

# Nenthead Ward Meeting

Monday 28th November 2022

## Nenthead Village Hall

Meeting started 7 pm

Minutes recorded by Alex Sawyer

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**Present:**– *Brian Aves, Christine Habberjam, Ron Adams, Lynda Adams, Z.M. Robson, Ron Robinson, Brian Robson, Trudie Seaton, Laura Seaton, A. Robertson, M. Raine, S. Morris, Sharon Morris, Heather McKenzie, Peter McKenzie, Peter Thompson, Alex Sawyer, Milly Rudd, Colin Carnell, Jackie Carnell, Graeme Ransom, Maxine Denoual, [undecipherable], Frances Richardson, Lionel Playford, Dave Raeside*

**Speaking:**– highlighted above

**Apologies:**– Claire McClelland, Zoe Williams

**Minutes from previous meeting:**– approved

**Matters arising:**–

Lionel Playford presented the fruits of some of his community arts projects, and explained that he and Lissie Sharp are optimistic about an application they made for £10,000 from Eden District Council's Arts Fund (it had been "well-received") for a project on ancient woodlands, inspired by Dowgang Hush. The project would involve Nenthead School, but also the whole community, and concrete ideas would be welcome. The deadline for the finished proposal is January 20th next year, and Jackie Carnell suggested arranging a meeting of those interested via Nenthead's community Facebook pages.

Dave Raeside, together with Colin and Jimmy Renwick, had been trying to buy *The Miner's Arms* as a community asset, with partial government funding. They were frustrated by the absence of the detailed business accounts they needed for their funding application, and had the impression that the owners were uninterested in selling, even at very close to the asking price. An application for change of use (residential) has now been made, and there were many comments from the floor, all objecting. The chief concern was about the impact on tourism, and the community as a whole, that the lack of a pub in Nenthead has already

had. There was a strong feeling that, in the right hands, the Miner's could be more than viable, and that the past two years have demonstrated that a café, a diners-only restaurant and a community shop cannot fill the gap left by the closing of the village pub. Laura Seaton brought forms to start a new Community Asset application, which will be submitted on Nenthead's behalf by Alston Moor Parish Council. The issue is on the agenda for their meeting, on December 5th.

### **Reports:–**

Jackie Carnell noted that the most recent public meeting with the Coal Authority was poorly attended (World Cup), and hoped for a better showing next time, to keep up the pressure. Despite that, many good points were raised, and the question of the asset transfer and NMPS's relations with the CA seems worth pursuing. Delays and spiralling costs are another positive sign.

Brian Aves: the Community Shop is ticking over. Thanks to the volunteers from Weardale, without whom...

Jackie Carnell: The Hive is doing its best to raise money, looking for volunteers. On Christmas Eve, after Santa's visit, there will be singing with organ accompaniment, plus mulled wine and mince pies. On 17th December, a craft fair with children's activities is planned.

Christine Habberjam: the Village Hall to hold AGM at 7 pm on Tuesday 29th November. Still no word on building works. Appeal for (esp. young) volunteers.

Laura Seaton: the Community Toilets will be getting new hand-dryers, mirrors, and some timers for the sockets that power the Christmas tree lights. The donation box has already yielded c. £100. A framed map of the village will be going up before the spring.

Zerel Robson: Nenthead Community Projects' Remembrance Day display was a success and something to build on. A Christmas tree has been bought, and £200 has been received from AMPC towards Christmas lights. Nenthead school wants Narnia, but the budget might not stretch that far. Alston Moor Business Association have also given Nenthead six mini trees. Nenthead Mines Preservation Society have given permission to tidy up and plant around the car park. Christine Habberjam announced that Knit & Natter will be making a knitted Christmas tree.

Maxine Denoual: **Snowplough update** (Nenthead Community Works) held its AGM but was only just quorate, with the addition of Noah Denoual, now has five directors. In recognition of her fundraising efforts, Holly Ho was made an Honorary Member. Due to changes in legislation, we can no longer use red diesel in our vehicles, which will affect our running costs. The company's current contract is with Cumbria County Council who are due to be replaced by a new Local Authority next year. We are currently running with a reduced crew.

Graeme Ransom reported on further meetings re the ambulance service for Alston Moor, which has finally been recognised as a special case. In March, NWAS will begin a six-month pilot scheme, with the provision of a car for a single EMT, which could help improve coverage, although there are restrictions on what a lone EMT can deal with. Alston Moor is still pushing for NWAS to adopt a different model, such as the ones in Berwick or East Yorkshire, as opposed to relying on volunteer (E)CFRs. Press coverage of "volunteer" ambulance service are wrong: EMTs are paid.

**Any other business:–**

Graeme Ransom is making a bid for generators for Nenthead and Garrigill Village Halls and somewhere in Alston. The bid goes in on 17th January, and quotes are being gathered.

Peter Thompson thought the Ward should thank Peter Swindle properly for all his work keeping Nenthead's bins tidy. Everyone agreed.

Frances Richardson raised the issue of fly-tipping and other abuses of the recycling area.

**The next Ward meeting:–** will be on 30th January at 7 pm.

Meeting ended 8:30 pm