



# ALSTON MOOR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Alston Moor Parish Council held on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 at 7pm in the Masonic Hall.

**Present:** Cllrs: A. Martin (Chair), D. Athey, B. Aves, M. Denoual, E. Grew, J. Glendinning, P. Godwin, T. Haldon, C. Harrison, H. Ho, R. Miller, L. Moncrieff, M. Shepherd, G. Wright.

**Apologies:** Cllr: A. Green

**Absent:** none

**Declarations of interest:** listed under specific agenda items. 6a/APR/19 Cllr Martin.

## **1. Minutes**

**Resolved** that the minutes of the parish council meeting held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2019 be agreed as a correct record. Proposed by Cllr Wright and seconded by Cllr Grew. (1 abs)

## **2. Progress Reports**

### **2a/APR/19 Nenthead Gala**

Re: 2f/MAR/19 The annual report has now been received from the Nenthead Gala treasurer. (circulated)

### **2b/APR/19 Application to the Community Housing Fund**

Re: 2i/MAR/19 Eden District Council confirmed that the application has been passed and up to £4,397.90 has been allocated towards the work, which is to be carried out on behalf of the informal Alston community-led housing group. The acceptance form has been signed and returned.

It was reported that the survey forms should be going out towards the end of April, and members were asked to encourage people to fill them in even if they were not intending to move. Eden District Council have allocated £70k towards the Eden wide project.

### **2c/APR/19 Footway lighting**

Re: 2k/MAR/19 A site visit was held with lighting officers from Cumbria County Council to discuss the Victorian style lights that are not on the approved list. Further discussions need to be held between the County, District and parish.

### **2d/APR/19 Fields in Trust BT Openreach wayleaves agreement**

Re: FEB/19 Fields in Trust confirmed their agreement to the wayleaves request from BT Openreach to erect a pole and associated wires on a corner of the field near the Cumberland Hotel. The wayleaves agreement has now been signed and a copy returned to BT Openreach.

### **2e/APR/19 Mole activity on Tyne Willows Playing Fields**

A local farmer has offered to deal with the moles on the playing fields, and the council were asked if they wanted to accept the offer. The moles will need to be trapped. Noted that: *Section 8 of the Pests Act 1954 prohibits the use of spring traps that have not been approved. The Small Ground Vermin Traps Order 1958 exempts from this ban the spring traps commonly used for catching moles in their runs.*

**Resolved** to accept the offer from a volunteer subject to the completion of a risk assessment. Proposed by Cllr Wright and seconded by Cllr Harrison. (nem con)

It was suggested that a sign be put up while the work is in progress.

## **3. Progress reports from working groups and council representatives**

### **3a/APR/19 Alston Moor Care Alliance & Ambulance meeting report**

A report was circulated. The Community First Responders event went well with 12 people signing up for training, which will take place over 4 days, either during the week or at weekends. They will not replace the EMT ambulance team, but are to work with them. The intent is to enable the ambulance crew to take some patients to hospital, but to have someone capable of assisting if a 999 call goes out while the ambulance is away.

Anyone interested in becoming a CFR can still sign up and the clerk can forward any queries.

Another issue discussed was the wearing of uniform by the ambulance crew when not on a call out, due to national guidelines for infection control measures.

Cllr Grew was given a vote of thanks for regularly attending and reporting back from the meetings.

### **3b/APR/19 Alston Moor Partnership**

The future of the e-bikes is still under discussion with Alston Moor Community Transport, who are interested in taking them on.

A public meeting is to be held on 8<sup>th</sup> May to launch the Community Plan. Arising from this was a suggestion for signage for the ginnels off Front Street.

Grants from the Unity Lottery have been allocated to Alston Community Coffee Mornings, Nenthead Play Area, Nenthead Shop and Alston Moor Community Energy. Funds are still available should there still be interest.

Alston Moor Partnership is currently looking for new directors.

### **3c/APR/19 Fitness Club working group meeting**

A meeting with the directors offered has not yet taken place. It was suggested the working group set some meeting date options. **Action.**

### **3d/APR/19 Tree survey working group**

Cllrs Green and Athey confirmed they had carried out a survey of the trees in Firs Wood and Henderson's Wood. Some smaller trees have fallen on the bankside, but are not presenting a problem and can be allowed to rot down as habitat for wildlife. There are a few small branches needing trimming, which can be done by volunteers, but nothing requiring immediate attention.

The clerk reported that she would attend the Tree Workshop in Penrith.

### **3e/APR/19 Electric Car Charging Point**

The chair confirmed that a meeting had been held with Charge My Street and the agreement signed, with provision to provide broadband. This will enable anyone charging their vehicle to use their mobile phone at Tyne Willows instead of having to walk up the street to do so. The facility could also benefit other users of the field such as the Gala and shows.

It was reported that the works to the pavilion should be properly checked and certified with certificates provided. Cllr Glendinning offered to photograph the equipment and the clerk was asked to contact Charge My Street. **Action CI.**

## **4 County Councillor's Report**

*Cllr Driver reported on the following:*

**Footway lighting** – work has finished on the new lighting scheme for Front Street, apart from a replacement part on order for a faulty light. If any residents have a problem with the light shining into their house, the clear panels can be changed for shaded ones.

**Footpath investigations** – action is being taken over a blocked bridleway. People are asked to report any rights-of-way obstructions, as the County can only take enforcement action if they know about the problem.

**Alston Alliance** – a small group has been looking at communications and the best way of letting people know what is available. There is an exciting story to tell about the future of social care on Alston Moor. The rest and recuperation hospital beds have a 40% occupancy rate, so are working well.

There is a focus on staff recruitment, with vacancies at Grisedale Croft, and, although they are managing with bank staff, they need to fill the posts and have advertised through the usual channels. Apprenticeships schemes for young people are also available.

**Eden Local Committee** – they have supported an application for Nenthead Play Area, and were impressed with how well the community is working together.

**Hartside café** – a Penrith property developer has purchased the former café, and is looking to rebuild and include projects that could benefit the community. There are plans to meet for discussions with the district and county.

**Front Street** - the steering group have agreed terms of reference, and agreed that when the meeting notes are signed off they will circulate to the parish council. Materials testing are ongoing, and they are waiting to hear back on the Alston stone results, which should be available mid April. Core sample testing is also in progress. Non-invasive CAT scanning was carried out, but even so it missed a small pipe. The samples were taken from an area of patched tarmac, but if they need to take up any setts they will be re-laid afterwards. When the tests are complete the group will have a better idea of what can be done, and there is a lot of design work to consider. The next step will be further consultations with the community.

Some work should be happening this year. If the Alston stone proves useable they will lay some in the car park permanently as a means of assessing how it stands up. The project board is still to be put up, but

they intend to circulate information and to tell the community and visitors what the project is about. They are looking to deliver a scheme next year, but need to discuss with the community how to deal with the disruption, and depending upon the decisions taken there will be various options to consider.

#### **Questions**

**Comex** – it was reported that the tarmac has been replaced too thinly at Lowbyer. Any issues with the works can be reported to Cllr Driver before the works are signed off.

**Market cross** – the steps were re-set and pointed up, but the centre area was left untouched due to budgetary constraints. The team still has to pitch and proof the building and provide some fine metal netting to replace the plastic netting as a long-term solution.

#### **District Councillor's Report**

*Cllr Sharp sent a written report. (circulated)*

Thanks were given to Cllr Godwin who is standing down from the district.

**Friends of Alston Cemetery** – Cllr Godwin reported that she would like to see more people involved with the group.

**Surgeries** – Cllr Sharp is working with the Cumberland Herald and intends to start a drop in session every couple of weeks in Local Links, which could link in with parish council surgeries.

#### **Questions**

**Former HSBC building** – Eden District Council are aware that work has been carried out and are waiting to hear from the legal team.

#### **5. Public participation**

*A resident questioned the situation with 5G at Tyne Willows Pavilion, and asked about the consultation exercise reported in the Fields in Trust application.*

It was confirmed that Charge My Street have not put in a 5G system at Tyne Willows. They installed 2 electric charge points and will be putting in broadband. The parish council has not agreed to have 5G on the pavilion, so it will be no change to the existing provision.

Noted that there is an ongoing government project, which uses a type of 5G (using the old TV analogue wavelengths) in Cumbria and Northumberland, which will be evaluated in September. It has been the cause of some confusion with the linking of this project with the electric charge point project.

Charge My Street carried out the consultation exercise on the electric charge points, and the clerk was asked to contact them for a report. **Action CI.**

#### **6. Planning applications**

**6a/APR/19** 19/0160 Conversion of redundant school building into two dwellings. Salvin School Hall, The Butts, Alston CA9 3JQ for Mr W. McNabb.

*Cllr Martin declared an interest as a neighbour.*

It was noted there are now four allocated parking spaces.

**Recommended** for approval. Proposed by Cllr Aves and seconded by Cllr Glendinning. (11+ 2 abs)

**6b/APR/19** 19/0179 Full application. Proposed 'Children's Nursery and Forest School' by way of 'Change of use' of an existing agricultural barn store. Wanwood Hill, Alston CA9 3BE for Mr & Mrs Walton.

The applicant has confirmed that the proposals are for a nursery and that there is an existing separate access from the farm.

**Recommended** for approval. Proposed by Cllr Wright and seconded by Cllr Miller. (nem con)

**6c/APR/19** 19/0192 Full application. Demolition of existing garage and part demolition of stable block, to be replaced by double garage and workshop. The Hermitage, Alston CA9 3DB for Mr R. Glover.

**Recommended** for approval. Proposed by Cllr Aves and seconded by Cllr Wright. (9+ 5 abs)

**6d/APR/19** 19/0124 Full application. Replacement of timber conservatory, windows and doors with UPVC and external alterations. Linden House, Kings Arms Lane, Alston CA9 3JF for Mr & Mrs Cox.

**Recommended** for approval. Proposed by Cllr Haldon and seconded by Cllr Wright. (9+ 5 abs)

**6e/APR/19** 18/0955 Dykeheads, Cotterill, Nenthead CA9 3PY The planners have confirmed the additions to the application were census documents demonstrating the building had been occupied in the past.

**The meeting was suspended to allow residents to speak.**

*A spokesperson for Nenthead residents who are objecting to the application stated that the building at Dykeheads, Cotterill was one of the earliest buildings on Alston Moor. It was built as a bastle house, and*

*English Heritage in their study of Alston Moor recommended a survey to identify the surviving bastle houses to secure their future through a proper conservation scheme. Another point is that the building was originally one dwelling with an attached barn, and the application is for two dwellings. An objection to the current application is that it disregards the historic features of the building. The resident's request is for the application to be put on hold to enable a full archaeological survey to be carried out.*

**The meeting re-convened.**

Copies of the objections were passed to the clerk.

It was noted that the development should adhere to the AONB design policy.

**Resolved** to write to Eden District Council to draw their attention to the residents' concerns and to recommend that an archaeological survey based on the recommendations from English Heritage should be undertaken. Proposed by Cllr Haldon and seconded by Cllr Wright.

**Decision notices**

**6i/APR/19** 19/0053 Full application. Replacement front door, windows and dormer windows. 3 West View, Front Street, Alston CA9 3SF for Miss H. Jones. Permission granted with conditions.

**7. Comments on Weardale Estates proposed diversion and dedication of footpaths at Ashgill**

The proposed diversion to the footpaths at Ashgill was submitted by Weardale Estates for the council to consider. It will extinguish the section of footpath 302008 that passes through to farmyard and dedicate the route to Ashgill bridge, which is not currently on the definitive map. The parish council have already confirmed that they would not support the extinguishment of the easier route to the waterfall, and would prefer a diversion around the farmhouse.

**Resolved** that the parish council does not support the proposed extinguishment of the section of footpath 302008 in exchange for Weardale Estates dedicating the Ashgill bridge path, and would propose instead a diversion of footpath 302008 around the farmhouse. Proposed by Cllr Grew and seconded by Cllr Wright. (nem con)

**8. Telfords proposed changes to the 680 bus service to Carlisle – response from parish council**

An e-mail was received from the County Council stating that Telfords are concerned that the marginally viable operation of the 680 bus service to Alston will be further weakened by the temporary suspension of the service during the three month road closure at Slaggyford. They are considering withdrawing the section between Hallbankgate and Alston once the closure is completed, but would like feedback before making a final decision. Options might be to run just one day a week, or on a different day. A decision needs to be made by the middle of April to allow time to give notice to the Traffic Commissioner's Office if they are to make a variation to the timetable.

It was noted that the current timetable does not give passengers enough time in Carlisle, but as the times have to fit in with school routes there is not much opportunity for flexibility unless some of the route is dropped.

It was agreed to suggest that some of the route is dropped on Thursdays to make the journey worthwhile for Alston passengers. **Action CI.**

**9. Alston Moor Community Plan – proposal that following the elections the new council reviews the Community Plan and identifies actions for the parish council as a priority**

**Resolved** to support the proposal that following the elections the new council reviews the Community Plan and identifies actions for the parish council as a priority. Proposed by Cllr Martin and seconded by Cllr Wright. (nem con)

**10. Volunteer Co-ordinator post – proposal that following the elections the new council makes it a priority to progress with this appointment as a matter of urgency as it is key to many things including the Community Plan**

It was noted that a working group started to look into the volunteer co-ordinator project, but had not made any significant progress during the year. As the need for someone to assist volunteers has been clearly identified in the Community Plan the council were asked to prioritise this project.

**Resolved** to move forward with the Volunteer Co-ordinator project. Proposed by Cllr Denoual and seconded by Cllr Martin. (nem con)

## **11. Consultations and Correspondence**

### **11a/APR/19 NALC – consultation on the new Audit Code of Conduct**

The National Audit Office has issued a consultation on the new Code of Audit Practice, which is due to come into force by 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020. (e-mail circulated). NALC intend to highlight the difficulty for smaller councils in facing disproportionately high costs when a number of electors raise a high number of minor/technical objections of a vexatious nature. That there should be the inclusion of a principle relating to proportionality for smaller authorities especially for those councils with a turnover below £25k. Agree retention of the current bullet under clause 5.4 that the auditor should ‘consider the costs of dealing with the matter, bearing in mind that these are borne by the taxpayer’ as the costs of audit investigation could be more than the council’s annual precept.

**Resolved** to support NALC.

### **11b/APR/19 Notices of events/meetings**

Alston Pantomime

Alston Moor Historical Society 4<sup>th</sup> April 2019

Annual Parish Meeting 16<sup>th</sup> April 2019

Nenthead Chapel AGM 26<sup>th</sup> April 2019

North Pennines AONB Partnership Annual Forum 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2019

Garigill Ward meeting 15<sup>th</sup> April 2019

Community Plan meeting 8<sup>th</sup> May 2019

### **11c/APR/19 Information received**

Police report and request for parish council representative during Appleby Fair week – agenda item for next month.

## **12 Administration**

### **12a/APR/19 Annual Parish Meeting Planning**

It was confirmed that hustings would be held for the district council candidates and that parish councillors would be asked to introduce themselves.

**Resolved** that the chair was to remind the public that the Annual Parish Meeting was for residents, and that non-residents would be asked not to participate. Proposed by Cllr Miller and seconded by Cllr Glendinning (13+ 1 abs)

### **12b/APR/19 End of term dinner**

It was agreed to hold the end of term dinner at the STRPS café on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April, sample menus were circulated and members and their partners asked to confirm attendance with the clerk. **Action.**

### **12c/APR/19 Community Grant application**

An application was received from Nenthead Play Area for £300. It was agreed to hold the application over until the May meeting.

## **13 Items for next month’s agenda/urgent business**

None received.

## **14. Finance**

### **14a/APR/19 Bank statements**

The statements as of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 were as follows:-

|                                   |            |
|-----------------------------------|------------|
| Alston Moor Parish Council tr/ac  | £39,478.67 |
| Alston Moor Parish Council bus/ac | £12,700.88 |
| Eden Credit Union                 | £7,008.58  |

### **10b/APR/19 Accounts for Payment**

The following accounts were for payment:-

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| <i>Summary of accounts for payment: -</i>               | £2,249.82 |
| <i>Summary of income received since last meeting: -</i> | £85.00    |
| <i>Summary of accounts paid since last meeting: -</i>   | £211.48   |

**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 Wright. (13+ 1 abs)

*The meeting closed at 9.15 pm.*

Signed: .....

Dated: .....