



ALSTON MOOR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Alston Moor Parish Council held on Monday 3rd February 2020 at 7pm the Masonic Hall.

Present: Cllrs: G. Wright (Chair), M. Denoual, J. Glendinning, A. Green, E. Grew, T. Haldon, M. Hanley, C. Harrison, H. Ho, A. Holt, R. Miller, R. Robinson, Z. Robson, L. Seaton.

Apologies: Cllr: A. Martin.

Absent: none

Declarations of interest: none

1. Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the parish council meeting held on Monday 6th January 2020 be adopted as a correct record. Proposed by Cllr Robinson and seconded by Cllr Holt. (nem con)

Resolved that the minutes of the precept meeting held on Monday 13th January 2020 be adopted as a correct record. Proposed by Cllr Holt and seconded by Cllr Seaton (10+ 4 abs)

2. Public participation

None.

3. Progress Reports

3a/FEB/20 Tyne Willows drainage

Re 3c/JAN/20 NWEL were on site this month. They are not able to put any additional drainage pipes in across the footpath, but suggested the drainage would be improved if the ditch could be kept clear of weeds. This should improve the top spring, but there is a second spring crossing the path lower down that could still be a problem.

Cllr Miller offered to take a look at the site and report back. **Action RM.**

3b/FEB/20 CCTV Tyne Willows pavilion & recycling centre

Re: 4c/JAN/20 Eden District Council were asked about the use of CCTV at recycling centres, and advised that this is something they would actively discourage for a number of reasons including the difficulty of identifying offenders. They were also in touch about potential improvements to the centre. Cllr Haldon reported that he visited the site with an Eden officer, who discussed plans to extend the fence, move the gate and consider installing extra bins.

A community litter pick took place recently around Tyne Willows. Thanks were made to everyone who turned up.

3c/FEB/20 Victorian footway lighting update

Re: 9aJAN/20 Cumbria County Council have confirmed that they will complete the upgrading of the Victorian style footway lights to be handed over to the parish council in the next financial year. The lights will be included in their maintenance schedule, for basic maintenance and inspection, but they will need to establish costs for maintaining the parish lights. Any significant defects such as loss of supply, vehicle damage, defective lanterns will be discussed with the council prior to repair.

Eden District Council had funds allocated to upgrade the Front Street Victorian lights, which the County have asked to be paid to the parish council, and they will then invoice the parish the same amount.

3d/FEB/20 Nenthall War Memorial

Re: DEC/19 A letter was received from the War Memorials Trust to confirm that the Nenthall War Memorial has been added to War Memorials On-line. This shows that the inscriptions are difficult to read because the painted lead lettering has deteriorated. Cllr Glendinning reported that the corrections made to one name has shown up the remainder, but there are plans to paint the rest when weather conditions are suitable. £200 has been raised to cover the cost, and the Trust were informed. Clerk to report. **Action CI.**

4. Progress reports from working groups and council representatives

4a/FEB/20 Alston Moor Care Alliance & Ambulance meeting report

There were no meetings in January. The next meeting will take place on 6th February.

4b/FEB/20 Volunteer Co-ordinator Working Group

The minutes were circulated. Cllr Denoual reported that she has prepared a letter to be sent to the two individuals and one organisation that had sent in expressions of interest. They will be sent subject to agreement from the council about changing the project name from Volunteer Co-ordinator to Community Support Fund.

Resolved to re-name the project Community Support Fund. Proposed by Cllr Haldon and seconded by Cllr Wright (13+ 1 abs)

4c/FEB/20 Nenthead Ward meeting

Cllrs Denoual and Seaton reported on issues arising from the ward meeting.

Various highways matters – including speeding along Overwater and the signage at the junction of Vicarage Terrace were raised at the Traffic Management meeting last week.

Nenthead Recycling Centre – a follow up e-mail has been sent to Eden District Council about updating the signage and the missing lid on the glass bin. A resident asked that, when the new planting is done, the rare flowers already on the site are preserved.

Nenthead toilets – work is due to start on repairs.

Nenthead surgery – plans are in place to hold another surgery this month.

4d/FEB/20 Traffic Management Meeting

A report was circulated. Cllr Grew reported on the following:

Nenthead Primary School – the Nenthead snowplough, run by volunteers, only operates during the day, and if the weather conditions change overnight may not clear the road in time for the school drop off. Priority routes are cleared first by Highways, so it was suggested that the school caretaker, or parents are encouraged to use the grit bin outside the school.

Garrigill matters – potholes will be dealt with in March, and the speed restriction consultation will go out to informal consultation, followed by a formal consultation.

Townhead parking – this has almost reached the formal consultation stage before going on to the Eden Committee.

Safer routes to school – physical site constraints have restricted options to improve safety for pedestrians at Townfoot. One possibility could be to re-use the flashing lights at the old primary school; this and other options are under consideration, with a request for funding made for 2021 or 2022.

4e/FEB/20 AMBA meeting

A report was circulated. No questions were received.

4f/FEB/20 Alston public toilets

(Moved to reports from further down the agenda)

Cllr Haldon reported that a meeting was held last week with an officer from Eden District Council to discuss a list of questions about the proposed hand over of the public toilets. The contract with Amey ends on 31st March 2022, but it will take time to draw up a contract with the parish council, and ensure that any work that needs attention is agreed. The parish will be liable for any legal fees, although as a simple conveyance, it could possibly be agreed along the same lines as the footlights contract. The council also needs to discuss managing community engagement. As it is still two years away it was suggested leaving until the back end of the year.

5 County Councillor's Report

Cllr Driver reported that she will send a link to her video report for the clerk to forward.

Fluoridation of water on Alston Moor – a campaign group opposed to the fluoridation of water has been in the area. Most of the local water is supplied by Co. Durham who are proposing to add fluoride to the water supply. They will be consulting with communities in May

Penrith initiative to tackle loneliness - this has been advertised locally.

Winter gritting priorities & schools – the next winter gritting review will look at priorities, and will take into account the location of schools along with other criteria.

The County Council have been tasked with following-up a scheme that will be appropriate for improving SKS pupils safety at Townfoot.

Walking for Health Group – Active Cumbria has set up a new walking group in Alston, members were invited to help with promotion.

Alston Market cross - following the accident with a car damaging the structure, a replacement column is being carved to match the existing stone. The pigeon wire was fortunately not damaged. Noted that the original stone came from Carter Bar.

District Councillor's Report

Cllr Sharp reported on the following:

Fit for All – this is intended for older people with sessions starting soon, and if successful can be extended to Garrigill and Nenthead.

Warmer Homes – members were asked to encourage people to sign up, so far only around 37-38% have done so. Those signed up will get help if the electricity is off.

Former Methodist chapel – building control visited again, and have asked the owners to get the back entrance secured and slates repaired.

Carlisle & Eden Community Forum - set up by Health Watch Cumbria, has vacancies – anyone interested can put themselves forward to join.

Former primary school – consultation will be taking place over the next couple of weeks.

Fairhill Recreation Grounds – there are plans for an all-day event to include planting for the Community Orchard and a litter pick, then a sponsored bike ride in September. Discussions are ongoing with Eden District Council to move the dog waste bins on site and replace them with roadside litter bins.

Cllr Hanley circulated a report and commented on the following:

Housing & Communities Scrutiny Committee – a review of the leisure contract was discussed and FMG consulting appointed to review the contract, with the aim to reduce costs, improve the service and encourage greater community engagement.

Community Plan steering group – a report was circulated. Noted that public seating is listed as a project in the community plan, which prompted a query as to whether the volunteer who had offered to put together a report on seats within the parish had progressed this. Clerk to follow up. **Action CI.**

Questions on contracts/consultants

The waste management contract with Cumbria Waste Management is the next item for review. Noted that there is an issue with wagons dropping waste along their route and not picking it up. The clerk was asked to contact Eden District Council to ask for a message to be passed on to the contractors. **Action CI.**

On occasions the District Council has to employ outside consultants to meet their statutory requirements, an example being the requirement to have a financial officer.

6. Planning applications

6a/FEB/20 19/0909 Listed Building Listed building consent for replacement windows to front and rear elevations. Randal House, Front Street, Alston CA9 3HU for Mr Ian Pullen.

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

6b/FEB/20 20/0058 Full application. Change of use of Post Office to residential (C3). Post Office, Front Street, Alston CA9 3HP for Mr & Mrs Brian Cooper.

Recommended for approval. Proposed by Cllr Ho and seconded by Cllr Miller. (nem con)

Decision Notices

6i/FEB/20 19/0837 Full application. Use of residential premises as a guest house and associated alterations. Temple Croft, Townfoot, Alston CA9 3RL for Mr. P. Carroll. Permission granted with conditions.

7. Car parking Tyne Willows, decision on potential purchase of car parking panels from Epiacum

Cllr Robson declared an interest.

Cllr Haldon reported that only 20 sq m of the panels are left unsold, which could be put down around the gate onto the playing field at Tyne Willows. They are asking £12.50 per sq m. Cllr Harrison offered to store the panels if it were decided to go ahead, as they could not be installed until Eden District Council finish their improvements to the recycling centre, which may involve moving the gate.

Resolved to buy the panels subject to checking what the vat status is to confirm the price is not the same as a new purchase. Proposed by Cllr Haldon and seconded by Cllr Wright. (12+ 2 abs)

8. Report on tree inspection

Cllr Harrison and the clerk carried out an informal inspection of the trees on Tyne Willows Playing Fields, using the SKS Tree Survey report, and Henderson's and Firs Wood which have not been formally surveyed since 2016. There are a number of dead branches and at least one dead tree needing attention. The inspection concentrated on areas adjacent to the permissive path and Pennine Way.

The clerk advertised for tree surgeons who might be interested in carrying out work for the council and so far has received two replies. She met with one contractor to show him around the site, but there is an issue in that without a tree survey it will be difficult for anyone to issue a like-for-like quote.

Cllr Wright reported that he had spoken with a contractor who took a second look at the site and noted more trees in a worse condition, including some dead ash. He advised getting a tree survey done.

It was suggested, but not agreed that Firs Wood should be clear felled.

Resolved to obtain prices for a tree survey. Proposed by Cllr Wright and seconded by Cllr Holt (13+ 1 abs)

9. Nenthead Footway Lights

Cllr Denoual reported that the list of the current status of the Nenthead footway lights was discussed at the ward meeting. She has offered to check which lights have issues, and report back to the council.

Action MD.

She noted that the previous council had discussed setting up a working group in the future. Members acknowledged that footway lighting provision was a significant cost.

Resolved that Cllr Denoual could follow up setting up a working group to look at footway lights. Proposed by Cllr Denoual and seconded by Cllr Wright. Agreed that this could be done by e-mail.

10. Alston and Nenthead noticeboard funding application

The Co-op noticeboard has had to be taken down while the building is being renovated, and the workmen noticed that it is starting to rot. It has done well and must have been in use for at least 20 years, but new materials are available now. It has been suggested that the council put in an application for funding to the County Council Community Grant scheme, which could include the replacement noticeboard at Nenthead. The maximum grant that can be applied for is £1,500. £200 has been allocated to Nenthead.

There was a short discussion on the best materials to use, as the hardwood noticeboard at Nenthead has not stood up well to the weather. Accoya timber is guaranteed against rot for 50 years, plastic may be another alternative.

Cllr Robson reported that she has obtained quotes from a local joiner and online suppliers.

Resolved to allocate £200 for Alston towards replacing the noticeboard. Proposed by Cllr Holt and seconded by Cllr Seaton. (nem con)

11. Proposal for a Community Award Scheme

Cllr Denoual reported that she would like the council to consider setting up a Community Award scheme to reward and acknowledge those people who are supporting the community. The suggestion hasn't been worked up yet, but nominations could be invited from the community for different categories, with awards presented at the annual parish meeting.

Resolved to ask the ADP working group to work up the Community Award Scheme. Proposed by Cllr Denoual and seconded by Cllr Holt. (nem con)

12. Consultations and Correspondence

12a/FEB/20 Royal Air Force Battle of Britain 80th Anniversary

An e-mail was received from the Officer Commanding Base Support Squadron at Royal Air Force Spadeaman asking for support in marking the 80th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain. The official dates of the battle are 10th July until 31st October 1940 with the annual 'Battle of Britain Week' scheduled to take place this year from 7th September to 13th September. They would like to be kept informed of any planned events.

Cllr Glendinning reported that there are plans to change the WW2 exhibition to reflect the work of the RAF. Photos could be taken when this happens. Clerk to inform the Officer. **Action CI.**

12b/FEB/20 Proposed fluoridation of water on Alston Moor

A campaign group, Fluoride Free Cumbria contacted the clerk to advise about a proposal from County Durham to add fluoride to the water supply. There will be consultation before this takes place. The group are willing to talk to the parish council and are holding a public meeting this week.

It was agreed that the council would not send a representative to the meeting. The consultation later in the year should provide a balanced approach.

12c/FEB/20 Resident's letters

A letter was received from a resident with a number of concerns including bus times to Carlisle and the potential to make better use of the Community bus. Other matters including the condition of the wall opposite Lowbyer and barriers at the railway, have been passed on to highways to determine responsibilities. Highways had difficulty in understanding what the issues were and have asked via the clerk that the resident gets in touch to explain further.

The clerk had missed an e-mail from a resident requesting additional litter bins along Park Lane to encourage dog owners to act responsibly towards dog waste. Agreed to follow up with Eden District Council. **Action CI.**

12d/FEB/20 Notices of events/meetings

Reminder CALC/EALC How to be a transparent town or parish council – 19th February Cllrs Ho, Haldon, Denoual and Robson offered to attend

Alston Flood Alleviation Information Drop-in 12th February 2020 4pm – 7pm

New group - Walking for Health - 5th March 2020

Fluoride Free Cumbria – public meeting 8th February 2020

Highlights Show – 9th February 2020

30 March Nenthead ward meeting

Councillors' surgery 22nd February 2020

12e/FEB/20 Information received

Lakes Medics – Voluntary First Aid Team Vehicle Fundraising

Nenthead Ward Meeting notes – 25th November 2019

13. Administration

13a Town Hall Management Committee

A proposal was received from Alston Town Hall to set up a separate Town Hall Management Committee. Agreed to hold over until next month.

13b Appointment of council representatives

Community Plan Steering Group – To replace Cllr Denoual. Cllr Hanley

Traffic Management Group – Cllr Denoual

Alston Moor Partnership – no new representative appointed.

Annual risk assessment - Cllrs Hanley and Robinson.

14. Items for next month's agenda/urgent business & Traffic Management agenda

Review of protocol for the recording and filming of meetings policy for the next ADP meeting – Cllr Denoual

Soft play facilities – the clerk was asked to find out why it is not being used.

Review of press officer role.

15. Finance

15a/FEB/20 Bank statements

The statements as of 31st January 2020 were as follows:-

Alston Moor Parish Council tr/ac	£54,747.40
Alston Moor Parish Council bus/ac	£12,720.38
Eden Credit Union	£7,008.58

15b/FEB/20 Accounts for Payment

The following accounts were for payment:-

<i>Summary of accounts for payment: -</i>	£62.56
<i>Summary of income received since last meeting: -</i>	£2,483.28
<i>Summary of accounts paid since last meeting: -</i>	£1,168.06

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)

The meeting closed at 8.40pm

Signed:

Dated: