



ALSTON MOOR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Alston Moor Parish Council held on Monday 2nd March 2020 at 7pm the Masonic Hall.

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

Apologies: Cllrs: G. Wright, L. Seaton, A. Holt.

Absent: none

Declarations of interest: Cllr Haldon 6b/MAR/20

1. Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the parish council meeting held on Monday 3rd February 2020 be adopted as a correct record with the following amendment: 14/FEB/20 should read *review of the protocol for recording and filming at the next ADP working group meeting*. Proposed by Cllr Glendinning and seconded by Cllr Miller (11+ 1 abss)

2. Public participation

A member of the public circulated a paper and asked members to read it and get back to him with any comments. He wished to clear the air over the treatment of political parties by members in their capacity as trustees to the Town Hall and to establish amicable relationships. His view was that political parties should not be treated as a commercial organisation, but as a community organisation like all the other groups.

The resident questioned why the council had not included an agenda item on the top factory, since the closure would impact on schools, the hospital and business on Alston Moor. (There is now good news as the factory has been relieved.)

With regard to the first question it was explained that the council, as trustees were waiting for a response from Eden District Council.

Members were aware and concerned about the top factory, but it was not a matter that needed discussion.

3. Progress Reports

3a/MAR/20 Park Lane litter bin request/recycling wagon

Re 12c/FEB/20 An Eden officer will contact the clerk to discuss the request for litter bins to help control the issue of dog fouling when he is next across in Alston. The complaint about the recycling wagon staff not picking up recycling waste when it blows out of the wagon has been passed on to the Contracts Officer.

3b/MAR/20 Alston & Nenthead bid to the County Council Community Grant scheme

Re: 10/FEB/20 An application has been submitted for replacement noticeboards at Alston and Nenthead, but once we hear back a decision will need to be made on the design and supplier.

Cllr Robson reported that the noticeboard was in a poor condition, and had circulated photos. It was agreed that priority should be given to replacing the Nenthead noticeboard. The clerk asked if the Nenthead Ward had agreed on a design, and reported that the local contractor had said he would need to re-submit his quote. Cllr Robson suggested getting a price for using acora wood. **Action ZR.**

3c/MAR/20 Response from War Memorials online re: Nenthall War Memorial

Re: 3d/FEB/20 An e-mail was received from War Memorials online to say that they will update their records to state that the parish council are the custodians of the Nenthall war memorial. They asked if the record could be updated when the work to repaint the lettering is complete. Noted.

3d/MAR/20 Future use of soft play equipment

Re: FEB/20 A member of staff from SKS confirmed that the soft play belongs to the pre-school playgroup and is stored at SKS. Pre-school are not using it, but would be happy to pass it on to a community group to use or hire out. SKS could provide a venue in the main hall, but would need to discuss insurance with the organisers, as the hall is not currently insured for this use. They would need to book the hall, in the

same way as other users. They would also require the equipment to be checked to ensure it is safe to use.

3e/MAR/20 Damaged fencing alongside river Tyne at STRPS

Re: 12c/FEB/20 The resident who made the complaint that fencing alongside the river Tyne on the South Tyne trail is damaged is correct as a section of the fencing is down. The clerk was asked to write to STRPS to ask about plans to repair the damaged section. **Action CI.**

3f/MAR/20 Commercial bin contract for Community Warden

The parish council received a request from the Town Hall to remove the bin used by the Community Warden, which has been kept outside the building since the initial contract was set up in 2013/14. As it is necessary to provide facilities to dispose of any waste collected, the clerk asked what action the council wanted to take.

It was reported that the fire safety officer had said that the bin should be stored securely away from the building. The commercial white bin liners were suggested as an alternative, but dismissed as a potential health hazard. Agreed that the Community Warden would be reminded that he must use the bin for any litter he collects and not store or dispose of it elsewhere. **Action CI.**

Town Hall trustees to discuss further. **Action.**

4. Progress reports from working groups and council representatives

4a/MAR/20 Alston Moor Care Alliance & Ambulance meeting report

A report was circulated. Cllr Grew reported that the chair of the Healthcare Alliance approached NWS to ask if the EMTs could be taught to use the raiser chair, but were told that they have taken a moving and handling course so should not need to be taught.

The Community First Responder information evening had been positive and gone well. Two people start training in April, another 3 were interviewed and hope to begin training in June, and there are 3 people from Garrigill interested in signing up. The March edition of the Alston Moor newsletter will carry an article about the ambulance and CFR's, and anyone interested can collect a form from Local Links.

The CFT's will be supplied with one defibrillator of the type that works for children as well as adults, but it would be good to have one for each area. Additional defibrillators can be bought at a discount through NWS.

Cllr Denoual reported that difficulties with Skype during the meeting meant it had to be conducted by mobile phone. There are ongoing queries; the crews are having difficulty accessing training and do not yet have their own laptop access. A new radio is being trialled.

A question was asked about how the EMT's and CFR will co-ordinate. It is understood that the ambulance will be called out provided someone is on call, although they cannot cover 24/7. There are a number of instances when the CFR cannot attend including overdoses, road traffic accidents, paediatric and maternity cases. Their main role is to give life support.

4b/MAR/20 Volunteer Co-ordinator Working Group

The minutes were circulated. Cllr Denoual reported that the working group met with the one applicant interested in following up the project and considered the proposal to establish a constituted group to lead on the project.

Resolved to accept the working groups recommendation to allocate precepted funding to Nick Mason to progress with setting up a constituted group to support volunteering on Alston Moor. Also to give approval for the working group to finalise terms of this grant and next steps with the successful candidate. Proposed by Cllr Denoual and seconded by Cllr Robson. (nem con)

4c/MAR/20 VE celebrations update

Cllr Glendinning reported that an application has been made to Eden District Council to close the Crown car park, which will be barricaded off for public safety. The intention for Friday 8th May is to set up a marquee on the gable end of the Co-op for local bands, with the event including a piper and a recital of the Declaration of Peace. Local organisations have been invited to take space within the enclosed area and people will be invited to come in 1940's attire.

4d/MAR/20 Tyne Willows Drainage issues

Cllr Miller reported that the drainage pipe across the top of the footpath is working fine, but something similar needs to be put in to deal with the water lower down. It is not a big job, but so far no-one with the right skills has come forward. Agreed to continue the search. **Action.**

4e/MAR/20 Nenthead Councillor surgery report

A report was circulated. Cllr Denoual reported that the surgery had been well attended and some positive messages of support were given by residents. Cllr Wright has suggested meeting up with Highways officers to discuss ongoing concerns. Some of the seats need repairs. It was suggested contacting a former councillor to see if he might still be interested, or enquiring if anyone would be willing to carry out repairs for the cost of the materials.

There is an issue with parking on the pavement to follow up with the police.

Eden District Council have confirmed that there are no plans for specific recycling collections of tin foil or tetrapacks, although tin foil can be balled up and put with glass and cans in the kerbside collection

4f/MAR/20 Transparency training session and consideration of progressing Foundation Level Local Council Award

Those attending confirmed that the training session had been useful. They were advised that councils should be forceful in attempts to push forward concerns raised by the electorate and to be the residents voice. They were given advice on meeting the requirements for the Transparency Code for smaller councils with budgets under £25,000. Councils above that level are advised that it is good practice to follow the code. For future consideration is the issue of whether the council should have an allocated training budget and, when reviewing the insurance, to consider business interruption cover.

Members were reminded that council websites need to be compliant with the accessibility standards by September 2020, so the ADP working group were asked to arrange a meeting to progress updating the website.

They were also told that the Local Council Award is worthwhile and that all councils should aim for the minimum standard. There is a registration fee of £50 to NALC and a further assessment charge to CALC. The clerk advised that although some of the 12 CPD points needed to meet the criteria could be achieved at no cost, there would be expenses incurred for training. The council will also need to produce an action plan.

Resolved to prepare for the Foundation Level Local Council Award. Proposed by Cllr Denoual and seconded by Cllr Martin. (nem con)

4g/MAR/20 Risk assessment meeting

A meeting was held, but the risk assessment was not completed in the time available, so the report will be made to the April meeting.

5 County Councillor's Report

Apologies from Cllr Driver who will be putting together a video report over the next few days.

District Councillor's Report

Apologies from Cllr Sharp, who forwarded the EDC budget report.

Cllr Hanley had circulated a report reported on the following:

Health Scrutiny meeting – North Cumbria Vascular Services are now working with the Freeman Hospital in Newcastle, instead of complex operations being done in Glasgow.

Accident and Emergency attendances at Carlisle Infirmary have not increased in the winter months, in contrast to other parts of the country which have seen a 20% increase in numbers, due to preventative work to encourage healthy living.

Proposed move – the council wants to purchase Voreda House and to move all the staff from the Town Hall and Mansion House, then sell off these buildings, to improve efficiency.

Homelessness – homelessness and rough sleeping levels are low in Eden compared to the rest of the country, largely due to the Housing Options team who are proactive in responding to prevent homelessness.

There was a request to be notified when Eden District Council's chief executive next visit to Alston will take place. (*Moved from agenda items for next month.*)

6. Planning applications

6a/MAR/20 20/0016 Full application. Construction of a porch and steps, a car port, re-render and associated works to dwelling. Bramble House, Alston CA9 3DD for Mr Walters.

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

6b/MAR/20 20/0128 Tree Works (CA). Remove T1 and T2 pollarded poplars; reduce T3 beech to 12ft;

reduce T4 overgrown hedges, (to be agreed on-site with Rob Sim); reduce T5 hornbeam to height shown on photograph provided. 1 Rowan Tree, Gatehead, Garrigill CA9 3EB for Mr Tim Haldon.

Cllr Haldon declared an interest as the landowner.

Recommended for approval. Proposed by Cllr Glendinning and seconded by Cllr Martin. (nem con)

6c/MAR/20 20/0123 Extension to existing equine arena. Land adjacent to Ghyll House, Alston CA9 3BL for Mr D. Watson.

Recommended for approval. Proposed by Cllr Robinson and seconded by Cllr Glendinning. (nem con)

Decision Notices

6i/MAR/20 19/0712 Full application. Erection of polytunnel. Valley View, Nenthead, Alston CA9 3NA for Mr J. & Mrs P. Baker. Permission granted with conditions.

6ii/MAR/20 19/0759 Full application. Installation of conservation velux roof lights, French doors, steps, renew guard/handrail to existing roof terrace, alter hipped roof to gable end and install triangular picture window. Osborne House, Front Street, Alston CA9 3SG for Mrs G. Williams. Permission granted with conditions.

It was pointed out that the velux windows had been approved despite objections from the parish council, and a quote from the newspaper stated that Eden's Conservation officer had said they were not a traditional feature. The application for the former HSBC bank had disallowed velux windows on the front of the building, so there is a concern about lack of consistency, and setting a precedent for future applications. Although it was stated that conservation is not about preserving buildings as they were (with the exception of listed buildings), it will not be the first time the council has not been in agreement with district council planning decisions, or that the district has not taken note of local knowledge.

Resolved to write to Eden District Council to object to not being listened to, and to ask other councils if they have experienced similar frustrations. Proposed by Cllr Denoual and seconded by Cllr Grew. (nem con)

Cllr Denoual was asked to draft a letter for the clerk to send. **Action MD.**

6iii/MAR/20 19/0897 Full application. Change of use of redundant agricultural barn to holiday accommodation and installation of micro wind turbine. Little Ghyll Cottage, Garrigill, Alston CA9 3HB for Mr I. Grey. Permission granted with conditions.

6iv/MAR/20 19/0863 Full application. Variation of condition 2 (plans compliance) in respect of siting and design of plot 2 dwelling attached to approval 14/0178. 2 Joseph Gardens, Nenthead CA9 3LU for Mr S. Richardson. Permission granted with conditions.

7. Tyne Willows/Henderson's Wood

7a/MAR/20 Car Park panels

Cllr Haldon reported that he had spoken with Epiacum about the panels, they have 24 sq m at £10.42 + vat.

Resolved to go ahead with the purchase of car park panels for Tyne Willows. Proposed by Cllr Haldon and seconded by Cllr Harrison. (11+ 1 abs)

Cllr Harrison agreed to arrange for storage. **Action CH.**

7b/MAR/20 Tyne Willows recycling centre

Cllr Haldon reported that he had spoken with an officer about extending the recycling centre at Tyne Willows, but they need to know if the parish council support the proposal.

Resolved that the parish council would support an extension to Tyne Willows recycling centre. Proposed by Cllr Haldon and seconded by Cllr Martin. (11+ 1 abs)

7c/MAR/20 Forest school

SKS have said that they might want to extend the forest school into the summer term. The sessions have gone well, but with one concern about dogs being off the leash. The clerk suggested that this could be dealt with by the school putting out an A frame notice while the children are in the woods to ask people to keep dogs on leads.

It was agreed that this could be a sensible way forward, as restrictions would only apply during school sessions. **Action CI.**

7d/MAR/20 Firs Wood trees

It has been mentioned by the tree surgeons who were shown the site by the clerk, that a number of trees are showing signs of ash die back disease. The chair stated that the principle concern for the council is the risk to the public, and that contractors' quotes for a tree survey will be discussed in confidence later in

the meeting. He has put a document in the dropbox on 'Common sense management of trees' and suggested purchasing a hard copy for circulation to help make an informed decision on managing the woods in the council's care.

During discussion it was suggested that the trees be clear felled and replanted, but it was noted that there would be a number of issues to consider including the risk of bankside erosion and any permissions required. Several members stated their concerns and opposition. The tree survey to identify priorities is the initial first step in management of the woodlands, and no decision will be taken on any work until the report is in.

8. Application to the Community Grant scheme from The Hub

The clerk reported that she has not received the application in time for the meeting, and asked for it to be held over to another month. An application from the Town Hall for assistance with VE day was also received too late for consideration.

9. Proposal for AMPC to fund room hire for a career advice day

Cllr Holt had been contacted in his capacity as Town Hall chair about funding for a careers advice day for redundant staff from Bonds. As the factory has been reprieved, it was understood that the advice day finished early and that the Friends of the Town Hall had offered to pay for the hire. No action taken.

10. Consultations and Correspondence

10a/MAR/20 Notices of events/meetings

EDC Towards a Zero Carbon Eden 18th March

The great Cumbrian litter pick – 20th & 21st March

Alston Pantomime – first week in April

Alston Town Hall Highlights show has been rescheduled for 17th May

10b/MAR/20 Information received

Nenthead Ward Meeting notes – January 2020

Police newsletter

A Pennine Journey Supporters club newsletter

Cumbria in Bloom Competition

11. Administration

11a Town Hall Management Committee

A proposal was received from Alston Town Hall to set up a separate Town Hall Management Committee, but Cllr Denoual confirmed that they are not in a position to progress as yet.

Noted that a sample policy on delegation had been put in the councillors' dropbox by a member for the clerk and council to look at for information only. Any proposals for a management committee will need to be formally agreed, and provide assurance that the full council retains overall control, yet allows for the day to day management of the building.

11b Working Groups meeting policy

Owing to a misunderstanding/mishearing of the agenda item request, this item was withdrawn.

12. Items for next month's agenda/urgent business & Traffic Management agenda

The clerk suggested that, should there be difficulty in holding meetings due to the coronavirus risk, the council consider revising its agreement that e-mail discussions should not take place. No action taken at present.

Littering around Spar – Cllr Miller

Issue with flooding arising from a blocked pipe in the corner field near Bridgend on the Leadgate road. To deal with as an urgent matter.

Redundant buildings

Proposal to move council funds held in the Credit Union – Cllr Ho

Proposal to change the status of the ADP working group to a committee to reflect the fact that it has taken on staffing matters.

13. Finance

13a/MAR/20 Bank statements

The statements as of 29th February 2020 were as follows:-

Alston Moor Parish Council tr/ac	£58,863.29
Alston Moor Parish Council bus/ac	£12,720.38
Eden Credit Union	£7,008.58

13b/MAR/20 Accounts for Payment

The following accounts were for payment:-

<i>Summary of accounts for payment: -</i>	£2,199.81
<i>Summary of income received since last meeting: -</i>	£3,241.95
<i>Summary of accounts paid since last meeting: -</i>	£1,055.38

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 Green and seconded by Cllr Miller. (nem con)

The meeting was closed to the public to enable Contractors quotations and staffing issues to be held in confidence.

14 Quotes for Tree survey of woodlands & Garrigill Village Green

Two quotes were received, based on updating the tree survey from 2016, but including Garrigill Village Green.

£250
£800 or full survey with insurance and tree tags. £1,600

Resolved to accept the quote for £250 from Matthew Robson. Proposed by Cllr Denoual and seconded by Cllr Robinson. (7+ 2- 3 abs). Cllr Green asked that it be recorded that he voted against the resolution. Guidance to the contractor is to be issued that the primary concern is public safety, the secondary maintaining the environment, which may or may not include the possible outcome of clear fell.

15 Publicity officer

An amendment to a proposal to keep the publicity officer on for a further 3 months was voted on and accepted.

Resolved to extend the contract for the publicity offer for another 6 months. Proposed by Cllr Martin and seconded by Cllr Harrison. (6+ 4- 2 abs)

It was agreed that the publicity officer would be asked to state that press reports were written on behalf of the parish council.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm

Signed:

Dated: