



ALSTON MOOR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Alston Moor Parish Council held on Monday 4th July 2022 in Garrigill Village Hall at 7pm.

Present: Cllrs: R. Miller (Chair), B. Cooper, N. English, A. Green, E. Grew, M. Hanley, C. Harrison, H. Ho, G. Ransom, R. Robinson.

Apologies: Cllrs: P. Best, B. Davies, S. Hattersley, I. Lindley, A. Robertson.

Absent: none

Declarations of interest: Cllr Green 12/JUL/22

1. Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the parish council meeting held on Monday 6th June 2022 be approved as a correct record. Proposed by Cllr Robinson and seconded by Cllr Harrison. (2 abs)

2. Chair, County & District reports

Chair's report

The chair reported that the Jubilee tree for Alston was planted on Gala day with thanks to the councillors who helped in getting it done. Gala day was a success for the town with lots of visitors. On a less positive note, the request not to send e-mails to all councillors was not heeded, so the chair wrote to everyone to say it was up to them to decide if they wanted to open certain e-mails. The chair, vice-chair and clerk are happy to discuss genuine concerns with anyone who has an issue to raise, the aim being to avoid unnecessary e-mails and enable members to concentrate on getting the council work done as a team.

County Council

Apologies from Cllr Driver who forwarded information on the Household Support Fund.

Household Support Fund – this has been topped up by £500k by the County Council with eligibility criteria revised to ensure the needs of high-risk groups are met. Details of the fund are on the website. <https://cumbria.gov.uk/healthandcare/costofliving.asp>

District Council

Apologies from Cllr Sharp.

Cllr Hanley reported on the following:

Planning – a report will be circulated later, the main issue under discussion was an application from the County Council to fill a railway bridge, which went ahead without waiting for permission, but the committee voted to strengthen the bridge.

3. Public participation

No requests were made.

4. Progress reports

4a/JUL/22 Platinum Jubilee medallions

Re: 4b/JUN/22 The clerk reported that there are a number of medallions still available for collection. A reminder has been put on Facebook.

It was mentioned that not all young people and parents of children too young to attend school had collected their medallions. If there are any spare medallions, they could be distributed to residents born in the same year as the queen. **Action CI.**

4b/JUL/22 CCTV at Alston Gym

Re: 13/JUN/22 The cctv camera for Alston Fitness Club has been installed at the gym and there is a phone app which can be used by the parish council for remote monitoring of the car park to discourage fly tipping. The app needs to be installed on one or more phones and a cctv advisory sign put up on the building before it goes live. Images will remain on camera for 30 days before automatic deletion.

The clerk was asked to purchase signage and arrange for the phone app to be installed. **Action CI.**

4c/JUL/22 Parish Council computer

Re: 17JUN/22 The clerk reported that a new model of the MacBook air computer is due out shortly and asked if the council would prefer to purchase the new model. The guide price is £1,249 for the M2 and around £999 or less with discount for the M1 model.

Resolved to buy the newest M2 model when available. Proposed by Cllr Miller and seconded by Cllr Grew. (9+ 1 abs)

4d/JUL/22 Nenthead Community Projects request for a council representative to discuss Nenthead Fountain

Re: MAY/22 In a letter (other matters discussed under correspondence) a request was made for a council representative to meet with a representative from Nenthead Community Projects to discuss progress with the Nenthead Fountain. The clerk reminded members that the council's Financial Regulations required contracts of £25,000 and over to meet the government's Public Procurement guidelines if the parish council is to be involved in the project.

Cllr Robinson reported that he has already met with a representative from the group, who has done a lot of research into what work needs doing to restore the fountain. It will need a lot of financial support to progress.

4e/JUL/22 Tyne Willows Picnic Benches

The clerk received a phone call today from the company delivering the two picnic benches for Tyne Willows. They would like to deliver them next Monday but will only deliver them onto a tarmac surface. They could be delivered to Skelgillside workshops but to avoid obstructing the car park they will need to be moved onto site quickly.

Cllr Harrison offered to assist when he has access to a fork lift truck. **Action CI,CH.**

5. Reports from representatives

5a/JUL/22 NNAS Alston Moor Working Group

Cllr Ransom reported that the I-pad roll out is not happening, but as they are needed for training for the EMTs it is hoped they will be available in phase 2. The roll out of the RRV has been paused and a discussion on lone working rolled over to the next meeting. Due to communications issues resulting in missed calls, Alston Moor will be a pilot for any new technology. No new promotional material to encourage people to come forward as CRF has been received.

Cllr Grew reported that she sent an e-mail to NNAS following the poor attendance at the drop-in sessions, pointing out that it is impossible to reach everyone through social media and posters so suggested that in future a mail drop to all households should be considered. NNAS replied that the suggestion would be taken to senior management.

Cllr Ransom added that the drop-in session notes mentioned that actions will be taken forward by the working group, but this contradicts the stance taken by NNAS that it is not a decision-making group.

Cllr Grew continued her report - minutes of meetings are not published as names and e-mail addresses must be redacted, but NNAS have agreed to send a copy to the clerk, which is not to be forwarded to the public.

There was a query about standards, but NNAS said no ambulance service can meet all the criteria. They also said the ambulance based at St John's Chapel could be used where appropriate. (Looking back over several years no-one was aware that it had ever been called out, although former Cllr Dick Phillips had raised this issue many times at meetings.)

There is to be a round table meeting with Neil Hudson, local representatives and NNAS on the 15th July to discuss a way forward.

On the 1st July the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) will be replaced by the Integrated Care Services (ICS) which is a huge undertaking and funding in the future for the ambulance service will come from the north-east. This area has 6 models of differing types providing services for rural areas.

Questions

Training for ECFR has not progressed, and we have been told there is no-one locally qualified to teach the course.

The suggestion for an RRV pilot scheme running alongside the ambulance would enable one EMT to go out alone if only one person was available for on-call. However only 4 out of the 6 EMTs were willing to go out alone. Cllr Ransom stated that he had opposed the proposal as if successful the ambulance would be removed. This clause was only introduced at a later stage. He was concerned that the RRV also be taken

away if the number of EMTs reduced as CFRs as volunteers are not give a vehicle. The need to continue fighting for the best emergency service provision continues.

5b/JUL/22 Nenthead Ward

Cllr Robinson reported that a Nenthead residents contacted him about drains that have not been swept. He forwarded the complaint but has not received a response yet.

5c/JUL/22 High Mill

There is nothing further to report at present.

5d/JUL/22 Path besides the Cumberland

Cllr Robinson reported that he had inspected the path to see if a handrail or steps could improve safety. If it was decided some work is needed it could be costly and the council would need to obtain quotes.

Members were reminded that Samuel Kings School use the path so it should be safe to use. It was agreed to put back on the agenda and for Cllrs to look at the site over the next month. **Action ALL.**

5e/JUL/22 South Tynedale Trust

Cllr Harrison reported that he had met with a representative from the South Tynedale Trust who have a fund to improve access to rivers. He thought it could be an opportunity to improve the access to the Dooker and to remove the stones that have spoil the pool used for swimming.

6. Planning applications

6a/JUL/22 22/0447 Full application. Removal of existing porch and stables/storage building and erection of a single storey side extension. Parkers House, Alston CA9 3LD for Mr & Mrs M. Whindle.

Recommended for approval subject to the use of slate tiles to match existing materials as cement tiles are not in keeping with the appearance of the property. Proposed by Cllr Grew and seconded by Cllr English. (8+ 2 abs)

6b/JUL/22 22/0478 Full application. Replacement of uPVC tilt and turn windows to uPVC sliding sash and casement windows. 1 Sunset View, Alston CA9 3JH for NLG Window Systems – Mr D. Edwards.

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

6c/JUL/22 15/1107 Full application. Change of use of land to camping and caravan site including associated groundworks, buildings, landscaping, temporary sheds and containers, hardstanding, conversion of Candle House to holiday accommodation and outline planning permission for the erection of a manager's dwelling, storage and site office, with approval sought for access. Hags Bank Bunkhouse, Nentsbury. CA9 3LH for Mr D. Taylor.

Noted that the report from Highways raised several concerns, which do not appear to have been addressed by the applicant. The steep access on the bunkhouse side of the road may be a cause for concern for some caravans, and it may be appropriate to split the application into two and to carry out a site visit before reaching a decision as the issues are complex and include issues such as drainage, discharge into the river Nent, new build and continued use of a static caravan.

Cllr Hanley as a member of the planning committee requested that it be recorded that he abstained from voting.

Resolved to make no comment on this application. Proposed by Cllr English and seconded by Cllr Green. (8+ 2 abs)

6d/JUL/22 APP/H0928/W/22/3297896 Variation of conditions 3 (occupation period), 5 (holiday letting) and 7 (second residence) to allow for a longer open season for up to 34 static caravans, attached to approval 08/0180. Re-submission of 21/0376. Horse and Wagon Caravan Park, Nentsberry CA9 3LH for Mr G. Miller. A copy of the comments sent to the planning inspector from the Nentsberry Community Group was sent.

Resolved to make no further comment. Proposed by Cllr English and seconded by Cllr Miller. (9+ 1 abs from Cllr Hanley)

The clerk was asked to let the Nentsberry Group know that it may be useful to also send comments from individual group members as the group letter would only count as one response. **Action CI.**

6e/JUL/22 22/0446 Full application 10m high lattice tower housing 3 microwave dishes with adjacent equipment cabin, ancillary equipment within a 1.8m high palisade fenced compound. Highway Depot, Alston CA9 3BW (Glassonby parish)

Resolved to support the application which affects Alston Moor. Proposed by Cllr Grew and seconded by Cllr Miller. (nem con)

6f/JUL/22 22/0481 Full application. Retrospective application for replacement uPVC windows. North View, Overburn, Alston CA9 3JH for Dr J. Clapp.

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

6g/JUL/22 22/0486 Full application. Replacement windows and front door and internal alterations to layout. 6 Butts Mews, The Butts, Alston CA9 3JQ for Mr & Mrs Peter & Sonia Kempsey.

Recommended for approval. Proposed by Cllr English and seconded by Cllr Robinson. (9 + 1 abs)

7. Timing of planning meetings – consideration of additional meetings to meet planning authority schedules

Cllr Grew reported that reviewing the plans properly takes time, and with paper plans no longer available the council cannot set aside time before the meeting to view them, and it is not always possible to get a time extension to fit with our meetings schedule.

Members expressed concern that as busy people having to attend additional meetings would not be ideal and there would be no advantage in setting up a committee unless it had delegated powers.

Resolved that if members agreed there was an important planning issue that had to be determined before the next council meeting an additional meeting could be held. Proposed by Cllr English and seconded by Cllr Robinson. (7+ 2 abs 1 -)

8. Update from Cumbria County Council on upgrade to Victorian style footway lights in Alston

An e-mail was received last month from Cumbria County Council stating that the 12 replacement LED lights for the Victorian style lanterns around the town have been delivered and that they should be able to start installing them. The lights have a warm colour and are dark sky friendly to support the North Pennines bid. The parish were asked to accept the energy costs until March 2023 and the county will undertake basic maintenance. On 1st April 2023 the lighting should transfer into the ownership of Westmorland and Furness council.

The county has assisted several parishes prepare an accurate energy return and realise savings and extend the offer to the parish.

It was agreed to accept the offer. **Action CI.**

The council were asked about the removal of the light from the Methodist Church house at the entrance to Jollybeard, which many think has made the area more dangerous for vehicles and pedestrians. The clerk reminded members that Eden included a replacement light on their original worksheet but were unable to find a suitable electricity supply, so no action was taken. The parish council contacted the Methodist Church to ask if they might be willing to put up a replacement light but were told that the removal of the original fitting had caused damage to the building, and although they had not definitely refused, no further response to enquiries was received.

9. Request for a memorial bench at Townfoot

A request for a 'Lest we forget' memorial bench to be sited in between the stone benches at Townfoot was received from Cllr Ho, who said the bench should be available by September.

It was noted that members liked the seat but had reservations about the location as there are already four benches on the grass at Townfoot. A second concern was that a survey by Alston Moor Partnership last year concluded that residents did not want anything further doing to the site. A possibility might be on the grass in front of the Town Hall, a location where it might be caught on cctv should any vandalism occur.

Cllr Ho was asked to set a time for the site visit. **Action HH.**

Resolved to hold a site visit to find a location where the seat would be aesthetically pleasing. Proposed by Cllr English and seconded by Cllr Robinson.

Noted that permission would need to be obtained from the landowner before it could be installed.

10. Appleby Fair report

Cllr Miller reported that there had been no trouble during Appleby Fair, the only issues at Tyne Willows was that the gate was lifted, and water had not been available until the gym and caravan park made arrangements to allow the travellers access to water. Some of the recycling bins were contaminated and a resident who had in the past volunteered to distribute bags said he was not contacted this year as the police had carried out the distribution. About 38 horses were counted during the busiest time.

The clerk reported that all but one recycling bin had been locked in previous years, but this recommendation had been overlooked during the planning meeting with EDC and the police. It was noted that communities where the travellers stay in Co. Durham have been provided with a skip, which would be a more satisfactory solution than depriving residents of recycling facilities.

Resolved to ask Eden District Council to provide a skip at Tyne Willows next year. Proposed by Cllr Miller and seconded by Cllr English. (nem con)

11. Consultations & Correspondence

11a/JUL/22 Consortium of Development Education Centres (CoDEC) – National Institute for Health and Care Research funding bid to support community members create solutions to aid health and wellbeing on Alston Moor

The clerk reported that she was contacted with a request to invite a member of the team to the next council meeting after several councillors meet with them on Gala day.

11b/JUL/22 Nenthead Community Projects – Jubilee tree planting issues

A letter was received from Nenthead Community Projects who expressed disappointment about comments made by a councillor who they thought had criticised the location of the tree. They do not wish to assist with installing the stone plinth and asked the parish council to manage any further works but advised that any hard landscaping should be discussed with Nenthead Mines as the initial permission only mentions the tree. They continue to tend the tree and have agreed to keep the area tidy, and the grass cut as agreed with Nenthead Mines.

NCP were also disappointed that their proposed inscription for the plaque to include the names of the people who planted the tree was not carried out.

Cllr Robinson reported that the tree was in a good spot, but NCP did not want to fit the plinth so what is needed is for volunteers to dig a hole, and 3 to 4 people to lift the plinth into position. It was agreed that Cllr Ransom would co-ordinate arrangements. **Action GR.**

Cllr Grew reported that the Garrigill tree is due for delivery tomorrow and as she now has a plan of where the services are on the village green a site has been located. There are no firm plans as to when it will be planted so she was asked to send an e-mail out to let everyone know. **Action EG.**

11c/JUL/22 Consultation on re-organisation of the Fire Service

Cllr Ransom reported that a Home Office white paper on re-organising the fire service could put the Alston retained fire service under threat. The country has 38 different operational arrangements, and the governance reform aims to transfer decision making to the Police and Crime Commissioner or a City Mayor. The danger is that when priorities are set the number of calls will be considered and Alston gets around 90 a year and costs the same as a retained station such as Brampton. So, it could be said that the risk for Alston is not as high (disregarding distance and the risk of road traffic accidents). The white paper asked for comments by 26th July.

Resolved to ask Cllr Ransom to formulate a response on behalf of Alston Moor Parish Council and to circulate before sending. Proposed by Cllr Hanley and seconded by Cllr Miller. (nem con)

11a/JUL/22 Correspondence (Appendix 1)

No action required.

12. Accounts for payment (Appendix 2)

Cllr Green declared an interest in one payment.

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| <i>Summary of accounts for payment:</i> | £1,563.48 |
| <i>Summary of income received since last meeting:</i> | £3,412.14 |
| <i>Summary of accounts paid since last meeting:</i> | £1,055.26 |

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 English and seconded by Cllr Robinson. (8 + 2 abs)

13. Agenda items for next meeting and urgent business to report

13a/JUL/22 Environment Agency lease

The clerk reported that a letter arrived today from the Environment Agency stating that the 20-year lease on the Gauging Station at Tyne Willows has come to an end and they would like to renew, backdated to 1st April 2022. A new rent of £203 is proposed. The clerk was asked to express interest and to discuss at a future council meeting.

13b/JUL/22 Tyne Willows gate key

The clerk was asked to sort out an extra key for the school's grass cutters.

13c/JUL/22 Garrigill cemetery branches

The clerk was reminded that the cemetery contractors have not yet cleared the branches left since storm Arwen.

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm

Signed:

Dated: