



ALSTON MOOR PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2020/2021

Chairman's Report

Welcome to this years Alston Moor Parish Councils annual report.

Many things have changed for all of us this year and the council is no exception, meetings held online have been testing for all of us and especially for those that find themselves at the mercy of poor internet connections. I am pleased that we have tried to remain calm and work with the technology limitations to move things forward proactively and positively.

As Chairman of Alston Moor Parish Council I would like to thank, on behalf of all the councillors and staff, the unsung heroes of the community, so many do everyday things that will touch the lives and make a big difference to those around them.

We would like to thank the councillors, that left the council over the last year, for their dedication, hard work and volunteering their time to make a difference to the community and for representing and supporting our community members. We look forward to new councillors joining the team following the May election, it will be a pleasure to work with new fresh people that we are sure will bring new idea's to the council as we take on more local services.

We would like to welcome PC Chris Newman & PC Ian Stephenson to the Alston Community, they Join PCSO Anthony Labram to police the Moor.

Many things have been achieved in the last year.

- *Parish Seating, being improved, this is a large ongoing project.*
- *Alston Ward Recycling Centre Upgrade, Thanks to all those that worked on this project, especially staff and councillors from Eden District Council.*
- *Nenthead Water Pump, project to restore the grade II listed water pump has just started.*
- *Firs and Hendersons woods, tree felling and planting.*
- *Your council continues to support the community Gym.*
- *Creation of the DGP Committee to make Council administration more open and transparent.*
- *Successful reduction to the speed limit in Nentsberry, great teamwork from all involved.*
- *Progress on the Volunteer initiative, project on going.*
- *Your Council has supported the Work of AMERG. A response group setup to assist the community during the Covid lockdowns. Funding was secured and used to develop a website, social media group and made possible the deliveries of essential items.*
- *have supported many other community organisations, providing funding for many groups from funds from the Tax payers of Alston Moor.*
- *Positive ward surgeries held pre and post Covid, with councillors working hard to follow up on issues raised.*
- *School crossing signs installed, project started and awaiting completion.*

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 2020/2021

Budgeted		£50,240
	Tyne Willows	£298
Town Hall (transfers)		£3,887
Grants		£7,006
War memorial		£114
Bank interest		£7
VAT		£526
Total		£62,078

EXPENDITURE 2020/2021

Establishment		£17,874
Budgeted donations		£15,720
Property Management		£19,743
S137 payments		£50
Community Grants/ General		£1,000
Town Hall (transfers)		£4,562
Tyne Willows		£282
War memorial		£114
RHSS (transfers)		£3,843
VAT		£518
Total inc. vat		£63,706

GRANTS TO LOCAL GROUPS AND ORGANISATIONS

Alston Town Hall	£ 510
Garrigill Village Hall	£510
Nenthead Village Hall	£510
Tyne Willows Paviion (Alston Fitness Club)	£510
Alston Recreation Grounds	£510
Garrigill Village Hall playarea	£510
Nenthead Playarea	£ 510
Garrigill Village Hall public toilets	£ 550
Nenthead Community Toilets	£ 550
Alston Town Hall	£5,000
Alston Moor Historical Society	£2,000
Alston Live	£500
Alston Gala	£ 500
Eden Venturers	£ 500
Nenthead Playarea	£1000
Nenthead Community Works	£ 500.00
Alston Fitness Club	£1,000
Alston Moor Newsletter	£ 50
Alston Moor Emergency Response Group	£1,000
Royal British Legion - wreaths	£ 50
NWAS CFR Kits (2021/222 precept)	£6,000

COUNCIL RESPONSIBILITIES

Alston and Nenthall War Memorials – both Memorials have been added to the List of Buildings of Special Historic Interest.

Alston Town Hall – the parish council is the sole trustee of Alston Town Hall, and employs a part time Town Hall events manager and a part time caretaker. Other tasks are being managed by the trustees on a voluntary basis.

Fairhill Estates Charity – parish councillors are also trustees to this charity, whose income comes mainly from renting out land. Anyone from the parish experiencing financial difficulty is welcome to apply. This year additional funding for residents affected by the Covid restrictions has been made available.

Fairhill Recreation Grounds Car Park – the parish council leases the car park, contributing annually towards maintenance costs carried out by the trustees.

Footway lighting – Eden District Council has upgraded and transferred some of the footway lights to the parish council. Cumbria County Council has upgraded the Victorian lights in Front Street, and the parish have agreed to take on the remaining Victorian lights that are suitable for upgrading to LEDs. The parish has a maintenance agreement with the district council's contractors, so faults can continue to be reported to the district and county council on-line or through Local Links.

Firs and Henderson's Woods – the council owns Firs Wood and leases Henderson's Wood. Many ash trees have developed ash die back disease, and following a Tree Survey trees that are deemed to be potentially dangerous have been taken out by local contractors.

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 2019

COUNCILLORS**Alston Ward**

Michael Hanley, Chris Harrison, Holly Ho, Andy Holt, four vacancies.

Garrigill Ward Re: Communication

Alan Green, Elaine Grew, vacancy.

Nenthead Ward

Maxine Denoual, Zerel Robson, Laura Seaton, vacancy.

Parish Clerk - Chris Johnson (01434) 382076

Parish councillors are also representatives to:

Alston Area Planning Team – Elaine Grew

Alston Alliance – Dr Michael Hanley, Elaine Grew

Alston United Charities – Elaine Grew, Zerel Robson

Alston Moor Emergency Response Group – Elaine Grew, Chris Harrison

Alston Moor Fitness Club – vacancy

Alston Moor Partnership – vacancy

Alston Moor Traffic Management Committee – Maxine Denoual (Nenthead representative)

Elaine Grew (Garrigill representative)

Alston Moor Community Transport - vacancy

Dementia Action Alliance – Elaine Grew, Holly Ho

NWAS Alston Ambulance Group – Maxine Denoual, Elaine Grew

Tyne Willows Management Board – Holly Ho, two vacancies

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS are held 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 matter of local public interest during the public participation session. Due to Covid all meetings were held remotely during 2020/21.

PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE www.alstonmoor.org