

## ALSTON MOOR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Alston Moor Parish Council held on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2016 at 7pm in Alston Town Hall.

**Present:** Cllrs: A. Martin (Chair), D. Athey, B. Aves, A. Green, P. Godwin, E. Grew, T. Haldon, M. Herdman, S. Hill, R. Miller, D. Phillips. A Robertson, R. Thomson.

**Apologies:** Cllr: J. Glendinning

**Absent:** Cllr: G. Wright

**Declarations of interest:** listed under specific agenda items.

### **1. Minutes**

**Resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2016 be adopted as a correct record. Proposed by Cllr Phillips and seconded by Cllr Herdman (nem con)

**Resolved** that the minutes of the precept meeting held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2016 be adopted as a correct record. Proposed by Cllr Robertson and seconded by Cllr Grew. (1 abs)

### **1a Neighbourhood and Community Planning – John Boardman (EDC) and Hellen Aitkin (ACT)**

John Boardman and Hellen Aitkin explained the key difference between community and neighbourhood plans. Both are community-led and require community consultation, but neighbourhood plans, when approved, are statutory documents that sit alongside other documents in the planning process. They have to follow a statutory process involving external examination and assessment. Community plans can cover anything the community feels is important to them, with the end result being a community-led action plan. Neighbourhood plans define a land-use policy and can be used to develop policies specific to the local community, provided they conform to the national planning policy framework, and can include design details that take precedence over existing local planning policies. What cannot be done is to undermine existing housing allocations, although more can be allocated. The list of topics that can be addressed include housing, community facilities, retail, town centre, design guidelines, employment, open/amenity space, historic environment, natural environment and transport. It can also produce a neighbourhood development order and site specific orders to simplify the planning process and cut costs for developers, as well as a community build order.

The district council can provide advice on policies and will arrange an independent examiner and pay for and arrange a referendum, which is the final stage. Provided 50% of voters are in favour it will be adopted. Once adopted there is a timeframe of 15 years

Both community and neighbourhood plans take a lot of work, so it is important to identify if the communities aspirations can be delivered. A steering group should be set up to take a lead, and it is advisable to hold an open meeting to encourage as many people as possible from the community to take an interest and get involved. Eden District Council and ACT have a small amount of funding available to assist a community in making a decision on whether to progress and there are other opportunities for funding if the community decides to go ahead.

Members observed that the infrastructure is a particular issue for Alston.

Shortly before the meeting opened a copy of comments by Story Homes on the Proposed Submission version (2014-2032) of the Local Plan was received. Page 24 4.12 objected to the inclusion of Alston as a market town and the proposed vision for Alston to remain a focus for services and facilities for the surrounding area. The reasons given were the location within the AONB, the limited opportunities for growth, and the deliverability of the proposed allocations for Alston.

JB reported that he has to write back to the inspector, and will be recommending that the objection is not upheld, but it would be useful to have input from the parish council.

It was observed that Alston has been a market town for hundreds of years, and has a market charter that only the queen can remove. It was also noted that Alston has recently received £1.4 m from the Heritage Lottery Fund, and if its status is downgraded the town will lose the ability to seek this sort of funding.

**Resolved** to ask the clerk to forward comments from members, who were asked to submit them to her by e-mail. Proposed by Cllr Grew and seconded by Cllr Martin. (nem con) **Action**

### **2. Progress Reports**

### **2a/FEB/16 Co-op banners**

Re: 10/JAN/16 The clerk reported that she spoke with the manager from Alston Co-op who said that head office had asked that they also be allowed to put up signage on the walls. Since the building is within the Conservation Area she advised that Eden District Council's planning services should be consulted. Advice from the planner has been passed on to the Co-op.

### **2b/FEB/16 Nenthead Fountain**

Re: 2a/JAN/16 The clerk reported that she has spoken with Bonds Precision Castings and a local blacksmith. Both made the same point that a preliminary investigation needs to be carried out to establish whether the broken cast iron bucket stand of the fountain can be welded. The suggestion is that the local blacksmith removes the piece and carries out a test weld. If this fails Bonds could produce a copy from stainless steel which can be painted to look like the original. A quote to carry out the first stage of the investigation has been obtained.

Cllr Herdman reported that one of fountain legs is also damaged and this ought to be given priority.

**Action.**

### **2c/FEB/16 Periodic tree survey**

The clerk reported that the contract has been signed now and the survey will be carried out in late March, so as to be as near as possible to the spring/summer higher usage. The first survey will need to focus on plotting the paths and establishing a baseline survey, but the surveyor will be happy to meet with the council representatives either at the following survey or separately if the council is willing to cover the cost.

Cllr Robertson offered to contact the contractor to discuss, as it was agreed it would be useful for the representatives to meet with him at some point. **Action.**

### **2d/FEB/16 Issues with British Telecom**

The clerk reported that she asked British Telecom to change the contact name on the account as the named person is no longer with the council. What happened next was that BT cancelled the contract, direct debit arrangements, and charged a cancellation fee. They then set up a new account on a more expensive tariff. After numerous discussions the cancellation fee has been refunded, but so far they have not re-instated the original contract. However, it has been mentioned that the trustees are considering getting superfast broadband for the Town Hall, and it may or may not be advantageous to wait for a while before making a formal complaint.

Cllr Martin reported that she has been charged with finding out more about what improvements can be made to the internet within the Town Hall. It was agreed to wait a while before re-negotiating the contract.

**Resolved** to make a formal complaint to British Telecom. Proposed by Cllr Thomson and seconded by Cllr Grew (nem con).

### **2e/FEB/16 Garrigill litter bin**

Re: 2d/JAN/16 Eden District Council have confirmed they will replace the missing bin in Garrigill.

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

### **3a/ FEB/16 Nenthead Ward meeting**

Cllr Herdman reported that an update on the hydro scheme from Alston Moor Community Energy was well received. The AGM will be held on the 21<sup>st</sup> March, with other forthcoming events a Vieille Montagne weekend and pub quiz. Dates to be forwarded to the Alston Moor newsletter. **Action.**

### **3b/ FEB/16 Rubbish on playing field**

Cllr Miller reported that litter from the recycling centre has blown onto the playing field during the recent high winds. Cllr Haldon agreed to mention this to the new staff at the gym, who are aware that the gym receives income from looking after the site and are reporting dumping to Eden District Council.

### **3c/ FEB/16 Alston Moor War Memorials Restoration Appeal report**

A written report was received from the organisers stating that the fund has now reached £3,100 with donations from the exhibition, Gala Float completion, donations from local businesses, Alston Community Market, donation boxes and the parish council. The War Memorial Trust have confirmed that both applications are eligible for grant funding and that the first stage of the application process has been passed.

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

*Apologies from Cllr Robinson.*

## **District Councillor's Report**

*Apologies from Cllr Hymers.*

*Cllr Godwin reported on the following:-*

There was nothing new to report.

### **5. Planning**

**5a/FEB/16** 15/1128 Full application. Retrospective planning application to build a poultry shed. 4 Hill Top Cottages, Nenthead CA9 3PB for Mr P. Drew.

Cllr Robertson declared an interest.

Nenthead cllrs pointed out that there is a long standing tradition of poultry-keeping amongst the residents from Hilltop. Cllr Phillips asked for it to be minuted that he was disappointed that Eden had obliged the applicant to go to the expense of submitting a formal planning application for a poultry shed.

**Recommended** for approval. Proposed by Cllr Phillips and seconded by Cllr Herdman. (nem con)

**5b/FEB/16** 15/1147 Full application. Conversion and extension of redundant farm building to a holiday cottage. School House, Leadgate Road, Leadgate, Alston CA9 3EL for Mr & Mrs A. Thompson. Revised details received.

No new comments.

### **Decision Notices**

**5i/FEB/16** 15/0914 Listed building. Listed building consent for the removal of flue attached to external south gable elevation and replaced with new balanced flue. Installation of gas boiler on rear porch wall. Station House, Station Road, Alston CA9 3JB. Permission granted with conditions.

### **6 Consultations & Correspondence for information**

#### **6a/FEB/16 CCC – Notices of events/meetings**

Connecting Cumbria - Business innovation over breakfast 10 February in Alston

Clean for the Queen – litter pick organised by Alston Primary School, probably 4<sup>th</sup> March 2016

Alston Police Desk 2016 – starting February 24<sup>th</sup>, the local PCSO will be present in Local Links between 10am and 12 noon once a month, with dates advertised on facebook.

Nenthead Hags Proposed Mine Water Treatment scheme - Community Information event 11 February 2pm-8pm

Low Carbon Neighbourhood Planning workshop 6-9pm 11<sup>th</sup> February

CCC – A689 road closure of Front Street for repairs to defective road surface – 7<sup>th</sup> March 2016 for 4 days

#### **6b/FEB/16 CALC training sessions – business planning workshop**

CALC's trainers are offering a bespoke business planning workshop to help with planning for long term goals and the council were asked if they would be interested. It was agreed the training would be useful, but that the clerk would not be asked to arrange anything before September.

**Resolved** that the clerk should attend the social media training event on 19<sup>th</sup> February. Proposed by Cllr Herdman and seconded by Cllr Godwin. (nem con)

#### **6c/FEB/16 Information received during the last month**

Minutes of Nenthead Ward meeting 30 November 2015

Clean for the Queen campaign

Neighbourhood Planning update

Alston Parish Council report from the police – January 2016

Local Council Review – Winer 2015

Clerk & Councils Direct – January 2016

CALC – Developing your skills January 2016-June 2016

### **7. Request for 2 new litter bins - Nenthead**

The clerk reported that Eden District Council have discussed the request with a Nenthead resident, but would like the parish council to formally make the request. They will also repair the defective bin near the fountain, and check the defective bin outside the Cumberland.

**Resolved** to request 2 new bins for Nenthead. Proposed by Cllr Herdman and seconded by Cllr Hill. (nem con)

### **8. Garrigill – scaffolding & sign for site of Tynehead school**

Cllr Grew reported that a Garrigill resident had asked about the scaffolding on a property in Garrigill, as it had not been removed despite promises that it would be gone by Christmas. The complainant has written to Eden District Council, who said it was acceptable. She was advised that the parish council, while sympathetic to the nuisance aspect, does not have any legal powers to take action, but could suggest that the complainant research health and safety legislation to find out if regular safety checks need to be carried out. **Action.**

Cllr Grew has also spoken to the people she thought were the landowners of the old Tynehead school, but they confirmed they do not own the land. This may mean that the county council still owns the site. The person wanting a sign for the site would like the parish council to pay for a plaque. **Action.**

#### **9. Ratification of draft policies**

The clerk reported that she had circulated the draft policies to those members who had volunteered to check over the policies, and had received no comments.

**Resolved** to accept the policies on Equal opportunities, Social media, Freedom of Information Publications scheme, Health and safety statement, Complaints procedure. Proposed by Cllrs Grew and seconded by Cllr Green. (1 abs)

#### **10. Date for annual risk assessment meeting and Annual Parish Meeting**

Cllrs Phillips and Grew offered to carry out the annual risk assessment. **Action.**

Agreed to hold the Annual Parish Meeting for residents on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm.

#### **11. Agenda items for Traffic Management meeting**

The clerk reported that a representative from the County Council's flood management team will attend the meeting, so flood-related issues will take priority. Over the last weekend, Moredun Garage reported that a large quantity of gravel and rubble had filled the exit from the Mill Race into the Nent. A similar quantity was cleared about a fortnight ago, and there are concerns that this may be a collapse within the Mill Race, or alternatively dumping of waste material, although this is a less probable scenario. Cllr Athey offered to follow up. **Action.**

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

##### **12a/FEB/16 Request to purchase land at Townfoot**

This item follows on from an agreement made in 2012 for the owner of Lyndhurst to purchase the garden plot behind the property. The current owner would like to pursue this and has made an offer.

##### **12b/FEB/16 St John's Church, Nenthead**

A letter from the churchwardens was received too late for consideration at the precept meeting, and missed inclusion on the agenda for this month. They would like to be considered for financial support.

##### **12c/FEB/16 Eden District Council Scrutiny Work Programme consultation**

Eden District Council are looking to decide the Scrutiny priorities for the next 12 months.

#### **13. Finance**

##### **13a/FEB/16 Bank statements**

The statements as of 1<sup>st</sup> February 2016 were as follows:-

Alston Moor Parish Council tr/ac	£13,372.69
Alston Moor Parish Council bus/ac	£12,668.41
Eden Credit Union	£7,008.58

##### **13b/FEB/16 Accounts for Payment**

The following accounts were for payment:-

<i>Summary of accounts for payment :-</i>	£829.33
<i>Summary of income received since last meeting :-</i>	£158.82
<i>Summary of accounts paid since last meeting:-</i>	£195.25

**Resolved** that sufficient funds are held in balances for the clerk to be authorised to settle all the accounts listed during the coming month (appendix I). Proposed by Cllr Green and seconded by Cllr Robertson (nem con)

**14 Alston Ward matters**

This part of the meeting was held in confidence.

*The meeting closed at 8.50pm*

Signed: .....

Dated: .....