



# ALSTON MOOR ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

## **Hustings for the Westmorland and Furness Unitary Authority held at 7.30pm**

Candidates for the new Unitary Authority, which will shadow Eden District Council and Cumbria County Council over the next year before formally replacing them in April 2023, were invited to speak for up to five minutes and take questions from the floor. Taking part were Andy Baker (Lib), Michael Hanley (Lab), Ian Lindley (Lab), Mary Robinson (Ind) and Richard Sanderson (Lib)

Many searching questions were asked including candidates' views on services, second homes, services for women, the impact of rurality and the Coal Authority scheme for Nenthead.

*The chair thanked the candidates and opened the Annual Parish Meeting.*

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2022 following the Hustings for WFC in Nenthead Village Hall.

**Present:** Cllrs: N. English (chair), B. Cooper, M. Hanley, C. Harrison, S. Hattersley, H. Ho, I. Lindley, R. Miller, A. Robertson and approx. 27 members of the public.

**Apologies:** Cllr Claire Driver, P. Best, Michael Beveridge (Conservative candidate)

### **1. Minutes of the Last Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2021 were approved as a correct record with the addition of M.Hanley to the attendance list. Proposed by E. Grew and seconded by C. Harrison.

### **2. Matters Arising out of the Minutes of the last AGM**

None.

### **3. Report from Alston Moor Parish Council**

Copies of the annual report were circulated and are published on the council's website. The chair reported on a recent meeting with the Monitoring Officer following the completion of a Code of Conduct report that determined no further action needs to be taken. The report may be released later, but the main conclusion was that there was nothing substantial enough to take the complaints forward, and in the unlikely event that alleged criminal activities had taken place they should have been reported to the police. Support from Eden District Council may be available for new and existing councillors if required to avoid future pitfalls. With this matter behind us and new councillors joining, the parish council has the potential to serve the community well.

The chair was thanked for stepping in at a difficult time.

*No questions were received.*

### **4. Reports from County, District & Parish Councillors**

#### **4a Eden District Council**

Cllr Sharp sent a written report with useful information and contact details. (Appendix 1).

***Fit for All*** – this is linked to primary care and will take place weekly in the Masonic Hall, it is hoped to increase membership and help people become more mobile, especially important after months of covid lockdown.

***Hardship Fund*** – set up to help support residents.

***Eden Community Fund*** – a new round of funding will go live in May for community groups.

***Queen's Platinum Jubilee fund*** – an impressive range of services including many parties have been planned across the district, with funding made available for parishes and local organisations planning activities around the Jubilee. There is still time for interested groups to apply.

**5a Reports from Local Organisations & Charities**

**Nenthead Community Works**

M. Denoual reported that two new directors have been appointed during a challenging year with recent changes to the legislation banning the use of red diesel. The gritter needed a new body and thanks to a community grant they were able to employ someone for vehicle maintenance. Thanks also to the numerous volunteers. There is a dedicated Facebook page which has received positive feedback. Residents are welcome to attend the AGM in June. (Appendix 2)

**5b Alston Moor Historical Society**

A. Robertson reported on the last year with meetings held on zoom, membership increased from 40 to 100 but the experience is not the same. The first in-person meeting is to be held this month. The Society's eligibility for the covid business grant support enabled the society to put up street name plates around Alston Moor. They also improved the acoustics of the archives with new carpets and desks to create a semi-silent area. Parish council assistance in paying the office rent enables them to archive precious unique documents and books, and a memory bank of the local heritage. The county archivists have pointed out that they are running a near to professional service which the volunteers should be proud of. Work is ongoing on a website with the aim of cataloguing all the documents. The plan is to re-open again every Saturday, appointments can also be made.

**5c Alston Recreation Ground Trust**

Cllr Sharp gave the report. (Appendix 3)

It has been a busy year with the refurbishment of the embankment slide, work has now started on the basketball court, new fencing for the ponds and a gate for the toddler playground. A new woodland walk is almost complete. Fundraising for the bike track is progressing with the fund reaching £22,500.

They are also working with the Market group on a series of monthly events to attract visitors and funds from an EDC Jubilee grant are to be used to develop a Jubilee garden.

DRAFT

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm

Signed: .....

Dated: .....