



ALSTON MOOR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of an emergency meeting of Alston Moor Parish Council held on Monday 19th March 2020 at 6.30pm in Alston Town Hall.

Present: Cllrs: G. Wright (chair), T. Haldon, M. Denoual, J. Glendinning, A. Green, M. Hanley, C. Harrison, A. Holt, R. Miller, R. Robinson, L. Seaton.

Attending on video link Cllrs: A. Martin, E. Grew.

Apologies: Cllrs: Z. Robson, H. Ho.

Absent: none

Declarations of interest: none

Noted that due to the Covid 19 outbreak all members kept a safe distance.

1. Voting by video conferencing

It is understood that no changes have been made to the legislation as yet to enable voting by persons who are not physically present at a council meeting.

2. Scheme of delegation – (NALC guidance on managing risks to the council)

Given the rapidly changing circumstances NALC has provided a template policy for High Consequence Disease (modified for AMPC and circulated). The policy allows for the suspension of council meetings until further notice, and the delegation of powers to deal with planning and financial decisions.

Resolved to adopt and implement the policy for High Consequence Disease to take effect at close of meeting. Proposed by Cllr Miller and seconded by Cllr Robinson. (nem con)

3. Promotion of community resilience, developing good neighbour schemes and working with other key organisations to avoid duplication of effort and ensure voluntary effort is directed effectively

Cllr Hanley reported that delivery of food, goods and medicines are the main tasks that can be done to help the community through the coming crisis with Covid 19. The GP practice has prepared plans for the delivery of medicines and has sent a list of considerations to Cllr Martin. The staff have also identified a former member of staff known to elderly or vulnerable patients, who can ring them to see if they need help and would like to make use of a delivery scheme.

Cllr Harrison reported that the church are planning to set up a shopping delivery scheme, using a refrigerated delivery van loaned for the duration of the crisis. They are discussing this with Cllr Driver, as it is vital that there should be no duplication of services.

Cllr Haldon reported that he has suggested to the organisers starting to think about what could be done that the parish council can assist in maintaining a list of volunteers as they are registered for data processing with the ICO, and have data protection policies in place.

Resolved to offer support to Cllr Driver and to ask her to co-ordinate an emergency response group. Proposed by Cllr Miller and seconded by Cllr Wright. (nem con)

A plan is beginning to take place, but it is early days to put out any information other than to signpost residents to government sites for advice, and to publish a simple statement explaining where we are.

It is highly likely that funds will be needed to assist the emergency response group, and to help the delivery scheme with associated costs. The clerk confirmed that the council had reserves, that S137 funding is not need as the council has Power of Competence.

Resolved to set aside community resilience funding for contingencies. Proposed by Cllr Denoual and seconded by Cllr Holt. (nem con)

4. Alston Town Hall – urgent matters

Cllr Holt reported that all Town Hall events have been cancelled for the foreseeable future and Local Links have been asked not to take any new bookings. Local Links are taking daily advice on the situation. The fire alarm has been sorted out.

Resolved to delegate responsibility for financial management of the Town Hall to Cllr Holt under the same provisions as the HIC policy for the parish council. Proposed by Cllr Denoual and seconded by Cllr Wright. (nem con)

It was agreed that a sealed envelope would be given to the clerk for safe keeping in line with financial regulations, and second copy given to Cllr Denoual.

Noted that the Town Hall could be used as a central distribution centre if needed.

The meeting closed at 7.20pm

Signed:

Dated: