



ALSTON MOOR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Alston Moor meeting Parish Council held on Monday 28th June 2021 in Garrigill Village Hall at 7pm.

Present: Cllrs: N. English (Chair), P. Best, B. Davies, M. Denoual, A. Green, E. Grew, M. Hanley, C. Harrison, S. Hattersley, H. Ho, R. Miller, Z. Robson, L. Seaton.

Apologies: A. Holt, P Thompson.

Absent: none

Declarations of interest: Cllr Best re: 12/JUN/2021

1. Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the parish council meeting held on Monday 7th June 2021 be approved as a correct record with the following amendment: Cllr Hanley to be named as giving the District Council report. Proposed by Cllr Seaton and seconded by Cllr Davies (nem con).

Resolved that the minutes of the confidential part of the meeting held on Monday 7th June 2021 be approved as a correct record. Proposed by Cllr Davies and seconded by Cllr Grew (nem con).

2. Update on Townfoot Townscape Heritage Public Realm works

Brian Grew representing Alston Moor Partnership reported that until the preferred option is agreed it is not possible to give an estimate of the likely costs to enable the council to make a firm decision. As any structure will be constructed from durable materials it should be maintenance free.

Cumbria County Council are responsible for the grass verge and currently subcontract the grass cutting to Eden District Council, although future responsibilities would need to be agreed. Insurance would be an ongoing responsibility for the parish. If it is deemed desirable to obtain a legal opinion the THI funding could cover this cost.

Mr Grew was thanked for attending.

3. Chair, County & District reports

Chair's report

The chair thanked members for reducing the amount of e-mail traffic and for those who have worked with him to deal with the issues between councillors. The Code of Conduct investigations are now complete and a report will be published soon. Anyone wishing to attend the Accounts and Governance meeting of Eden District Council will need to book a seat.

The chair stated that he was elected as someone who could be independent, and his aim is to bring the council together as a team. He asked everyone to consider their options as unless the council can move forward and serve the public it will fail the electorate.

County Council

Apologies from Cllr Driver.

District Council

Apologies from Cllr Sharp.

Cllr Hanley confirmed that no meetings had been held over the last month.

4. Public participation

A member of the public stated that in response to 11b/JUN/2021 he had a copy of the government guidance which was handed to the council.

5. Progress reports

5a/JUN/2021 Devolution of assets

No updates have been given by Eden District Council about what is to happen over the devolution of assets which are now being managed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The clerk reported that she was

concerned about ongoing maintenance of footway lights from 2022 as no information had been forthcoming and the council were not in a position to maintain them themselves.

Cllr Hanley reported that the intention is to postpone the date all assets should be devolved as there have been issues with some public toilets closing after being transferred or not taken on at all. He offered to discuss the issues with the clerk and seek answers. **Action MH.**

5b/JUN/2021 Parish Seats/memorial seats

Former councillor Ron Robinson has offered to help with removing some of the very old seats that are damaged beyond repair. There is one along the Pennine Way near Tower Hill and three along Firs Wood.

Resolved to accept the offer of help from Ron Robinson to take out four seats along the Pennine Way near Tower Hill in Firs Wood. Proposed by Cllr Miller and seconded by Cllr Hanley (nem con).

The memorial seat for Margaret Bell is now restored and, in the Town Hall, it just needs the wording for the memorial plaque. The clerk will check on progress with the memorial stone bench for Dick Phillips.

Cllr Miller requested an agenda item for next month to discuss a seat in memory of Vince Peart at the entrance to Firs Wood.

5c/JUN/2021 Website development

The clerk will update councillor details on the website, and asked if those who have not yet had their photograph taken would be willing to do so, or provide a photo during this mask wearing time. Broken links, which happen sometimes, can be reported to the clerk.

6. Reports from representatives

6a/JUN/2021 Alston Ambulance

Cllr Grew reported that the last meeting with NWS took place in May, when they were advised that there are 6 EMTs working flat out, but should one or two leave the ambulance will not be viable and will be taken off Alston Moor. The CFRs went live on 5th December 2020 and have 88% availability with an average call out time of 8 minutes compared to the EMTs of 16 minutes, but they have to pick up the ambulance whereas the CFR use their own car with a sign 'responder on call' and may in future be given a flashing light for their vehicle. CFR are not EMTs and do not have the same skills and training (although there are some trained nurses amongst the CFR team). The issue over the EMTs being called after the CFRs should be discussed at the next meeting with NWS. **Action EG.**

NWS asked the local EMTs to come up with new proposals and they put forward the Scottish model, but NWS were not willing to consider it, suggesting instead the Dartmoor model which they will report on at the next meeting. Other suggestions such as a designated driver for the ambulance was turned down.

Noted that the air ambulance is not always a solution as it can be out attending other incidents or unable to fly due to weather conditions.

A sub group of CFRs are looking into governance and upskilling the volunteers. They can attend a limited number of emergencies, ECFRs can do more. NWS have been asked if the CFR could work with the EMTs but were told that there must be 2 ambulance crew. As a third person can go out in an ambulance in Carlisle, and the experience would be beneficial to new CFR Cllr Grew will bring this issue to the next meeting. **Action EG.**

The need for more defibrillators at schools and leisure facilities was discussed and as the government has not made any progress over this. Cllr Grew will take it up with our MP.

6b/JUN/2021 Alston Alliance

Cllr Grew confirmed that no further meetings have been held.

6c/JUN/2021 Nenthead Ward

A report on the meeting was circulated.

Cllr English and Cllr Seaton discussed the issue of bags from the litter bins, which have been collected by a local resident and left out for collection each week. This is unsightly for the village. It was agreed that there is a need for more information, the Alston bins are emptied by District Council employees who has a dedicated waste bin, but no one was certain how the arrangements for Nenthead had come about. However, it would be for the district council to make suitable arrangements.

Reported fly tipping was dealt with last week.

6d/JUN/2021 Nenthead Fountain

A copy of the report from Heritage Engineering has been circulated. Cllr Robson noted that a significant amount of funding will need to be found to carry out the recommended restoration work. A community

working group (independent of the council) has been set up to and has started fund raising. It was noted that the similar fountain at Middleton was extensively repaired some years ago with a replacement dome, and the work needing to be done now is for a professional re-paint.

It is hoped to be able to get the fountain working again, and there is the possibility of obtaining grant funding for this. It was agreed to consider as an agenda item funding from next year's precept at the next meeting. Heritage Engineering have asked to be included in the tender list.

7. AGAR 2020/2021

7a/JUN/2021 Approval of the Annual Governance Statement for 2021/2022

Members worked through the statements in the Annual Governance Statement.

Resolved to accept the Annual Governance Statement for 2020/2021. Proposed by Cllr Davies and seconded by Cllr Harrison (nem con)

7b/JUN/2021 Approval of the Accounting Statement for 2021/2022

Resolved to approve the Accounting Statement for 2021/2022. Proposed by Cllr Seaton and seconded by Cllr Grew (nem con)

8. Planning applications

8a/JUN/2021 21/0540 Full application. New shopfront windows and reinstatement of a central shop entrance doorway, replacement of four windows on front elevation and reconfiguration of partitions in the ground floor shop space. Kearton House, Market Place, Alston CA9 3HS for Ms D. Shannon.

Recommended for approval. Proposed by Cllr Harrison and seconded by Cllr Grew. (11+ 2 abs)

9. CCTV/Vandalism

Cllr Davies reported that when proactive policing takes place there is less vandalism, and a recent spate has ended, but it would be naïve to believe it will not start up again. Alston Moor needs to be prepared to protect itself and the government has a Safer Streets fund for local communities which can assist with CCTV, lighting of dark areas, and the safety of women. He asked for the go ahead to explore options for Alston Moor. Cllr Best offered to assist.

Resolved to authorise Cllrs Davies and Best to investigate the Safer Streets Fund and to report back. Proposed by Cllr English and seconded by Cllr Robson. (nem con)

10. Community Warden contract

Cllr Denoual reported that the contract had been on hold following the death of the former Community Warden, but that it would continue to be looked into and reported to the council.

11. Consultations and Correspondence

11a/JUN/2021 Response to letter re: HR appointment

As this concerned HR issues this item was held in closed session.

11b/JUN/2021 Complaint from resident re: guidance/legislation for council meetings held in public

This matter also concerned HR issues and was held in closed session.

11c/JUN/2021 Correspondence

(Appendix 1) Due to time constraints several items of correspondence will be held over to the next meeting.

12. Accounts for payment

<i>Summary of accounts for payment: -</i>	£266.00
<i>Summary of income received since last meeting: -</i>	£3,949.96
<i>Summary of accounts paid since last meeting: -</i>	£981.81

Resolved that sufficient funds are held in balances for the clerk to be authorised to settle all the accounts listed in appendix 2. Proposed by Cllr Davies and seconded by Cllr Miller. (9+ 4 abs)

13. Agenda items for next meeting, Traffic Management meeting and urgent business

13a/JUN/2021 Agenda for next council meeting

Correspondence from Nick Mason about a youth council.

Resident's request for a litter bin on Nenthead Road.

Cllr Grew reported that she was asked by one of the estate managers about improving broadband to rural properties as he had been contacted by someone willing to talk to parish councils. It was noted that a previous chair has tried with only 9 responses, but it could be tried again, possibly linking up with Allendale as there are properties there without good broadband. Agreed that Cllr Grew would forward contact details to the clerk to invite him to the next council meeting. **Action EG.**

13b/JUN/2021 Urgent business

The clerk reported on a recent phone call from a resident about work on the youth shelter in the old Potato Market. Cllr English was able to confirm that the Front Street Steering group are aware of this and it will be dealt with as part of the Front Street works. The Steering Group should find out on Wednesday when the works will take place.

One of the picnic benches on Tyne Willows has gone missing. It can be reported but it is not known when it was taken.

13a/JUN/2021 Agenda for Traffic Management meeting

The next meeting will be held on 16th July. Agenda items can be forwarded to the clerk.

The meeting closed to the public to consider agenda items 11a and 11b in confidence.

11a/JUN/2021 Response to letter re: HR appointment

It was stated that the HR appointment had been voted on and agreed. Two thirds of the cost is to be paid by Alston Town Hall. A further objection to the increase in the precept can be explained in part by the need to set aside funds to avoid a sudden increase should the council have to take on the public toilets in Alston.

The clerk was asked to reply to the letter. **Action CI.**

11b/JUN/2021 Complaint from resident re: guidance/legislation for council meetings held in public

It was confirmed by the chair that the council had acted correctly and that there was no issue to resolve.

Resolved that Cllr English would respond to the complainant. Proposed by Cllr Robson and seconded by Cllr Davies. (9+1- 3 abs)

The meeting closed at 8.35pm

Signed:

Dated: