

ALSTON MOOR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Alston Moor Parish Council held on Monday 4th December 2017 at 7pm in Alston Town Hall annex.

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

Apologies: Cllrs: S. Hill, P. Godwin, E. Stewart, G. Wright.

Absent: none.

Declarations of interest: listed under specific agenda items.

1. Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the parish council meeting held on Monday 6th November 2017 be adopted as a correct record. Proposed by Cllr CH and seconded by Cllr EG. (1 abs)

1a. Dementia Friendly Communities & Dementia Action Alliance – report from Jackie Dodd, Public Health Locality Manager, Margaret Irving and Judith Woof

J. Dodd explained that she is based at Penrith Fire station, and employed by Cumbria County Council who wanted someone with a remit to improve peoples' health based in each district. Cumbria has what is described as a super ageing population, and living with dementia is a big issue, although the statistics are lower than might be expected. This is probably due to under-diagnosis and a reluctance to be diagnosed.

M. Irving is the local volunteer representative from the Alzheimer's Society for Cumbria, she gives talks to Dementia Action Alliance groups and can deliver training sessions.

J. Woof is the Health and Wellbeing officer for Eden District Council, with part of her remit being dementia care.

There is a need to prepare local communities, and encourage people to understand what can be done to support those with this illness. Only a small number of people end up in nursing or residential care, and the majority continue to live at home. Dementia is an umbrella term for a number of diseases with a range of symptoms. While Alzheimer's is responsible for nearly two thirds of cases, another third is vascular dementia brought on by a heart attack or stroke, with the remainder caused by other illnesses.

The public health team aim to help by encouraging communities to set up Dementia Action Alliances. There are now 10 across the county and they hope to launch another six next year. They can offer a short one-hour training session. People living with dementia say they would be able to cope better with the disease if others had a better understanding of it. They say shopping is a favourite activity, but because of the memory problems it is difficult to do.

Penrith Alliance started by getting a few businesses interested, and it has snowballed from then. They put together a local action plan, with shops that are dementia-friendly eligible to display a sticker in the window. Eden taxi drivers have been trained to understand the condition and to give people a bit more time. Corbridge also has an initiative going with most businesses signing up to it. The right signage can make a lot of difference to how people manage.

Potentially up to £4k could be available to support setting up a group, or initiatives including promoting events, improved signage, or leaflets. The district and county also have Community Grants that could assist. The next step for Alston is to set up a small steering group to work towards a launch plan. It does not have to be complicated, or need to meet more than two or three times a year, especially as business owners are busy and often do not want to sit at meetings.

C Cllr CD suggested that AMBA is key to the delivery, but asked for a parish council representative. Cllrs HH and EG volunteered. There is also a dementia champion living in the community. The aim is to get something started in the new year. **Action HH, EG.**

A dementia-friendly checklist was circulated. JW said she could carry out a simple dementia friendly survey of the Town Hall, but if a lot needed doing, she advised getting specialist assistance. The Nenthead chapel project to turn it into a café and gallery is at an early stage, so the checklist would be useful.

2. Progress Reports

2a/DEC/17 Ashgill bridge footpath to waterfall

Re: 2a/NOV/17 The Weardale Estates agent has looked at the route and made the following proposal. In return for supporting the dedication of the route as a footpath, they would like the parish council to support the Estate in extinguishing footpath 302008, which runs through the yard of Ashgill Farmhouse and is not ideal from a health and safety point of view. Agreement would also be needed on who should cover the costs. He offered to meet with parish representatives on the afternoon of Monday 11th December.

The clerk reported that she had circulated the e-mail, and received back a number of concerns about this proposal. It would remove an easier option of accessing the waterfall by the less able, and the opportunity to encourage some of the outdoor groups to use this route as an alternative to causing more erosion to the bridge route. A Modification Order may be the preferred option and costs for this and an Extinguishment are the same at £1,000 plus the cost of advertisements.

Cllr TH offered to meet with the land agent, also Cllr EG depending upon timing. **Action TH, EG.**

It was agreed that the parish council would not support extinguishing the footpath, or wish to contribute towards a Modification Order.

Cllr DP asked that Cllr TH check the situation with the gate across bridleway 303155 at Priorsdale, which is on land owned by Weardale Estates. The land was fenced in the 1990's and a gate put across the bridleway, which is only legal if there are good agricultural reasons. He was told it is locked to stop motorbikes, but the bridleway should not be obstructed. If it is not locked he would like assurance that it will not be locked again. **Action TH.**

2b/DEC/17 Askham model footway lighting – Jollybeard Estate entrance

Re: 3c/NOV/17 The clerk reported that she contacted the Methodist minister, who will discuss the proposal with the church authorities. There was a damp problem when the Eden District Council lamp was taken down, which has now been fixed with a sealant, so there may be concerns about putting in new fixings that would penetrate this. He will report back.

2c/DEC/17 Garrigill noticeboard funding

Re: 7/NOV/17 Some offers of funding have been received from Garrigill residents, and more people have asked for the forms, given out at ward meeting.

2d/DEC/17 Garrigill tree pruning

Re: NOV/17 It was agreed that the parish council had not given clear instructions as to how they wanted the trees on Garrigill Village Green to be pruned, and that the contractor had done as members requested in trimming the branches overhanging the road. It was further agreed that in future councillors wanting a task done in a particular way should be prepared to put the specifications in writing, and a representative appointed to oversee the work. **Action as required.**

3. Progress reports from working groups and council representatives

3a/DEC/17 Appleby Fair meeting with gym directors

Notes from the meeting taken by Cllr TH and C. Reed were circulated. Cllr Haldon reported that the notes differed, but they had agreed the conclusions, which were all actions for the parish council. He had prepared a revised risk assessment, approached landowners to see if alternative sites were available, and asked the council to consider forming an Alston Moor working group involving other representatives. Cllr TH has sent a list of questions to Eden District Council, but has not heard back yet.

Most of the sites suggested by C. Reed were unsuitable, or the landowners unwilling to give permission for use as an approved site. The core issue identified last year is that more travellers are coming than can fit on the two sites, and there remains a question as to whether either site will be available next year.

The gym directors were asked by EDC to write to confirm whether or not they were willing to allow Tyne Willows car park to become an approved site. Until they do plans cannot be made, but it can be anticipated that the travellers will arrive at the car park regardless.

It was pointed out that C. Reed had made a number of assertions during the meeting that were neither endorsed or contested, and the notes included some factual errors.

Resolved to accept as the official record the minutes prepared by Cllr TH. Proposed by Cllr DP and seconded by Cllr TH. (2 abs)

3b/DEC/17 Nenthead Ward meeting

Cllr DP reported a suggestion from Nenthead Community Works that it would help snow clearance if residents from Vicarage and Hillersdon Terrace were prepared to park on one side of the road only. This was endorsed at the meeting. The Nenthead Chapel project is underway and running ahead of schedule. The next meeting will be held on the 29th January 2018.

3c/DEC/17 Garrigill Ward meeting

Notes from the meeting were circulated. Cllr EG reported that the village green tree will be put up next year, as it was not possible to find a suitably sized specimen this year.

3d/DEC/17 Report from Alston Moor Care Alliance

C Cllr CD reported that the Open Session on the 18th November went well with over 100 people attending. They had the opportunity to talk to a variety of different organisations, and many had stories to tell about the hospital. Leaflets were also available describing how patients have been helped by the new way of working, and who would otherwise have had to go to Carlisle hospital.

Feedback was good and the findings from the consultation, which finished on Friday, will be collated and fed back to the Alliance. There are proposals at this stage, but not a plan, but it is expected that progress can be made towards implementation. They are supported by the health partners.

Cllr CH reported that Rothbury is facing a similar situation to Alston, so there may be value in sharing experiences.

Cllr PG circulated earlier a report from the Eden District Council representative on the Cumbria Health Scrutiny committee and the Eden Health and Wellbeing Forum. She had a number of recommendations to make, as follows:

Emergency care – use of the CHOC service does not represent a solution, which fulfils the Success Regime's undertaking to 'rural-proof' its proposals. She asked for an emergency plan to be put into place for worst case scenarios, offering better care than the current solution of phoning CHOC. This might mean training up Alston's community ambulance staff and ancillaries, keep in training and insurance recently retired medics, and for less serious cases a plan for video links, with a planned designated CHOC or A&E receiver and procedure. That would mean that the staff with the patient are guided and supported remotely by senior staff, to be treated locally if possible and, if not, advised and supported on their journey to hospital. Military-style emergency plans suitably resourced, should be put in place for life threatening events and for events requiring medical intervention beyond the training of resident night staff. Telemedicine is not yet in place and cannot form part of the signing off of the undertaking to provide an acceptable solution to the people of Alston Moor.

Appropriate care of all age groups – the frail and elderly represent the largest client group, and while younger people may not need a bed in an acute hospital, a care home environment is not appropriate for them. Plans need to be put into place for a facility that will cater for all residents.

Funding – the present rigid demarcation of who pays for what has to be made more flexible. A protocol needs to be drawn up to address this issue of how the social care/NHS allocations are dealt with.

Signing off changes – it is recommended that the community do not 'sign off' the changes to the hospital until confident that the agencies will co-operate into the future over funding arrangements.

4 County Councillor's Report.

Cllr Driver reported on the following:

Cumbria Health scrutiny group – they have now scoped out and established this group, which sits alongside integrated care. As expected they are having to deal with enormous changes.

Top school – an enormous amount of work and resources are being put into determining the future of the building, although it is too early to say what will happen.

Members flagged up the possibility of vandalism if the site is unoccupied for any length of time.

Front Street steering group – Cllrs GW and CH are members, as are 4 County Council officers and the Assistant Director. It is for the community to lead and to set the timescale and workplan.

A suggestion of sending traffic through the car park while the work is underway was made, which will be looked at.

District Councillor's Report

Apologies from Cllr Sharp who sent a written report.

Devolution of services – there will be an Economy & Environment scrutiny meeting on the 14th December, when the devolution of lights and public toilets is to be discussed. She is keen to pass on any questions or issues the parish council may have.

Cllr TH asked if it would be possible to attend the meeting. The clerk mentioned that there are a number of issues including the fact that details of the actual sum to be handed over have been passed to the parish council. She was also concerned that the parish council was ill-prepared to take on Alston public toilets and the responsibility of additional staff. Also, no indication has been given yet as to whether all the lights will be upgraded before the next financial year.

It was mentioned that Langwathby have done a lot of work on their footway lights, and their district councillor is leading the scrutiny review group.

5. Public open session

None present.

6. Planning

6a/DEC/17 17/0932 Full application. Single storey rear extension. Waterwheel Cottage, The Brewery, Alston CA9 3RP for S. & S. Storey.

Recommended for approval. Proposed by Cllr HH and seconded by Cllr BA. (1 abs)

6b/DEC/17 17/0933 Listed building consent. Single storey rear extension. Waterwheel Cottage, The Brewery, Alston CA9 3RP for S. & S. Storey.

Recommended for approval. Proposed by Cllr HH and seconded by Cllr BA. (1 abs)

6c/DEC/17 17/0955 Full application. Demolition of existing single storey extension and construction of new single storey side extension. The Barn, Garrigill CA9 3DY for Mr & Mrs Drane.

Recommended for approval. Proposed by Cllr AG and seconded by Cllr EG. (nem con)

6d/DEC/17 17/1004 Full application. Alterations to existing rear extension. School House, The Butts, Alston CA9 3JQ for Mr D. Hodgson.

Recommended for approval. Proposed by Cllr CH and seconded by Cllr EG. (1 abs)

Decision notices

i/DEC/17 17/0584 Full application. Part retrospective application for erection of polytunnel and proposed sunroom and detached garage workshop. Valley View, Nenthead CA9 3NA for Mr & Mrs John and Pippa Baker. Permission granted with conditions.

ii/DEC/17 17/0832 Full application. Demolition of building and erection of domestic garage/workshop. Garage and workshop /store. Overburn, Alston for Mr A. Carr. Permission granted with conditions.

iii/DEC/17 17/0839 Full application. Demolition of outbuilding and erection of rear sunroom and internal alterations. 1 Raise Hamlet, The Wardway, Alston CA9 3AS for Mr & Mrs Roe. Permission granted with conditions.

iv/DEC/17 17/0853 Full application. Two storey rear extension. Moor View, Garrigill CA9 3EB for Dr C. Bradshaw. Permission granted with conditions.

7. Local Development Order granting planning permission for Food Enterprise Zones with new permitted development rights – Skelgillside Workshops, Alston

An e-mail from Eden District Council stated that they have been awarded funding by DEFRA to set up one of 17 government backed Food Enterprise Zones. This will use a planning tool called a Local Development Order to introduce new permitted development rights to streamline the planning process and support growth for businesses. The proposed site in Alston is at Skelgillside workshops. The consultation period runs until 15th December.

Although dating back to 2008 and 2013, the clerk circulated copies of the Mill Race report, and a County Council report on a flooding incident that included the Nenthead Road and Potters Loning areas.

It was noted that the Mill Race runs across the site, and is liable to contribute towards flooding at times, but the site was described in the EDC report as not being liable to flood. Other than this concern there were no other objections, as Alston Moor would benefit from additional businesses coming into the area.

Resolved to point out the local knowledge of the potential flood risk. Proposed by Cllr TH and seconded by Cllr EG. (nem con) **Action C1.**

8. Request for litter bin, Tynehead Road, Garrigill

A request for a litter bin along the Tynehead Road was received from the Garrigill Ward meeting. Cllr EG reported that she had spoken with an officer from Eden District Council, who had offered to come out to discuss further.

Resolved to ask Cllr EG to arrange a meeting with the Garrigill cllrs. Proposed by Cllr TH and seconded by Cllr AM. (nem con) **Action EG.**

9. Request to purchase garden land

The clerk reported that the prospective purchaser of an Alston property contacted her by e-mail to enquire about purchasing the garden land behind the property owned by the parish council, but as nothing further has been heard she recommended holding over to a later meeting. No action taken.

10. Consultations and Correspondence

10a/DEC/17 Eden Community Governance Review

A questionnaire on community governance was received from Eden District Council for completion before the 22nd December. This is a two stage process with the first seeking expressions of interest from councils that would like to explore changes to their governance arrangements. The second is more in-depth consultation with individual parishes to find the best solution to any issues that may have been raised.

Members worked through the questionnaire, recommending no change to the existing structure of the parish council. **Action CI.**

10b/DEC/17 Notices of events/meetings

CALC training sessions

Kali Highlights show in Alston Town Hall – 9th December

10cDEC/17 Information received

Local Council Review

Status report for Coal Authority – December 2017

Report from Alston Moor Historical Society on Town Hall archives

11. Administration

11a/DEC/17 Precept requests

The clerk reported that a couple of representatives from local organisations contacted her about the possibility of grant funding, and was awaiting a formal request. Members were asked to contact her if they knew of any potential projects. **Action.**

11b/DEC/17 Protocol for parish council standing orders – non-pecuniary interests for council meetings (excluding precept meeting)

Cllr PG circulated a copy of the EDC protocol for non-pecuniary interests before the meeting.

It was agreed to put on the agenda for the next month. Members were asked to submit a written proposal if they would like to make changes to the standing orders. **Agenda for next month.**

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

12a/DEC/17 Misspelt name – Alston War Memorial

Cllr AM reported that a resident had noticed that the name of a relative had been misspelt on the Alston War Memorial. Cllr JG explained that the name had been like that since 1922, as the letters were picked out in lead before being painted and it would not be easy to change them. The War Memorial Restoration Group has some funding left, but would prefer to put it towards restoring the Nenthall Memorial.

It was agreed that as an historic error no action should be taken, and the clerk was asked to write to the resident to explain. **Action CI.**

12b/DEC/17 Pupil safety - SKS

Cllr RM reported that a number of people thought there was an accident waiting to happen with the young people crossing the road besides Spar.

In the longer term a zebra crossing may be the answer and can be discussed at the next Traffic Management meeting. The county council are currently looking into 'safe routes to school'.

There is also a concern about the condition of the dry stone wall fronting the lanning between the hospital and school.

The clerk was asked to pass on the concerns to the head of SKS. **Action CI.**

12c/DEC/17 Nenthead Heritage Centre Car Park

Cllr BA reported that the Nenthead Mines Group are discussing an asset transfer with the County Council and have been asked to take on the car park. However, there are some serious cost implications, and they have suggested that the parish council to take it on.

It was agreed to put on the agenda for next month and to invite a representative to attend to discuss the car park. **Agenda for next month.**

12d/DEC/17 Highway encroachment, Gatehead

Cllr AG reported that sleepers have been placed, and shrubs planted, on the highways verge at Gatehead in Garrigill. Agreed to report to Highways. **Action CI.**

12e/DEC/17 Defibrillator, Tyne Willows

Cllr JG reported that the suggestion in the risk assessment for a defibrillator to be placed outside the pavilion building had been discussed at a Fitness Club directors meeting. The gym did not want to take responsibility for it, but would have no objection to someone else looking after it. **Agenda for future meeting.**

13. Finance

13a/DEC/17 Bank statements

The statements as of 4th December 2017 were as follows:-

Alston Moor Parish Council tr/ac	£27,982.98
Alston Moor Parish Council bus/ac	£12,680.33
Eden Credit Union	£7,008.58

13b/DEC/17 Accounts for Payment

The following accounts were for payment:-

<i>Summary of accounts for payment: -</i>	£790.04
<i>Summary of income received since last meeting: -</i>	£0.00
<i>Summary of accounts paid since last meeting: -</i>	£2,590.44

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 BA and seconded by Cllr AG. (nem con)

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm

Signed:

Dated: