



# ALSTON MOOR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Alston Moor Parish Council held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2019 at 7pm in Alston Town Hall.

**Present:** Cllrs G. Wright (Chair), M. Denoual, J. Glendinning, A. Green, E. Grew, T. Haldon, M. Hanley, C. Harrison, H. Ho, A. Holt, R. Miller, Z. Robson, L. Seaton.

**Apologies:** A. Martin, D. Athey.

**Absent:** none.

## **1. Minutes**

**Resolved** that the minutes of the parish council meeting held on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> August 2019 be agreed as a correct record. Proposed by Cllr Glendinning and seconded by Cllr Green. (nem con)

### **1a. Warmer Homes Eden**

A representative from Eden District Council's Warmer Homes Eden initiative reported on a new project to be launched on the 9<sup>th</sup> September with the aim of helping people keep warm and well at home, as Eden has one of the highest incidents of fuel poverty in the country. The organisations involved include Eden and Cumbria Councils, Eden Health and Care, CAfS and Electricity North West. Anyone contacting the helpline can be helped with saving money on heating costs, switching to cheaper energy tariffs, home improvements to make the house warmer, assistance with debt and inclusion on Electricity North West's Priority Service register. This if sufficient numbers are signed up will help put more facilities into the area, especially important in bad weather. Benefits could include clearing roads and making sure food supplies get through. There may also be a one-off payment of up to £140 for people on low incomes meeting the eligibility criteria, which could include young families as well as the elderly.

The launch will take place in Penrith library, and there are posters for distribution after the 9<sup>th</sup> September and residents invited to contact CAfS for more information.

Cllr Ho offered to distribute leaflets to household around Alston, and Cllr Denoual will do Nenthead.

#### **Action HH, MD.**

Members also agreed to let the organisers know if there are any events happening such as coffee mornings, councillor surgeries etc that the Warmer Homes team could usefully attend.

JW was thanked for attending.

## **2. Public participation**

*A request was made for traffic calming measures at Townfoot to improve safety for school pupils. There was a 'safer routes to school' operating at the old primary school, but there does not appear to be anything similar for the area around Spar and Henderson's Garage.*

It was observed that this request had been pursued at a Cumbria County Council Traffic Management meeting. Highways had reported back that there were a number of issues which would make it difficult to site a crossing.

it was agreed that the Traffic Management group would be asked to revisit the issue and asked to consider whether signage or flashing lights could be used. **Action CI.**

## **3. Progress Reports**

### **3a/SEP/19 Police resources – Alston Moor**

Re: 3b/AUG/19 A police officer will attend the October meeting of the council.

Before writing to the Police Commissioner to ask for more resources, correspondence from 2017 was reviewed. As the reply at the time stated that the police would allocate extra resources if circumstances indicated there was a need, the clerk advised waiting until after the October meeting to comment.

### **3b/SEP/19 Weed clearance**

Re: 3d/AUG/19 Eden District Council were advised by the contractors that Front Street has received two application of weed killer, and there will be a further application in September. All other areas have received one application which was completed mid July.

Members noted that the applications had not successfully eradicated the weeds, possibly due to the wet August and that the contractors needed to come back. The clerk was asked to follow up. **Action CI.**

### **3c/SEP/19 Completion of war memorial re-lettering**

Re: 4f/AUG/19 The Friends of Alston Town Hall have donated the funds to pay the contractor for the work on the re-lettering. Agreed to thank them. **Action CI.**

Cllr Glendinning reported that the family had been convinced that the letter was changed during pressure washing, but it was clear that the mistake had been made at the time of installation. The letters were inserted 3mm deep with pins, which would leave some markings on the stone. He explained this to the family, and there are a few scratches, marks from weathering and one of the pins has been left in as it would cause more damage to take it out, but overall the company have done a good job.

### **3d/SEP/19 Footway light, Townfoot**

Re: 5/AUG/19 The damaged footway light at Townfoot will be replaced by the County Council as soon as it can be arranged. Other issues with footway lights on Front Street were reported, and to date there is no news on progress with the Victorian lights not taken on by the County.

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

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

The notes were circulated. Cllr Grew reported on the recent publicity about Rothbury hospital getting their beds back, which prompted group representatives to question whether this could happen here. They were advised that the situation was different with the current arrangements having been referred to the Secretary of State, and agreed by the Success Regime and CCG, but it will be worth finding out how Rothbury is to be managed.

A question about nursing staff is to be included on the next agenda.

### **4b/SEP/19 Volunteer Co-ordinator report & ratification of appointment of chair**

The notes were circulated. One of the tasks for the working group is to identify projects for the Volunteer Co-ordinator that could be achieved within a realistic timeframe.

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

### **4c/SEP/19 Alston Moor Partnership**

The next meeting will be in October.

### **4d/SEP/19 Nenthead Surgery**

The Nenthead ***Surgery was a success, with a number of issues identified:***

***Highways problems*** will be followed up with the County Councillor, including issues with blocked drains, missing white lines, unsatisfactory work, and scrap cars on public land.

***Recycling centre*** - there is also dissatisfaction with the recycling centre, which needs tidying up and the picnic area weeded. It was thought to be due a deep clean by Amey, but the Community Warden will also be asked to do some work there. **Action.**

***Coal board drop in session*** – took place at the same time, with concerns raised about the short notice.

***Next surgery*** – no decision has been made yet, but it could take place at the next Big Breakfast, or be held on an evening.

### **4eSEP/19 Alston Moor Sheep Sale**

Hartside will be open on 2<sup>nd</sup> October to enable livestock farmers to get to market.

### **4eSEP/19 Front Street road closure**

It was reported that the work was delayed due to the HGV driver taking a wrong turn up North Lonning, and getting stuck. While the road was closed the bin lorry did not collect anyone's rubbish.

It was pointed out that the bin lorry should come back later to collect the rubbish.

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

*Apologies from Cllr Driver.*

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

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

***Penrith Leisure Centre pilot*** – for Over Sixties exercise classes. If successful it might be possible to roll out in other areas.

**Focus groups** – the police attend a focus group on policing, crime and environmental issues, so issues can be reported back to them.

**Chief Executive visit** – the Chief Executive will be on a walk around Alston Moor this Wednesday afternoon, so will be available if anyone has anything specific to discuss. She plans to do this every six months.

**Recycling Centres** – the team should be coming tomorrow to deep clean the recycling centres. A reminder about keeping the centres tidy and to report fly tipping has been sent to Alston gym and Nenthead Village Hall. Both organisations get the recycling credits, and if the centres are kept reasonably tidy it can help public awareness.

**Eden Council plan** – the vision for the next four years is about to be published, and everyone is encouraged to respond.

**Rheghed Open Day** – this is a meeting for businesses, followed by residents and parishes.

## **6. Planning applications**

**6a/SEP/19** 19/0556 Full application. Proposed conversion of garage and spare room into holiday let annex with balcony and detached garage. Rotherhope Towers, Garrigill CA9 3EJ for Mr J. Batty.

**Recommended** for approval. Proposed by Cllr Miller and seconded by Cllr Holt. (nem con)

**6b/SEP/19** 19/0569 Full application. Proposed machinery and vehicle shed. Pennine Environmental Solutions Ltd, Pennine Shed, Bingsteads House, Nenthead CA9 3LS for Mr D. Paisley.

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

**6c/SEP/19** 19/00583 Full application. Discharge of condition 3 (landscaping, 5 (Boundaries), 6 (Visibility) and 9 (Surface water drainage) attached to approval 15/0832 for Mr J. Edgar.

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

**6d/SEP/19** 19/0610 Tree Works (CA) Removal of group of Cypress trees: Alston Conservation Area. Hartside Lodge, Overburn, Alston CA9 3SH for Mr M. Collins.

**Recommended** for approval. Proposed by Cllr Green and seconded by Cllr Wright. (9+ 1– 3 abs)

**6e/SEP/19** 19/0543 Advertisement consent. 1 no fascia board and 1 no wall mounted signboard. Blackstocks, Market Place, Alston CA9 3QN for Alston Wholefoods. A request was received from two councilors to reconsider their decision in view of additional information.

Noted that historically Alston soips had nameplates above the first floor windows, although typically the boards were long and thin.

**Recommended** for approval. Proposed by Cllr Harrison and seconded by Cllr Glendinning (6+ 3-4 abs)

**6f/SEP/19** 19/00604 Full application. Change of use of factory and office buildings to 2 no. residential dwellings. High Mill site, Northern Units, Alston for Acumen Services Ltd – Mr I. Grey.

**Recommended** for approval. Proposed by Cllr Harrison and seconded by Cllr Wright (12+ 1 abs)

### **Decision notices**

**6i/SEP/19** 18/0955 Full application. Erection of two replacement dwellings. Dykeheads, Cotterill, Nenthead, Alston CA9 3PY for Mr I. Pickering. Permission granted with conditions.

**6ii/SEP/19** 19/0179 Full application. Proposed 'Children's Nursery and Forest School' by way of 'Change of Use' of an existing agricultural barn store. Wanwood Hill, Brampton Road, Alston CA9 3BE for Mr & Mrs Walton. Permission granted with conditions.

**6iii/SEP/19** 19/0313 Full application. Change of use from hostel to single residential dwelling. Cockabundee Cottage, High Loaning Head, Garrigill CA9 3EY for Mr L. Williams. Permission granted with conditions.

**6iv/SEP/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. Permission granted with conditions.

## **7. Eden District Council – Review of polling stations on Alston Moor**

Eden District Council are conducting a review of polling districts and polling stations and are seeking comments on any aspect of the polling district or stations used in the area. The review ends on 30<sup>th</sup> September.

It was agreed that the current arrangements are working and holding the elections in the village halls assists these facilities. The clerk was asked to respond to EDC. **Action C1.**

## **8. Tynehead monument**

The parish council and North Pennines AONB Partnership have been copied into correspondence between a member of the public and the District Council over the monument erected by 'Daft as a Brush' cancer charity without planning permission. Despite acknowledging that the monument amounts to development under s55 of the TCPA 1990 and would have required planning permission, the council decided it was in accord with policy ENV3 so did not consider it expedient to pursue formal planning enforcement.

The monument, a rectangular slab of sandstone has been erected adjacent to the Source of the Tyne sculpture, and in the opinion of the complainant detracts from the original. The clerk reported that she contacted the AONB for their views, and was told that they were asking the district for more information. The clerk also contacted Eden, who pointed out that the decision on whether or not planning permission was required would depend upon a number of points including the size of the monument.

It was agreed to take no action, as the matter was between Eden District Council and the complainant.

## **9. Consultations and Correspondence**

### **9a/SEP/19 Letter of complaint from AMBA and request for closer working**

As the first part of the letter from AMBA dealt with issues relating to individual councillors this would be discussed at the end of the meeting in confidence. The second part of the letter stated that AMBA are willing to address the parish council on their plans and proposals to avoid any misunderstandings.

During Cllr Haldon's time as chair, he met informally a couple of times with the chairs of AMBA and AMP, and the suggestion was that these meetings should be formalised to assist everyone in working for the common good of Alston Moor.

**Resolved** to recommend to AMBA that the meetings between AMP and AMPC continue on an informal basis with the chair or vice chairs of the organisations. Proposed by Cllr Haldon and seconded by Cllr Hotl. (nem con) **Action CI.**

### **9b/SEP/19 Proposed disposal by auction of 3 flats on Park View Lane**

An e-mail was received from Eden Housing Association about the proposed disposal at auction of 3 flats on Park View Lane. Two, 15 and 16 have been empty for around 10 years due to subsidence and 17 has recently become vacant. Due to the high cost of the work required to remedy the subsidence on 15 and 16 and lack of demand for this sort of social housing in Alston, they have taken the decision to sell the flats with the hope that they can be repaired and brought back into use by another body. The properties will be auctioned as one lot on 17<sup>th</sup> September in Durham.

Noted.

### **9c/SEP/19 Notices of events/meetings**

EALC AGM 25<sup>th</sup> September 2019 Cllr Ho offered to attend.

### **9d/SEP/19 Information received**

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

Police update – September 2019

## **10. Administration**

### **10a/SEP/19 Proposal to purchase tablet computers for councillors' use**

No update received.

### **10b/SEP/19 Proposal for in-house training on the Code of Conduct**

**Resolved** to ask CALC to organise an in-house refresher/new councillor training session to include the Code of Conduct and social media. Proposed by Cllr Holt and seconded by Cllr Wright. (nem con)

### **10c/SEP/19 Proposal to vire funds from the unspent allocation for parish elections towards upgrading the AMPC website**

**Resolved** to vire the unspent allocation from the parish elections of £1,137.90 to upgrade the parish council website. Proposed by Cllr Denoual and seconded by Cllr Grew. (nem con)

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

Funding council tablets – Cllr Ho

Car parking in Alston, suggestion to use the hospital field – Cllr Harrison.

**12. Finance**

**12a/SEP/19 Bank statements**

The statements as of 31<sup>st</sup> August 2019 were as follows:-

Alston Moor Parish Council tr/ac	£68,091.89
Alston Moor Parish Council bus/ac	£12,707.70
Eden Credit Union	£7,008.58

**12b/SEP/19 Accounts for Payment**

The following accounts were for payment:-

<i>Summary of accounts for payment: -</i>	£458.27
<i>Summary of income received since last meeting: -</i>	£199.64
<i>Summary of accounts paid since last meeting: -</i>	£825.50

**Resolved** that sufficient funds are held in balances for the clerk to be authorised to settle all the accounts listed in appendix 1 and to pay the CW when comes in. Proposed by Cllr Haldon and seconded by Cllr Wright. (12+ 1 -)

*The meeting closed at 9 pm.*

Signed: .....

Dated: .....