

ALSTON MOOR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Alston Moor Parish Council held on Monday 5th December 2016 at 7pm in the Masonic Hall.

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

Apologies: Cllr: S. Hill, G. Wright, A. Green.

Absent: none

Declarations of interest: listed under specific agenda items. 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 7th November 2016 be adopted as a correct record. Proposed by Cllr Martin and seconded by Cllr Miller. (nem con).

Resolved that the minutes of the finance meeting held on 22nd November 2016 be adopted as a correct record. Proposed by Cllr Martin and seconded by Cllr Aves. (nem con)

Resolved that the minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 28th November 2016 be adopted as a correct record. Proposed by Cllr Haldon and seconded by Cllr Phillips. (nem con)

1a Report from Police on Farmwatch

Police from several different forces have been working together on the Farmwatch project, accompanied by local volunteers on exercises that target specific areas between the hours of 9pm and 2–3am. The aim is to spot-check vehicles and be on look out for suspicious animal movements. The volunteers are recruited from the local community, including farmers who are working proactively with the police. So far they have no-one from the Alston area, and are looking to recruit. Alston has suffered from a spate of recent burglaries, and is vulnerable to travelling criminals, so it would be good to involve a few people, to help out around 4 times a year. They will be trained in observation skills and the use of police radio, but more information can be provided for anyone interested.

Members observed that a number of farmers have had quad bikes stolen, and suspicious vehicles have been seen during the day as well as night.

One councillor volunteered to take part.

2. Progress Reports

2a/DEC/16 Meeting with EDC and Police to discuss Appleby Fair

Re 2d/NOV/16 An Eden District Council officer and the police have agreed to attend the 9th January meeting to discuss the management of the Appleby Fair weeks. Cllr Glendinning agreed to inform the community gym and to speak on their behalf.

2b/DEC/16 Footway light No 4, Overwater

Re: 7/NOV/16 The landowner contacted the clerk to say that he was willing to consider installing a light on his property that would light up the footway, but wanted to retain ownership of the land Eden suggested for a footway light.

Cllr Godwin offered to find out more about the progress Askham parish council has made over private lighting schemes. She thought they had carried out some initial research and decided upon an LED rather than a solar lighting scheme. **Action PG.**

It was agreed to discuss a policy for lighting schemes at the next council meeting and to ask the clerk to let the landowner know the matter has been discussed. **Action CL**

2c/DEC/16 Co-option of Alston Ward Councillor

Re: NOV/16 Eden District Council have confirmed that no request for an election has been received so the parish council may go ahead and co-opt to fill the vacancy. Agenda item for next month.

2d/DEC/16 Boundary wall – Tyne Willows Caravan Park

Re: 2c/NOV/16 The clerk reported that the gap in the wall between the caravan park and playing field has been totally blocked by trailers and it is clear that the site owner does not want anyone to use this route. Instead, a path appears to have been created along the riverside. The clerk was asked to confirm with the landowner that he would prefer a wall with no gaps. **Action CL.**

2e/DEC/16 Success Regime consultations

Re: 6/NOV/16 The clerk reported that she has not yet submitted the resolution made by the council last month, as she was concerned that the parish council might want to add to the statement. Penrith Town Council made some detailed comments, which they circulated to parish councils, including some pertinent comments about Alston Cottage Hospital.

Resolved to endorse in full the detailed report submitted to the Success Regime by Penrith Town Council. Proposed by Cllr Phillips and seconded by Cllr Martin. (nem con) **Action CL**

2f/DEC/16 E-mail addresses

Re: 2g/NOV/16 The clerk reported that e-mail addresses have been allocated to all councillors, and if preferred it should be possible to link to existing e-mail addresses.

3. Progress reports from working groups and council representatives

3a/DEC/16 Nenthead Ward Meeting

Cllr Phillips reported that there were no matters for attention by the parish council.

3b/DEC/16 Hospital Community Vote

Cllr Martin thanked everyone who is helping to set up a community vote on the future of Alston Cottage Hospital's in-patient beds. Discussions with Eden District Council and Patterdale Parish Council, who held a community vote on an issue relevant to their parish, have helped decide how the ballot should be carried out. There will be one polling station at Samuel King's School, and the school has printed cards for distribution to all households on Alston Moor. She asked the council if it would be acceptable to extend the vote to people not on the register, residents from the adjoining communities who use the hospital and to school children 14 and over. It was agreed that anyone not on the Alston Moor electoral register would be offered a coloured ballot paper.

People have volunteered to help out as poll clerks, but there will be a need to pick up people to bring them to the poll station, and there may be a need for the community bus. After the count, which will be held directly after the close of poll at 8pm, the results will be sent to the Success Regime and to the local newspapers, radio and television. **Action CL**

Local residents are following up the possible legal case, and have started pledges towards a possible legal case. They have found a solicitor working for West Cumbria they could work with.

County Cllr Robinson read out the response to the Success Regime from the Eden Local Committee, who are not convinced and not satisfied that a case can be argued to reduce inpatient beds. Eden is disproportionately affected by an ageing population, and community hospitals can expect a greater demand on beds for recuperation and end-of-life care. They also objected to the removal of community beds at Alston Cottage Hospital, and the fact that no option was given to enable people to comment, which implied a decision had already been made. Instead they suggested that the League of Friends proposal should have been included in the options. Carlisle Community Partnership are also concerned about the proposed reduction in community beds.

It was pointed out that the community hospitals have been used to reduce the strain on city hospital beds, and instead of closing them, the Success Regime should look at the advantages they can offer. There are also concerns over whether North West Ambulance Service would be able to cope with the additional demands on its service if the beds were to close, since there is often only one ambulance on duty.

3c/DEC/16 Alston's footway report

Cllr Robertson had circulated a report on footway lighting in Alston, noting that the town was programmed to lose 56% of its lights; close to the average of 60% Eden District Council said they needed to lose. On a positive note they have dealt with the defective lights, 5 are now fixed and another 2 receiving attention. He suggested setting up a working party to check which lights are still working every couple of months. Cllrs Robertson and Athey agreed to form the working group. **Action AR/DA.**

Cllr Godwin reported that some of the lights have been reported several times in the past, but Eden has paid attention to Cllr Robertson's report and she thanked him for his work. Cllrs were advised to report any lights they found out of order, which can be done through Local Links.

3d/DEC/16 Garrigill Ward Meeting

Cllr Grew reported that the Ward meeting was held on 30th November. There was unanimous agreement that the BT phonebox should be kept, and agreement reached that a community noticeboard is still

wanted, but a final decision has not been made on where it is to go. Alston Moor Community Energy (AMCE), a Community Benefit Society, gave an update on their work.

4 County Councillor's Report

Front Street emergency work – the sudden closure of Front Street upset a number of businesses, and a statement was requested from the Highways team. The explanation was that an inspection of the cobbles confirmed some sections of the cobbles were dangerous, obliging the county council to take remedial action as soon as weather conditions were suitable. An application has been made to the capital budget for next year to re-instate setts in the newly-laid tarmac sections and repair the remaining setts. This will result in a further road closure, and Cllr Robinson suggested that businesses should be consulted, so that they are aware that this is to happen. Members welcomed the opportunity to consult more widely with interested parties. Those that were keen cyclists pointed out that the gaps between the cobbles had made them dangerous for the narrow tyres on road bikes.

District Councillor's Report

Apologies from Cllr Sheriff. Cllr Godwin said there was nothing new to report.

5. Planning

5a/DEC/16 16/0980 Full application. Change of use of Methodist Chapel into café and community facility. Demolition of existing lean-to boiler house. Extension to rear of property to create kitchen and plant room. Methodist Church, Nenthead, Alston CA9 3PF for Mrs Kim Hobson.

Cllrs Martin, Aves, Stewart, Phillips and Godwin declared an interest as potential shareholders.

Recommended for approval. Proposed by Cllr Robertson and seconded by Cllr Grew (nem con).

5b/DEC/16 16/0981 Listed building. Listed building consent for change of use of Methodist Chapel into café and community facility. Demolition of existing lean-to boiler house. Extension to rear of property to create kitchen and plant room. Methodist Church, Nenthead, Alston CA9 3PF for Mrs Kim Hobson.

Recommended for approval. Proposed by Cllr Robertson and seconded by Cllr Grew (nem con).

5c/DEC/16 16/1009 Full application. Proposed new access from Foul Loaning to the A689. Foul Loaning, Alston CA9 3BD for Mr & Mrs J. Brown.

Recommended for approval, subject to approval from county highways. Proposed by Cllr Haldon and seconded by Cllr Miller (9+ 2 abs).

3/16/9017 Application for planning permission for the working of a borrow pit and use of the material for creation of a length of stone aggregate track on land near Cross Gill between Long Man hill and Round hill, south of Garrigill, Alston. Grid ref NY734371.

The county planning officers asked the parish council to reconsider their recommendation to use green plastic matting for the track, as the gradient in this location is such that matting would not provide sufficient traction. The proposed short 75m length of stone track would connect an existing stone track near the confluence of Cross Gill and Doups Burn and lead up a short steep section of the north-west flank of Round Hill where it would connect with a green plastic matting track.

Cllr Grew reported that she attended a meeting with the Land agents along with Cllr Green and the clerk, where this information was confirmed. The proposed stone track will be the same width as the existing track and cannot be seen from the village.

Recommended for approval. Proposed by Cllr Athey and seconded by Cllr Grew. (nem con).

Decision Notices

None received.

6. Request from Eden District Council to consider the devolution of other services to Alston Moor Parish Council

The clerk reported that Eden District Council asked the parish council to consider what other services they might be interested in taking on, after it was reported that any decision to take on the footway lights would have to be sustainable and equitable.

Members observed that any asset must be sustainable, and it is difficult to find anything that the parish council could realistically take on. Cllr Godwin reported that the reasoning behind the request is that in time the government grant to the district council will go down to zero, making some non-mandatory services unaffordable, and some services might be saved by devolving them down. These discussions are taking place throughout Cumbria.

It was agreed to maintain discussions and consider services on a case by case basis. One of the issues is that some services such as grass cutting which could realistically be taken on are included in contracts the district council are tied into for a number of years. Station Yard units might be a potential asset, but would have to be looked at carefully to avoid taking on a liability. It was agreed that it would be useful to find out what is happening in other communities including Appleby and Kirkby Stephen.

7. BT programme of payphone removals

An e-mail was received from Eden District Council who were consulted by BT about the proposed removal of 44 telephone boxes in various locations throughout Eden due to low usage over a significant period of time. The district council has been given until 14th December 2016 to respond to BT and issue a formal decision on whether it wishes to exercise the power of veto and stop the removal of boxes. Views are requested by 9th December.

The proposals include telephone boxes in Garrigill, Nentsberry and Nenthead. Several cllrs responded to the clerk to object to the boxes being removed.

Garrigill is a special case as it has no mobile coverage and is the first contact point for anyone using the Pennine Way. It was out of order for months. It is the contact point for the defibrillator, and should the electricity be cut off the phone is the only way of communicating.

Members recalled that the phone at Kirkland was not scheduled for removal, during earlier closures because it was argued that Pennine Way users might need it, and the same point can be made for Garrigill.

Nentsberry is a special case as the road on both sides can be closed with heavy drifting in bad weather.

Nenthead is a special case because it is the first point of contact for anyone walking off Killhope when vehicles are snowbound, it is the contact point for the defibrillator and has poor mobile contact. The only reliable mobile signal is Vodafone, and visitors and cyclists may use other networks.

Resolved to request that the District Council uses their power of veto to halt the removal of the BT phones in Garrigill, Nenthead and Nentsberry. Proposed by Cllr Phillips and seconded by Cllr Grew. (nem con).

8. Consultations and Correspondence

8a/DEC/16 Youth Provision Alston Moor

Young Cumbria have asked the clerk to set up a meeting with a representative to discuss gaps in youth provision on Alston Moor. Cllr Stewart has offered to attend along with a representative from CAFS and Alston Moor Partnership.

8b/DEC/16 EDC Electronic planning consultation

CALC have sent out a questionnaire to parish councils in Eden asking for views on receiving planning applications electronically. The deadline to return it was 30th November, so it was circulated by e-mail and the clerk responded based upon comments made when this issue was raised earlier. This was that it is helpful to have a paper copy to look at before recommendations are made, and that internet access is not available at most meetings venues.

It was pointed out that the district council may move ahead with paperless plans in time to reduce costs, and that residents and councillors can use Cybermoor to look at the plans on-line as they have an easy to use link. The parish council chair already makes an assumption that everyone has taken the time to look at the plans, so it might not be necessary to have the plans on a screen when discussing applications.

8c/DEC/16 Notice of events and meetings

EdenSave special general meeting on 14th December to propose a merger with South Lakeland Credit Union

CALC – training programme January to July 2017

8d/DEC/16 Information received

Local Council Review

Elements, a new festival - booklet Between Fell and Sea, a collection of writing by participants

Report on open house sessions and evening workshop – Nenthead and Nentsberry

Pennine Journey Supporters Club update

Response from Penrith Town Council to the Success Regime Public Consultation Document 'The future of healthcare in West, North and East Cumbria

8e/DEC/16 Update on Alston Ambulance

An e-mail was received from Rick Shaw advising that the new Community Ambulance team went live on 1st December. Initial cover will not be 24/7, but once the training for cohort 2 is complete a full service will be provided. Training should begin early in the New Year. The team already in place are self-managing their rota and advising when cover is possible. They will be initially backed up by ANWAS resource for onward transport should this be required. NWAS will support and monitor the team over December with a view to a media feature after the New Year on their progress. In the meantime they want to allow the new staff the time to settle into their new roles and address any systems issues.

8f/DEC/16 Parish Precept

An e-mail was received from Eden District Council with a request for the parish precept to be returned by the end of January. A letter and pro-forma will be sent out in early January, with the Council Tax Base figure and confirmation of the final amount for the CTRS grant. The estimate is £1,337, but may change when the final figure is confirmed.

It was agreed at the finance meeting held on 22nd November to hold the precept meeting on Monday 16th January in Alston Town Hall.

Cllr Glendinning offered to investigate whether it might be possible to set up the room in the Masonic Hall to view the financial information, to avoid having to move the Brownies. **Action JG.**

9. Ratification of grants policy

The clerk had circulated copies of the draft grant policy and annual donation report, which she has also passed to a couple of people with experience in grant applications to comment on. It was agreed to let anyone wanting a copy of the application form use the draft form and to ask organisation in receipt of an annual donation to fill in the report. As this was a new procedure for anyone in receipt of an annual donation, and something of a trial the council would be prepared to make allowances this year.

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

10a/DEC/16 recycling centre

It was reported that the gym are not cleaning rubbish away from the recycling centre, and in exchange for payment they have an obligation to keep it tidy. Issues with fly tipping can be reported to Eden District Council, as they have a responsibility to deal with larger items.

11. Finance

11a/DEC/16 Bank statements

The statements as of 7th December 2016 were as follows:-

Alston Moor Parish Council tr/ac	£27,955.70
Alston Moor Parish Council bus/ac	£12,675.04
Eden Credit Union	£7,008.58

11b/DEC/16 Accounts for Payment

The following accounts were for payment:-

<i>Summary of accounts for payment: -</i>	£882.74
<i>Summary of income received since last meeting: -</i>	£25.00
<i>Summary of accounts paid since last meeting: -</i>	£793.59

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 Aves and seconded by Cllr Martin. (nem con)

12. Town Hall financial situation

Discussed in confidence.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm

Signed:

Dated: