



ALSTON MOOR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Alston Moor Parish Council held on Monday 1st June 2020 at 7pm held remotely.

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

Apologies: Cllrs: L. Seaton, J. Glendinning.

Absent: none

Declarations of interest: Cllr Wright 5e/JUN/20 & Cllr Miller 5a/JUN/20

1. Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the parish council meeting held on Monday 2nd March 2020 be approved as a correct record. (10+ 3 abs)

Resolved that the minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on Thursday 19th March 2020 be approved as a correct record. (6+ 7 abs)

2. Suspension of delegated powers and approval of Standing Orders appendix on remote meeting

Resolved to suspend delegated powers. Proposed by Cllr Wright and seconded by Cllr Robinson (12+1 abs)

There was a query about S.11 of the protocol which allowed for up to 10 minutes should a member lose internet connection, and noted that Eden's solicitor advised that meetings shouldn't be paused.

Resolved to accept the protocol on remote meetings to be added to Standing Orders as an appendix. Proposed by Cllr Wright and seconded by Cllr Robinson (12+1 abs)

3. Public participation

No written questions were received.

4. Ratification of decisions taken during suspension of business and notes from Zoom meetings

Resolved to approve the decisions taken between 19th March 2020 and 31st May 2020. Proposed by Cllr Holt and seconded by Cllr Wright (12+ 1 abs)

It was agreed that the Community Support working group should be re-named Volunteer working group to avoid future confusion with the Alston Moor Emergency Response Group.

5. Planning applications

5a/JUN/20 20/0252 Change of use. Greenshed, Ayle Crossroads, Alston CA9 3NF. Change of use of redundant agricultural building to bulk domestic heating oil storage depot for Mr J. Shepherd.

Cllr Miller declared an interest for employment reasons.

Recommended for approval. Proposed by Cllr Wright and seconded by Cllr Robinson. (nem com)

5b/JUN/20 20/0286 Tree Works. Lime (1) remove epitomic growth and trunk growth to 5m. Sycamore (2) remove trunk growth to 5m. Lime (3) remove trunk growth to 5m, Sycamore (4) crown raise to provide 2m clearance of sub-station. Alston Highways Depot, Chapel Terrace, Alston CA9 3SW for Miss E. Chapman.

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

5c/JUN/20 20/0283 Reserved matters. Reserved matters application for access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale, attached to approval 17/0326. Land west of Bruntley Meadows, Alston for Messrs Walton.

Resolved to re-iterate the concerns about drainage noted by residents at the initial proposal stage, and the future possibility of flooding. The council requests that Eden District Council are fully satisfied that drainage is adequately dealt with before the application is progressed. Proposed by Cllr Holt and seconded by Cllr Wright. (nem con)

5d/JUN/20 20/0296 Henley Mount. Townhead, Alston – Extension to form car repair and restoration garage for Mr Pattinson.

Cllr Wright declared an interest as a relative and Cllr Haldon took over the meeting for this item.

Recommended for approval. Proposed by Cllr Holt and seconded by Cllr Robinson. (8+ 4 abs)

5e/JUN/20 20/0302 Non-material amendment to replace window with door, enlarge fixed pane opening and omit window and door on south west elevation. Replace bifold doors with double and resite door on North West elevation, attached to approval 18/0955. Cotterill, Dykeheads, Nenthead CA9 3PY for Mr Eals.

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

6. Proposal to approve the Internal Auditor's report (AGAR) and annual internal report 2019 -2020

Resolved to approve the Internal Auditor's reports on the AGAR and annual internal report 2019-2020.

Proposed by Cllr Grew and seconded by Cllr. Haldon (11+ 2 abs)

7. Proposal to approve the AGAR Annual Governance Statement 2019-2020

The chair read the list of questions asked on the AGAR for members to agree.

Resolved to approve the AGAR Section 1 Annual Governance Statement 2019-2020. Proposed by Cllr Haldon and seconded by Cllr Wright. (11+ 2 abs)

8. Proposal to approve the AGAR Accounting Statement 2019-2020

Resolved to approve AGAR Accounting Statement 2019-2020. Proposed by Cllr Haldon and seconded by Cllr Wright. (10 + 3 abs)

9. Proposal to support the work of the Alston Moor Emergency Response Group (AMERG)

Cllr Grew reported that the request had been made, as there was a shortfall in the funding AMERG had received from grant funding. £300 was allocated during delegated powers, but there is an on-going need for the work the volunteers are undertaking that is benefitting the community. Alston Essentials are still delivering groceries around Alston Moor; it costs money to run this service and the volunteers also need masks, gloves and sanitising products while working. A newsletter has been delivered to all households. It is possible that there will be another spike in the virus, as the country starts to come out of lockdown and people may have to return to self isolating.

An amendment that the council set up a similar phone system to that agreed for the Fairhill Charity was not agreed.

Resolved that the council allocates up to £1,000 from general funds to support the work of Alston Moor Emergency Response Group and that the clerk be authorised to pay from this allocation such amounts as AMERG may apply for. Proposed by Cllr Grew and seconded by Cllr Haldon. (9+ 2- 2 abs) *Cllr Martin asked retrospectively to have it recorded that she had abstained from the vote.*

10. Nenthead noticeboard

Cllr Robson obtained two quotes to replace the Nenthead noticeboard. Both were for a timber two bay noticeboard.

Quote 1 £2,266.01 (inc. vat, posts & carriage)

Quote 2 £767.06 (inc. vat) new posts not included

Cllr Robson reported that the posts are still in good condition.

Resolved to accept quote 2 from Ochiltree Bespoke Joinery. Proposed by Cllr Denoual and seconded by Cllr Robinson (nem con)

11. Council office phone contract

The BT phone contract is due for renewal, and based on the usage it gets and costs the clerk suggested changing to a virtual line that can be directed to mobile or another landline. The cost for this including phone calls would be around £8 - £10 a month, compared to BT's monthly rate at £23/£26.

Resolved to ask the clerk to research phone contracts and report back. Proposed by Cllr Wright and seconded by Cllr Holt. (nem con)

12. Ratification of expenditure during suspension of business

<i>Summary of accounts paid in April: -</i>	£1,613.54
<i>Summary of income received in April: -</i>	£6.34
<i>Summary of accounts paid in May: -</i>	£2,057.24
<i>Summary of income received in May: -</i>	£53,675.00

Resolved to approve expenditure during April and May made under delegated powers. Proposed by Cllr Miller and seconded by Cllr Holt. (10+ 3 abs)

The following accounts were for payment:-

<i>Summary of accounts for payment: -</i>	£16,390.00
<i>Summary of income received since last meeting: -</i>	£541.00
<i>Summary of accounts paid since last meeting: -</i>	£4,686.53

Cllr Miller reported that if a decision were made to award the precepted funds to organisations that may not be able to run this year, the Gala Committee had agreed to give the money to AMERG if needed. If not needed and provided it was allowed they hoped to hold an event on the 31st August on Tyne Willows. The Gala committee were thanked for this gesture.

Resolved to allocate precepted funds as agreed at the budget meeting, and to require all organisations to report back on whether the funding had been needed, and if not they would not be expected to apply for funding next year. Proposed by Cllr Wright and seconded by Cllr Haldon. (12+ 1 abs)

Resolved that sufficient funds are held in balances for the clerk to be authorised to settle all the accounts listed in appendix 7. Proposed by Cllr Wright and seconded by Cllr Haldon. (12+ 1 abs)

13. Report on speeding issues on Alston Moor

It was observed that Alston Moor, along with other areas of the country, had become a race track with high numbers of vehicles passing through, as the start of the lifting of lockdown coincided with unusually fine weather. A member reported that there had been three police vans and the undercover car based on Alston Moor over the weekend, which saw 3 accidents on Hartside and a fatality on the Whitfield road. It was agreed that it was unfair to focus on bikers as car drivers, both local and visitors, are equally responsible for speeding. Another member said that as a newcomer to the area, he had noticed that the roads around the moor are challenging, making the job of policing them especially difficult.

Many of the issues we have now have been discussed many times at Traffic Management meetings, which have been attended by members of the CRASH team, and there are ongoing discussions on how to manage the area around the Spar to improve pupils' and public safety.

Cllr Holt reported that the Police and Crime Commissioner had attended a drop in session at the Town Hall and hinted that Alston should have a full time police officer, but was unable to make a commitment.

Resolved to ask the clerk/chair to write to the Police Commissioner to support any efforts to return full time policing to Alston Moor. Proposed by Cllr Denoual and seconded by Cllr Haldon. (nem con)

A question was asked about the Community Speedwatch initiative, which it was thought had not taken off in the community because of its relative isolation. It was suggested that the Volunteering charity being set up by Nick Mason might be interested in exploring the potential for getting something underway. **Action.**

The meeting closed at 8.20pm

Signed:

Dated: