

ALSTON MOOR PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2017/2018

CHAIR'S REPORT

I am pleased to present the annual report from Alston Moor Parish Council. We welcomed some new faces on the council this year for both the Alston and Nenthead Wards, and said goodbye to those who are moving on for a variety of reasons.

Our monthly meetings are but one element in the work of the parish council. We have established working groups on specific issues, and a great deal of other 'behind-the-scenes' work goes on at all times.

Once again it has been a challenging year for all of us on Alston Moor, and the parish council has been actively involved in responding to the issues that will affect our lives. The League of Friends and parish representatives have worked tirelessly to try and secure a better outcome for the Cottage Hospital than that proposed by the Success Regime. A large proportion of the population attended meetings and voted at the referendum about the future of healthcare, with total support for keeping our beds. We are saddened by the decision to close the hospital beds, but will actively support the League of Friends proposals.

Primary and secondary education on Alston Moor has a somewhat more secure future for the time being with the decision by the school governors to bring together pre-school, primary and secondary education on the one site at Samuel King's School.

The parish is also taking a keen interest in the proposed mine treatment works at Nentsberry and Nenthead and are aware of the concerns residents have over how these sites will be managed. The energetic Nentsberry Community group has done much to ensure proper consultation is carried out. The project is large and costly, with a number of unknowns regarding potential odour and the impact it may have on communities and businesses. Please take the time to attend future public participation meetings, when potential sites at Nentsberry and Nenthead will be discussed.

The parish council are directly involved in discussions over the district council's stated intention to devolve services to parish councils. The district would like to hand over Alston's public toilets, the management of street lights and several other services. Discussions are at an early stage, and the parish council has many concerns that will need to be addressed satisfactorily before any services are taken on.

Alston's Front Street improvements to the cobbles are to be delayed for a year, while additional funding is sought from the County Council as test pits revealed that the substrate is in poor condition, and the existing cobbles cannot be reused. In the meantime three crossing points will be put in, and the Blagill loop road upgraded.

Elections for the country and more locally our county councillors will take place shortly, we would like to encourage all residents to ensure they are on the electoral register to enable them to vote on 4th May for the County Council and the 8th June 2017 general election.

Alan Green

FINANCIAL REPORT

Council income is derived from the parish tax paid by local residents (collected via council tax), fees and charges for use of council facilities, land rents and grants or funding application awards to support activities. The accounts are inspected regularly by an Internal Auditor and submitted annually to the Audit Commission for independent ratification. The accounts below are unaudited (auditing will take place in July)

INCOME 2016/17	
Budgeted	£40,916
Ambulance appeal	£324
Grants	£755
Property	£452
Town Hall	£3,733
War Memorial	£8,350
Other	£7
VAT	£261
Total	£54,798
EXPENDITURE 2016/17	
Establishment	£13,183
Donations	£10,210
Property Management	£1,799
Community Warden	£2,762
Town Hall	£5,749
Other	£350
VAT	£366
Total	£34,419

GRANTS TO LOCAL GROUPS AND ORGANISATIONS

£500	Alston Town Hall
£500	Garrigill Village Hall
£500	Nenthead Village Hall
£500	Tyne Willows Sports Pavilion
£500	Fairhill Recreation Grounds
£500	Garrigill Village Hall recreation grounds
£500	Nenthead Playarea
£500	Nenthead Community Works
£250	Citizen's Advice Bureau
£500	Alston Gala
£2,000	Townscape Heritage Initiative
£550	Garrigill community toilets
£550	Nenthead community toilets
£1,000	Nenthead Chapel
£100	Nenthead PCC for activities
£480	Alston Moor Newsletter
£482	Hospital campaign
£120	Rural Highlights
£50	Royal British Legion
£128	£100 donated funds for community service

COUNCIL RESPONSIBILITIES

Alston and Nenthall War Memorials – congratulations to the volunteers who obtained funding to restore the war memorials.

Alston Town Hall – the parish council is the sole trustee of Alston Town Hall. The Town Hall currently has office space available.

Fairhill Estates Charity – parish councillors are also trustees to this charity, whose income comes mainly from land rents. Anyone from the parish experiencing financial difficulty is welcome to apply.

Fairhill Recreation Grounds Car Park – the parish council has taken on the lease for the car park, contributing annually towards maintenance costs carried out by the trustees.

Firs and Henderson's Woods – the council owns Firs Wood and leases Henderson's Wood.

Tyne Willows Car Park – is available for users of the field, who are asked to respect the space; please don't litter or abandon vehicles, and clear up after your dog.

Tyne Willows Pavilion – is owned by the parish council and leased on a peppercorn rent to Alston Fitness Club.

Tyne Willows Playing Fields – are leased as a school playing field, but may be hired for community events.

ELECTED MEMBERS and REPRESENTATIVES

Parish councillors are elected every four years and were last elected in May 2015. Since then Stan Hill, Emma Stewart, Chris Harrison and Holly Ho have been co-opted onto the council.

Saturday surgeries – are held in the Alston Moor Partnership shop 10.30-12.30 every week. Come along to complain, compliment, have a chat or make a suggestion!

COUNCILLORS**Alston Ward**

David Athey, John Glendinning, Pat Godwin, Chris Harrison, Holly Ho, Alix Martin, Ray Miller, Gary Wright.

Garrigill Ward

Alan Green, Elaine Grew, Tim Haldon

Nenthead Ward

Brian Aves, Stan Hill, Dick Phillips, Emma Stewart

Parish Clerk - Chris Johnson (01434) 382076

Parish councillors are also representatives to:

Alston United Charities – Garrigill representative Elaine Grew

Alston Moor Fitness Club – John Glendinning

Alston Moor Partnership – Tim Haldon

Alston Moor Traffic Management Committee – David Athey, Elaine Grew

Alston Moor Community Transport – David Athey, Alix Martin, Dick Phillips

Highway Representatives in contact with the Highway Stewart – David Athey

Tyne Willows Management Board – Alan Green, Alix Martin, vacancy

COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE

	Council meeting	Apologies	Absence
D. Athey	12		
B. Aves	10	1	1
J. Glendinning	12		
P. Godwin	11	1	
E. Grew	11	1	
A. Green	9	3	
S. Hill	6	6 (illness)	
T. Haldon	12		
C. Harrison	2	Joined Feb 17	
A. Martin	12		
R. Miller	11	1	
D. Phillips	12		
E. Stewart	3	1 joined Dec 16	
G. Wright	3	6	3

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS take place in venues around Alston Moor on the first Monday of the month unless there is a bank holiday, when the meeting will be held on the second Monday. Meetings are open to the public, who may, by prior arrangement with the chairman or clerk, comment on any subject on the agenda or matter of public interest during a public participation session.

PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE www.alstonmoor.org