



## ALSTON MOOR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Alston Moor Parish Council meeting held on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2021 in Alston Town Hall at 7pm

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

**Apologies:** C. Harrison.

**Absent:** none .

**Declarations of interest:**

### **1. Minutes**

**Resolved** that the minutes of the parish council meeting held on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2021 be approved as a correct record. Proposed by Cllr Davies and seconded by Cllr Seaton (11+ 3 abs)

### **2. Discussion with Cumbria Police & EDC on planning for Appleby Fair**

*Moved down the agenda after Co-option of Nenthead Councillor. Cllr Seaton had to leave the meeting at this point.*

Amanda McKirdy, Community Sergeant and Emma Brass, Eden District Council attended the meeting to discuss stopping points on the route to Appleby Fair, which has been moved from the usual early June gathering to 12<sup>th</sup> August. It is to be expected that the travellers will be passing through Alston from 7<sup>th</sup> August.

Alston's Gala has also been moved to the 21<sup>st</sup> August, which raised concerns about a potential overlap on the return journey, and the mess the horses make of the field. Marquees need to be put up on the Friday night, and there is a particular concern about the arena used for the strong man contest.

Emma explained that the travellers are asked to keep their horses tethered and can be asked to use designated areas near the river and away from the pitches. They can also be asked to stay away from a marked out part of the field. She can speak directly with the travellers to make them aware of the Gala and has in past years shovelled horse muck off the pitches but cannot do this for the entire field.

It was suggested that the travellers could be asked to tether their horses on the area near the caravan park, and along the riverside, but the clerk reported that this might not be practical, depending upon numbers, as she has counted up to 37 horses some years and space has to be left between each horse.

A representative from Alston Fitness Club was invited to speak, as the club leases part of the car park and is impacted by the travellers' use of the field. He explained that while he had no objections, the majority of members would prefer it if the site were not used. Many users stay away, the gym may have to close, and there are security concerns as the equipment is expensive. He questioned whether different arrangements could be made for next year but accepted that the car park would be used this year.

One member reported on her experience of using the gym during Fair week, she found that treating the travellers the same as she would anyone else was fine. It might help to talk to the gym membership, possibly those feeling intimidated could use another site for the short time the travellers are here. There are benefits to the community, especially to the business community who welcome the extra trade.

Emma stated that Tyne Willows has been an accepted stopping place for the travellers for a number of years and that allowing access for some, while restricting it for the travellers would not be possible. They have to go somewhere. Advance notices can be put out, but it has to be anticipated that some will come anyway.

Arrangements for this year will be that the toilets can be provided as usual and collected before the Gala needs the field on Friday afternoon. Areas to be kept clear can be marked out, the travellers asked to keep horses off, and the police can help with advice on security for the gym. There will be an increased police presence and designated officers.

A question was asked about the Facebook advertisement for a stopping place at East Cocklake. This has been discussed with the owners who have been advised as to what would be required for an official stopping place. It is a long way out with difficult access so it is not anticipated it will attract much usage.

The officers were thanked for attending.

### **3. County & District reports**

#### **County Council**

*Apologies from Cllr Driver.*

#### **District Council**

*Apologies from Cllr Sharp.*

*Cllr Hanley reported on the following:*

**EDC AGM** – the political structure has changed with two conservative members elected as committee chairs, previously there were none. Cllr Sharp was re-elected to Alston Moor Partnership and as Member Champion for Children and Young People, and Cllr Hanley to the Cumbria Health Scrutiny Committee and Eden Health and Wellbeing Forum.

*Full reports are on the [alstonmoor.org](http://alstonmoor.org) website.*

### **4. Public participation**

*None.*

### **5. Planning applications**

**5a/JUN/21** 21/0362 Full application. Erection of a cattle housing building. Randalholme, Alston CA9 3LA for Mr J. Raine

**Recommended** for approval. Proposed by Cllr Holt and seconded by Cllr Davies. (1 abs)

**5b/JUN/21** 21/0464 Full application. Rear single storey extension. 14 Middle Park, Alston CA9 3AR for Mr Allchorne.

**Recommended** for approval on the grounds that plantings of trees and hedging is replaced with suitable alternatives. Proposed by Cllr Grew and seconded by Cllr Hattersley. (11+ 2 abs)

**5c/JUN/21** 21/0466 Demolition of detached prefabricated concrete garage. Salvin House, Townfoot, Alston CA9 3RN for Mr R. Lawson.

**Recommended** for approval. Proposed by Cllr Holt and seconded by Cllr Davies. (nem con)

**5d/JUN/21** 21/0478 Full application. Replacement front door and windows. Blacksmiths Cottage, The Butts, Alston CA9 3JQ for Mr & Mrs N.& C. Neary.

**Recommended** for approval. Proposed by Cllr English and seconded by Cllr Holt. (nem con)

### **6. Co-option of Nenthead Councillor**

Two people were interested in standing for the Nenthead Ward vacancy. Ron Robinson and Peter Thompson. Several letters of support were received for Peter Thompson. Voting was by secret ballot.

**Resolved** that Peter Thompson be appointed to the Nenthead Ward.

Cllr Thompson signed the Declaration of Acceptance and took a seat on the council.

### **7. Consultations and Correspondence**

#### **7a/JUN/21 Alston Moor Partnership – Townfoot public realm works**

A request was received from AMP that the council notes the content of the report about the planned development of the Townfoot site by the Townscape Heritage Group and considers the options for the future maintenance of the site at the next meeting. (Appendix 1)

The chair of the Townscape Heritage Group attended to report that the TH project is in the final year of the programme, which has been extended by 18 months. They have carried out public consultations for a scheme at Townfoot, and are looking at three options. Cumbria County Council owns the site, but have requested that a memorandum of agreement is made for the ongoing maintenance with a responsible and permanent body. The materials used will be low maintenance and constructed with hard wearing materials, so the task will be mainly litter picking and grass cutting.

The council were asked if they might be willing to become the responsible body and to appoint a representative to work with AMP. They will put together a 25 projection of costs for the council to consider.

It was confirmed that Cumbria County Council will still own the land. There was a question about the grass cutting, which is currently contracted out to Eden District Council and a suggestion made that there could be dialogue about this.

Concerns were raised about the risk of taking on another asset that could be a burden as the council already has war memorials, the Nenthead Fountain and seats that are difficult to maintain. It was agreed that more information on the financial implications is needed.

**Resolved** to consider taking on the maintenance after receiving full costings and more information. Proposed by Cllr Holt and seconded by Cllr Miller. (11+ 1- 1 abs)

### **7b/JUN/21 Correspondence**

(Appendix 2)

**CCC new Highways Information Asset Management System** – there is to be a launch of the new system and a briefing for parish councillors later in the month.

**EDC Monitoring Officer update** – Cllr English confirmed that he had requested a response from the MO on the comments made at the previous meeting and read out a statement clarifying that Eden District Council has no powers to investigate the parish council, but does investigate Code of Conduct complaints. They are currently conducting a formal investigation of all the allegations made against members who have had complaints made about them. The district council does not investigate allegations of corruption, as this is a police matter. Cllr English to forward the statement. **Action NE.**

### **8. Accounts for payment**

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| Summary of accounts for payment: -               | £0.00    |
| Summary of income received since last meeting: - | £1822.75 |
| Summary of accounts paid since last meeting: -   | £0.00    |

For information as there were no additional invoices for payment since the last meeting.

### **9. Agenda items for next month and urgent business**

Agenda items held over from the last meeting – CCTV and vandalism

Alston Ambulance

Nenthead Fountain

Community Warden

*The meeting closed to the public to discuss issues relating to public attendance at meetings in confidence.*

### **10. Public attendance at meetings**

The chair confirmed that a resident had been invited to make a formal complaint, but this has not been received so there was nothing further to discuss at present.

*The meeting closed at 8.33pm*

Signed: .....

Dated: .....