



ALSTON MOOR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Alston Moor Parish Council held on Monday 3rd October 2022 in Garrigill Village Hall at 7pm.

Present: Cllrs: R. Miller (Chair), P. Best, B. Cooper, N. English, A. Green, S. Hattersley, C. Harrison, H. Ho, G. Ransom, A. Robertson, R. Robinson.

Apologies: Cllrs: B. Davies, E. Grew, M. Hanley.

Absent: Cllr I. Lindley

Declarations of interest: Cllrs A. Green 6b/OCT/22, P. Best 6c/OCT/22, 6d/OCT/22 & 16/OCT/22

1. Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the parish council meeting held on Monday 5th September 2022 be approved as a correct record. Proposed by Cllr Robinson and seconded by Cllr Robertson. (9 + 2 abs)

2. Chair, County & District reports

Chair's report

The chair reported that he felt honoured to make the proclamation on the cross on the accession of the new king following mourning for the death of the queen. He thanked all who had attended. There was a difficulty with the town hall flagpoles, managed by erecting a temporary flagpole on the grass in front of the building. Another issue that transpired was over negative social media, due to the council having no one delegated to post on Facebook during staff holidays.

County Council

Apologies from Cllr Driver.

District Council

Apologies from Cllr Sharp. Reports from Cllr Hanley are posted to the website including. Shadow Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Eden District Council, Zero Carbon Working Group

3. Public participation

A member of the Nenthead Community Group reported that the fund raising carried out recently raised £200 but was not all to be put towards the Christmas decorations as reported to the council last month. The intent is to use £100 to purchase a Christmas tree. It was queried as to what proportion of the precept budget for Christmas lights would be allocated to Nenthead.

The group continues to look for grant funding and are working with other groups in the village.

The council closed public participation and re-convened to consider funding.

It was reported that several of the lights for Alston may need to be replaced.

Resolved to allocate £600 to Alston, £200 each to Nenthead and Garrigill. Proposed by Cllr Harrison and seconded by Cllr Green. (5+ 4- 2 abs)

The council re-opened for public participation.

A member of AMBA reported that the organisation may have to disband, but no decision will be made until the AGM next month. It was confirmed that the town Christmas trees are included in AMBA's assets but they will be put up this year. Should AMBA disband they could be handed over to the council.

The owner of High Mill gave an update on the proposed car park. Unfortunately, they were unable to reach a satisfactory conclusion over access with Cumbria County Council Highways. Highways were not prepared to discuss possible ways forward and having discussed the difficulty with Cllr Driver it was concluded there would be no progress until the new Unitary authority is in place. As a result, there was no point in submitting a planning application and the grant application was withdrawn.

Eden District Council leaders were shown around the site a couple of weeks ago, and were aware of the parking problem, but the access issue must be resolved first, and the project re-started. A further complication is that there has been an offer for High Mill which came out of the blue. A time limit to complete has been given to the potential buyer. Mr Grey is aware of the offer of the wheelhouse to Alston

Moor Partnership and would like them to have it, but they may have to negotiate with the new owner. He confirmed that while he owns the site the car park is a priority.

4. Progress reports

4a/OCT/22 Parish Seats Memorandum of Agreement

Cumbria Highways have put together a Memorandum of Agreement for seats within the parish sited alongside the highway for signing by the Chair and Vice-chair. The intent was to log all existing seats, noting that not all may be the direct responsibility of the parish council, but the council will be obliged to ensure seats are removed if required and indemnify the County Council against any claims that may be made directly or indirectly in consequence of the seats. The Agreement included site plans of seats in Alston, Garrigill and Nenthead. The clerk asked if the council wanted to check they agreed with the locations and ownership.

Resolved that members from the three wards would check their map and report back to the next meeting, including a condition check. Proposed by Cllr English and seconded by Cllr Robinson. (10+ 1 abs) **Action - All**

4b/OCT/22 Memorandum of Agreement for War Memorial seat

The clerk reminded Eden District Council about the request for permission to install a seat on the land besides the Town Hall and discussed whether a similar Memorandum of Agreement to the one produced by the County Council could be used.

4c/OCT/22 Cumbria County Council response to informal consultation on the Eden Speed Limit Review

Re: 10a/SEPT/22 A reply was received stating that the council's views would be included within the report presented to Eden Local Committee on the 23rd September 2022.

4d/OCT/22 Traffic Management Meetings

Re: 13b/SEPT/22 The last meeting was postponed due to officer's unavailability and will now take place on Monday 24th October 2022.

4e/OCT/22 Banking arrangements

Re: 11c&d/SEPT/22 The clerk reported that before going ahead with opening a deposit fund and applying for a multipay card with Unity Trust there are decisions to be made. Would the council agree to setting up a working group from members who are signatories to the bank account with delegated powers to make decisions.

Resolved that the bank signatories would be delegated to decide on the type of deposit account and multipay card conditions. Proposed by Cllr English and seconded by Cllr Miller (10+ 1 abs)

5. Reports from representatives

5a/OCT/22 NWAS Alston Moor Working Group

No meetings were held last month.

5b/OCT/22 Meeting with EDC's Cabinet

Cllr Cooper reported that several members attended the meeting with Eden District Council's Cabinet. He raised the issue of why funds given to SKS for transport for post 16 children had just been given to 4 children attending college in Durham. He wanted to know what the criteria were and why it had not been shared more fairly. The chief executive said they now realise they had made a mistake as it was thought the school would make a fair decision. An officer has hopefully found funding to help fund transport for all post 16 children in the rural areas to try out a pilot scheme with the aim that it will be taken up by the new authority.

Cllr Miller reported that other issues raised by members included the lack of youth support and the need to fund changing rooms for football in Tyne Willows Pavilion. It was a positive meeting with the leaders showing a good understanding the local issues.

5c/OCT/22 Nenthead Ward

Cllr Robertson reported that the meeting was well attended, with the main discussion centred on the proposed Coal Authority's mine water treatment works. Village representatives have carried out a lot of research but there is a difference of opinion between the village and the Coal Authority. Work by volunteers on the public toilets is complete, and the Nenthead toilets could be a flag bearer for village toilets. There is new sanitary ware, old tiles taken off and the building repainted.

There is no progress with the sale of the Miners Arms.

The playpark has new fencing.

The stiles for access to the landscaped waste heaps are in poor condition so a question was asked about ownership and responsibility. Agenda item for the next council meeting. The clerk to forward any information she has on land ownership.

It was thought funding had been allocated by Eden District Council for the maintenance of The Nenthead eye adjacent to the recycling centre, but the site has had no maintenance since it was installed.

The Ward secretary intends to stand down so there is a need for a replacement.

5d/OCT/22 High Mill

Cllr Robertson reported that a condition survey has been produced.

5e/OCT/22 Community Resilience Meeting – Warm Hubs

Cllr Ransom reported that AMERG discussed the need for a warm space where people can meet in the colder months as the cost of heating becomes more difficult to afford. He attended a community resilience meeting where it was explained that the county and district are looking to help fund warm hubs that are open for a minimum of 2 hours per week. There is space in the town hall that could be utilised to provide refreshments, wi-fi, advice and entertainment. Another aspect to be considered is transport from the villages. The Frieda Scott Charitable Fund are willing to consider applications to help support projects., how to reach the people who need it most, and the task of finding volunteers to help support the hub.

Cumbria County Council is putting together a toolkit with advice on safeguarding, lone working, health and safety, GDPR etc. Churches Together are also looking into what can be done to help.

It was suggested that voluntary groups such as the WI might be asked about getting involved and noted that the Chat room opened on Saturday with seating for up to 25, with the potential to work together. Cllrs Ransom and Miller were encouraged to carry on with the organising, work out the details and put together a funding package.

Note: the application would not be made through the parish council as Frieda Scott mainly funds charitable organisations.

5f/OCT/22 Tyne Willows Playing Field - holes

Cllr Harrison reported that he filled in some holes on the playing field, but more are appearing and are thought to be caused by the rabbit population.

6. Planning applications

6a/OCT/22 22/0642 Full application. Repairs and restoration to traditional shopfront including removal of superimposed fascia, repairs to surviving joinery and replacement of front door and side screen window. Randal House, Front Street, Alston CA9 3HU for Mr J. & Mrs P. De la Mare.

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

6b/OCT/22 22/0660 Full application. Replacement of existing timber windows and doors with uPVC windows and composite doors. Amble Cottage, Townhead, Alston CA9 3SL for Ms Sandra Shephard.

Cllr Green declared a non-pecuniary interest.

Recommended for approval. Proposed by Cllr Cooper and seconded by Cllr English (9+ 2 abs)

6c/OCT/22 22/0697 Full application Demolition of rear extensions and construction of new extension and alterations including change of use of redundant barn to manager accommodation, disability friendly guest room and bicycle store. Re-submission of 22/008. George & Dragon Inn Ltd for Mr T. Holmes.

Cllr Best declared a pecuniary interest.

The clerk read out comments sent by e-mail from one of the councillors who had sent apologies, questioning whether one of the parking spaces is to be a disabled parking space, and what would happen if the parking were full when deliveries happen as other residents who own parts of the alleyway have been previously asked to keep it clear.

Recommended for approval. Proposed by Cllr Green and seconded by Cllr Robertson (10+1 abs)

6d/OCT/22 22/0716 Tree Works (CA). Conservation area tree works – T1 and T2 conifers to fell. 2 Brook Cottages, Garrigill, Alston CA9 3EA for Mr N. S. Craven.

Cllr Best declared an interest as a neighbour.

Recommended for approval. Proposed by Cllr Green and seconded by Cllr English. (8+ 3 abs)

7. Alston War Memorial 100 yr anniversary of the inauguration – Remembrance Day Service & appointment of councillors to lay wreaths. Proposal to purchase large poppies to supplement local arrangements

It was reported that it was 100 years since the Alston War Memorial was erected in September 1922 and that the vicar is willing to say a prayer on Remembrance Sunday if the council would like him to. Although there had been informal thoughts about a re-dedication service those members with great experience of organising events advised that there was insufficient time as planning should take months not weeks. It was noted that Local Links have put together a display on WW1.

Resolved to ask the vicar to say a prayer for the men listed on Alston War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday. Proposed by Cllr Miller and seconded by Cllr Robertson. (10+ 1 abs)

The misspelt name on the War Memorial has now been changed by the stonemason. It was a difficult and challenging job, but the family are pleased with the work. The clerk reported that she received an e-mail from a resident who pointed out that some areas of the memorial had blackened and asked if it could be cleaned.

A request was made to purchase large poppies for the entrances to the town and villages at a cost of £5 each to augment local presentations. This would be 5 for Alston, 2 for Garrigill and 2 for Nenthead plus 2 at the War Memorials making 11 in total.

Resolved to purchase 11 large poppies for display in the town and villages. Proposed by Cllr Robinson and seconded by Cllr English. (10+ 1 abs)

It was agreed that Cllr Miller would lay the wreath for Alston, Maxine Denoual for Nenthall, Cllr Ransom for Nenthead and Cllr Grew for Garrigill. The volunteers were thanked.

8. Town Flagpole

Cllr Robinson reported that due to the difficulties with the town hall flagpole he suggested the parish council should purchase a new wooden flagpole to be sited at Townfoot on the grassy bank in front of the building.

Resolved to apply to Eden District Council for permission to erect a flagpole on the grass bank in front of Alston town hall. Proposed by Cllr Robinson and seconded by Cllr English. (10+ 1 abs)

It was suggested it should be sited on the opposite side of the Walton Memorial to the proposed memorial seat.

9. Memorial for Queen Elizabeth II

Cllr Ransom asked the meeting if it was thought consideration should be given to putting up a permanent memorial to the queen. It is not known yet what plans the county or district might make. It was agreed that it was a good idea, but the council should wait for direction from the other authorities.

10. Community Grant application – Grisedale Croft

The clerk reported that she received a letter asking if the council would consider a donation towards a project the Manager of Grisedale Croft hopes to carry out. A copy of the Community Grant application form has been forwarded but was not received in time for the meeting.

11. Consultations & Correspondence

11a/OCT/22 Correspondence – Appendix 1

No comments received.

11b/OCT/22 CCC- Cumbria's Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

A drop-in session was held in Penrith on 12th September and as the date for comments on the strategy was before the council meeting the clerk wrote to ask for a time extension but has not heard that the request was granted. She discussed the report with Cllr Driver and on her advice asked the following questions.

1. An updated position statement on the work that was done when the whole Mill Race was surveyed a few years back and specifically where this is referenced in this document.
2. The hope then was that some EA funding would enable a coordinated scheme of works to help alleviate pressure and water flow along its length, looking at dispersal methods further upstream. Unfortunately, this project didn't get the funding sought, but Cllr Driver thinks it's still on the shelf as a ready-to-go package of works. Is this still a capital works/funding-ready scheme list and what will happen when passed over to the new authority?

11c/OCT/22 Commonwealth War Graves Commission – installation of signs indicating war graves

An e-mail was received from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission who asked if the council wanted a sign at the cemetery to let the public know there are 2 war graves situated there. The Signs project commenced as part of the centenary of the WW1 with the aim of increasing awareness of war graves in the UK and to remind the public that they do not need to travel abroad to find Commonwealth commemorations.

As Alston Cemetery is the responsibility of the district council the clerk forwarded the e-mail to them, but if the council supports the initiative Eden could be asked to progress the matter.

Resolved to support the installations of signs provided by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and to request that EDC be asked to give permission. Proposed by Cllr Robinson and seconded by Cllr Miller. (nem con) **Action CI.**

11d/OCT/22 Request for in-house GDPR training

The clerk reported that Cllr Grew asked for this item to be included on the agenda as she wanted the council to consider in-house GDPR training from CALC. It was agreed that unless there were enough members willing to confirm their attendance it would be more sensible for anyone interested to attend the CALC training session later this month and to let the clerk know so she could book them in. **Action All.**

12. Invitation to sign up the Civility & Respect Pledge

NALC have drawn up a pledge which councils are invited to sign up to. This follows the issues identified around bullying and harassment in the sector. It was observed that councillors and employees should have respect for each other as matter of course, and councillors have signed the Code of Conduct so there should be no need for an additional pledge.

Resolved to take no action. Proposed by Cllr English and seconded by Cllr Robertson. (9+ 2 abs)

13. Draft update to Dignity at Work Policy

The new model Dignity at Work for the parish council.

Resolved to update the Alston Moor Parish Council Dignity at Work Policy. Proposed by Cllr English and seconded by Cllr Miller. (nem con)

14. Cartmel Shepherd queries and proposal that capital receipts from the sale of garden land is allocated to improvements to Tyne Willows Pavilion

A letter was received from the council's solicitor asking if the council wanted to retain the covenant placed on earlier sales that prevents the owner from using the land for anything other than garden use and prevents building or development of the land.

The council were also asked to confirm that the buyers will be asked to cover the council's legal costs. The clerk stated that this requirement was listed in the offer letter.

Plot 1 is valued at £1,757.76

Plot 2 is valued at £1,900.26

Resolved to advise Cartmel Shepherd that the council wants to retain the covenant for garden use only and confirm that the buyers will be asked to cover the council's legal costs. Proposed by Cllr English and seconded by Cllr Miller. (10+ 1 abs) **Action CI.**

Resolved that in principle capital receipts from the sale of garden land could be used to fund improvements to Tyne Willows Pavilion. (10+ 1 abs)

15. Report on the conclusion of the external audit

The audit statement confirmed that there were no actions required from the council. The clerk reported that she had published the conclusion of the audit notice as required.

Resolved to accept the audit statement for the year ending 2021/2022. Proposed by Cllr English and seconded by Cllr Miller. (nem con)

16. Accounts for payment (Appendix 2)

Summary of accounts for payment:	£1,705.31
Summary of income received since last meeting:	£833.53
Summary of accounts paid since last meeting:	£1,012.50

Cllr Best declared a pecuniary interest.

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 Green and seconded by Cllr English. (10+ 1 abs)

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

17a/OCT/22 CCTV protocol

A protocol for CCTV has been prepared for consideration by the DGP working group.

17b/OCT/22 CCTV.

Agenda items for the next council meeting include public access to the reclaimed land at Nenthead and a standing agenda item for Warm Hubs.

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm

Signed:

Dated: