

ALSTON MOOR PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2017/2018

CHAIR'S REPORT

I am pleased to present the annual report from Alston Moor Parish Council. During the year, two of our Councillors from Nenthead have had to resign for personal reasons, and we are fortunate to have been able to co-opt two new Councillors to fill the vacancies. I welcome Maxine Shepherd and Andrew Hewison and hope they enjoy making a contribution to the Council.

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.

The Parish Council is the Trustee of Alston Town Hall. During the year we were able to appoint Claire Worboys as the part-time Town Hall Manager. Claire's job is to increase the usage of the Town Hall so it can support itself financially, and also generate a surplus to be set aside for future maintenance. One project we hope to do over the next year is to repair the Town Hall clock, which hasn't worked for a number of years.

A planning application has now been submitted by the Coal Authority to the County Council, for the proposed mine water treatment works for Hags Mine in Nentsbury. The Parish Council supports the overall aim of reducing heavy-metal pollution in the rivers. We held an additional meeting in Nenthead to hear the views of residents on the application. We have written to the County Council, asking them to take full account of the residents' concerns over the potential release of Hydrogen Sulphide gas from the works.

The discussions over Eden District Council's stated intention to devolve services are continuing. EDC would like to hand over Alston's public toilets and the management of over 50 footway lights to the Parish Council. While we believe that these services are important to Alston Moor, we need to be sure that we know all the implications, especially regarding costs. We will be taking further advice before reaching a decision.

The problems with the cobbles on Alston's Front Street are still being considered by the County Council, who are responsible for the highways. They have acknowledged that they need replacement as they are an important part of Alston's character, and the Parish Council will be consulting with them to see if any additional improvements can be made as part of the same project to improve the 'streetscape'. It might even be possible to improve the parking situation!

I would like to thank all my fellow Councillors for all their work during the year for the benefit of the whole community of Alston Moor. Especially I thank Chris Johnson, our hard-working Parish Clerk for her advice and support over the past year.

Tim Haldon

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 2017/18 | |
| Budgeted | £42,046 |
| Tyne Willows | £379 |
| Town Hall | £4,570 |
| Rents | £12 |
| Other | £6 |
| VAT | £1,948 |
| | |
| Total | £48,967 |
| | |
| EXPENDITURE 2017/18 | |
| Establishment | £13,722 |
| Budgeted donations | £16,676 |
| Property Management | £4,507 |
| Community Warden | £2,825 |
| Community grants/S137 | £790 |
| Town Hall | £4,506 |
| Tyne Willows | £629 |
| War Memorial Restoration | £8,450 |
| VAT | £2,455 |
| | |
| Total | £54,560 |

GRANTS TO LOCAL GROUPS AND ORGANISATIONS

| | |
|--------|---|
| £2,000 | Townscape Heritage Initiative |
| £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 | NentheadPlayarea |
| £500 | Nenthead Community Works |
| £250 | Citizen's Advice Bureau |
| £500 | Alston Gala |
| £550 | Garrigill community toilets |
| £550 | Nenthead community toilets |
| £280 | Eden Ventures |
| £300 | Alston Schools FED PTA Fireshow |
| £50 | Alston Moor Newsletter |
| £50 | Royal British Legion |
| £60 | Walkers are Welcome |

COUNCIL RESPONSIBILITIES

Alston and Nenthall War Memorials—work has now been completed on Alston War Memorial.

Alston Town Hall – the parish council is the sole trustee of Alston Town Hall. Claire Worboys was appointed as Town Hall manager this year, and Brian Thompson as caretaker.

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 leases 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.

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, Dick Phillips. Two vacancies have been filled by co-option with Maxine Shepherd and Andrew Hewison due to take their seats in May 2018.

Parish Clerk - Chris Johnson (01434) 382076

Parish councillors are also representatives to:

Alston United Charities – Elaine Grew, Alix Martin, Gary Wright

Alston Moor Fitness Club – Holly Ho

Alston Moor Partnership – Tim Haldon

Alston Moor Traffic Management Committee – David Athey, Gary Wright

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

Highway Representative – David Athey

Tyne Willows Management Board – Alan Green, Alix Martin, Gary Wright

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