



# ALSTON MOOR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Alston Moor Parish Council held on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2019 at 7pm in Samuel King's School.

**Present:** Cllrs: A. Martin (Chair) D. Athey, E. Grew, J. Glendinning, A. Green, P. Godwin, C. Harrison, R. Miller, A. Hewison, H. Ho, M. Shepherd, G. Wright.

**Apologies:** Cllr T. Haldon, B. Aves.

**Absent:** none

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

## **1. Minutes**

**Resolved** that the minutes of the parish council meeting held on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2018 be agreed as a correct record. Proposed by Cllr Wright and seconded by Cllr Grew (nem con)

**Resolved** that the minutes of the precept meeting held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2018 be agreed as a correct record. Proposed by Cllr Harrison and seconded by Cllr Grew (9+ 3 abs)

## **1a Comex2000**

The chair reported on an addition to the agenda as a representative from Comex2000 was able to attend at short notice.

It was explained that Facebook have commissioned a one way trunk route between Penrith and Newcastle via Alston, following data breaches from shared cables, and fines that persuaded them to set up their own network. The route will follow the footways/verge and could take between 7 and 10 days, using traffic lights to control vehicle movements. The contractors are currently talking to the county council about authorisation for crossing the bridge. Any damage to the footways or verges along the route will be put right when they have finished working.

*Questions were invited.*

It was suggested that Henderson's Wood might be a better route as it would cause less disruption, but the Comex representative said their planners pick the easiest and most efficient route, although he would not rule out alternatives.

Alston has seen a lot of disruption over the past few months, mainly by the utility companies, which residents can see bring benefits to the community. However, this project does nothing for the community, so could a contribution be made? The work should improve the footway as a benefit for the county council, but the representative said he would have to take the request to a higher level.

C. Cllr Driver reported that she was meeting with Comex tomorrow for a full briefing about the project, which should start within the next two weeks, and will update the parish if there is anything to report.

## **2. Progress Reports**

### **2a/JAN/19 Ashgill Footpaths**

Re: 2b/DEC/18 An e-mail was received from Weardale Estates to confirm that they are prepared to dedicate the path by Ashgill Bridge as a public footpath subject to certain conditions. These are:

- 1. The cost of dedicating this path will be met entirely by either Alston Moor Parish Council or Cumbria County Council*
- 2. Weardale Estates Ltd to approve the dedication application and route in advance of it being submitted*
- 3. Once dedicated maintenance of the path will vest with Cumbria County Council*
- 4. Weardale Estates Ltd be fully indemnified against any claim for loss, damage or injury as a result of the footpath dedication*
- 5. Alston Moor Parish Council write a letter of support to divert the footpath by Ashgill Farmhouse before the above footpath dedication is submitted.*

The clerk confirmed, having discussed the offer with a Rights of Way officer, that there would be no cost or direct involvement of the parish council other than over point 5. The dedication process is likely to take between 6 and 12 months, depending upon the timing of committee meetings.

It was agreed to ask for a copy of the proposed footpath diversion plan, as the council wanted assurance that the diversion would be suitable for all users. **Action C1.**

#### **2b/JAN/19 Tyne Willows Defibrillator/ambulance fund**

Re: 2c/DEC/18 Costings for the defibrillator and cabinet depend upon the product chosen, but this is more than is currently held in the defibrillator account. Funds are also held in the ambulance account, but as it has been difficult to allocate this the ambulance crew, who are meeting later this week, have been asked if transferring the funds to the defibrillator account is an acceptable use.

The clerk reported that she was contacted over the weekend by a resident who was recently widowed and who would like to make a donation to the ambulance fund. This information has also been passed on to the ambulance crew.

Agreed to discuss further under the agenda item on the ambulance station.

#### **2c/JAN/19 Electric charge point & BT pole – Fields in Trust**

Re: 1b/DEC/18 Fields in Trust have received the application for consent to enter into a rental agreement with Charge My Street for the two electric charging points and wireless broadband equipment. They will present the proposal to the Land and Planning Committee for approval at their meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2019.

In the meantime a request has been received from Openreach for a wayleave agreement to erect a pole and associated wires on a corner of the field near the Cumberland Hotel. The council will need to sign an agreement with BT who will make a one-off payment of £157.50. Fields in Trust also have to give their consent before the document can be signed.

**Resolved** to accept the wayleave agreement and the one-off payment, and to ask Fields in Trust for the necessary consent. Proposed by Cllr Harrison and seconded by Cllr Wright. (9+ 3 abs).

#### **2d/JAN/19 Proposed closure of Eden Credit Union**

Re: 3e/DEC/18 Verbal acknowledgement of the letter objecting to the proposed closure of the Credit Union was made, but the follow up letter has not been received.

#### **2e/JAN/19 Nenthead Recycling Centre**

Re: 3a/DEC/18 A list of suitable plants for the wildflower area at Nenthead recycling centre has been provided by the North Pennines AONB and forwarded to Eden District Council. They replied to confirm that they intend to arrange for an arboricultural contractor to carry out the pruning and planting. The company have been very busy, but the intention is to get them to commit to some dates early in the New Year.

The recycling waste is placed on raised containers, so should not attract vermin.

#### **2f/JAN/19 Damaged Co-op footway light**

Re: 8/DEC/18 D. Cllr Sharp followed this up with Eden District Council and was advised that the original timescale for a replacement light was to have been the next financial year using the Capital budget. However, as the County Council have confirmed they will now provide a street lighting scheme at this location there is not a timescale for replacing it. They have instructed ENWL to disconnect the electricity supply on the week beginning 17<sup>th</sup> December, and will ask their contractors to remove the base.

There was a question as to why the district council had not followed up the question of insurance with the Co-op delivery waggon that had knocked the light over.

Cllr Godwin reported that she had discussed the light with officers, who pointed out that the base was not dangerous and they had intended to leave it to avoid reconnection costs.

C. Cllr Driver said there should be information about the lighting scheme at the drop in session to be held on 19<sup>th</sup> January. The county council are proposing to look at lighting within the footprint of the proposed THI scheme from the Nenthead road end to the corner of Station road and to the Cumberland at Townfoot. They have funds allocated to upgrade the lights to road standard lighting using LED dark skies friendly bulbs, and have had original cast iron columns refurbished with lantern tops. This will do away with the existing hotchpotch of lights and will be adopted and maintained by the County Council, reducing the number of lights the parish council has to take responsibility for. The timescale for the works is not known yet, but it can take place independently of the Front Street scheme.

#### **2g/JAN/19 Request for litter bin for dog dirt – bottom of the lonning from the Butts to Station Road**

Re: ongoing. A resident contacted the clerk over the weekend to ask if the parish council would support a request for a litter bin at the above site. There is a serious problem with dog dirt, local residents contacted the district council who advised that the request has to come from the parish council. The residents have

been out cleaning up the dog mess, and the dog warden has been out, but says that, as there are already a number of posters in the vicinity, the litter bin, supported by a stencil on the ground, is the next step.

**Resolved** to request a litter/dog waste bin for an appropriate site along the lonning from the Butts to Station Road. Proposed by Cllr Wright and seconded by Cllr Grew. (11+ 1 abs) **Action CI.**

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

#### **3a/JAN/19 Alston Moor Care Alliance & Ambulance meeting report**

Written reports were circulated. A leaflet is being considered to explain what is to happen and when the new services will start.

#### **3b/JAN/19 Alston Moor Partnership**

The next meeting will be held later this week.

#### **3c/JAN/19 Water leak on Tyne Willows Pavilion supply**

Re: 3d/DEC/18 United Utilities came back this month and are investigating the leak themselves. So far they have established that the connection to the pavilion travelled away from the building before looping back towards it. This was discovered by capping off the pipe, which cut the supply to the gym.

#### **3d/JAN/19 Fitness Club working group**

The group have not met yet, and would prefer to wait to give the directors time after some difficult personal circumstances.

#### **3e/JAN/19 Tyne Willows Recycling Centre**

The Community Warden spent over 3 hours recently tidying up the site, but the Fitness Club receive the payments to keep the area tidy. It was agreed that the area was particularly bad over the Christmas period with bins overflowing, and items dumped. Cllr Glendinning reported that he had tidied up a number of times for the gym.

It was queried whether the gym wanted to continue looking after the site, but as their contract is with Eden District Council, this was not something the parish council could answer.

Nothing further has been heard from Eden about the Alston site, following a site visit with an Eden officer, so the clerk was asked to follow this up. **Action CI.**

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

*Cllr Driver reported on the following:*

**Front Street Drop In session** – the drop in session cancelled in December will be held on the 19<sup>th</sup> January.

**Unthank weather station** – the new weather station is just waiting for United Utilities to connect the power up before going live. It was a £40k investment and the first weather station in the helm wind corridor, so it will be interesting to see if it affects winter planning.

**Nenthead Community Works** – the County are working with the Nenthead snow plough team and assisting with the support and training of new drivers.

**Health Scrutiny** – a report on people with learning difficulties and their ability to access health care and services has been prepared and will go to the Adult Scrutiny board, who will put together a strategic task group.

North Cumbria are to merge formally with North Tyne and Wear over the provision of services, which is a positive move as North Tyne and Wear are national leaders in this field. There are the usual issues of rurality and low numbers, but the merger should cut out duplication, with the savings re-invested into service provision.

**Area Planning/Old Alston Primary school** – Alston Moor is regarded as a pilot area for area planning, which includes looking at the old primary school as a County Council asset. They would like to see the building used and eventually owned by the community, but it cannot happen quickly as they cannot hand over a liability and expose the community to undue risk. They need to work with the community to make sure whatever is delivered is fit for purpose and sustainable, and are willing to consider any group that can put a proposal together, provided it is for community benefit and not commercial.

### **District Councillor's Report**

*Reports were received from Cllrs Godwin & Sharp.*

**Universal Credit briefing** – this was quite positive, but as the scheme has just been rolled out in Eden it is difficult to gauge the effect it will have on individuals. Allerdale has been in it for a couple of years,

without any serious issues. Where there are issues are for those who are self-employed with irregular incomes that make it hard to demonstrate their business is viable to obtain working tax credit.

**Participation in Local Government** – a report looking into why people don't want to stand as councillors has gone to scrutiny. It recommends strategies to be put into place to raise awareness of councillors' work, and the different levels of government. They aim to produce a video on councillors' work.

**Co-op Car Park resurfacing work** – the district councillors were not informed about the resurfacing work. Cllr Sharp rang officers at Eden to ask what was happening, and received an apology. The work was scheduled for a previous year, then rescheduled. They have made a commitment to improve communications in future.

## **5. Public open session**

None requested.

## **6. Planning applications**

**6a/JAN/19** 18/0955 Full application. Erection of two replacement dwellings. Dykeheads, Cotterill, Nenthead CA9 3PY for Mr I. Pickering.

**Recommended** for approval. Proposed by Cllr Wright and seconded by Cllr Harrison. (11+ 1 abs)

**6b/JAN/19** 18/0964 Discharge of condition 3 (window sample) attached to approval 18/0742 The Old Police Station, Townhead, Alston CA9 3SL for Mr & Mrs I. Johnson. (For information).

### **Decision notices**

**i/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. Permission granted with conditions.

**ii/DEC/18** 18/0900 Full application. Alterations to roof to increase internal room layout. 18 Hillersdon Terrace, Nenthead CA9 3PG for Mr K. Peart. Permission granted with conditions.

## **7 Tree survey specifications & appointment of working groups to oversee**

It was suggested that the AONB are working with students from Newton Rigg on forestry work courses, and that they might be interested in carrying out survey work.

The clerk was asked to e-mail Cllr Driver with an expression of interest, which she will follow up. **Action CI.**

It was reported that tree branches on the roadside verge towards the Youth Hostel are touching the wires, thought to belong to BT. **Action CI.**

## **8 Ambulance Station**

Cllrs Grew and Martin meet with the North West Ambulance Group through Skype. Two of the Alston ambulance crew were also present. They are looking into the potential for the ambulance crew to transport some patients, but are not prepared to offer blue light training. One of the objections to moving patients is that it would leave Alston Moor without an ambulance, but it was quickly pointed out that Alston has only had one ambulance for the last 60 years. NWAS were asked to check their statistics to see if there had ever been two call outs at the same time. Training up first responders could assist with this scenario.

It has been clarified now that NWAS would be happy for the community to build an ambulance station if a means can be found. It could be achieved if people were willing to give their time for free and local businesses got behind the project. A local professional has already offered to put plans together if the specifications can be supplied.

The most difficult aspect is to identify a suitable site, and it was argued that the hospital would be the best site, although other locations could be considered. The clerk was asked to follow up the hospital site.

### **Action CI.**

Cllr Grew was asked to look into the specifications for an ambulance garage. **Action EG.**

It was agreed that the site was the first priority and potential locations needed to be explored before asking for volunteers, but a press release flagging up the project could go out.

Agreed to put the defibrillator project for Tyne Willows on hold.

Noted that there was no representative from the CCG at the NWAG meeting, and Cllr Driver was asked to bring this up at the next area committee meeting.

## **9 Co-option of Nenthead Councillor**

Three residents were interested in standing, and a secret ballot held.

**Resolved** to appoint Lewis Moncrieff to the Nenthead Ward.

## **10 Consultations and Correspondence**

### **10a/JAN/19 Comex 2000 fibre optic cable works**

Discussed earlier under agenda item 1a.

### **10b/JAN/19 Notices of events/meetings/information**

Re-scheduled drop in about Front Street proposals – 19<sup>th</sup> January 2019

Community Planning meeting – 10<sup>th</sup> January at Nenthead village hall 7pm

AONB – free training sessions on Know your Geopark

Clerk & Councils Direct – January 2019

Coal authority update

EDC – Local Enforcement Plan

## **11 Administration**

### **11a/JAN/19 Further discussion on application form for co-opted parish councillors**

**Resolved** to hold over until after the elections.

### **11b/JAN/19 Community grant fund**

**Resolved** to hold over until after the elections the proposal to set up a separate community grant fund initially using outstanding funds from the General Purpose account 2018/2019.

### **11c/JAN/19 February council meeting**

**Resolved** to move the February council meeting to Monday 11<sup>th</sup> February. Proposed by Cllr AM and seconded by Cllr GW.

### **11d/JAN/19 Consideration of permanently moving council meeting dates after the election from Mondays to another day to enable the council to meet in Alston Town Hall**

It was agreed to hold over discussion until the next meeting to enable all members to consider.

## **12. Items for next month's agenda/urgent business/Traffic Management**

### ***Traffic Management meeting***

- Drainage issues at Intack Farm road end
- Missing fingerpost at Foreshield to waterfall bank
- Resurfacing of road surface at Middle Park and the bottom end of the Wardway
- North Loaning – traffic cones have been left after re-enforcing work on North Loaning, which are possibly covering holes.

## **13. Finance**

### **13a/JAN/19 Bank statements**

The statements as of 30<sup>th</sup> December 2018 were as follows:-

Alston Moor Parish Council tr/ac	£44,976.10
Alston Moor Parish Council bus/ac	£12,695.04
Eden Credit Union	£7,008.58

### **13b/JAN/19 Accounts for Payment**

The following accounts were for payment:-

<i>Summary of accounts for payment: -</i>	£5,227.45
<i>Summary of income received since last meeting: -</i>	£6.33
<i>Summary of accounts paid since last meeting: -</i>	£1,577.99

**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 AG and seconded by Cllr GW (nem con)

*The meeting closed at 9.10 pm*

Signed: .....

Dated: .....