



ALSTON MOOR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Alston Moor Parish Council held on Monday 2nd November 2020 at 7pm, held remotely on Zoom.

Present: Cllrs: A. Holt (Chair), M. Denoual, A. Green, E. Grew, C. Harrison, M. Hanley, H. Ho, L. Seaton, Z. Robson.

Apologies: none.

Absent: none.

Declarations of interest: Cllr Robson 7a/NOV/20 & Cllr Denoual 13b/NOV/20.

1. Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the parish council meeting held on Monday 5th October 2020 be approved as a correct record with the following amendment: the vice-chair was proposed by Cllr Holt and seconded by Cllr Grew. (1 abs.)

2. Update from NWAS on the Alston Moor Ambulance Service followed by a discussion with council members

An update was presented by Roger Jones Interim head of service at NWAS, who explained that they wanted the community involved in early discussions on the future of the Alston ambulance service. This had been prompted by a concern that although there are 6 EMT's at present, the national guidelines mean that no new people can be trained as EMTs to work on the local service.

Questions were invited.

Q In February 2019 Peter Mulcahy talked about the future of EMT level 1 training now being a full time diploma course, and again in September 2019 by Rhonda Stanger and Steve Cremin. There were talks with Paula Davids from NWAS Educational Department about developing a bespoke programme that would give Alston Moor what we have now, underwritten by NWAS for the future of Alston ambulance. It looked promising but 20 months later what has happened?

A Bespoke training has been investigated but cannot be accredited nationally. NWAS are also looking at Enhanced Community First Responders, which may be the way forward for the future.

Q (Sent in by an EMT) In order to discharge your duty of care to Alston Moor, NWAS deemed it necessary to provide a supplementary service, originally through an ambulance run by the local garage, then by stationing paramedics on Alston Moor, followed by the community ambulance manned by trained EMT1s. Going forward, apart from CRF how does NWAS intend to deliver their duty of care to Alston Moor to the same level they have deemed necessary in the past?

A This was acknowledged as being difficult to answer. It is not viable to run a 24 hour paramedic service, ECFR have proved valuable in other areas, such as parts of Scotland, Devon and Cornwall and can be a valuable way of getting a timely response.

Q Cllr Grew instigated setting up CFRs on Alston Moor. Not to replace EMTs, but to complement them. CFR cannot attend patients such as children, maternity, mental health or road traffic accidents. Do these people not matter to NWAS?

A Some categories of ECRF can respond to some categories of call out. More information can be supplied after the meeting.

Q What is the timeframe for training for the ECRF and CFR?

A Mark Evans, who is leading the CFR and ECFR training is happy to start the training as soon as possible. It is a lengthy process, but those with existing skills can roll them over and it is within the remit to add extra learning. The training can be refined for Alston to get the right clinicians.

Cllr Hanley, as a practicing GP, reported that when he joined the practice in 1992 he spent many weekends helping the ambulance service with road traffic accidents. Later when CHOC came into being paramedics were employed, but this was soon disbanded for being an inefficient use of resources. He is not convinced that ordinary CFRs would be adequate; the GPs have provided a lot of support in the past, but they have busy practices to manage.

Q Will the 6 EMTs continue to have support and what will happen to the ambulance as it is a real concern that it will be taken away?

A Roger Jones confirmed that the reason for meeting with the council was not to discuss taking away the ambulance, but to address concerns that due to Covid 19 the number of staff could be reduced, and the provision become unsustainable. There is no firm plan, they are looking to find a solution for the future.

Cllr Grew reported that the EMTs feel they are not being adequately supported. Currently all 6 EMTs can continue working, but if some decide to move or leave, the service would be downgraded, so it is vitally important to protect the staff and let them know they are doing a great job. Some would like to work full time, but the pay for a 12 hour shift would not sustain them.

Q Four of the present crew of EMTs are willing to work full time if on call pay was increased. What is the stumbling block?

A All the crew have been offered shifts with the Carlisle or Penrith crew.

This was questioned and stated that the crew did not want to work off Alston Moor, and to do so would further deplete the local service.

A Budgets are extremely tight, NWAS is under resourced and finding it difficult to meet the current demand. Matt House agreed to look at it but did not think the figures stack up.

It was pointed out that there are now 10 fewer EMTs so there is a £700 per month saving, which could be redistributed to the current EMT's, so that those wanting to do more hours could work on Alston Moor. Some would be happy to work in Carlisle, but do not want to do this full time, and the community wants them here when they are needed. CFR could supplement the service not replace it.

Cllr Hanley stated that his GP colleague was horrified about the threat to the ambulance; they have the most isolated practice in England, and have to have extra skills not needed by most practices. It would be a burden on the practice if the ambulance were lost. The EMTs can go out to calls quickly and can have a wait of up to one and a half hour for a paramedic.

Q A local group has formed following the meeting with the EMTs and NWAS to work on models for the future for discussion with NWAS. They need to be able to speak to the right people but have not had an answer to their suggestions. Has NWAS thought of other ways of EMT working i.e. one on the ambulance with a designated driver, whilst another is driving directly to the scene?

A Roger Jones has been on holiday and will respond.

Q 6 CFR are to start training at the end of November, and it is understood they will get one life pack between the whole team. It can take between 20 and 30 minutes for a round trip to Garrigill or Nenthead, so we need at least one life pack for each area.

A The practice is to provide one life pack which is kept in a central location for use by the on-call CRF, and for the community to fundraise if more are wanted. The CRF can also use the public access defibs. The life packs supplied are just defibs.

Q How will the CFR keep in contact as there are not good mobile phone signals everywhere.

A There is a pager based on the same technology that the paramedics use, which can also send text messages. This came in around 18 months ago, and works in most places. There is another system that can be tried if it does not work here. Cumbria police have also done a review of the airwave system and provided it is used on a CCC adopted road will receive a signal.

Q Is the system GoodSAM Responder which works on a Google app.

A No.

On behalf of the community it was stated that we want to work in partnership, not as a take it or leave it scenario, but true working together to develop a sustainable solution. The parish council has representatives in Cllrs Grew, Denoual and Hanley, who attend ambulance meetings and are hoping to work together to achieve good emergency care.

NWAS representatives stated that they also wanted an early discussion on how to develop a long term partnership. They have their hands tied due to national constraints, but hope to provide the best medical provision for every person in Cumbria and Lancashire.

NWAS representatives were thanked for attending.

3. County & District reports

County Council

Cllr Driver reported on the following:

Video update – the latest edition reports on Covid and reminds listeners how to get support as the country enters a second lockdown. The Cumbria County Council emergency helpline was stood down at the end of summer but has been restarted. The local priority is to get the Alston helpline up and running again, and a resident is putting rotas together. Anyone wanting to help out is invited to contact Cllr Driver. It is not expected there will be the same level of need but it is there if needed for those who cannot rely on neighbours or family for help.

Winter preparations – the county-wide review of priority gritting routes has been deferred, so there will be no change this winter. If it is an exceptionally bad winter more local contractors can be brought in.

Health scrutiny – there are difficulties as targets are not being met. However, health and social care teams are working to enable safe discharge of elderly patients into care settings, and new discharge co-ordinators are being recruited to assist. There has been a reduction in referrals for young people, and recommendations made by the scrutiny panel on working with partners.

Footpath surveys – it is Alston Moor's turn on the 6 year cycle for a full survey of footpaths, and the county aim to get the initial survey work done by Christmas. The team are working with other organisations including the Friends of the North Pennines and Isaac's Tea Trail. They have been asked to speak to our councillors.

Church Road – concerns about congestion on Church Road are on the agenda for the Traffic Management meeting. Cllr Driver discussed the situation with the chair of the school governors and will support the school and community in finding a way forward. Good news is that the crossing point near Spar (flashing lights) is in the county council work programme.

Nenthead Mines asset transfer – is now complete, with thanks to all involved as this move will protect the site for public access.

Questions

Cllr Robson reported that residents have spoken to her on many occasions of their concerns about Church Road and asked if there could be residents parking only. Cllr Driver noted this but stated that all the options should be looked at first and the capacity assessed.

District Council

Apologies from Cllr Sharp.

Cllr Hanley reported on the following:

Reports – circulated and posted on the website.

Meetings – no EDC meetings were attended, and Cllr Driver has reported on the Health Scrutiny meeting.

Health & Wellbeing – Covid cases are low compared to the rest of the country. When furlough ends people aged between 18-35 are most at risk of unemployment, and the government's Kickstart programme is aimed at this age group. It is a 26 week programme for employers, who will be paid to take on a young person.

Green homes grant – a reminder that eligible Alston Moor residents can apply for improvements to make their homes warmer, with insulation or an air source heat pump.

4. Public participation

It was suggested that the seat in memory of Margaret Bell could go inside the Town Hall.

A question was asked about why several councillors had voted for the chair, while knowing there were code of conduct complaints made to the Monitoring Officer.

It was suggested that all councillors should consider resigning.

The chair asked that the issues be put in writing.

A second resident pointed out that the issues commented on by the previous person were relevant and recorded in last month's minutes. She asked that evidence be provided on the allegations made against former councillors Haldon, Martin and Miller by Cllrs Holt and Ho, that this evidence be made public and if none can be found a public apology is made.

Another resident stated in relation to the NWAS discussion that the Alston EMTs cannot work on the bank as they have not had blue light training.

5. Progress reports

5a/NOV/20 Tyne Willows Recycling Centre recommendations

Re: 7d/OCT/20 Cllr Harrison and the clerk carried out a site visit at the recycling centre to consider Eden District Council's proposals for improvements. A decision needed to be taken on whether the extension to the fencing should be in a straight line or at a 45% angle. If placed straight the fence would hinder access to the containers, where the sleigh for Santa is stored, so a recommendation for the 45% was made.

The access gate will also need to be moved, and a suggestion made that it is re-located on the south corner to avoid the soft ground and to bring vehicles closer to where they need to be. When the gate is moved the stored matting can be put down. SKS have now confirmed that they had no objections to moving the gate.

5b/NOV/20 Woodland works update

Re: 13/OCT/20 The contractor has continued working on priority trees over last month and identified trees that were not included in the tree survey that he considered were high priority. Cllr Harrison and the contractor discussed this, and, with the clerk, agreed that high priority trees should be dealt with first, and that work should be carried out up to the agreed price.

5c/NOV/20 Banking update

Re: 12b/OCT/20 Efforts to obtain a new bank mandate form for the council has been extremely time consuming, and the bank mandate that was promised would be sent by post has not arrived.

5d/NOV/20 SLCC Conference/general advice from EDC on Code of Conduct reports

Re: SEP/20 The SLCC conference was well worth attending with much helpful advice for parish clerks. Cllr Holt and the clerk met with Eden's solicitor for a discussion which included mention of Code of Conduct reports. The advice to members of the public is that if they have a complaint about councillors it should be submitted on the official form available on their website. It was also advised that any reports on councillors from the Monitoring Officer should be dealt with in confidence. Noted for clarification as this contradicts advice given during a training session.

5e/NOV/20 Additional updates re: Nenthead surgery

Re: 7c/OCT/20 An e-mail has just been received from Eden District Council to confirm that they are able to provide a litter bin near King's Head Cottages. Information and photos of the tree and damaged fencing at the back of the school playing field has been forwarded to the County Council.

5f/NOV/20 Council vacancies

Re: resignations/OCT/20 It is understood that requests for an election have been made and that the earliest this could take place is May 2021.

6. Council Representatives reports

6a/NOV/20 Alston Hospital Alliance

Cllr Grew reported that the last meeting was cancelled and re-arranged for a few weeks time.

6b/NOV/20 Community Plan meeting

Cllr Hanley reported that the steering group met for the first time in several months. They were advised that Alston Moor Community EnergyJ received £15k for ENWL to look at increasing energy efficiency. Householders can have their homes assessed for energy efficiency once the assessors have been appointed. There was an update on the Oaklea Trust plans for the old primary school, and the need for communication with the Alston Area Planning team to ensure there is no duplication of effort.

6c/NOV/20 Voluntary Litter Pick

Cllr Ho reported that she wanted to tidy up around the Firs and Church Road doing some litter picking and weeding and asked for training. It was suggested she join the organised litter picks, but she wanted to work outside of these.

It was agreed that the clerk would contact EDC to see if they could provide any equipment and put together a simple risk assessment on litter picking. **Action C1.**

6d /NOV/20 Ambulance meeting

Cllr Grew reported that a new CCG representative, Alison Clegg is attending meetings, who did not have the background on the canopy for the ambulance, but will look into funding for it.

Blue light training is no further forward, but the ambulance crew have now been given the bungalow to use so they have somewhere to get changed.

There is a 24/7 contact number (101) for the snowplough in the event of bad weather.

At a fact finding session for first responders two parish councillors were shown a Life pack costing £2,600 which included an oxygen cylinder and trauma mask, which is given to eCRFs The Life pack for CRF

costs £2,000. There is an argument that Alston Moor should be allocated 3 Life packs, as the distances between the communities make it impractical to just have the one, and each should be the full kit.

6e/NOV/20 Winter resilience training

Cllr Grew reported that the training focused on winter weather and infectious disease, with plans for a Covid winter. Households can download an emergency plan template from ACT that can be filled in with useful telephone numbers. There is also a priority service that vulnerable and elderly residents can sign up to, to receive prompt service for problems with phones, electricity, gas etc. Over 75's can be helped with oil heating problems.

6f//NOV/20 Good Neighbour scheme

Cllr Grew attended a Good Neighbour meeting of AMERG, which is evolving into the Area Planning group managing winter resilience planning and the Good Neighbour scheme. Plans are to set up a helpline making use of people with 4x4 vehicles who could be called upon to help out in bad weather. It is intended to provide food hampers for families in need, and to encourage people to nominate elderly residents to receive one.

There are also plans to set up a virtual community kitchen to teach people how to cook, and a virtual community centre via Zoom with 'Speak easy' sessions, murder mysteries and other dramas, possibly keep fit classes and talks on the history of Alston Moor. The Friday night quizzes are ongoing and proving very successful.

7. Planning applications

7a/NOV/20 20/0684 Full application. Replacement single-storey side extension. Whitehall House, Nenthead CA9 3PS for Mr J. Edgar.

Cllr Robson declare an interest and left the room.

Recommended for approval. Proposed by Cllr Green and seconded by Cllr Seaton. (nem con)

7bNOV/20 20/0723 Advertisement consent Advertisement consent for the retention of 2 no advertisement signs on the south elevation and 1 no noticeboard of the east elevation. The Hive, Nenthead CA9 3PF for Nenthead Chapel Enterprises – Ms S. Griffith-Jones.

Recommended for approval subject to a new planning application being made should there be any changes to the boards. Proposed by Cllr Green and seconded by Cllr Harrison. (nem con)

8. Parish seats

Garrigill village green seat – one contractor has decided not to quote as he was unable to source the old English oak that would be in keeping with the seat. Another joiner is coming to take a look, he will have the same difficulties with supplies, but may be able to make a corner adjustment so some of the existing seat can be saved. Quotes to follow. **Action Cllr Grew.**

Memorial seat for Dick Phillips

The clerk was advised that the missing seat on Hagg's Bank is still there but set well back and slightly damaged. Agreed to hold over a decision on siting due to time constraints.

Memorial seat for Margaret Bell

Hold over to the next meeting.

9. Nenthead Christmas Lights

Cllr Robson reported that a small group of volunteers are working to organise lights for the village but need to know what funds are available.

Garrigill clrrs confirmed that they did not need funding this year, and suggested a co-ordinated approach.

Resolved to allocate £250 to Nenthead from the Christmas lights budget this year, and to Garrigill next year. Proposed by Cllr Seaton and seconded by Cllr Denoual. (nem con)

10. Nenthead Fountain

Agreed to hold over to next month.

11. Additional defibrillators for Alston Moor

Cllr Grew reported that she would like to see the funds in the Defibrillator account used to buy an additional defibrillator, possibly at the school and with a plaque to commemorate Margaret Bell, who raised much of the original funds. SKS are willing to host the defibrillator on the condition that the council

pays for the installation and maintains the defibrillator. There are also plans for a defibrillator along the Tynehead Road in Garrigill and at Nenthead school subject to confirmation.

It was noted that the funds held by the parish council would only cover the cost of one defibrillator, and that there are also installation costs.

Cllr Grew was asked to report back to the next meeting with costings. **Action Cllr Grew.**

12. Parking issues on Church Road

A resident expressed concern about parking along Church Road, a matter that has been included on the Traffic Management agenda for discussion. There has been liaison with the school governors and the request noted that the whole of Church Road be considered due to concerns that emergency vehicle access could be obstructed.

13 Consultations and Correspondence (Appendix 1)

13a/NOV/20 Nenthead Mines Asset transfer

Noted that the asset transfer from Cumbria County Council to Nenthead Mines Conservation Society was completed on 23rd October 2020.

13b/NOV/20 High Galligill Woodland Creation

A letter was received from Davidson & Robertson on behalf of their clients who are investigating the viability of a Woodland Creation scheme of approx.113.74 acres. Details of the scheme were circulated, and a letter from nearby residents received expressing concern about the potential loss of light to their property. They would prefer a revised woodland scheme with the trees planted further back from the road. There are current drainage issues from the site, which floods the road, and while the plantation should bring about improvements, they would like to see some form of suitable field drainage included.

Cllr Denoual declared an interest as a neighbour.

Resolved to respond with a request that the scheme includes a broad band of broadleaf trees instead of spruce, set back further from the wall to let in more light. To also consider the needs of residents. Proposed by Cllr Harrison and seconded by Cllr Holt. (8+ 1 abs)

14. Administration

14a/NOV/20 Appointment of representative to the Alston Area Planning Group

An update to the Terms of Reference has been received, stating that more than one representative from an organisation can be appointed if required.

Noted that Cllr Grew has attended meetings of the group which has evolved out of AMERG, as has Cllr Hanley as a medical specialist and Cllr Harrison representing the farming community.

Resolved to appoint Cllr Grew as the parish council representative. Proposed by Cllr Holt and seconded by Cllr Harrison. (8+ 1 internet fail)

14b/NOV/20 Appointment of 2 representatives to Tyne Willows Management Group

To hold over.

14c/NOV/20 Appointment of a representative to lay the wreaths on Remembrance Sunday

The vicar has e-mailed to say there is still uncertainty over the guidelines for Remembrance Sunday, which he hopes will become clearer over the next few days. The council were asked to appoint a representative to lay the wreaths at Alston and Nenthall.

Resolved that Cllr Holt be appointed to lay the wreath at Alston and Cllr Denoual at Nenthall. Proposed by Cllr Holt and seconded by Cllr Seaton (8+ 1internet fail)

14d/NOV/20 Potential training sessions on planning and Code of Conduct

Eden's solicitor stated that the council could ask for a training session on planning. Eden are to hold Code of Conduct training for their members and following this will offer it to parish councils.

14e/NOV/20 Precept reports & contract list

Cllr Denoual declared an interest in Nenthead Community Works.

To hold over.

15. Accounts for payment

Summary of accounts for payment: - £2,248.00

Summary of income received since last meeting: - £5,557.71

<i>Summary of accounts paid since last meeting: -</i>	£1,442.68
RHSS payments	£22.50

Resolved that sufficient funds are held in balances for the clerk to be authorised to settle all the accounts listed in appendix 6. Proposed by Cllr Harrison and seconded by Cllr Green (5+ 3 abs)

Resolved to vire £6,000 from reserves to the property management budget. Proposed by Cllr Holt and seconded by Cllr Harrison. (8+ 1 abs)

16. Agenda items for next month and urgent business

Closure of footbridge to the Hush, Nenthead due to an unsafe condition, and request that the council consider offering support to fund repairs.

Recommendations from last ADP working group meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.50 pm

Signed:

Dated: