

ALSTON MOOR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Alston Moor Parish Council held on Monday 3rd April 2017 at 7pm in Samuel King's School

Present: Cllrs: A. Green (Chair), D. Athey, B. Aves, J. Glendinning, P Godwin, E. Grew, T. Haldon, C. Harrison, S. Hill, H. Ho, A. Martin, R. Miller, D. Phillips, E. Stewart, G. Wright.

Apologies: none

Absent: none

Declarations of interest: listed under specific agenda items Cllr Wright declared an interest in planning, and Cllr Ho in the woodland at Low Nest. As a district councillor, Cllr Godwin declared a regular interest in planning matters.

1. Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the parish council held on Monday 6th March 2017 be adopted as a correct record. Proposed by Cllr Harrison and seconded by Cllr Phillips. (nem con).

2. Progress Reports

2a/APR/17 Code of Conduct training

Re 1a/MAR/17 The clerk reported that the training session will take place on Tuesday 6th June and will include some of the good councillor course, which will be especially useful for new councillors. Cllrs Miller and Haldon apologised as they will be away.

2b/APR/17 Risk Assessment - Signage for Tyne Willows/Henderson's Wood & tree survey

Re:14 /MAR/17 The clerk reported that the Risk Assessment meeting recommended safety signs 'Doctor's Walk unsafe in flood conditions' for the footpath under Tyne bridge and 'Please keep to the path/s' for Firs and Henderson's Woods. Brampton Signs have advised going for an aluminium composite panel which should last for a minimum of 7 years. The cost is around £60 per panel for A5 size, with a 4 – 6 signs needed in total. A decision needs to be made on siting and fixing.

Resolved to purchase 6 signs and to ask if there is a reduction in cost for quantity. Proposed by Cllr Grew and seconded by Cllr Haldon. (nem con) **Action CI.**

It was agreed to advertise for a suitably qualified person to update on the tree survey.

2c/APR/17 Bridleway 302041 report from ROW team

Re: 16a/MAR/17 The ROW team acknowledged the request and have been out to look at the difficult gate. The issue with the horse is a matter for the police as the County Council does not have the powers to pursue it. Cllr Phillips said that gates on bridleways should be openable, but not necessarily from a mounted position

2d/APR/17 Electronic Planning Consultation Meeting & Common Land & Village Green course

Re: 12a/MAR/17 The clerk asked if anyone would be available to attend the meeting on electronic planning to be held on 11th April 5.30 – 8.30 pm at the Fire and Rescue Headquarters in Penrith.

District Cllr Sheriff said he would be attending and willing to report back. Cllr Godwin may be able to attend

The clerk asked if Cllr Grew wanted to attend the course on Common Land and Village Greens on 17th or 18th July. The cost will be £70 or £80 depending upon numbers. The clerk was asked to check the last date for booking. **Action CI.**

2e/APR/17 War Memorial Listing

The clerk reported that the funding to restore the war memorials had come in from the War Memorials Trust. Those involved would like to update the listing on the website and requested permission.

Resolved to ask the War Memorial team to update the listing and to thank them for all their work. Proposed by Cllr Green and seconded by Cllr Haldon. (nem con) **Action CI.**

3. Progress reports from working groups and council representatives

3a/APR/17 Future of Healthcare in Alston – Cllr Martin

Cllr Martin reported that the County Council health scrutiny committee rejected the option of making a referral to the Secretary of State about the decision to close the beds in the community hospitals. They

are prepared to back the proposals from the League of Friends, but will not put in any money. The Clinical Commissioning Group has said that the plans are not well worked up, but the League are unable to do more because they are not able to access all the necessary figures. The concern is that the hospital will turn into an old peoples' home with no medical beds.

An option for the community is to make a legal challenge, but the cost is between £50-£80k, with crowd funding being the most likely means of raising the funds. One certainty is that the League of Friends are not going to give up.

3b/APR/17 Representatives meeting with Fitness Club & actions arising

The meeting agreed several actions:

Insurance – the gym would like to continue to pay the building insurance, the representatives agreed to sort out any access issues for events, and to look out a copy of the insurance documents for the parish council.

Annual donation - The Fitness Club would like to request that the annual donation is re-instated and has now provided the annual report and copies of the year end accounts.

Recycling – the Fitness Club intends to continue to manage the recycling centre for Eden District Council.

Rent – a peppercorn rent of £5 per year is to be agreed with the council.

Appleby Fair – the finance director is willing to lend a hand and liaise with the travelling community.

It was pointed out that the Sheepdog trials will be held on 17th June and the Gala on the 24th June and both events would like to be able to use the toilets in the pavilion.

Cllr Glendinning reported that some maintenance work has been done on the building this year.

Resolved to set a peppercorn rent of £5 per year for the use of Tyne Willows Pavilion by Alston Fitness Club and to vire £500 from general purposes to annual donations. Proposed by Cllr Harrison and seconded by Cllr Grew. (12+ 3 abs)

3c/APR/17 Extraordinary Traffic Management meeting

Notes from the meeting were circulated. Cllr Grew reported that the work on Front Street cobbles cannot be done this year as trial pits indicated that the substrate is in very poor condition and almost all the existing cobbles cannot be re-used. The work has been estimated to cost around £1m, so a request is to go forward to the County Council for next year, and should be approved as the cobbles are no longer safe. The £200k allocated for this year will be put towards three crossing points and upgrading the Blagill loop. English Heritage support the crossing points but are opposed to replacing the cobbles with tarmac, because of their historical importance. The new cobbles will be larger, and the ground dug out to a depth of three feet, with ducts put in for the utilities, to reduce the need to dig up the road in future.

3d/APR/17 Nenthead Ward Meeting

Cllr Phillips reported that Emma Stewart has taken over as ward meeting secretary. Matters for the attention of the parish council were:

Nenthead noticeboard – the ward would like a glass fronted noticeboard, and the shop staff are willing to look after it. The clerk was asked to follow up. **Action CI.**

Nenthead cemetery – complaints were made about the wet and boggy condition of the cemetery, which Eden District Council say is a result of the weather. The pillar at the entrance was knocked down and replaced, but the fastening no longer fastens. Cllr Phillips has enquired about it, and was told it would be fixed, but as this has not happened yet he agreed to follow up. **Action. DP**

3e/APR/17 Working Group on devolution

Cllr Phillips reported that a list of questions had been sent to the District Council and the group were awaiting a response.

3f/APR/17 Public participation events with Coal Authority re: proposed mine treatment works

Cllr Haldon reported that he attended the afternoon event at Nenthall, and suggested to the Coal Authority team that they provide a monthly report, which has been received and circulated.

Nentsberry Community Group have circulated a report with their concerns that no pilot schemes have been done, and there are complaints from Nenthead that some of the sites are unsuitable. The team did not seem to be aware that one of the potential sites was the school playing field, which is right next to a housing development. It was felt that reassurance should be given that the scheme will not be sited close to houses and the school. Other concerns are over the potential smell, visual impact, health and safety over the unintended by-product algal bloom at Force Craig, and the experimental nature of the sites.

Resolved to set up a working group to look into the issues. Cllrs Aves, Stewart, Athey and Hill offered to be part of the group.

3g/APR/17 Tyne Willows Management Committee

Cllr Miller reported that there was nothing of importance to discuss. The next meeting will be held on 28th September 2017.

4 County Councillor's Report.

Cllr Robinson reported on the following:

Wardway – following reports of damage by vehicles the County Council are looking to set up a prohibition order for the section of the track near Alston.

A686 Hartside – work will start below the mast in July, with the road reduced to single carriageway.

Grant funding – Alston Fitness Club has been awarded funds from the County Councillor's Fund to cover the planning application.

District Councillor's Report

Cllr Godwin reported on the following:

Planning fees – will be increased. Eden District Council has had difficulty in recruiting planners, but intend to appoint an Enforcement Officer to deal specifically with enforcement issues to enable other staff to concentrate on planning matters.

Cllr Sheriff had nothing further to report.

5. Planning

5a/APR/17 17/0118 Listed building. Listed building consent for the addition of new waste water pipe to rear elevation. Ivy House, The Row, Nenthead CA9 3PE for Mr & Mrs Taylor-Lynch.

Recommended for approval. Proposed by Cllr Aves and seconded by Cllr Phillips. (nem con).

5b/APR/17 17/0139 Full application. Proposed timber cabin. South of Greencastle Tarn, Alston for Mr & Mrs J.R. Townshend.

Cllr Haldon reported on a meeting with the land agent, who explained that they had to knock down the old buildings which were dangerous. As they are coming to the end of a programme of improvements, the cabin will enable them to extend their business operations. The Chair pointed out that Garrigill residents were upset that a former farmstead had been pulled down, and surprised that planning permission was not needed. Members were also reminded that the new Local Plan, which will allow building on the footprint of a former dwelling on Alston Moor, has not yet come into force, so the current planning legislation on building in the open countryside is still in force.

Recommended for refusal as the site is in open countryside, and the parish council's understanding is that isolated buildings, with no evidence of other buildings around, are not permitted under the current planning legislation. Proposed by Cllr Green and seconded by Cllr Wright. (9+ 2- 4 abs)

5c/APR/17 17/0151 Full application. Proposed general purpose agricultural building. High Redwing, Garrigill, Alston CA9 3EH for Mr & Mrs J. Johnson.

Recommended for approval. Proposed by Cllr Haldon and seconded by Cllr Athey. (12+ 3 abs).

5d/APR/17 17/0179 Full application. Non-Material amend. Wright Bros (Coaches) Ltd, Central Garage, Nenthead CA9 3NP for Mr Gary and Ian Wright.

Cllr Wright declared an interest and left the room.

Nenthead members reported that those residents who commented were all in favour of the proposals.

Recommended for approval. Proposed by Cllr Aves and seconded by Cllr Martin. (12+ 2 abs).

5c/APR/17 17/0182 Full application. Erection of porch to front elevation. Valley View, Nenthead CA9 3NA for Mr J. Baker.

Recommended for approval. Proposed by Cllr Phillips and seconded by Cllr Harrison (nem con).

Decision Notices

3/17/9003 Construction of a new staff car park, formation of disabled parking bays and a drop off point at the front of the school, minor external alterations to add external doors in two locations, addition of a MUGA pitch with fencing and floodlights to replace the existing all weather surface. Addition of new adventure playground for primary school pupils. Samuel King's School, Church Road, Alston CA9 3QU for Cumbria County Council. Permission granted with conditions.

6 Proposal to write confirming that the parish council agrees to and supports the proposal by Alston Moor Fitness Club to apply to Fields in Trust and submit a planning application to Eden District Council to extend Tyne Willows Pavilion

Resolved to support the proposal by Alston Moor Fitness Club to apply to Fields in Trust and to submit a planning application to extend Tyne Willows Pavilion. Proposed by Cllr Athey and seconded by Cllr Wright. (12+ 3 abs) **Action CI.**

7 Request to write to the appropriate authorities with a request for tourist signage on the A69 and A66/M6 – Cllr Martin

The suggestion to apply for permission for tourist signage on the junction of major roads leading to Alston to encourage visitors was made at earlier parish and Traffic Management meetings.

Resolved to ask about signage stating 'Scenic route to the Lakes' for the junction with Haydon Bridge and Brampton and 'Scenic route to the north-east' for junction 40 on the M6. Proposed by Cllr Martin and seconded by Cllr Grew. (nem con) **Action CI.**

8 Request to trim overhanging branches on Garrigill Village Green – Cllr Grew

A local farmer has asked on behalf of the farming community if the overhanging branches on Garrigill Village Green can be trimmed, as they are causing damage to vehicle mirrors. The clerk reported that the agents for the Catholic Trust checked the lease last year and confirmed that the parish council were responsible for maintenance.

Agreed to arrange for a local tree surgeon to carry out the work. Contact details to be forwarded to the clerk. **Action EG.**

9 Eden District Council Scrutiny Work Programme topics

An e-mail was received inviting the council to put forward topics to be considered by Eden's Scrutiny committee by 21st April.

It was agreed to ask the Scrutiny Committee to consider the following: devolution of services, the adequacy of social care following the proposed closure of hospital beds, and the potential risk to health arising from the Coal Authorities proposals for mine treatment at Nentsberry and Nenthead. Members were asked to e-mail any other suggestions to the clerk. **Action.**

10 Consultations and Correspondence

10a/APR/17 Potential new plantation at Low Nest

An e-mail was received explaining that the owners of Low Nest Barn would like to create a small broadleaf woodland on their land. It will extend to 3ha, deer fencing will not be used to minimise the intrusive nature of the woodland and they will only use stock fencing where necessary. An additional gate will be placed along the footpath and the access will be left open at all times.

The clerk was asked to thank them for the information. **Action CI.**

10b/APR/17 Cumbria County Council Notice of temporary road closures

Tyne Bridge, Alston for bridge inspection works 2 days around 4th & 5th July 2017 from 18.30 to 2am.

Front Street road closure for Northern Gas Networks to carry out new gas supply works from 24th April 2017 for up to 18 months, with an anticipated closure for 2 days.

10c/APR/17 Eden Local Plan 2014-2-32: Interim Local Plan Consultation (Prior to Major Modifications) & Notification of Hearing dates

Comments may be submitted by 10th April 2017. The hearings will take place between 2nd and 5th May 2017.

10d/APR/17 Consultation on the draft Cumbria Minerals and Waste Local Plan Main Modification and Sustainability Appraisal update

A table of Main Modifications to the Local Plan with an update to the Sustainability Appraisal will be published for public consultation between 27th March and 5th May 2017. Comments to be received by 5th May 2017.

10e/APR/17 BDO notification of audit date

Notice that the annual return is to be submitted by 24th July 2017.

10f/APR/17 NALC – Parish Precepts

Notice that the council tax referendum principles were not extended to parish councils for the 2017/18 financial year, but the decision is a deferral and the government has urged restraint when the increase is not a direct result of taking on additional responsibilities. The average increase is 6p per week. Councils were urged to explain spending decisions and significant increases in precept.

10g/APR/17 Notices of events/meetings

Alston Pantomime 20th – 22nd April 2017

10h/APR/17 Information received

Local Council Review – Spring 2017

Clerks & Councils Direct – March 2017

Nenthead Ward Meeting minutes – January & March

Alston Area Police Team newsletter

Status report from Coal Authority

Hospice at Home - Spring/Summer issue

11 Request to adopt and adapt as required the Model Standing Orders – Cllr Ho

Cllr Ho stated that the parish council has not adopted the model standing orders, as have most other parish councils. It was explained that Cllr Haldon had proposed to revise and update them, but when the proposal was put to a meeting the decision was not to adopt the model standing orders, other than those sections required by law. Cllr Phillips agreed to make some minor alterations as suggested by CALC on the standing orders which were adopted by the council.

It was noted for information that in a court of law anyone who abstains is deemed to have voted with the motion, and if the chair abstains from the casting vote he/she would have been deemed to have gone with the motion. One member questioned this as he stated that NALC said that to be passed a motion requires a majority and if chair fails to cast his casting vote because equality is not a majority the motion is lost. (Added as an amendment to the minutes at the 8/5/17 meeting).

Cllr Ho asked the council to re-consider adopting the model standing orders. Agreed to hold over to next month.

12 Planning for the AGM on 25th April 2017

It was agreed to invite the League of Friends, Ambulance Service, and SKS headteacher to report, as the meeting would be under time constraints with the hustings taking place first. Other organisations would be invited to submit a written report, although they would not be restricted from speaking for no more than three minutes if they wanted to.

It was pointed out that the Annual Parish Meeting is for residents living in the ward. Only residents are entitled to vote.

13. Items for next month's agenda, Traffic Management meeting and urgent business

13a/APR/17

Traffic Management meeting – request to stop cycles using the footpath. Update on Townhead congestion around junction.

13b/APR/17 dog fouling

Complaints have been received about dog muck on the pavements near the Angel and in the churchyard.

14. Finance

14a/APR/17 Bank statements

The statements as of 31st March 2017 were as follows:-

Alston Moor Parish Council tr/ac	£20,194.29
Alston Moor Parish Council bus/ac	£12,676.55
Eden Credit Union	£7,008.58

11b/APR/17 Accounts for Payment

The following accounts were for payment:-

<i>Summary of accounts for payment: -</i>	£10,947.91
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Summary of income received since last meeting: - £8,351.26
Summary of accounts paid since last meeting: - £1,026.69

Resolved that sufficient funds are held in balances for the clerk to be authorised to settle all the accounts listed in appendix 1. Proposed by Cllr Haldon and seconded by Cllr Grew. (nem con)

The meeting closed at 9 pm

Signed:

Dated: