

ALSTON MOOR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Alston Moor Parish Council held on Monday 3rd December 2018 at 7pm in Samuel King's School.

Present: Cllrs: A. Martin (Vice-chair), D. Athey, B. Aves, E. Grew, J. Glendinning, A. Green, P. Godwin, T. Haldon, C. Harrison, R. Miller, A. Hewison, H. Ho, M. Shepherd, G. Wright.

Apologies: none.

Absent: none

Declarations of interest: listed under specific agenda items. Cllr Godwin 4/DEC/18, Cllr Aves 6a/6b/NOV/18.

Police report

The meeting was attended by a PCSO who reported on the incidents listed in the monthly police report. Residents have been quick to report suspicious vehicles around Alston Moor, enabling the police to keep a look out for them. Work on illegal vehicles and speeding incidents are ongoing, resulting in prosecutions in some cases.

Election of Chair

One nomination for Cllr Martin was received.

Resolved to appoint Cllr Martin as chair. Proposed by Cllr Grew and seconded by Cllr Wright. (nem con)

Election of Vice-chair

One nomination for Cllr Wright was received.

Resolved to appoint Cllr Wright as vice-chair. Proposed by Cllr Martin and seconded by Cllr Grew. (nem con)

A vote of thanks was given to Cllr Haldon for chairing the meetings and for all the work he has done over the past few months.

Cllr Martin requested that the two invited speakers be moved forward on the agenda.

1. Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the parish council meeting held on Monday 5th November 2018 be agreed as a correct record. Proposed by Cllr Aves and seconded by Cllr Wright (13+ 1 abs)

Resolved that the minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on Monday 29th October 2018 be agreed as a correct record. Proposed by Cllr Aves and seconded by Cllr Wright. (11+ 3 abs)

1a Discussion with North Pennines AONB representative on digital interpretation in Alston

The representative was welcomed to the meeting. He reported that he has a one year contract with the AONB as a Digital Interpretation Officer, whose remit is to tell the story of places using digital media. The story of the mines in Nenthead is one of the themes, and they have taken a film crew underground, using a member of Nenthead Mines as narrator. An app called 'The world around me' allows mobile phone users to find local places of interest. The AONB are also putting in an information panel to use with mobile phones. Virtual reality, using headphones, is another option that will allow users to become fully immersed in the re-creation of an historic place. At High Mill there is to be the story of the waterwheel, and a re-creation of the corn mill in operation. They have worked successfully with the Allenheads year 6 pupils on a project.

In Alston the proposal is use an actor to play the part of postman Joseph Pearson, who kept a diary between 1847 and 1875 detailing events that happened including crimes, accidents and deaths. They want to put up an information panel and are looking for advice on where it should go. It was agreed that the Potato Market would be a good location, and they were advised to talk to the County Councillor and the chair of Alston Moor Partnership, as both are involved in the restoration project here.

The AONB are working to a tight timescale and have to be finished by Easter. There are permissions to be sought for the information panel and for someone to host the headsets, possibly this could be Local Links.

1b Discussion with Charge My Street on proposed rental agreement for Tyne Willows Pavilion for 2 electric charging points

A representative from Charge My Street explained they have put together a bid for a project in rural areas that combines the use of 5G technology with promoting the area. It provides better connectivity for mobile phones, and relies on using frequencies that were once used by television, and are now available for rural broadband. The technology has been tested around the north Pennines and can get through trees and valleys, using equipment similar to a normal TV aerial. The electric car charge points might be good for trialling the wireless technology, since users will need an internet connection to pay.

Some of the workers at the gym were concerned about health issues. CMS contacted Public Health England, who have stated that the technology is fairly well established and they do not consider there is a health risk. 3G is not going to be successful at this site, but the 5G could be useful when there are events on at Tyne Willows.

It was observed that 5G has been banned in some countries. CMS explained that 5G is a generic term for technology which may use a variety of different frequencies, and some countries may have been using very powerful signals, with the effects on health unknown. This is not what is planned for the pavilion, the proposed equipment does not need planning permission, anything more powerful would need different equipment, and possible interference with tv signals would make it undesirable.

It could be used in conjunction with the North Pennines AONB digital media project, with boosters to get the signal to where it is needed, depending on the location of the interpretation panels.

As the cost of equipment goes down there might be an option to get the signal to Garrigill.

Resolved to support the request for an electric charging point and 5G equipment at Tyne Willows Pavilion. Proposed by Cllr Harrison and seconded by Cllr Haldon (9+ 3- 2 abs)

It was confirmed that the rental agreement could be signed subject to confirmation from Fields in Trust.

2. Progress Reports

2a/DEC/18 Update on the Alston Ambulance & NWS

Re1b/NOV/18 NWS have produced an action plan (circulated) which they would like feedback on. They have also requested that the parish council appoints a representative to attend a working group to discuss the issues raised about the Alston ambulance. Since all the meetings are scheduled to be held in Carlisle, the clerk queried why some could not be held in Alston. The response was that people would be travelling from across Cumbria, and the venue was selected to minimise travel time. Timing is to fit around other commitments of the group, but the 10am start for most meetings could be reviewed if necessary a few days before the meeting. If it would assist it might be possible to set up Skype or teleconferencing for the Alston representative.

Resolved to nominate Cllr Grew as the parish representative to the NWS meetings, with support from Cllr Martin on the use of Skype. Proposed by Cllr Martin and seconded by Cllr Harrison. (nem con)

Cllr BA reported that he had met with some of the ambulance crew, who now have a lifepack, and are happier with progress. It was agreed to feed any issues through to Cllr Grew.

2b/DEC/18 Ashgill footpaths

Re: 2e/NOV/18 An e-mail was received from the Weardale Estates agent to say that he would have to discuss the options with his employers and would get back to the council. It was agreed to hold over for another month.

2c/DEC/18 Tyne Willows Defibrillator

Re: 9/NOV/18 The clerk contacted NWS to discuss suitable defibrillators, and had asked the Fitness Club to confirm that they would be willing to meet the agreement and monitoring requirements now asked for by NWS. The Fitness Club have decided not to go ahead with the defibrillator, but would have no objections if someone else were prepared to look after it.

It was pointed out that the checks only take a few minutes each week, and Cllr Glendinning agreed that he would be willing to take it on. The clerk was asked to find out about costs and report back. **Action Cl.**

2d/DEC/18 EDC Signature Fund

Re: 29 Oct/18 meeting. No response has been received from Eden District Council yet about the letter sent to the Chief Executive setting out the parish council's objections to the responsibilities that would have been imposed if members had agreed to support the Signature Fund applications.

The clerk was asked to send a copy of the letter to the two district councillors to follow up. **Action Cl.**

3. Progress reports from working groups and council representatives

3a/DEC/18 Nenthead Ward meeting

Nenthead recycling centre – there was no objection to creating a bug house on the site, but residents were concerned that Eden District Council have not done any work on the site, despite some of the trees having blown over. The complaints about rats continue to be made.

The clerk was asked to remind EDC of their promise to improve the site. **Action CI.**

Nenthead snowplough – last year saw more call-outs than usual with the bad weather, with the extra cost this entailed. The group applied for additional funding, but were turned down, on the grounds that it would set a precedent for the future. They are fighting this decision, and have other concerns about gritting routes. The group were advised to discuss their concerns with Cllr Driver.

3b/DEC/18 Alston Moor Care Alliance

No meetings have taken place, but a coffee morning was well attended.

3c/DEC/18 Alston Moor Partnership

There was nothing further to report, other than the Partnership are looking for new directors.

3d/DEC/18 Water leak on Tyne Willows Pavilion supply

Re: 3c/NOV/18 United Utilities sub-contractors have been out to look for the leak on the pavilion's water supply. They dug up a section of the road near the stopcock, where they thought the leak was, but were unable to find it. The exposed pipe appeared to be in good condition, and is thought to run across the road through the wall.

3e/DEC/18 Proposed closure of the Credit Union in Alston

The parish council were only informed last week of the proposal by Eden and South Lakeland Credit Union to close the Alston branch, giving as a reason that the footfall is extremely low, and although they had explored the option of relocating to the Town Hall it had not proved possible so they will close on 31st January 2018. Cllr Driver had further information.

4 County Councillor's Report

Cllr Driver reported on the following:

Proposed closure of the Credit Union in Alston – Cllr Driver was informed late last week, as was the parish council that they would be closing next month. She was aware that volunteers and users were unhappy and will be discussing it with officers. Last January the Credit Union applied for £5k to cover access to services under the 'developing strong and resilient communities' theme. They also approached South Lakeland local committee for funding. The Credit Union have not contacted the County Council's area manager to discuss, and she would like to ask what evidence they have of the due diligence processes and consultations they undertook. The County does not want services funded by them to not be delivered in the rural areas.

She asked if the parish council would be willing to write to express concern about the lack of consultation, and suggest they stay open for another few months. Moving into the library might help footfall, and the County could be asked about putting in a secure line.

Members pointed out that the banks gave six months' notice before pulling out. One of the issues is that across Eden as a whole there are too many savers and not enough people wanting to take out loans, but not everyone has been moved onto Universal Credit, and when this affects more people there might be greater need. Another difficulty is that the Credit Union is only open for a few hours on a Thursday, which excludes some.

Cllr Godwin declared an interest as a volunteer.

Resolved to write to object to the closure of the Credit Union. Proposed by Cllr Wright and seconded by Cllr Grew. (nem con) **Action CI.**

Rural issues working group – Eden Local Committee is looking at priorities for rural areas, and are looking at the suggestions made by councillors.

Working with Highways – this was on the agenda at the CALC AGM to present the work done by the County on identifying what work is done by the parishes and towns, which can vary considerably. The aim is to ensure that people working on the network are properly insured and working in a safe and effective way. Unfortunately there was a misunderstanding with concerns that the County was trying to devolve responsibilities onto parish councils. This is not the intention, so further work needs to be done to get the right message across.

Budget consultation - people have until mid January to comment on the County Council website.

Review of day service users – the aim is to promote independence amongst day service users, who have been offered their allocated budget to give them the freedom to decide how they want to spend it.

Government funding – the county have been allocated £12m, which has to be spent before the year end, which in itself creates pressure.

District Councillor's Report

Reports were received from Cllrs Godwin & Sharp.

Friends of Penrith Beacon Edge – a petition of 500 signatures was delivered to Eden District Council, who were obliged to debate the proposed expansion of housing onto Beacon Edge. They are working with the landowner to help improve the visual amenity of the Beacon. This serves as an example to demonstrate that communities can raise issues if needed.

Accounts & governance– the auditors flagged up many of the issues that are happening nationally, including the many councils that are setting up their own companies.

Penrith Master Plan – it has been agreed to discuss it at the next full council.

Participation in local government – feedback from the focus group on participation in local government and the reasons why a number of seats remain uncontested will be put into a report to take to the executive. There is an online survey which closes in two days.

Housing & community scrutiny panel – they are looking to update their objectives, review leisure activities and the support for young people in rural areas. Cllr LS has asked to meet with officers to discuss Alston.

St Paul's, former Methodist chapel – the guttering has now been cleared. Thanks were given to Cllr Sharp for her work on this.

Community food project – this is being rolled out at SKS with parents of years 5 and 6 and is about learning and sharing skills around cooking, budgeting and nutrition. There is the potential for older people to get involved by sharing their expertise.

5. Public open session

None requested.

6. Planning applications

6a/DEC/18 18/0899 Full application. Alterations to roof to increase internal room layout. 18 Hillersdon Terrace, Nenthead CA9 3PG for Mr & Mrs S. & J. Peart.

Cllr Aves declared an interest as a neighbour.

Recommended for approval. Proposed by Cllr MS and seconded by Cllr GW. (12 + 1 abs)

6b/DEC/18 18/0900 Full application. Alterations to roof to increase internal room layout. 17 Hillersdon Terrace, Nenthead CA9 3PG for Mr & Mrs K. Peart.

Cllr Aves declared an interest as a neighbour.

Recommended for approval. Proposed by Cllr Shepherd and seconded by Cllr Wright. (12 + 1 abs)

6c/DEC/18 18/0903 Full application. Construction of detached dwelling. Gatefoot Farm, Garrigill CA9 3DU for Mr & Mrs A. Bell.

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

6d/DEC/18 18/0923 Full application. Land off A686 Alston CA9 3NQ. Proposed erection of two containers to house telecommunications structure for Fisher German Zayo Group UK Ltd.

For information.

6e/DEC/18 18/0950 Listed building. Installation of 4no roof lights. Church Gates, Alston CA9 3HU for Mr & Mrs I. Walton.

Recommended for approval. Proposed by Cllr Aves and seconded by Cllr Grew. (13+ 1 abs)

Decision notices

i/NOV/18 18/0672 Advertisement Erection of a non-illuminated noticeboard. Garrigill Village Green, Garrigill CA9 3DS for Alston Moor Parish Council. Permission granted with conditions.

ii/NOV/18 18/0736 Full application. Proposed two storey extension. 2 Aimshaugh Road, Leadgate, Alston CA9 3EN for Mr & Mrs D. Wilkin. Permission granted with conditions.

iii/NOV/18 18/0742 Full application. Demolition of garage and replacement store, window and door alterations and replacements. The Old Police Station, Townhead, Alston CA9 3SL for Mr & Mrs Johnson. Permission granted with conditions.

7 Proposal for a working group for Tyne Willows Pavilion to work with the Fitness Club and consider future plans

The clerk reported that she strongly recommended members discuss some of the concerns she has regarding the lease and the requirement for the Fitness Club to insure the Pavilion and associated services, as recent issues with the water leak have highlighted some serious issues relating to the insurance.

Resolved that Cllrs Glendinning, Green and Ho would form the working group and arrange to meet with the Fitness Club directors. **Action.**

8 Damaged footway light on the Crown Car Park – Cllr Hewison

A member of the public has asked when the damaged footway light will be repaired. The clerk reported that she contacted Eden to enquire, but had not had a response. Noted that it has been partially removed and as it was alleged to have been hit by the Co-op wagon they might be able to put in an insurance claim. The district cllrs agreed to follow up. **Action LS, PG.**

9 Update to tree survey – parish council woodland areas

The parish council needs to consider updating the tree survey, and inclusion of the village green at Garrigill. Contact was made with the County Council arboreal department, as they are in the process of carrying out a survey Tyne Willows playing field, but staff are too busy to be able to consider additional work.

It was agreed that the tree survey should be updated and the work advertised. **Action CI.**

10 Consultations and Correspondence

10a/DEC/18 Warcop Ranges – common land

An email from CALC was received inviting councils to sign a petition about Warcop Ranges. The common land was sequestered by the MOD in the 2nd world war and they now want to de-register it. The concerns are around what the future of the land will be once the protections are removed. Going further back the commons were compensation for local farmers after the Enclosure Act and it seems unfair to remove the rights from the local farmers.

Resolved to support the Warcop Ranges petition. Proposed by Cllr Harrison and seconded by Cllr Martin. (nem con).

10c/DEC/18 Notices of events/meetings/information

Constituency Surgery – Rory Stewart MP 7th December 10.30-11.30

Cumbria County Council - Front Street project 15th December

Mental Health Awareness Training (Level1) 16th January 2019

Review of National Parks and AONBs

Clerk & Councils Direct – November 2018

11 Precept requests

No-one was aware of any new requests for funding.

12 Administration

12a/DEC/18 Proposal to accept the revised application form for co-option of new councillors

It was observed that the form needed to be looked at carefully to ensure it would not discourage people from putting their name forward.

Resolved to co-opt a Nenthead councillor at the next meeting, and to put the co-option form on the agenda for the next meeting. Proposed by Cllr Martin and seconded by Cllr Shepherd. (8+ 5- 1abs)

12b/DEC/18 Updates to Standing Orders

Resolved to amend paragraph 3 by adding 'at the chair's direction, a vote on the co-option of new councillors or other appointments may be made by secret ballot. Also minor amendments to the model

standing orders made by NALC 17d (ii), 21 and 15(b) (ix) and 18 (c) (circulated). Proposed by Cllr Haldon and seconded by Cllr Grew. (13+ 1-)

12c/DEC/18 Proposal to extend the Town Hall manager's remit

Resolved to extend the Town Hall manager's remit to include press releases, Facebook updates and publicity for Alston Moor Parish Council. Proposed by Cllr AM and seconded by Cllr GW. (11+ 1- 2 abs)
Noted that the Town Hall manager's contract would need to be updated, and the additional hours agreed.

Resolved to try out for an additional 3 hours per month initially. Proposed by Cllr Martin and seconded by Cllr Wright (10+ 4 abs)

12d/DEC/18 Congratulations and complaints

Resolved to move to the end of the meeting to discuss in confidence.

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

13a/DEC/18 Homeless residents

Concerns were raised about the homeless people living in the woods and playing fields, but their welfare was being considered by other agencies.

13b/DEC/18 water run-off near Intack Farm road end

Problem to report to hotline.

14. Finance

14a/DEC/18 Bank statements

The statements as of 30th November 2018 were as follows:-

Alston Moor Parish Council tr/ac	£51,154.17
Alston Moor Parish Council bus/ac	£12,688.71
Eden Credit Union	£7,008.58

14b/DEC/18 Accounts for Payment

The following accounts were for payment:-

<i>Summary of accounts for payment: -</i>	£4,613.50
<i>Summary of income received since last meeting: -</i>	£677.61
<i>Summary of accounts paid since last meeting: -</i>	£796.92

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 Green and seconded by Cllr Wright (nem con)

14c/DEC/18 Internal auditors report

Resolved to accept the internal auditor's report. Proposed by Cllr Haldon and seconded by Cllr Aves (nem con)

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm

Signed:

Dated: