



# ALSTON MOOR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Alston Moor Parish Council held on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2020 at 7pm, held remotely on zoom.

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

**Apologies:** Cllrs: L. Seaton, A. Holt.

**Absent:** none.

**Declarations of interest:** none

## **1. Minutes**

**Resolved** that the minutes of the parish council meeting held on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2020 be approved as a correct record with the following amendment. 5a/JUL/20 ... It was suggested but not resolved that the Community Support Working Group be stood down. Proposed by Cllr Haldon and seconded by Cllr Grew. (11+ 3 abs).

(Note: Working Group chair's written report in note form and not yet circulated.)

## **2. County & District reports**

**District Council** - written reports were received from Cllrs Hanley and Sharp.

*Cllr Hanley reported on the following:*

**Budget planning** - alterations were discussed due to financial pressures from Covid, with the leisure industry badly affected, and a loss of income from car parking and commercial interests. The Financial director reported that there is no need for an emergency budget or initiating S114 to stop all but essential funding, as there is £14m in cash and another £13m in reserves. Central government has provided two tranches of support, £30k initially and another £520k, with another £165k available in the future.

**Full Council meeting** – appointments were made with no changes to personnel. Cllr Sharp has been made Children's and Young People's champion. Expenditure is needed to update the current finance and payroll system.

*Cllr Sharp reported on the following:*

**Budget planning** – with the leisure centre re-opening, the second quarter of the year should show more positive figures, so the first quarter may not accurately predict the financial situation for the rest of the year.

**Fly-tipping** – people are asked to report fly-tipping on-line, and if possible get the vehicle registration and a description, but offenders should not be approached.

**St Paul's** – a further request has been made for something to be done about the accessible entrances to the building.

### **County Council**

*A written report was received. Cllr Driver reported on the following:*

**Covid** – media coverage of the increasing number of Covid cases in Eden appear to show a large percentage rise in Eden, but this is due to one house party, and there is currently no advice from Public Health England to introduce new measures. Contact tracing is working well and a daily check on numbers across the county maintained.

**Business funding** – the deadline for applications is 21<sup>st</sup> August with a cut off date of 28<sup>th</sup> August, should there be any local businesses that have not yet applied.

## **3. Public participation**

*None.*

#### **4. Clerk's report**

##### **4a/AUG/20 AMPC Phone contract**

Re: 4b/JUL/20 A contract has been set up with Virtual Landline and the BT contract ended. The council phone number was ported over on 27<sup>th</sup> July, it is working on mobile and home phone, but still needs to be set up on the council computer.

##### **4b/AUG/20 AMPC Reopening High Streets Safely (RHSS)**

Re: 4d/JUL/20 The service level agreement with Eden District Council has been returned, and invoices generated under the scheme paid once they have been signed off by Alston Moor Business Association, the main lead, who confirm with EDC that the works are covered under EU funding requirements. Claims to re-imburse the funding will be made.

A website with local information on businesses re-opening has been commissioned, and parish representatives assisted with setting up a one-way system for pedestrians which will involve stenciling a footprint and arrows design on the pavement. This should be in place over the next few weeks. There are also plans for a 'welcome back' banner on the market cross.

*Cllr Driver added that the intention is to explain on a map using friendly hints about maintaining social distance, with the suggestion of alternative quieter routes. Details of the routes will be made widely available in the shops. The measures under the scheme are temporary for up to 12 months.*

##### **4c/AUG/20 Meeting request with Alston Alliance**

Re: 7/JUL/20 The Alston Alliance chair is off work, so the request was passed to another officer who has suggested a couple of dates in August, and the meeting may need to be re-scheduled as it has been difficult to confirm everyone's availability.

##### **4d/AUG/20 Pro-zoom contract**

Re: 11a/AUG/20 CALC stated that the contract has to be set up with blocks of ten councils. It is too late for this round, but if there is sufficient interest from more councils they will let us know.

#### **5. Council Representatives reports**

##### **5a/AUG/20 Highlands Memorial Seat**

Cllr Miller reported that the repairs to the seat are complete with new timber and varnish, and that Alston Natural Stone have offered to pay the outstanding amount of £80. The family are happy with the work.

##### **5b/AUG/20 Community First Responder training**

Cllr Grew reported that 8 people have put their names down for training, which is currently on hold because of Covid, but will re-commence as soon as it is safe to do so. More places are available if anyone else is interested. The volunteers are to be thanked for putting themselves forward.

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

**6a/AUG/20** 20/0428 Full application. Porch to north-east elevation, single storey outbuilding extension to north-west elevation. High Galligill, Nenthead CA9 3LW for Mr G. Cook.

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

**6b/AUG/20** 20/0448 Tree works (CA) Felling of chestnut tree. Beldy House, Garrigill CA9 3DH for Mr N O'Dwyer.

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

**6c/AUG/20** 20/0351 Full application. Change of use of agricultural land to form cemetery for natural burials. Bridge End Farm, Leadgate Road, Alston CA9 3BJ for Mrs K. Williams.

The chair reported that the applicant had invited him to look around the site, which is not close to the river. Coffins will be biodegradable and a Lakeland slate marker with the deceased's name placed flat on the ground. People will be able to plant memory trees and there are plans to plant trees along the wall.

It was mentioned that there are the remains of iron age earthworks of archaeological interest on the site, but it is understood that the car park will be on land in front of the house, with hardcore added for overflow parking, so the historic site should not be affected. The intention is to cut a footpath through the grass, possibly using plastic matting for the grass to grow through.

**Recommended** for approval. Proposed by Cllr Wright and seconded by Cllr Grew (10+ 1 abs 2-)

**6d/AUG/20** Airwaves pre- submission application, Ashgill Wood, Garrigill.

There is already a transmitter on this site, the new one will be slightly taller, but will enable the emergency services to have a better connection with ambulance control. There are real problems for the ambulance

crews who have to use a landline to contact the control centre, and the First Responders' radio transmitter does not work in Garrigill at present.

**Resolved** to support the pre-submission Airwave application for Ashgill Wood. Proposed by Cllr Grew and seconded by Cllr Wright. (nem con)

**6e/AUG/20** Request that the parish council ask Eden District Council to investigate whether listed building consent is request for signs at The Hive.

The clerk reported that a query was made and passed to the planning authority, who stated that they would follow it up if asked to do so by the parish council.

**Resolved** to ask Eden District Council to investigate whether listed building consent is required for signage at The Hive. Proposed by Cllr Wright and seconded by Cllr Robson. (nem con)

**6f/AUG/20** Request that the parish council enquire with Eden District Council about works at Whitehall House, Nenthead.

Note: further to the request from a resident it was confirmed by a Nenthead cllr that the external wall referred to was the temporary removal of part of the garden wall which should not require planning consent.

Note: members reported concerns about the number of caravans at East Cocklake, and queried whether planning consent was needed. There are thought to be at least 6 with more in the yard behind the house.

## **7. Response to SKS chair of governor's letter concerning the Volunteering Project (Appendix 2)**

The clerk reported that the application to release funding has not yet been received from the Volunteering Project.

Two members reported that they were asked by three members of the public what the response to the Chair of SKS Governors letter was to be, as they were concerned about the second half of the Volunteering Project's proposals relating to work with the school. The original intent was that the funding would be allocated to a co-ordinator who would get in touch with local groups to find out if they required help. The first half of the Volunteering Project meets this criteria, and a member questioned whether any new volunteers had been found, since it is the same people who volunteer all the time, or whether the focus had just been on schools. It was observed that as the school children are the volunteers of tomorrow, it was understandable why the group wanted to engage with young people.

It was agreed that Cllr Wright would try to arrange a meeting between the chair of the school governors and the Volunteering Project to address the concerns raised by the school governors and PTA. He would also flag up concerns about the need to focus on the wider volunteering needs. **Action GW**

## **8. BT proposed phone box removals**

An e-mail was received from Eden District Council stating that the phone boxes in Nenthead and Alston are earmarked for removal as BT consider they are not being used enough. There are three options: agree to the removal, adopt the phone box or object to the removal by making a robust case for keeping it. Responses need to be in before 18<sup>th</sup> September.

It was agreed to defer to the September meeting, and to check the usage figures, but if the boxes are to be retained they would have to be better-used. However, there are still issues with the mobile signal in Nenthead, which is intermittent. It might not be used frequently, but the fact that it is there should an emergency occur, either through accident or weather-related, is reassuring for residents and the emergency services.

## **9. The Wardway Memorial Seat request**

A request has been received to place a memorial stone bench on The Wardway near High Bayles. The clerk reported that she has taken photos of a possible flattish site where there might have been a seat in the past, close to Middle Bayles and if agreed by the council will suggest it to the family, as less work will need to be done to prepare the site.

**Resolved** to confirm with the family that the council will support the siting of a replacement bench on the Wardway. Proposed by Cllr Wright and seconded by Cllr Glendinning. (nem con)

## **10. Consultations & Correspondence**

### **10a/AUG/20 Review of Statement of Licensing Policy**

Eden District Council have written inviting the parish council to comment on their revised draft licensing policy which is due for review. Comments should be submitted before 15<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

**10b/AUG/20 NALC Communities framework and the devolution white paper**

Councils are invited to comment on the NALC Draft Engagement Plan 2020-1

**10c/AUG/20 Correspondence**

Listed in appendix 6.

***Footpath Diversion*** An application for a footpath diversion was received too late for inclusion on this month's agenda, and the County Council have confirmed that responses need to be in before the end of the month. The application is for a proposed diversion of footpath 302094 Wellgill Farm.

It was agreed that the Nenthead Cllrs Denoul and Robson would take a look at the proposed diversion, and report back on whether they thought the council should call an extra meeting this month. **Action MD, ZR.**

***Flood alleviation measures report*** – CCC have asked to attend the September meeting. The clerk was asked to enquire if a written report could be circulated to the council in advance. **Action Cl.**

**10d/AUG/20 Notice of Traffic Management meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> August. There is already a full agenda, but any requests for additional items can be submitted to the clerk and Cllr Driver.

It was reported that the railings on Brewery Bridge are in poor condition.

**11. Administration**

**11a/AUG/20 To note a report from the ADP Working Group on the draft Scheme of Delegation**

The draft scheme was discussed at an ADP working group meeting, and circulated to full council for consideration at the September meeting. It was agreed that it would be helpful to invite Hellen Aitken to meet with members before the next council meeting to discuss any concerns. **Action Cl.**

**11b/AUG/20 Use of 'private and confidential' amongst council members**

The chair reported that he was concerned about the use of 'private and confidential' on e-mails between council members, so had contacted CALC for advice. The response: that there should be no use of 'private and confidential' between council members when discussing council business, as councils should be open and transparent; this response was circulated by the clerk. Members were asked to consider whether an e-mail was necessary before sending, as it was generally agreed that there are too many e-mails.

**11c/AUG/20 Risk Assessment Action List**

A draft action list has been put together for asset management.

**11d/AUG/20 Website Accessibility compliance**

Agenda for next meeting.

**12. Accounts for payment**

The following accounts were for payment:-

<i>Summary of accounts for payment: -</i>	£250.00
<i>Summary of income received since last meeting: -</i>	£35.00
<i>Summary of accounts paid since last meeting: -</i>	£2,126.07

**Resolved** that sufficient funds are held in balances for the clerk to be authorised to settle all the accounts listed in appendix 6. Proposed by Cllr Harrison and seconded by Cllr Wright (9+ 3- 1abs)

*The meeting closed to the public to discuss the next item.*

**13. To received quotations for tree works on Tyne Willows, Henderson's and Firs Woods and Garrigill Village Green**

Three quotes were received. It was agreed to ask the clerk to inform the highest quote that they were unsuccessful and to ask the other two if they could put together a method statement for the works.

*The meeting closed at 9.15pm*

Signed: .....

Dated: .....