



ALSTON MOOR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Alston Moor Parish Council held on Monday 2nd October 2023 in Garrigill Village Hall at 7pm.

Present: Cllrs: R. Miller (Chair), P. Best, A. Bondi, B. Davies, E. Edgar, A. Green, E. Grew, M. Hanley, H. Ho, A. Martin, D. Monk, G. Ransom, R. Robinson.

Apologies: A. Robertson,

Absent: none

Declarations of interest: none

1/OCT/23 Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the parish council meeting held on Monday 7th September 2023 be approved as a correct record. Proposed by Cllr Robinson and seconded by Cllr Monk. (11+ 2abs)

2/OCT/23 Report from Alston Fitness Club

Alston Fitness Clubs outlined their proposal for the Tyne Willow site and the improvements they would like to make to the building. The building would provide facilities for an improved gym, football changing rooms and community use. It was noted that the land leased from the Parish Council may need to be adjusted to accommodate the proposed structure within the leased land curtilage as the footprint is larger than the current structure.

The cost of the planned building was discussed. At this stage a total cost of the project has not been established. The FA may be able to offer funding towards the football elements of the proposal. The group hopes to draw on the local expertise to assist with the funding bids.

Resolved that the current plans be accepted by the council. Proposer Cllr Robinson, seconded Cllr Best (nem con.)

Resolved that the council would fund the cost of the planning application. Proposer Cllr Davies, seconded Cllr Robinson (nem con.)

3/OCT/23 Chair & District reports

Chair's report

The Chair thanked the outgoing clerk. Thanks was extended to all that had supported the council in organising the celebration event for the outgoing clerk's work. The new clerk was welcomed.

4/OCT/23 WAFC

4a/OCT/23 – Cllr Hanley

Councillor Hanley had provided written reports throughout the month for the council. A verbal summary of the reports was provided outlining the work of the Health and Adult Scrutiny Committee, Eden Locality Board and the Place Action Group for Fellside.

4b/OCT/23 - Cllr Robinson

Councillor Robinson outlined the Highways Session that was attended with representatives from the Westmorland & Furness Highways Team. The in-depth session enabled focus to be given to the unique nature of Alston Moor and the Highways communities.

5/OCT/23 Public participation

Fairhill Recreation Ground Representative

A representative of the Fairhill Recreation Ground reported a quotation for fencing for a dog run of £1,780. The quote was reported to contain 56 volunteer hours for groundwork at £10 per hour. The representative requested a contribution from the Parish Council towards the project of £890. It was reported that dog run

would be 3 times bigger than a football pitch. The trustees of the charity would be responsible for providing and emptying the dog waste bins.

Resident

The resident expressed a view that the Parish Council should hold an open forum at the end of each meeting, not the start. The resident posed questions in regard to minute reference 10 of the September meeting.

COMRU Representative

The representative outlined the work of the underground rescue unit. The group is currently organising its annual conference in June that will be held at Nenthead Mines and the village hall between the 7th of June 2024 and the 9th of June 2024.

6/OCT/23 Progress reports

6a/OCT/23 Urbaser contract re: town litter collection

Re:9/SEPT/23 WAFC confirmed they have referred the issue of cover during employee holidays to Urbaser for investigation with a request for feedback. There is a contractual requirement to undertake street cleaning/litter bin emptying at specific frequencies, and how resources are allocated and deployed to meet these requirements is a matter for Urbaser to determine.

6b/OCT/23 Tyne Willows Environment Agency fence

Re: 5b/SEPT/23 The Environment Agency reported that they are currently waiting on a Flood Risk Activity Permit before starting work and estimate that installing the fencing will take around 4-5 working days. They intend to install a combination lock on the gate and will share the code with the council to enable the trees to be looked after. They will also allow the fire service to carry out training at this location when needed. They will use a cable detection tool to ensure there are no issues when driving the posts into the ground.

With the new guidelines from Fields in Trust it may also be necessary to also obtain their permission. The EA have been notified and asked if they will bear the costs, but given that it does not restrict access to sporting activities FiT may decide it may not be necessary.

6c/OCT/23 Tyne Willows litter collection

Re: 9/SEPT/23 The clerk contacted WAFC, Urbaser and Penrith Town Council to discuss obtaining a second litter bin. Urbaser will only provide a 360 bin, which as agreed is not suitable for the site. They have previously replaced our bin when it was vandalised, but will only do so on instructions from WAFC. WAFC asked us to contact Urbaser directly. The WAFC officer has been out of office, but it may be worth re-contacting him to see if they will ask Urbaser to install a bin for us at our expense. The alternative is to purchase and install a bin ourselves.

6d/OCT/23 BT wayleaves request – Tyne Willows

BT have come back with a revised scheme to install communications equipment for Tyne Willows pavilion and a request that the council sign a wayleaves agreement. The new proposal is for a pole with all associated fixtures and fittings at the pavilion and access road.

Resolved to approve and sign the wayleave request. Proposed by Cllr Grew, seconded by Cllr Ransom. Cllr Miller and Cllr Robinson to sign the agreement. (nem con.)

6e/OCT/23 AMPC website improvements

Re: 13/SEPT/23 Cllr Bondi put together a draft for the website which has been circulated.

Resolved: to update the website to reflect the new wording. Proposed by Cllr Robinson seconded by Cllr Marton. (12 + 1abs)

6f/OCT/23 School poster competition

Re: 8/SEPT/23 The schools are interested in the litter poster competition. Cllr Miller agreed to attend the school to ascertain timescales for the work.

7/OCT/23 Reports from representatives

7a/OCT/23 NWAS working group.

Cllr Grew gave a verbal report. The rapid response car was discussed. There is concern about the number of EMTs and the ability to staff the vehicle if anyone was to leave. There are currently 7 community first responders which has been well received. The working group would like to recruit more community first responders. The data for the service is being collated and will be discussed at the next meeting in January.

7b/OCT/23 Alston Cottage Hospital Working Group

The group highlighted the services that had been lost from Alston Moor. CHOC are interested in supporting the work of the Community First Responders and putting back some of the services that have been lost on Alston Moor. Cllr Grew and Cllr Monk hope to be part of CHOC's working group in regard to the matter and will continue to champion the work of the First Responders and raise awareness of the loss of health services on Alston Moor.

7c/OCT/23 Alston Moor Area Planning (AMAP)

The meeting was cancelled. No report.

7d/OCT/23 Alston Moor Emergency Response Group (AMERG)

Nothing to report

7e/OCT23 Traffic Management meeting & action points

School Crossing Sign

The sign and flashing light for the school crossing was reported. The hedging surrounding the sign needs to be cut back.

Leadgate road end flooding

The issue was discussed. It was agreed that Cllr Hanley and Cllr Robinson would look into the issue and seek clarification as to source of the problem.

Bridge at Dryburn

The bridge at Dryburn has been closed due to the damage sustained. The alternative route has been advertised. It is currently not clear how the rights-of-way team will address the issue. Cllr Robinson agreed to seek an update.

Access to the Butts

The Police have attended the Butts in regard to reports of access issues. It was confirmed that emergency vehicle access was not possible due to the parked cars.

7f/OCT23 Nenthead Ward

The Miners Arms committee has now been established and is working hard on their objective to purchase the pub. Cllr Robinson raised the Community Asset Purchase and indicated that the percentage contribution has been raised to 80%. Cllr Robinson to put the group in touch with Cllr M Robinson in regard to the scheme.

7g/OCT23 Nenthead Mine Water Treatment works

The group continue to work on the objection to the planning application. There is a meeting in the next couple of weeks to discuss the lease. The next meeting on 20th October will be attended by Neil Hudson, MP.

7h/OCT23 Alston Moor Partnership (AMP)

The group has just held its AGM with speaker, the new owner of High Mill, in regard to future plans for a Heritage Centre and Crafts Hub. The work of the group was outlined including the heritage festival and open days. The group has taken on some of the role of Alston Moor Business Association which has disbanded

7i/OCT23 Warm Hub

The Warm Hub is starting again on 16th October and will run weekly. There will be a slow cooker demonstration on the first week. Funding for the continuation of the group was discussed. Cllr Miller to discuss funding with Cllr M Robinson.

8. Planning applications

8a/OCT/23 23/0391 Full application. Proposed base station installation comprising of 20m high lattice tower, 2no VF 600 DIA dishes, 3no VF antennas, 1no GPS module mounted to the top of the tower. 1no VF equipment cabinet, 1no CS meter cabinet, 1no RRU rack, 1no powersafe generator and biofuel tank, 1.8m high wire mesh compound fence, 10x8m stone access hard standing area and 3m access track and associated ancillary works. Land off B6277 Forest and Frith, Alston CA9 3HF for Cornerstone.

Recommended to support. Proposed by Cllr Green and seconded by Cllr Grew (nem con.)

8bOCT/23 23/0497 Full application. Variation of conditions 1 (plans compliance) and 2 (doors, windows and garage doors) for the retrospective installation of partially glazed composite personnel doors, uPVC windows and metal overhead roller garage doors attached to approval 22/0582. High Mill, Northern Units, The Butts, Alston CA9 3JU for Mr Peter Oliver.

Recommended to object to the retrospective planning application on the grounds that the materials used (uPVC) negatively contravene the nature of the designated conservation area. The appearance of the designated conservation area to be maintained with the use of appropriate wooden sash windows and wooden garage doors. Proposed by Cllr Grew and seconded by Cllr. Best (8 in favour, 2 against, 3 abstained)

8c/OCT/23 23/0501 Advertisement. Advertisement consent for a non-illuminated pole-mounted sign. Lovelady Shield Country House Hotel, Lovelady Lane, Alston CA9 3LX for Ms Brenda Moore James.

Recommended to support the application Cllr Green and seconded by Cllr Grew. (12 + 1 abstained)

8d/OCT/23 23/0600 Full application. Construction of a stone staircase on the north east elevation, re-opening of a previously blocked up doorway and window, addition of 4no. first floor windows and 4 no conservation roof lights. Dryburn Cottage, Garrigill, CA9 3EJ for Dr Chris Dolan.

Recommended to support with the condition that the work is undertaken in the winter months between October and February to protect the spring-nesting Barn Owls. Proposed by Cllr Green and seconded by Cllr. Grew (nem. Con)

8e/OCT/23 23/0620 Full application. Renovation of existing derelict dwelling with internal and external alterations. Salvin Cottage, Townfoot, Alston CA9 3RN for Mr Wasim Afzal.

Recommended to support the application with the condition that the footpath is kept clear for pedestrians and vehicles during works. Proposed by Cllr Green and seconded by Cllr Grew. (12, +1 abst)

8f/OCT/23 23/0621 Listed building. Listed building consent for the renovation of existing derelict dwelling with internal and external alterations to include relocation of bathroom, new en-suite, insertion of velux window to rear roofslope and repair or replace existing timber windows and doors. Salvin Cottage, Townfoot, Alston CA9 3RN for Mr Wasim Afzal.

Recommended to support the application with the condition that the routeway is kept clear for pedestrians and vehicles during works. Proposed by Cllr Green and seconded by Cllr Grew. (12 +1 abst)

EXTRA

8g/OCT/23 23/0602 Full application. Addition of sunroom to western elevation, extension to northern elevation to create a boot room and utility area and associated alterations. Annat Walls Alston CA9 3UH for Steve & Alison Webster.

Recommended to support the application with the condition that (a) building materials do not obstruct the footpaths, (b) appropriate archaeological and historical reports are completed and recorded prior to commencement of works. Proposed by Cllr Grew, seconded by Cllr Green (10 +3 abst)

9/OCT/23 Request to assist with funding Alston Recreation Ground fencing for dog walk

The information provided by the representative of the Fairhill Recreation Ground during public participation was noted. The group was asked to complete a Community Grants Scheme Application Form with a plan outlining the location and size of the proposed fenced area.

10/OCT/23 Request from the owner of High Mill for a letter of support with a Heritage Lottery application

Resolved to provide a letter of support for the project. Proposed by Cllr Miller and seconded by Cllr Davies. (nem con)

11/OCT/23 Report on meeting to discuss Nenthead Fountain, decision on how to progress and decision on applying to WAFC Highways for an Indemnity Agreement.

Highways can provide an indemnity agreement to offer the Parish Council assurance of custodianship of the fountain. This agreement could then be used by the Nenthead Community Projects to seek funding for the refurbishment of the Nenthead Fountain.

Resolved to request an indemnity agreement from Highways for the Parish Councils approval. Proposed Cllr Miller, seconded by Cllr Davies. (12 +1 abs)

12/OCT/23 Planning for Christmas lights, Alston, Nenthead & Garrigill

Nenthead and Garrigill indicated that they would continue as in previous years. Alston Moor Business Association would no longer be coordinating the Alston lights. Cllr Hanley and Cllr Robinson indicated that they would undertake the Town Hall and Market Cross.

The Parish Council would need to coordinate the Christmas Trees on Front Street. It would be important to ascertain who would wish to purchase a tree. Cllr Miller and the clerk would speak to the volunteers and consider a working group. The trees would need PAT testing. All volunteers working at heights would need training.

13/OCT/23 Community Grant Application from Miners Arms Community Association

The Community Grant Application form was circulated. The group had requested £300. The Miners Arms Community Association is making the application in joint partnership with Nenthead Community Projects as the accountable body in the absence of a group bank account into which the grant can be paid.

Resolved to provide a grant of £300. Proposer Cllr Martin, Seconded Cllr Best (nem con)

14/OCT/23 Council representatives for Remembrance Sunday

Council representative for laying wreaths at Remembrance Sunday were agreed as follows, Garrigill – Cllr Grew, Nenthead – Cllr Ransom/Cllr Robinson, Nenthall - Cllr Ransom/Cllr Robinson, Alston – Cllr Ho

15/OCT/23 Proposal to set up a Finance Committee

Cllr Ho requested that the finance committee be reinstated. The motion was not seconded. The Parish Council stands by its previous decision.

Cllr Green left the meeting at 9.30

16/OCT/23 Consultations & Correspondence

16a/OCT/23 Correspondence – Appendix 1

Resolved to receive the correspondence. Proposer Cllr Robinson, seconded Cllr Ransom (11 +1 abs)

17/OCT/23 Accounts for payment (Appendix 2)

<i>Summary of accounts for payment:</i>	£1,000.00
<i>Summary of income received since last meeting:</i>	£346.99
<i>Summary of accounts paid since last meeting:</i>	£1,212.85

Resolved that sufficient funds are held in balances for the clerk to be authorised to pay the invoices listed in appendix 2. Proposed by Cllr Martin and seconded by Cllr Miller (10 + 2abst)

Note: the full list of payments is attached to the signed minutes.

18/OCT/23 Appointment of Cllr for 2nd quarter banking checks

Cllr Monk and Cllr Ho to undertake the 2nd quarter banking checks. Cllr Ho requested that the reconciliation be available for inspection via email.

19/OCT/23 Addition of new parish clerk to bank mandates and confirmation of councillor signatories

It was confirmed that parish clerk Lindsay Nicholson be added to the banking mandate. Banking signatories to include Cllr Ransom, Cllr Robinson, Cllr Hanley, Cllr Miller, Cllr Green, Cllr Davies. The clerk to be authorised to apply for a multipay card.

Resolved to approve the changes to the banking mandate. Proposer Cllr Martin, seconded by Cllr Miller (nem con)

Cllr Ho left the meeting at 9.30pm

20/OCT/23 Agenda items for next meeting and urgent business

Items for the next meeting to include Councillor surgeries; disseminating information to residents and groups; signage for the community garden; and fencing of the pump track.

Councillor Grew left the meeting at 09.35

Closed Session

21/OCT/23 Quotes to re-tarmac Garrigill Village Green car park

No quotations were received.

The meeting closed 9.50pm.

Signed:

Dated: