



ALSTON MOOR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Alston Moor Parish Council held on Monday 10th January 2022 in the Masonic Hall at 7pm.

Present: Cllrs: N. English (Chair), P. Best, B. Cooper, B. Davies, A. Green, E. Grew, M. Hanley, C. Harrison, S. Hattersley, H. Ho, I. Lindley, R. Miller, A. Robertson, R. Robinson.

Apologies: none.

Absent: none.

Declarations of interest: none.

A minute silence was held in memory of former parish councillor Chris Sharp.

1. Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the parish council meeting held on Monday 6th December 2021 be approved as a correct record. Proposed by Cllr Robinson and seconded by Cllr Harrison. (nem con)

2. Nenthead Community Pub ownership vision

Dave Raeside reported that there is interest in re-opening the Miners Arms as a community pub. It has been a loss to the village since it closed 2 years ago, with cyclists spending in Allenheads or Alston instead of in the village. A case could be made for a community asset application, which should assist with government funding to see the project through. The owner has no objection and would be happy to see the pub continuing in use. The intention would be to offer accommodation alongside the pub business.

Parish council support was requested.

Members responses

Cllr Hanley offered to help in his capacity as a district councillor.

It was suggested that former councillor T. Haldon could also advise on community assets as he has been involved in preparing Community Right to Bid applications. The consortium who bought the George and Dragon in Garrigill might also be willing to advise on grant funding.

It was suggested that a business plan is an important first step, the venture needs to be viable, and should include a feasibility study to assess local usage.

The chair thanked Mr Raeside for attending and suggested that he come back to the parish council to ask for support when the project is further developed.

3. Chair, County & District reports

Chair's report

The chair wished everyone the best for the new year, mentioning that the situation with covid is still very difficult and that although full council meetings must be held in person some meetings, which are not making decisions, can be held on Zoom. A request was made to only send e-mails that are necessary.

Zerel Robson has resigned from the Nenthead Ward, and thanks were given to her for her time and dedication. Eden District Council has been informed and the election process set in place.

A request to consider the acquisition of a public asset at High Mill was received too late for the agenda but will go on for next month. As one of the greatest historic assets in the town centre it should be given serious consideration but is not something that should be taken on lightly. In the meantime, viewings can be held for any councillor who wants to see it. The building is currently in reasonable repair

County Council

Apologies from Cllr Driver.

District Council

Apologies from Cllr Sharp.

Cllr Hanley circulated reports before the meeting.

Planning Committee – there is to be a review of planning services in Eden. To address the staff shortages two new planners are due to start soon and another four are to be appointed. Around 200 plans are received each month. Other issues are that the IT system needs to be updated, enforcement needs to be strengthened, S106 funds have not been collected from developers and members need training on planning matters.

Health Scrutiny Committee – there are concerns about access to primary care with GP shortages across the county. There is good level of support for GPs, including the use of phone consultations which have been accepted by a majority. In other areas of healthcare staff from different specialities have been brought in to fill gaps in provision.

Questions

A question was asked about whether a local office would be retained for planning under the new unitary. Voreda House will be the new council sub-office and it is expected that services such as planning will continue to be provided there.

Another question concerned the impact the building of new houses will have on healthcare and other provision.

No extra beds for the increase in population have been provided for Carlisle hospital. S106 should assist with the provision of primary and secondary education, but the allocation of these funds is not straightforward.

4. Public participation

None.

5. Progress reports

5a/JAN/22 Missing litter bin, Nenthead

Re: 4a/DEC/21 The clerk reported that she had no information on the missing bin beside the school playing field and Eden District Council confirmed that as they have installed two bins, they will not replace it again.

It was reported that one of the bins had been seen further down the river. Clerk to report this to Eden.

Action CI.

5b/JAN/22 Radio reception on Alston Moor

Re: CCCreport/DEC/21 The clerk spoke with Jonathan Morrell, the Executive Producer from Radio Cumbria about the poor reception experienced in most areas of Alston Moor. He has offered to follow up with his bosses and report back.

5c/JAN/22 Additional work Tyne Willows wall

Re: 16/JAN/22 Another small section of wall alongside the playing field has fallen and could possibly be repaired at the same time as the section alongside the road. This may have happened during Storm Arwen.

Resolved to ask the appointed contractor to repair the additional section of wall on Tyne Willows. Proposed by Cllr Harrison and seconded by Cllr Robinson. (12+ 2 abs)

6. Reports from representatives

6a/JAN/22 Alston Alliance

No meetings were held this month although there is to be a meeting in February between the practice and Alston Alliance, which should bring some good news.

6b/JAN/22 Alston Ambulance

Cllr Grew had circulated a report of the meeting and the proposed Alston model (posted to the website). There were no additional questions.

6c/JAN/22 Nenthead Ward

Cllrs Robinson and Robertson attended the Ward meeting. The missing litter bin was discussed and the issue of a water leak in the public toilets, which had been repaired by volunteers but had incurred a £3,000 charge that is being disputed.

The power cuts caused by Storm Arwen left Nenthead without power for several days, and although generators provided by NWEL could be used through the sub-stations Nenthead, and Garrigill need alternative solutions if this happens again. Cllr Grew reported that AMERG were discussing emergency situations.

6d/JAN/22 Safer Streets update

Cllrs Best and Davies have put together a brief report and have a phone meeting next Thursday about the fund. They will report back.

6e/JAN/22 AMERG report

Cllr Grew circulated a report before the meeting. AMERG had mainly discussed the impact of Storm Arwen and the lessons learnt. It took until the third day of the power cut for a major incident to be declared. Garrigill was not re-connected until Tuesday and one property took a further 3 days. Information put out by NWEL was not helpful as the same information was repeated. If it had been explained that due to the damage to pylons the power could not be restored quickly it would have enabled those that could to move out.

Although Nenthead got a hot food van there was no outside provision in Garrigill, and it was left to the community to organise self-help. Cllr Grew visited the elderly to check that they were coping, two people needed to be taken into hospital. The Masonic Hall was opened for meals and had prepared upstairs with camp beds, but although around 20 people came the first day for meals, and a few more on the second it was not used by the third day. Phone communications were another problem as only those with old analogue phones could use them, and the government intend to do away with the lines on which these can be used by 2025. The only means of contacting those at risk or to advise on what was available was by ringing doorbells.

Garrigill Village Hall was able to use a small generator, and in the longer term will apply for funding to replace the electric cooker with gas.

It was pointed out that if the NHS had allowed the hospital to be opened it could have been used as it had heating and cooking facilities.

7. Planning applications

7a/JAN/22 21/1010 Full application. Construction of a two-storey extension on the south eastern gable of the property, comprising kitchen/diner on the ground floor and master bedroom on the first floor. Addition of a porch to the southwestern elevation. Middle House, Garrigill CA9 3EX for Mr A. Moffitt.

Recommended for approval. Proposed by Cllr Grew and seconded by Cllr Cooper. (nem con)

7b/JAN/22 21/1041 Listed building consent. For replacement of timber single glazed windows with timber heritage double glazed windows. Granville House, Townfoot, Alston CA9 3HX for Mr P. Whittle.

Recommended for approval. Proposed by Cllr Grew and seconded by Cllr Best. (nem con)

7c/JAN/22 21/1100 Tree works (CA) T1 Remove previously topped conifer to ground level. The Nookery, Townfoot, Alston CA9 3RL for Mr P. Carrol.

Recommended for approval. Proposed by Cllr English and seconded by Cllr Grew. (13+ 1-).

7d/JAN/22 21/1104 Tree works (CA) T1 Silver birch – remove. T2 Sycamore – reduce multiple branches overhanging neighbouring property. Temple Croft, Townfoot, Alston CA9 3RL for Mr P. Carroll

Recommended for approval. Proposed by Cllr English and seconded by Cllr Robinson. (13+ 1-).

8. Specifications for tree works – Tyne Willows & Firs Wood

Since the inspection carried out by Cllr Harrison and the clerk, Storm Arwen has been responsible for bringing down a tree in Henderson's Wood, three trees at the far end of Firs Wood that have partially fallen into the adjoining field, and possible damage to the top of a spruce tree on Tyne Willows. The clerk put together draft specifications although there are a few queries to resolve before it can be advertised.

It was agreed to ask for quotes. **Action Cl.**

9. CCTV proposal for Tyne Willows pavilion – Cllr English

Cllr English reported that the remains of the fire display had been set on fire near to the recycling centre, as well as several chairs stacked next to the container. The damaged chairs have been removed and the area around the recycling centre tidied up, but it remains a concern. He spoke with one of the gym directors who is willing to install and monitor additional security cameras, but they do not have the funds to do this.

Resolved to include funding for additional security cameras at Tyne Willows Pavilion to the precept budget. Proposed by Cllr Miller and seconded by Cllr English. (nem con)

10. Consultations & Correspondence

10a/JAN/22 Correspondence (Appendix 1)

Circulated with the minutes. No comments were received.

11. Ratification of policies & actions recommended by the Development, Governance & Policy Committee

11a/JAN/22 Planning protocol

It was reported that it is not unusual for parish councils to act as second eyes for enforcement officers, and that constituents can be helped with their concerns. However, members of the public who are concerned about planning matters can report them directly to the planning authority in confidence as their identity will not be disclosed to the property or land owner.

Resolved to accept the planning protocol. Proposed by Cllr English and seconded by Cllr Miller. (nem con)

11b/JAN/22 Committee Terms of Reference

Cllr English confirmed that as the Finance Committee had been disbanded the Terms of Reference for Committees needed to be updated. There will be a working group to look at what is required.

Resolved to accept the revisions to Committee ToR. Proposed by Cllr English and seconded by Cllr Davies (13+ 1 abs)

11c/JAN/22 Complaints policy

Resolved to accept the Complaints policy. Proposed by Cllr English and seconded by Cllr Grew. (nem con)

11d/JAN/22 Sale of land policy

Resolved to accept the Sale of Land policy. Proposed by Cllr Davies and seconded by Cllr Miller. (nem con)

11e/JAN/22 Performance review policy

The DGP Committee had agreed to hold this policy over.

11f/JAN/22 Appointment of Cllr Hanley to DGP and Staffing Committee

Resolved to appoint Cllrs Hanley & Robinson to the DGP and Staffing Committee. Proposed by Cllr English and seconded by Cllr Grew. (nem con)

12. Accounts for payment (Appendix 2)

<i>Summary of accounts for payment:</i>	£576.00
<i>Summary of income received since last meeting:</i>	£0.32
<i>Summary of accounts paid since last meeting:</i>	£1,544.89

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 Robinson and seconded by Cllr Davies. (12+ 2 abs)

15. Agenda items for the next meeting, Traffic Management meeting & urgent business for information

There were no additional items for the February meeting other than a discussion on proposals for the waterwheel building at High Mill.

It was explained that the Highways team on the Traffic Management Committee will not take agenda items that should initially have been reported through HIAMS, ideally with a reference number obtained. Representatives have also tried and failed with requests over gritting routes, as these cannot be altered once set. It is also difficult to discuss more visits for drain cleaning as there is only one vehicle for the county.

Requests for the agenda – ongoing issue of drain clearance on North Loaning to avoid flooding downhill. Overhanging trees around Alston War Memorial.

The meeting closed to the public to consider quotations for the youth shelter glass panels and garden valuations.

16. Garden valuations

No actions taken other than a request to ask Cllr Robertson to present his calculations to the March council meeting.

17. Youth Shelter glass panels

No quotes have been received. Noted that the parish council has agreed to look at repair costs but have not agreed to take on the ownership of the shelter.

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm

Signed:

Dated: