

ALSTON MOOR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Alston Moor Parish Council held on Monday 3rd August 2015 at 7.15pm in Nenthead Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs: A. Martin (Chair), B. Aves, D. Athey, A. Green, E. Grew, P. Godwin, M. Herdman, R. Miller, D. Phillips, R. Thomson, G. Wright

Apologies: Cllr: J. Glendinning.

Absent: A. Robertson, T. Haldon

Declarations of interest: listed under specific agenda items.

A minute silence was held in memory of Nelson Habberjam, a former Nenthead Ward councillor.

County Councillor's Report

Apologies from Cllr Robinson.

District Councillor's Report

Apologies from Cllr Hymers who sent a written report:

War memorial light – Eden have agreed that if a supply can be arranged for the side of the road, where the give way sign is, they will replace the light. They accepted that it is important to light the junction.

Nenthead street lights – the reconnections have been held up because the person from Electricity North West Ltd responsible for it is on leave until the 10th August. Eden will follow up with ENWL when she returns.

Tour of Britain – Eden and Cumbria have agreed that Wrights Bros can act as a shuttle service between Alston and Hartside top on the 10th September.

Meetings – a discussion was held about the planning application for Hags Bank with the site owner and a revised solution sent to the planners' prior to a planning application being submitted. Meetings attended include several AMP meetings, Eden strategy meetings including the Food Enterprise Zone announcement discussed last month.

Cllr Godwin reported the following:

Devolution of services – Eden are offering to devolve some services, but the initial intent is to consult with parish councils, through a paper to be discussed later in the meeting. Cllr Godwin suggested that it would be a valuable exercise for Eden to ask for feedback on the public toilets devolved to Nenthead, Garrigill and STRPS.

Eden Grants Panel – over one third of the total allocation last year went to Alston Moor, and the panel want to visit Alston on the 3rd October to look around. It might be possible for them to use the Community bus, and meet with cllrs at the Saturday surgery in the AMP shop.

1. Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 6th July 2015 be adopted as a correct record with one amendment: 5/JUL/15 paragraph 3 should read '*that adjacent landowners are aware that people use the path.*' Proposed by Cllr Herdman seconded by Cllr Phillips. (2 abs)

2. Matters Arising from the Minutes

2a/AUG/15 Connecting Cumbria

Re: 2a/JUL/15 As the project is being delivered by Connecting Cumbria, residents need to contact their current or another provider, and the advice is to shop around. Garrigill cabinet went on-line on the 14th July, and Alston and Nenthead should have been available at the end of that week.

The remaining cabinets have not been connected yet and another update was requested. **Action.**

2b/AUG/15 Community Transport

Re: 2b/JUL/15 The Community Wheels transport from Garrigill was delayed as there were no bookings the first couple of weeks, although some bookings have started to come through now.

It was pointed out that the delay in getting the leaflets meant few people knew about the bus when the service began. There are some bookings now for the Thursday and Saturday Carlisle bus, and a relaxation of the County Council rules that will allow visitors to use the bus provided a resident signed up to the scheme uses their smartcard to pay.

2c/AUG/15 Appleby Fair

Re: 2d/AUG/15 Due to annual leave, no-one from Eden District Council was available for the August meeting, but they hope to attend in September.

2d/AUG/15 Condition of Tynehead Road

Re: 2g/JUL/15 An e-mail was received from Davis & Bowring stating that work has begun on improving the access, which should be tarmaced now. Their client's gamekeepers have been clearing the road on a regular basis, and the agent did not notice any debris on the road during his visits. Hopefully the resurfacing will conclude the matter.

The clerk reported a complaint about wagons speeding through Garrigill, that have caused people to have to jump out of their way, and they have ruined a number of grass verges in and around the village. Highways have confirmed that the wagons were not theirs, and as there was working on the Rotherhope track at the time, she thought it likely they belonged to Mrs Townshend. The clerk was asked to contact the agents. **Action.**

2e/AUG/15 Bridleway 302112 & footpath 302124 Dykeheads

Re 5/JUL/15 A rights of way officer from Cumbria County Council and Alice Bondi will attend the Traffic Management meeting on 21st August. As an extraordinary meeting the only agenda items will be footpath matters and the Tour of Britain.

2f/AUG/15 Annual Tree Survey

Re 9/JUL/15 The clerk reported that the agent was willing to meet with parish council representatives, but it would have to be before or after his holidays starting the 12th August. She thought timing might depend upon the availability of Cllr Robertson.

The damaged tree reported on the Firs Walk is difficult to find, so Cllr Athey agreed to mark it with an X. **Action.**

3. Planning

3a/JUL/15 15/0638 Full application. Proposed conservatory extension. Low Blackburn Bank, Leadgate, Alston CA9 3BU for Ms A. Bondi.

Recommended for approval. Proposed by Cllr Martin and seconded by Cllr Grew. (1 abs)

Planning correspondence

3b/AUG/15 15/0391 Full application. Proposed change of use from A1 retail shop to C3 dwelling house. Barclay's Bank Chambers, Front St, Alston.

An e-mail was received from Eden planners stating that the proposal is in conflict with Saved Policy SH4 of the Council's Local Plan and they are unable to make a recommendation for approval. The parish council were asked if they wanted to reconsider their initial recommendation. If the decision is to support the application, the reasoning for this must be included in the response.

The policy states: The change of use of ground floor premises within the established shopping areas of Alston.... (Class A1, A2 and A3) shops, financial and professional services and food and drink respectively will only be permitted where the proposed use is also within these classes. The reason for the policy is to ensure that town centre premises remain available for retail businesses as the primary function of the town centre. The only exception is when the applicant can prove the property has been made available at an appropriate price on the open market and there has been no interest for retail purposes over a reasonable timescale. There is a minimum period of six months.

The applicant has not provided evidence that the property has been marketed for retail purposes in line with Saved Policy SH4.

Resolved to recommend withdrawal of support for planning application 15/0391 Barclay's Bank Chambers in light of the information received from the Eden District Council, and in view of the policy usually recommended by the parish council. This is that town centre retail space should be either retained or advertised for sale for a reasonable length of time. Proposed by Cllr Godwin and seconded by Cllr Aves (2 abs).

Decision Notices

i/AUG/15 15/0360 Full application. Proposed first floor extension and roof alterations. High Beldy Cottages, Garrigill, Alston CA9 3DG for Mr R. Hymers. Permission granted with conditions.

ii/AUG/15 15/0413 Full application. Change of use of agricultural land to an equestrian centre. Pry House, Nenthead, Alston CA9 3PY for Mr J. Swan. Permission granted with conditions.

iii/AUG/15 15/0444 Full application. Change of use of Nenthead House and Cottage, (Class C3) to a residential institution (Class C2). Nenthead House, Nenthead CA9 3PD for Westminster School – Mr C. Silcock. Permission granted with conditions.

iv/AUG/15 15/0468 Reserved matters. Approval of all reserved matters associated with planning approval 15/0062, agricultural workers dwelling. Hill Farm, Garrigill, Alston CA9 3HF for Mr & Mrs J. & L. Green. Permission granted with conditions.

v/AUG/15 15/0472 Full application. Proposed general purpose agricultural building. Sheep Riggs Farm, Alston CA9 3BD for Mr A. Richardson. Permission granted with conditions.

vi/AUG/15 15/0487 Variation or removal of condition 1 of approved application 97/0684 relating to local occupancy restriction. The Swallows, Nenthead, Alston CA9 3LW for Mrs H. Craigs. The application was withdrawn.

4. Proposed closure of Barclay's Bank in December 2015

Resolved to adjourn the meeting for up to 5 minutes to allow residents to speak. Proposed by Cllr Martin and seconded by Cllr Green.

The residents stated that they are working hard to find out what to do to retain the bank and suggested setting up a working group under the auspices of the parish council. It is not going to be an easy task and it will be important to plan a campaign of action. Banks that are closing have to carry out an impact study on the community and economy, with an obligation on them to demonstrate that they can mitigate any ill effects.

One of the first tasks for the group will be to contact other communities such as Ambleside and Sedbergh to find out what their experience of proposed and actual closure has been. Contact will also need to be made with local businesses to assess the impact of closure on them. Closure will also affect social clubs, churches and schools, the elderly who may find it difficult to use the internet, and anyone who chooses not to use on-line services. There are some services that can only be managed face-to-face such as opening an account, taking someone off a joint account, or making arrangements when someone dies. Business customers cannot use the post office, and personal customers will find that it takes longer for a cheque to clear. The loss of the ATM is another concern, especially as it is understood that the ATM at Spar occasionally runs out of money, so to be left with only one would be disastrous for the town.

The meeting re-convened.

Barclays have asked to meet with the chair this week, and contact has also been made with Rory Stewart's office. It is understood that an Impact Assessment should be carried out by the bank before closure, so it will be important to find out what this involves.

Cllr Godwin offered to check who the County Council and Eden District bank with. **Action.**

Resolved to set up a working group with Cllrs Martin, Godwin, Malcolm Forster and Adrian Rush to look into the closure of Barclays Bank, and also to explore potential changes to Alston Post Office. Proposed by Cllr Wright and seconded by Cllr Herdman. (nem con)

5 Report from Eden District Council on devolution of services

An e-mail was received from Eden District Council inviting comments by 18th September 2015 on whether there are any of the services currently provided by the district that the parish might be interested in exploring for a more local service delivery. The Localism Act gives new powers and rights to parish councils and communities including the Community Right to Challenge and the registration of Assets of Community Value. Much could be achieved through informal partnerships and dialogue with members of Eden District Council. A report (circulated previously) put forward a list of possible services that could be delivered by a parish council.

Quite a few of the services on the list are already being done by the parish or community organisations, and it was suggested that Eden be invited to make an in-depth study of how the public toilets in Nenthead and Garrigill are managed after being handed over to community volunteers. Noted that services on the list could be looked at separately. There was a query about funding and, should an agreement be entered into, how long it would be expected to last.

Resolved to invite the portfolio holder to a council meeting to discuss further in September or October. Proposed by Cllr Herdman and seconded by Cllr Thomson. (1 abs)

6. Eden Local Plan – proposed changes to the draft settlement hierarchy (circulated) and request for comments by 24th August 2015

Eden District Council has published three planning policy documents on their website and are inviting views by 24th August 2015. The documents: Taking Stock, Land Availability Assessment and Proposed changes to the Draft Settlement Hierarchy.

The clerk reported that the 'Proposed changes to the Draft Settlement Hierarchy' includes a revision of the list of villages and hamlets. Nenthead has been reclassified from a 'Key Hub or Local Service Centre' to the category 'Village or Hamlet' with the stated aim of achieving a more flexible approach to housing development.

It was agreed that the Nenthead cllrs would consider this and forward any comments to the clerk. **Action.**

7. Licencing Act 2003 & Gambling Act 2005 – Review of statements

Eden District Council has to review its Statement of Licensing Policy every 5 years. The current policy sets out how they will undertake their duties towards licensing the retail sale of alcohol, provision of regulated entertainment and late night refreshment. Comments to be received by 14th October 2015.

The Gambling Act 2005 requires the local authority to prepare and publish a Licensing Policy Statement setting out how they will license and regulate premises used for gambling. Comments to be received by 20th October 2015.

Both documents are available for viewing on the Eden District website.

8. War Memorial street light

Eden District Council wrote to say that the street light besides the War Memorial in Alston, No 12 could not be repaired, and suggested that the parish council contact Cumbria County Council, who used to have a street light nearby. Both the clerk and Cllr Robinson contacted Cumbria County Council asking for the light to be re-instated. The Highways Network Manager met with Eden District Council staff to discuss the problem and see if a solution could be found. Electricity North West (ENWL) have a project to do away with overhead supply cables in this area and place them underground, so they need to understand what action ENWL proposes to maintain a supply to the County Council's Give Way sign, which is currently fed from the same pole as the street light. Eden will contact ENWL, and following this will be in a position to consider the options for retaining a light at the junction (the district council report at the start of the meeting may be an update on the situation.)

9. Telford's Carlisle bus service running Tuesday & Thursday from September 2015

Telford's propose to maintain a bus service to Carlisle during the week, which will run on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The clerk queried the timing as there is a clash with the Hexham Tuesday market bus. An officer from the County Council followed up with Telfords and was advised that Tuesdays are their busiest day, while Mondays and Fridays are very quiet. The service operates without a subsidy, and now without a schools' contract to link the route to, so they need to maximise revenue and have to operate on the most popular day. Since market day in Hexham is a draw it is unlikely this service could be moved. The County offered to monitor the situation.

It was confirmed that Wright Bros are not able to change the day the Hexham bus runs.

10. Tour of Britain – potential Eden Community Grant funding

Cllr Martin reported that a public meeting to discuss Alston's participation in the Tour of Britain cycle race was held last month, where it was suggested that a street party be held. The clerk reported that Cumbria Highways have granted permission to use the grass at Townfoot for a marquee, provided the junction is not obscured, and Zurich Municipal confirmed that there be no additional charge for insurance cover. Latest plans include live screening of the event in the town hall followed by a party.

Eden District Council are offering grants of up to £500 for community activities, with several application deadlines throughout August.

Agreed to set up a working group with Cllrs Martin, Godwin and Miller. **Action.**

11. Seat for Henderson's Wood

An internet search has failed to find any recycled plastic seats for £200, although it might be possible to obtain a bench for around this amount.

Resolved that the parish council would make a reasonable contribution towards the purchase of a seat. Proposed by Cllr Herdman and seconded by Cllr Grew. (nem con)
The clerk was asked to bring costings to the next meeting. **Action.**

12 Correspondence for information

12a/AUG/15 Notice of events/meetings

ACT Community Celebration Event & AGM 11th September 2015

12b/AUG/15 Literature received

Alston Moor police newsletter

13. Reports from working groups and representatives

13a/AUG/15 Planning Training meeting

There was a request from Eden's Planning officers to put forward a recommendation on upvc windows in the conservation area. Cllr Robertson asked for time to put a proposal together for discussion at the September meeting. **Action.**

13b/AUG/15 Nenthead Ward meeting

The meeting discussed the future of the cobbled street, and decided that a wider consultation should be held. Comment books have been left in the shop and Miners Arms, after which the Nenthead councillors will meet to form an opinion. There was an update on the Nenthead Hydro scheme, with Alston Moor Partnership proposing to form a community benefit society, with one of three initial directors appointed from Nenthead. The next meeting will be held on 28th September.

13c/AUG/15 Alston War Memorial

A letter was received from the Friends of Alston Town Hall stating that they are now only £300 short of reaching their target to apply for grant funding for the restoration work needed for both war memorials. They are contacting local businesses to ask for donations as well as the parish council.

Resolved to donate £300 to the war memorial appeal. Proposed by Cllr Wright and seconded by Cllr Grew. (nem con).

13dTyne Willows – Gala

Cllr Miller reported that the grass on Tyne Willows is being left too long between cuts, resulting in clumps of dead grass left on the field. The performers would have been unable to go on if a local farmer had not helped out by clearing some of it. He suggested that the fee should be waived.

Resolved to waive the gala fees. Proposed by Cllr Thomson and seconded by Cllr Aves. (nem con)

It was agreed to discuss the grass cuts with Samuel Kings School for next year. **Action.**

14. Items for information/next month's agenda/urgent business

Friends of Alston cemetery update.

Bridge End scaffolding

15. Finance

15a/AUG/15 Proposal to vire £500 from Fireshow budget to General Purposes for contribution to Nenthead Snowplough

Resolved to vire £500 from the Fireshow budget to General Purposes for the contribution to the Nenthead Snowplough. Proposed by Cllr Herdman and seconded by Cllr Aves. (nem con)

15b/AUG/15 Bank statements

The statements as of 3rd August 2015 were as follows:-

Alston Moor Parish Council tr/ac	£22,901.56
Alston Moor Parish Council bus/ac	£12,663.99
Eden Credit Union	£7,008.58

15c/AUG/15 Accounts for Payment

The following accounts were for payment:-

<i>Summary of accounts for payment:-</i>	£1,403.59
<i>Summary of income received since last meeting:-</i>	£332.67
<i>Summary of accounts paid since last meeting:-</i>	£108.40

Resolved that sufficient funds are held in balances for the clerk to be authorised to settle all the accounts listed during the coming month (appendix I). Proposed by Cllr Green and seconded by Cllr Wright (1- 1 abs)

15d Additional insurance cover

The clerk reported that the cost of insuring the defibrillator cabinet on the Town Hall would be £53.

Resolved that insurance cover would not be taken out for the defibrillator and cabinet. Proposed by Cllr Green and seconded by Cllr Phillips. (4+ 1- 6 abs)

The meeting closed at 9.15pm

Signed:

Dated: