



ALSTON MOOR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Alston Moor Parish Council held on Monday 11th February 2019 at 7pm in Samuel King's School.

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

Apologies: Cllrs: G. Wright, M. Shepherd, L. Moncrieff.

Absent: none

Declarations of interest: listed under specific agenda items. Cllr Haldon for 9/FEB/19.

Co-option of Nenthead Councillor

Cllr Hewison resigned after the January council meeting, and as there is less than 6 months before the council elections, Eden District Council confirmed that a replacement could be co-opted.

A secret ballot was held for the two residents interested in standing, with the person gaining the most votes to be co-opted.

Resolved to appoint Maxine Denoul.

1. Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the parish council meeting held on Monday 7th January 2018 be agreed as a correct record. Proposed by Cllr Harrison and seconded by Cllr Green. (9+ 3 abs)

1a Update from the AONB on the Digital Interpretation Project

The AONB reported that digital interpretation should be ready within the next two months with a launch at High Mill. They are working with SKS on producing an app for town trails, one will cover the town centre and the other along Tyne Willows, along the cemetery and out at the top end of town. There will be an exhibition in the library to explain what is happening.

2. Progress Reports

2a/FEB/19 Alston Ambulance Station, defibrillator and ambulance fund

Re: 2b/JAN/19 A report from an Ambulance crew meeting stated that NWAS did not consider it necessary to put in another defibrillator at Tyne Willows, as it was close enough to the Town Hall. The resident wishing to make a donation to the ambulance fund said she would wait until plans are firmed up for the ambulance station.

A meeting is to be set up with a representative from Cumbria NHS and local volunteers to assess the existing site at the hospital for suitability for a garage for the ambulance. Initial discussions were positive, with the NHS stating that they were willing for the community to provide the labour to carry out the work.

It was suggested that what is needed once a site is agreed is someone willing to take on the role of project manager to head up a steering group. Members were asked if they knew anyone who might be capable of taking on this task. Specifications will also need to be agreed with NWAS, and it is too early at this stage to consider materials for the garage, although a pre-fabricated building might be the easiest option.

2b/FEB/19 Station Road/loaning litter bin

Re: 2gJAN/19 The clerk met with an officer from Eden District Council and agreed that there was really only one possible site for a litter bin on the loaning, which is besides the footway light.

2c/FEB/19 Electric charge point at Tyne Willows/BT pole – Fields in Trust

Re: 2c/JAN/19 Confirmation has been received from Fields in Trust for the rental agreement with Charge My Street, and the agreement has now been signed and returned. The application for a wayleaves agreement should be considered mid-February, and provided it is confirmed the agreement can be signed.

Both applications incurred a charge, which Charge My Street and Openreach have agreed to re-imburse the council for.

2d/FEB/19 Alston Recycling Centre

Re: 3e/JAN/19 Nothing further has been heard from the follow-up asking Eden District Council for an update and decision on whether additional bins can be provided.

2e/FEB/19 Overhanging branches, access road to the cemetery

Re: 7/FEB/19 BT confirmed that they do not involve themselves in tree work, and that it is for the landowner to deal with any tree branches overhanging their wires. The clerk contacted Cumbria County Council highways as the trees appear to be on the roadside verge, and they have agreed to investigate.

2f/FEB/19 Ashgill footpaths

Re: 2a/JAN/18 Nothing further has been heard from the landowner since the clerk wrote asking them to get in touch with the County Council to progress the footpath dedication and diversion. The clerk to check on progress with the ROW team. **Action CI.**

3. Progress reports from working groups and council representatives

3a/FEB/19 Alston Moor Care Alliance & Ambulance meeting report

Written reports were circulated. A concern about the potential downgrading of the crew to first responders was mentioned, but it was explained that NWS are hoping to develop a new training programme specifically for Alston to the same level of the old EMT1, which will enable new trainees to use the ambulance. The issue is that this qualification is no longer available, and has been replaced with a higher-level qualification that is unsuitable for our team. The representatives added that they feel progress is being made now with regular meetings and the involvement of the union.

3b/FEB/19 Alston Moor Partnership

THI - work on the Potato Market has been delayed due to queries raised by the County Council, who will put the work out to tender once the negotiations are complete. It has taken longer than expected, but in time plans should go out for community consultation. Agreed to ask the THI Manager for an update on progress. **Action CI.**

Ideally more property owners will come forward to work with the THI on building improvements; properties have to be businesses within the conservation area.

The Community Plan - has reached the final draft stage, it has been circulated to members to read and comment on. Appreciation was expressed for the quality of the work, and the totally voluntary effort that has gone into it.

The AGM - will be held on the 8th May.

The Unity Lottery - has been running for several years now and has generated sufficient funds to be used to benefit community groups with small grants of up to £300. AMP are developing an application form, which will be put on the new upgraded website.

Working together - it was suggested that it would be helpful for the council to discuss how best to work with AMP and look at how it fits into the community.

3c/FEB/19 Farmer Group – flood investigation for Alston's Mill Race

A farmers' meeting organised by the Tyne Rivers Trust was held last month to discuss flooding in general, but there was mention of the Mill Race. A new investigation is to take place with consultants appointed to carry out a study.

An immediate concern for farmers is the lack of rainfall, and consideration on how to collect water.

3d/FEB/19 Fitness Club working group

The group have not met yet, but the directors have been contacted and Cllr Ho reported that they were told they would meet with them in a few weeks time.

The Fitness Club held a public meeting today, attended by some councillors. It was reported that there is an urgent need to turn the club around, a call for volunteers to donate time, and concerns about machines that are out of action. Many of the users are interested in weight training, but this is of less interest to the over 50's who would benefit from better cardio equipment. To address this an application has been made to Awards for All. It was agreed that what is needed is someone who could enthuse people with new training regimes.

3e/FEB/19 Nenthead Ward meeting

Community groups – there are several groups with similar aims and it has been suggested they get together to update each other on activities. Funding has been obtained for willow sculptures around the village, possibly on the recycling centre and play area.

Noticeboard – it has been badly damaged by the weather and will need to be replaced. The parish council were asked to consider a recycled plastic alternative.

Nenthead Gala - the committee have all resigned, and despite an appeal no-one has come forward, but the village hall committee might be willing to do something at the village hall. However, they need to know what has happened to the funds, and the grant from the parish council of £500 that was not cashed until December 2018. The clerk was asked to follow this up with the treasurer. **Action CI.**

Cllr Miller offered to help with advice if needed.

Nenthead toilets – it was reported that no action has been taken over the damaged toilet door. Cllr Aves agreed to discuss the situation with a committee member. **Action BA.**

3f/FEB/19 Traffic Management meeting

Notes from the meeting were circulated. Mention was made of the commitment from Cumbria County Council to provide 15 refurbished footway lights in the town centre.

3g/FEB/19 Comex

A complaint has been passed on about the condition Comex has left the roads in, which has been reported to the County Council who have powers to issue a deficit order if the work is not up to standard.

3h/FEB/19 Front Street cobbles meeting

A last minute invitation to parish council representatives was made by the Save Alston Front Street group to attend a meeting with Rory Stewart MP. Cllr Harrison and Cllr Godwin attended and were able to correct some misunderstandings. They explained that the County Council were fully aware of the lack of communication and have taken measures to address this. The old setts that were taken up are unlikely to be put back as the same problems might occur again. It was made very clear that residents want the cobbles back following public consultations and a petition of 700 signatures. This was in response to a concern raised by the MP that the County's Chief Executive could not give any assurances that the cobbles would be replaced as she was uncertain that the community wanted them. It was concluded that everyone was striving towards the same aim, and the Rory would consider it his job to help seek funding. Cllr Harrison added that the Front Street team are sourcing materials for testing to see how they perform.

4 County Councillor's Report

Apologies from Cllr Driver. AM reported on the following:

Council tax – the County will hold a council tax meeting this week, and expect to put it up by 2.99%, which will mainly go to social care. Noted that the government grant finishes in 2020, which will bring serious challenges for councils.

District Councillor's Report

Reports were received from Cllrs Godwin & Sharp.

Penrith Master Plan – following public consultation the plan will not be considered until after the elections.

Skelgillside workshops/tourism plans – other work delayed while officers were working on the Penrith Master Plan can now go ahead allowing officers to concentrate on updating tourism, housing and community documents. The intention is to expand the housing policies, looking at building size and specifications that will link to the Local Plan. Also delayed are proposals for extra units at Skelgillside.

Footway lighting – residents have complained about how dark it is on the Nenthead road, especially around the entrance to the Jollybeard Estate. Agreed to discuss later in the agenda.

Fly tipping/household waste – residents can ask the council to pick up large items of household waste, although there is a charge. Eden has noticed an increase in fly tipping, which they will pick up if reported and it is not on private land.

Dog fouling – this has reduced along the loaning to Station Road following efforts from residents who put up posters, and the Community Warden has put new stenciled signs on the pavements. If people can report when they see fresh dog poo it can help gather information on when it is happening, and allow the warden to come up at a time when they might catch offenders. Other ideas to encourage better behaviour from owners are to set up dog-friendly shops and a responsible dog owner's scheme.

Co-op footway light – Eden spoke to the Co-op about insurance, but was not in a position at the time to provide a replacement. They are now waiting for costing information, which can be passed on to the insurance company, and any financial recompense will be put towards the County Council's costs in replacing the town centre lights.

Former Methodist Chapel – it was pointed out that some of the windows are out again. Cllr Sharp confirmed that the building is privately owned and any involvement from Eden has to go through the proper channels.

Nenthead play area bin – the litter bin on the play area is damaged. The clerk reported that as the play area was not on land owned by the District Council, they had supplied a bin to be paid for by the parish, and with the expectation that volunteers would take the waste to the roadside for collection. Agreed that the clerk would ask if the bin could be repaired. **Action Cl.**

5. Public open session

Front Street works – residents asked how they could find out what plans there are for Front Street.

It was confirmed that plans have been drawn up and labeled 'gold, silver and bronze' which showed more or less areas of re-instated cobbles. It was stressed that the eventual outcome will depend upon what funding is available. It should be possible to view the plans in the Alston Moor Partnership shop by appointment.

6. Planning applications

6a/FEB/19 19/0011 Listed building Consent for works to exterior walls, internal walls, chimney and upstairs windows. Ivy House, The Row, Nenthead CA9 3PE for Mr & Mrs Taylor-Lynch

Recommended for approval. Proposed by Cllr Aves and seconded by Cllr Glendinning. (11+ 1 abs)

6b/FEB/19 19/0031 Full application. Demolish existing building and replace with one dwelling. Mill House, Nenthall, Alston CA9 3LQ for Mr H. Lanham.

Recommended for approval. Proposed by Cllr Green and seconded by Cllr Athey. (1 abs)

6c/FEB/19 19/0053 Replacement front door, windows and dormer windows. 3 West View, Front Street, Alston CA9 3SF for Miss H. Jones.

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

6d/FEB/19 3/19/9001 For information. Prior notification of the installation of 14-30 kw of solar PV on the roofs, along with a live in school display of energy generated and appropriate signage to acknowledge funding contributions. Samuel King's School, Church Road, Alston CA9 3QU

Decision notices

i/FEB/19 18/0903 Full application. Construction of detached dwelling. Revision of approval 13/0757. Gatefoot Farm, Garrigill CA9 3DU for Mr & Mrs A. Bell. Permission granted with conditions.

ii/FEB/19 18/0950 Listed building. Listed building consent for installation of 4 roof lights. Church Gates, Alston CA9 3HU for Mr & Mrs I. Walton. Permission granted with conditions.

7 Tree survey & proposal to appoint a working group

An officer from the North Pennines AONB contacted Newton Rigg and confirmed that it is too early for them to consider working on tree inspections this year, but if they can access funding it could form part of future training for apprentices. In the meantime guidelines from the Forestry Commission on the inspection of trees for landowners and their responsibility to the public have been published, which they said may give the council the confidence to carry out the inspection themselves.

An extract follows:

The courts have not defined the standard of inspection more precisely than the standard of "the reasonable and prudent landowner", in individual cases the courts have sought to apply this general standard to the facts of each case. However, there is no clear and unambiguous indication from the courts in regard to the extent of the knowledge about trees a landowner is expected to bring to tree inspection in terms of type and regularity of inspection. Generally the courts appear to indicate that the standard of inspection is proportional to the size and resources available (in terms of expertise) to the landowner.

The clerk suggested that if a few council members were willing to carry out a visual inspection, using the existing tree survey as a starting point, this might be acceptable. They could refer any trees they were uncertain about for a professional opinion.

Resolved to appoint a working group – Cllrs Green, Harrison and Athey to survey the trees in Henderson's Wood, Firs Wood and Garrigill Village Green. The clerk to forward the 2016 tree survey.

Action Cl.

8 Community Housing – proposal to apply to the Community Housing Fund for an Alston Moor Housing Needs Survey (Cllr Godwin)

Cllr Godwin reported that Eden District Council would like to provide support via a Community Housing Fund to produce an Alston Moor Housing Needs survey. They recognise the need for people to live and work in the area, and to identify requirements for future social housing. There is an application form to apply for funding, and although Eden can carry out the work and have produced a research brief they need the parish council to make the application.

Resolved to apply for funds for the Community Housing Fund. Proposed by Cllr Godwin and seconded by Cllr Aves. (nem con)

9 Community grant application from Alston Moor Community Energy

Cllr Haldon declared an interest.

The application to the Community Fund was for £300 to be spent on communications. (circulated before the meeting).

Resolved to support the request for £300 from the Community Grant fund. Proposed by Cllr Glendinning and seconded by Cllr Ho. (10+ 1 abs)

10 Proposal for a working group to consider raising the profile of the parish council (Cllr Haldon)

A report was circulated. Cllr Haldon reported that the aim was to raise the profile of the parish council before the elections.

Resolved to appoint Cllrs Haldon, Martin, Grew and Denoual and to report back to the council.

Agreed to include the Town Hall manager in any discussions about publicity.

It was agreed that if funds were required for small items the admin budget could be used to cover the costs.

11 Appleby Fair planning

Eden District Council would like to know if the parish council are willing to confirm that they are happy to continue with the existing arrangements for Appleby Fair travellers.

Resolved to let Eden District Council know that the parish would accept the same arrangements as last year. Proposed by Cllr Haldon and seconded by Cllr Grew. (10+ 2 abs)

12 Consultations and Correspondence

12a/FEB/19 Cumbria Police – CCTV systems for towns in Eden

An e-mail was received from Cumbria Police to enquire if the parish council might be interested in funding some cameras for the area, and if so would be willing to discuss what they do on the Dedicated Monitoring Unit. The clerk enquired about costs and it was explained that the average cost is £16-£18k for high definition cameras with night vision, that are monitored 24/7 direct from the police control room. If someone calls the police they are able to check the CCTV and can be live monitoring the situation within minutes. They are also looking at a less costly option in the region of £6-£8k which might be more suitable for smaller places like Alston. They also hope to speak to the local authorities to discuss the possibility of funding and what locations they feel any potential investments would be the most beneficial.

It was agreed to ask for an update on costs when available, but the current costings are likely to be more than the parish council would want to spend, unless there was a clear consensus from the community that CCTV was something that was wanted. A future agenda item. **Action CI.**

12b/FEB/19 EDC Agreed Footway lights

An e-mail was received from Eden District Council stating that the Footway Lighting Scheme is now out for tender, with new columns/heads to be installed in the next financial year. As part of the tender process a health and safety risk assessment has been carried out for each agreed light, with problems encountered for several lights that Eden will be unable to upgrade.

Alston – Light 18 outside Norwood, Station Road and Light 28 outside 2 School Terrace.

Garrigill – Light 1 outside Ennerdale House

Nenthead – Light 5 outside Nenthead House, Light 22 outside Tree Tops, Light 23 outside 3 Smeaton Place and Light 24 outside 1a Holmsfoot.

Some of these lights are attached to buildings and there is no suitable alternative location, others are sole use poles, which was explained as a pole that is only there for the light attached to it, and ENWL policy

dictates that another supply has to be used. ENWL gave Eden the option of adopting the sole use poles which would make them responsible for maintaining, repairing and replacing them, but they decided against this as it would add costs to their budget. ENWL stated at the time that they would be prepared to allow parish councils the option of adopting the poles, along with all responsibilities, which would have to be an agreement between the parish and ENWL. The parish would have to supply their own light. The two lights in Alston have separate control boxes, which feed the lights, so they could be maintained and updated without ENWL being involved. Eden's policy is not to replace lights on buildings, so it would be for the parish to consider if they want to take them on.

It was agreed that the subject of footway lighting is complex and impossible to discuss and reach any conclusions during a regular council meeting, so would need a separate working group meeting to consider what information is available. The clerk was asked to check on progress with the Askham model.

Action CI.

12c/FEB/19 EDC Public Spaces Protection Order signage

An e-mail was received from Eden District Council stating that they will be putting up signage to make people aware that they are within an area covered by an PSPO. The signs are waterproof stickers that can be attached to litter bin and lampposts.

12d/FEB/19 EDC Council Plan for 2019-2023

Comments are invited on the draft Council Plan with a questionnaire that can be accessed online. The three priorities are Council efficiency and cost effectiveness, Economy – supporting business, tourism and communities and Health and Wellbeing – homes, warmth, happiness and health. Responses need to be submitted by 19th March

12e/FEB/19 Notices of events/meetings

Coal Authority open information day 28th February, Miners Arms 1pm- 7pm

12f/FEB/19 Information received

Local Council Review – Winter 2019

CALC Newsletter – February 2019

Eden Local Plan 2014 - 2032

EDC – information on standing for election

13 Administration

13a/FEB/19 Appointment of working group for risk assessment meeting

Resolved to appoint Cllrs Haldon, Ho and Denoual.

13b/FEB/19 Council meeting dates and venues

A draft meetings timetable had been circulated, and the clerk confirmed that the guides would not be using the Town Hall on some evenings, mainly during the summer.

It was agreed to continue with meeting on the 1st Monday of the month and to hold some meetings in Garrigill and Nenthead. The July meeting will be held on the 2nd Monday on the month. The clerk was asked to put together a meetings schedule **Action CI.**

14 Items for next month's agenda/urgent business

Working with Alston Moor Partnership.

15. Finance

15a/FEB/19 Bank statements

The statements as of 31st January 2018 were as follows:-

Alston Moor Parish Council tr/ac	£43,388.70
Alston Moor Parish Council bus/ac	£12,695.04
Eden Credit Union	£7,008.58

15b/FEB/19 Accounts for Payment

The following accounts were for payment:-

<i>Summary of accounts for payment: -</i>	£561.31
<i>Summary of income received since last meeting: -</i>	£4,682.50

Summary of accounts paid since last meeting: - £904.03

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 Haldon and seconded by Cllr Aves (nem con)

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.

Signed:

Dated: