

ALSTON MOOR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Alston Moor Parish Council held on Monday 1st August 2016 at 7pm in Alston Town Hall

Present: Cllrs: T. Haldon (Chair), D. Athey, B. Aves, J. Glendinning, P. Godwin, E. Grew, S. Hill, A. Martin, R. Miller, D. Phillips, A Robertson.

Apologies: Cllrs: R. Thomson, M. Herdman, A. Green.

Absent: G. Wright.

Declarations of interest: listed under specific agenda items.

As the hustings were unable to go ahead one of the candidates for the district council, T. Sheriff attended the meeting to introduce himself.

1. Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the parish council meeting held on Monday 4th July 2016 be adopted as a correct record with the following amendment: 6/JUL/16 Cllr Haldon confirmed that (Garrigill) Village Hall insurers did not require regular inspections. Proposed by Cllr Phillips and seconded by Cllr Athey. (nem con).

2. Progress Reports

2a/AUG/16 Firs Wood beech tree

Re 2bJUL/16 Jesmond Tree Surgeons have supplied a letter confirming that they are satisfied that the beech tree can be retained in its present form. There is some epicormics regrowth of minor importance and the tree has a distinct lean away from the footpath. They do not see any evidence of root dieback or that the remains standing are dangerous. It is more likely that the trunk will degenerate over the next 30 years and fall, piece by piece onto the bank.

2b/AUG/16 Parish Council website

Re: 2c/JUL/16 The specifications have been advertised, with a deadline for quotes of 19th August.

2c/AUG/16 Garrigill Playarea

Re: 6/JUL/16 A response (circulated) was received from the Village Hall chair confirming that the volunteer who usually strims the grass around the playarea has now done the work, but was too busy earlier. Volunteers are now investigating the possibility of providing a slide, and the chair will write to anyone who contacted Cllrs Green and Grew to apologise for the temporary inconvenience.

2d/AUG/16 Neighbourhood Planning

Re: 7/JUL/16 The clerk reported that she has circulated information on Neighbourhood Planning and the application form to apply for a grant of £150 from ACT to the working group.

Cllr Grew offered to join the working group to determine the next step. A meeting was agreed for Wednesday 10th August at 3pm. **Action**

2e/AUG/16 Tyne Willows/Appleby Fair/Tyne Willows Pavilion

Re: 8/JUL/16 A report (appendix III) has been circulated. It was agreed to wait until after the Tyne Willows committee, which has a remit to manage the field, meet early in September.

Some issues had arisen over use of the pavilion toilets, but Cllr Glendinning confirmed that the gym hope to deal with this by setting up a separate community group. The gym have plans to improve the building, which may require some amendments to the lease, and any changes will need the consent of the parish council. Cllr Glendinning will report back next month. **Action JG**

2f/AUG/16 Nenthead Fountain

Re: 2d/JUL/16 The clerk confirmed that the repair work on the fountain is complete, with the rear legs clamped, the canopy welded on and the bucket stand repaired. The contractor offered to provide a notice if required asking people not to jump on the bucket stand, as the repairs could not be guaranteed to stand up to heavy use. It was agreed not to go ahead with this.

3. Progress reports from working groups and council representatives

3a/AUG/16 Nenthead Ward meeting

Cllr Phillips reported that Nenthead chapel reported that all is going well and that now the purchase is complete they will be contacting those people who offered to contribute. A resident mentioned the general untidiness of the village, and suggested setting up a voluntary work party to tidy up.

It was agreed to ask the Community Warden to spend his time in Nenthead this week before the gala and Vielle Montagne event. **Action RM**

As the warden only works for a few hours Cllr Miller asked the Nenthead cllrs to identify the areas they would like him to focus on. **Action**

3b/AUGL/16 Hustings for District Councillor candidates

Cllr Phillips reported on the difficulty he had in contacting the conservative candidate, eventually speaking to someone from the conservative office, who referred him to a representative from the district council who said they did not think it necessary for their candidate to attend a hustings, and that there was no need for the parish council to hold one. It was agreed that although not a requirement hustings give residents the opportunity to meet the people hoping to represent them.

4 County Councillor's Report

Apologies from Cllr Robinson.

District Councillor's Report

Cllr Godwin reported on the following:

Fly tipping and littering – Eden have produced a report on fly tipping. They will pick up fly tipping left on the verge or on EDC land, anywhere else is the responsibility of the landowner. Agreed that the clerk would photocopy this for all cllrs. **Action CL.**

Alston cemetery & Firs Walk – Cllr Godwin and the clerk met with an officer from Eden to discuss the fly tipping in the cemetery, which they will remove. A bin will be provided besides the finger post near the Youth Hostel on Firs Walk to encourage dog walkers to use it. Provided the parish council can arrange for rubbish on the bank side to be picked up and put on the verge besides the finger post, Eden will collect it. Cllr Athey volunteered and was asked to let the clerk know to contact the district council. **Action DA/CL**

Weed spraying - has taken place in the areas looked after by the district, but is only done in the three key service centres.

5. Planning

5a/AUG/16 16/0555 Full application. Works to west elevation of dwelling and re-instatement of ground floor lean-to extension. Turks Head Inn, Market Place, Alston CA9 3HS for Mr & Mrs Mearns.

Recommended for approval. Proposed by Cllr Martin and seconded by Cllr Aves. (1 abs)

5b/AUG/16 16/00616 Full application. Conversion of barn to form additional living space and alterations to existing dwelling. Fair View, Garrigill CA9 3EL for Mr & Mrs M. Watson.

Recommended for approval. Proposed by Cllr Athey and seconded by Cllr Aves. (1 abs)

5c/AUG/16 16/0676 Full application. Fell Rowan tree at front of property in Garrigill Conservation Area. Rosedale House, Garrigill CA9 3DY for Mr Alan Tickner.

Recommended for approval. Proposed by Cllr Haldon and seconded by Cllr Athey. (2 abs)

Decision Notices

None received.

6. Request for an update on the Alston ambulance

The Alston ambulance run by Moredun Garage will finish at the end of the month, and the community had been told that the new ambulance would be up and running in August, but nothing has happened yet and the second cohort have not started training. Cllr Martin reported that she had an e-mail from North West Ambulance Service to say they are working with Cumbria Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to secure funding to continue with the training. They will inform us of the timescale. The Alston group have succeeded in raising some money, but not enough as yet and have suggested that funds could be saved by using an older ambulance. They have also contacted a public interest lawyer to discuss the possibility of using them should any problems arise that could not be resolved locally.

It was mentioned that the garage site is not ready yet, although Henderson's garage have offered space and the County Council depot building at the top of the town could be another possibility.

Resolved to write to NWSA requesting urgent action, subject to consultation with Malcolm Forster, and to mention the offer of garage space for the ambulance. Proposed by Cllr Martin and seconded by Cllr Miller. (nem con) **Action CL**

7. Appointment of representative to attend WNE Cumbria Success Regime proposals meeting

Cllr Martin will attend the meeting as a continuation of her representation on the local action group.

8. Suggestion that the council respond to the WNE Cumbria Success Regime proposals

Resolved to respond formally to the WNE Success Regime after the meeting in consultation with Cllr Martin. Proposed by Cllr Martin and seconded by Cllr Haldon. (nem con) **Action CL**

It was reported that Alston Cottage Hospital has been closed due to staff shortages, and patients transferred to Brampton, but reassurances have been given that it will re-open mid September. It has been explained that the hospital is genuinely understaffed, and not part of the closure programme, but there are concerns locally that the temporary closure could be used to support the Success Regime's case. It is understood that the surgery are collecting evidence of the consequence of the closure.

9. Request to consider signage for the car park at Tyne Willows

Cllr Martin reported that Alston Moor Business Association have queried the adequacy of car parking in Alston, and were looking for ways to improve the signage. Cllr Godwin has suggested putting up a sign at the top of town, where the 'Road Closed due to winter conditions' is sited, to advertise the free parking at Fairhill. AMBA are willing to pay for the sign.

Resolved to write in support of the proposal for a sign at the top of town when the Road Closed sign is not in use. Proposed by Cllr Haldon and seconded by Cllr Martin. (nem con) **Action CL**

Although Tyne Willows car park is classed as a private site, and Highways have said previously that they would not sign it due to the poor access, AMBA would like the parish council to try again.

Resolved to ask Highways if they would be prepared to sign Tyne Willows car park. Proposed by Cllr Martin and seconded by Cllr Grew. (7+ 2- 2 abs) **Action CL**

10. Occasional issues with non-functioning ATM machines brought to the attention of the council by a local resident

Last month neither of the two ATM machines in the town had any cash causing inconvenience to visitors and locals, including a disabled resident.

Cllr Martin reported that she has been in touch with Barclays, who said that apart from some initial problems their equipment has not been down, and no problems have been reported. As the site looks unprofessional with grey tape around the machine, she asked them to look at it to improve the appearance.

Resolved to ask Local Links if they would be willing to put up a notice stating where cash is available in the town. Proposed by Cllr Godwin and seconded by Cllr Athey. (nem con) **Action CL**

11. Proposal that the social media policy is amended to include an agreement that circular e-mails sent to people other than councillors list these people at the top of the e-mail

Resolved to amend the social media policy to state that when writing circular e-mails to list any others included at the top of the e-mail to avoid inappropriate responses. Proposed by Cllr Martin and seconded by Cllr Miller. (2 abs) **Action CL**

12. Consultations & Correspondence for information

12a/AUG/16 CCC – A689 Nenthall Bridge - temporary traffic regulation order from 12th September

The traffic regulation order will restrict traffic speeds for up to 5 weeks while work is ongoing. A temporary road closure will operate between the hours of 19.00pm and 7.00am.

The clerk was asked to contact Highways to point out that Bond's workers needed to travel to work before 7am, and to find out if any compromise on times could be made. **Action CL**

12b/AUG/16 Notices of meetings/events/literature

CALC – notice of training sessions September/October 2016

North Pennines AONB – Annual Forum 2016 Tuesday 20th September 2016

WNE Cumbria Success Regime proposals meeting – Tuesday 2nd August. Cllr Martin reported that a Wright's bus has been organised to take people to the meeting to take part in a peaceful demonstration with no offensive banners. It was agreed that the £1,000 precepted funds held to be used to support a threat to the hospital could be put towards costs.

12c/AUG/16 e- mail from Cllr Wright

An e-mail sent to all cllrs was received from Cllr Wright, which stated that the Traffic Management representatives had not raised the issue of the diversion sign at Blagill remaining in place after the work was completed.

Members responded by stating that there are mechanisms to deal with this and neither the Traffic Management representatives or the Parish Highwayman had been contacted. (For urgent highways matters residents and councillors are asked to contact the Highways Hotline or Parish Highwayman).

As Cllr Wright was not present the clerk was asked to write on behalf of the council.

Resolved to write to say that members were satisfied with their representatives, who regularly attended meetings, and that the mechanisms to deal with this issue had been ignored. The clerk was asked to contact Cllr Haldon, Athey and Grew before sending the response. **Action CL**

The issue of bus company representation is out of the hands of the parish council. Our County Councillor had decided against it, but also stated that if there were to be representation it should be one member appointed from the three bus companies present on Alston Moor.

13. Items for next month's agenda and urgent business

13a/AUG/16 Community Gym plans

The Community Gym are putting together plans for improvements to the management and structure of the pavilion. Cllr Glendinning will bring the plans to the next meeting and explain the concept. Agenda item.

13b/AUG/16 Nenthead Whitehall road heavy vehicle signage

Agenda item for next Traffic Management meeting. Residents have noticed that the signage stating that the Whitehall road is not suitable for heavy vehicles is wrongly positioned, as drivers think it is intended for the green road.

13c/AUG/16 Vielle Montagne event

As it is clear that the repairs to the cobbles in Nenthead will not be complete before the Vielle Montagne event next weekend it was suggested that a notice could be put up on Tom Collier's road advising of an alternative route. Cllr Robertson to look into.

14. Finance

14a/AUG/16 Bank statements

The statements as 1st August 2016 were as follows:-

Alston Moor Parish Council tr/ac	£33,216.74
Alston Moor Parish Council bus/ac	£12,672.83
Eden Credit Union	£7,008.58

14b/AUG/16 Accounts for Payment

The following accounts were for payment:-

<i>Summary of accounts for payment :-</i>	£1280.96
<i>Summary of income received since last meeting :-</i>	£2124.49
<i>Summary of accounts paid since last meeting:-</i>	£992.16

Resolved that sufficient funds are held in balances for the clerk to be authorised to settle all the accounts listed in appendix I with the exception of the invoice from Jesmond Tree Surgeons. Proposed by Cllr Aves and seconded by Cllr Miller. (nem con)

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm

Signed:

Dated: