apologies from Cllr Sharp. Cllr Hanley reported on the following (reports circulated):*

**Ecological & climate emergency** – members voted in support of action to tackle climate change by becoming a carbon neutral council. A 5 year plan is to be formulated with the draft Eden Council plan used as a starting point.

**Cumbria Health scrutiny committee** – the takeover of some services by North Tyne and Wear will it is hoped bring about improvements to youth mental health services, which have deteriorated in recent years. North Cumbria has seen improvements to children's waiting lists, down to 500 from 1,400 in December 2018 and staff sickness rates down from 12% to 3%.

#### **Questions**

**Alston ambulance** – Cllr Grew reported that she needs to arrange a meeting to discuss the ambulance garage, and may at a future stage need to involve the health scrutiny committee.

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

**6a/AUG/19** 19/0436 Advertisement consent for 1 part illuminated fascia sign, 1 illuminated logo sign and 4 non-illuminated panel signs. Co-operative Supermarket, Market Place, Alston CA9 3HS for Co-op Food Programme Delivery Orchid Group.

**Recommended** for approval. Proposed by Cllr Wright and seconded by Cllr Green. (13+ 2 abs)

**6b/AUG/19** 19/0483 Full application. Alterations and addition of velux window to existing lean to extension, rendering of brickwork and repaint gable end wall above lean to extension. 2 Stokoe House, Market Place, Alston CA9 3HS for Mr C. Barlow.

**Recommended** for approval. Proposed by Cllr Green and seconded by Cllr Wright (nem con)

**6c/AUG/19** 19/0511 Notice of Intention General purpose agricultural building. Low Galligill, Nenthead CA9 3LW for Oliver. (For information only.)

**6d/AUG/19** 19/0526 Tree Works (CA) T1 Larch: Fell tree in back garden as it is too large for garden and growing too close to a neighbour's house. T2 Ash: fell tree in back garden because it is too close to house and danger of it undermining property. Alston Conservation Area. Grange House, Townhead, Alston CA9 3SL for Mrs Patricia Gundrey.

**Recommended** for approval. Proposed by Cllr Green and seconded by Cllr Wright. (12+ 3 abs)

**6e/AUG/19** 19/0543 Advertisement consent. 1 no fascia board and 1 no wall mounted signboard. Blackstocks, Market Place, Alston CA9 3QN for Alston Wholefoods.

**Recommended** for refusal on the grounds that the sign is not in keeping with the character of the street, but the council would support a sign that is more in keeping with the area. (The concerns are that the wall mounted signboard has been positioned too high on the wall.) Proposed by Cllr Holt and seconded by Cllr Grew. (9+ 3- 3 abs)

#### **Decision notices**

**6i/AUG/19** 19/0031 Full application. Demolish existing dwelling and replace with one dwelling. Mill House, Nenthall CA9 2LQ for Mr H. Lanham. Permission granted with conditions.

**6ii/AUG/19** 19/0366 Full application. Addition of dormer window. High Plains Lodge, Middleton Road, Alston CA9 3DD for Mr D. Walters. Permission granted with conditions.

#### **Planning Committee Meeting**

Two applications from Alston Moor are to be placed before the Planning Committee on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> August. Anyone wishing to attend should confirm by 13<sup>th</sup> August. The applications are:

**19/0179** Proposed children's nursery and forest school by way of change of use of an existing agricultural barn store. Wanwood Hill, Brampton Road, Alston.

**18/0955** Erection of two replacement dwellings. Dykeheads, Cotterill, Nenthall, Alston.

### **7. Garrigill footway light**

An objection has been received about the footway column that has been re-sited from beside the Old Smithy on the village green, with the intention that it lights the car park. The objection is that it will shine into a bedroom window. Eden officers have confirmed that it is a downlighter, which should just cast light onto the ground.

Cllr Grew reported that she had visited the complainant, who remained concerned and stated that she did not want the light where it could be viewed from her dwelling. Moving the column back to the original location was not an option she would find acceptable.

Eden District Council now want the parish to decide what to do, and pointed out that the whole community should be considered. Noted that residents' opinions differ on the desirability of dark skies, or a light on the green to act as a focal point for the village. Eventually there may only be two lights in the village.

**Resolved** to allow the light to go ahead, on the understanding that the new light should not be as bright as the old one or shine into the bedroom window. Proposed by Cllr Green and seconded by Cllr Wright. (10+ 4 abs)

The clerk was asked to write to explain the decision. **Action CI.**

### **8. Appointment of a representative to Alston Moor Partnership**

Alston Moor Partnership have confirmed that they would like a representative from the parish council who is able to sign up as a director in line with their memorandum and articles. Those members of the parish council who are already directors were appointed to specific categories, so ideally someone new would be willing to stand.

**Resolved** to appoint Cllr Wright as the representative to Alston Moor Partnership. Proposed by Cllr Martin and seconded by Cllr Harrison. (14+ 1 abs)

### **9. Proposal to re-name the Community Co-ordinator 'Community Support Officer' and to set terms of reference for the group as follows: To progress documentation required for the appointment of a Community Support Officer, which will include producing a person specification, job description and job advert**

The name change was suggested as a more acceptable term to avoid the term volunteer. Funds have been precepted and the council voted to progress the project, and as Cllr Denoual had offered to make a start she has organised a meeting of the working group for the 19<sup>th</sup> August.

It was suggested that the proposal be held over for discussion at the working group meeting, this was agreed with the point made that the Voluntary Co-ordinator position had received three resolutions to progress it.

Cllr Grew reported that she had offered to contact local organisations to seek their views on the need for help with finding volunteers.

### **10. Consultations and Correspondence**

#### **10a/AUG/19 Notices of events/meetings**

Nenthead Arts & Visitor Centre celebrations 16<sup>th</sup> August 2019

**10b/AUG/19 Information received**

CALC – training programme Sept – Dec 2019 – anyone interested in training to let the clerk know.

Alston Moor Fitness Club AGM minutes

Police update – August 2019

Thank you note from Fairhill Recreation Grounds

NALC – update to financial regulations

**11. Administration**

**11a/AUG/19 Proposal to purchase tablet computers for councillors' use**

No update received. It was suggested that the council could see if there were any suitable grants to help with the purchase.

**11b/AUG/19 Proposal to amend Standing Order s8 Appointments to allow for voting by secret ballot**

A draft statement was circulated and amended.

**Resolved** that co-option of new councillors could be voted on by secret ballot and counted by two councillors and the clerk. Proposed by Cllr Harrison and seconded by Cllr Miller. (10+ 1- 4 abs)

**11c/AUG/19 Review of e-mail and dropbox**

Cllr Haldon reported that he had e-mailed everyone with the new e-mail addresses and the dropbox connection, but had not received many replies. Help is available to anyone needed it. It was pointed out that it is recommended that councillors use parish council e-mail addresses, and that all council correspondence should be deleted when no longer a councillor. Anyone updating their e-mail was asked to contact the clerk so she could inform everyone.

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

Fly tipping – councillors were asked to report directly to Eden District Council.

**13. Finance**

**13a/AUG/19 Bank statements**

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

Alston Moor Parish Council tr/ac	£69,874.78
Alston Moor Parish Council bus/ac	£12,707.70
Eden Credit Union	£7,008.58

**13b/AUG/19 Accounts for Payment**

The following accounts were for payment:-

<i>Summary of accounts for payment: -</i>	£2,879.20
<i>Summary of income received since last meeting: -</i>	£4,282.51
<i>Summary of accounts paid since last meeting: -</i>	£945.89

**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 Haldon. (nem con)

*The meeting closed at 9pm.*

Signed: .....

Dated: .....