



ALSTON MOOR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Alston Moor Parish Council held on Monday 6th January 2020 at 7pm the Masonic Hall.

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

Apologies: Cllrs: L. Seaton, A. Green, A. Martin.

Absent: none

Declarations of interest: none

1. Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the parish council meeting held on Monday 2nd December 2019 be adopted as a correct record with the following amendments: Re: 4c/DEC19 Cllr Denoual gave the Nenthead Ward report, and the highways issue is that the junction near the Community shop has no markings or signage. 4f/DEC/19 recycling credits should be £360 not £250. For clarification 4a/DEC/19 the phone number for Garrigill is a separate number. The resolution in 8/DEC/19 stands as recorded, while noting the intent to consult the community. Proposed by Cllr Denoual and seconded by Cllr Haldon (10 + 1 abs)

2. Public participation

One resident wished to speak, and as this was on a planning matter it was held over until latter.

3. Progress Reports

3a/JAN/20 BT phone box removal programme

Re: NOV/19 An e-mail was received from Eden District Council to confirm that the recommendation made to retain the phone boxes in Garrigill and Nenthead, and to agree to the removal of the one at Nentsberry was accepted by their Communities Informal Portfolio meeting, and forwarded to BT. BT will contact Eden if they intend to challenge any of the decisions.

3b/JAN/20 Highways matters inc. Garrigill Speed review

Re: 4g/DEC/19 **Garrigill speed review** – will be added to the list for next year's speed limit reviews, with informal consultations taking place towards the middle of next year. Cumbria County Council aims to have all the consultation and legal processes completed within the financial year with implementation early in the next year. Assuming everyone is in agreement and the Local Committee supports the 30mph limit it would come into effect around May 2021.

Re: 4c&11/DEC/19 **Middle Farm entrance** – work has been instructed. Other issues reported including the request for snow poles on the A689 and drainage issues on the Northumberland side of road to Whitfield will be investigated.

3c/JAN/20 Tyne Willows drainage

Re: PP/DEC/19 The clerk contacted ENWL who are aware they need to complete the works besides the Cumberland, and hoped they could get it done before Christmas. This had not happened by the end of last week. One section of the footpath has the spring water piped across it, but the water is coming off the bank lower down.

3d/JAN/20 Anonymous complaints

Re: 9d/DEC/19 An e-mail was received from Alston Moor Historical Society concerning the request from the parish council for specific details on the accusation, which they were informed had been made recently. The person who informed the Society does not wish to be named due to the risk of intimidation. The parish council were advised to respond robustly to any future misleading and damaging accusations. Noted.

4. Progress reports from working groups and council representatives

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

A written report was circulated. Following the request to advertise the need for Community First Responders posts were put onto Facebook, and two residents commented immediately that they had

responded some time ago and had heard nothing since. It was agreed that Cllrs Grew and Denoual will bring this up robustly with NWAS.

4b/JAN/20 ADP working group

The minutes and updated policies were circulated earlier. Noted that the Audit Commission's name has changed to the National Audit Office and will be updated in the policy.

Resolved to accept the policies on: Complaints procedure with the update to the National Audit Office, Anti-bullying (Dignity at Work), Disciplinary and Grievance policies. Proposed by Cllr Holt and seconded by Cllr Wright (nem con)

Resolved to add staffing matters to the terms of reference. Proposed by Cllr Holt and seconded by Cllr Wright. (nem con).

4c/JAN/20 Alston Fitness Club

A report was circulated earlier. Cllr Holt reported that membership up slightly, and that the Fitness Club would like to carry out a few alterations to the internal layout to increase floor space, which would not involve any structural alterations. They do not have firm proposals as yet.

The gym are also asking for the £500 allocated to them during the current financial year, to be put towards improving the membership. Future plans include installing a CCTV system and entry/exit system that would enable them to extend their opening hours. The system is transferrable if they were to move premises.

(Payment confirmed 12/JAN/20)

It was stated that the council would need to see the proposals before they could agree to any alterations.

A question was asked about tidying up around the recycling centre, as the gym is still responsible for keeping the area tidy and reporting dumping. It was suggested that it might be possible for the CCTV to also monitor the recycling centre. (There are similar problems at Nenthead.)

4d/JAN/20 Alston Moor Business Association

Cllr Wright reported that a new committee was elected in December, and that he is now Vice-chair. Officers have also been appointed to the posts of chair, treasurer and secretary.

4e/JAN/20 Volunteer Co-ordinator working group

It was agreed to set up a meeting to discuss the Expressions of Interest received.

5 County Councillor's Report

Cllr Driver will put a video together over the next week.

Health service, winter preparedness – the health service is under continual pressure, and especially in winter, with the focus being less on bed space and more about where care takes place.

Front Street drop in session – will take place between 11am and 4pm on Saturday 25th January. Cross sections of plans will be available, and the public invited to give their views on where the crossing points should be. Publicity will be coming out and information on how to comment for anyone who can't get there on the day.

In response to a question it was explained that the primary concern is doing what is right for the community.

District Councillor's Report

Apologies from Cllr Sharp.

A written report was circulated earlier. Cllr Hanley reported on the following:

Health service, winter preparedness – recruitment of GPs and nursing staff is one of the main problems, especially in the west of Cumbria, with North Cumbria Care being set up to pool resources. Efforts to find GPs locally have not been successful, so plans have been put in place for a targeted campaign to attract doctors from India, who would take part in training before eventually returning to their home country.

Scrutiny committees – look to be reduced to one committee by April.

6. Planning applications

6a/JAN/20 19/0837 Full application. Use of residential premises for a guest house and associated alterations. Temple Croft, Townfoot, Alston CA9 3H for Mr P. Carroll.

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

6b/JAN/20 19/0875 Full application. Conversion of barn to create three dwellings including associated

operations. Barn at High Galligill, Nenthead, Alston CA9 3LW for Spensercom Ltd.

Public Participation

A resident explained their concerns about this proposal which she felt would have a significant, and adverse effect on the landscape, biodiversity and character of the immediate area of the AONB. The proposal for three dwellings is excessive and does not reflect the style of neighbouring properties, which as individual detached farm dwellings. The proposal will result in the loss of the last traditional unused rural barn located within the valley. Additional concerns include: the significant impact the development will have on road safety and congestion on a single track road, an increase in noise and light pollution, the impact the proposed waste treatment plant will have on the watercourse it runs through, and the impact on wildlife.

The watercourse proposed to take the outfall from the development regularly overflows the road during high rainfall, but can almost run dry in during dry periods. There is also a concern that as the water supply is pumped up from Low Galligill there may not be sufficient capacity for additional properties.

The entrance to the site is on a blind bend.

It was noted that some neighbouring properties had not been informed of the proposals. It was suggested that residents who are concerned about the application should attend the relevant planning committee meeting and advise others with similar concerns to write to Eden District Council. It might also be helpful for them to contact the North Pennines AONB officers.

Recommended for refusal on the grounds that three properties on the barn site is excessive, and out of keeping with the surrounding very rural environment within the North Pennines AONB. The council also supports residents' concerns about the entrance to the site being on a blind bend, along a single track road. The impact the proposed waste treatment plant will have on the watercourse it is to discharge into is a concern; this watercourse is prone to flooding during heavy rainfall and drying out during dry periods. In addition the building in its current condition supports a variety of wildlife.

Proposed by Cllr Holt and seconded by Cllr Denoual. (7 + 2 –2 abs)

6c/JAN/20 19/0897 Full application. Change of use of redundant agricultural barn to holiday accommodation and installation of micro wind turbine. Little Ghyll Cottage, Garrigill CA9 3HB for Mr I. Grey.

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

Decision notices

6i/JAN/20 0629 Full application. Proposed new buildings for stabling and associated storage. Wellgill Farm, Nenthead CA9 3PY for Mr J. Butterworth. Permission granted with conditions.

6ii/JAN/20 0701 Full application. Change of use from ancillary accommodation to holiday cottage and associated rear extension, renovations and parking. Hillside Cottage, Garrigill CA9 3EX for Mr & Mrs A. Teeven. Permission granted with conditions.

7. Request from SKS to use an area of Henderson's Wood over six weeks for a forest school for the reception class

A request was received last month from SKS to use part of Henderson's Wood for a forest school for the reception class over a few weeks this term. The school has confirmed they will not use the recently planted area, have adequate insurance and have taken into account the proximity of the river in their risk assessment.

Resolved to given permission for SKS to use Henderson's Wood for a forest school. Proposed by Cllr Holt and seconded by Cllr Wright. (10+ 1 abs)

Tree survey next week.

8. Co-option of Alston Ward Councillor

Two Alston residents put their names forward for co-option with Ron Robinson appointed by secret ballot. The unsuccessful candidate was thanked for their interest.

9. Consultations and Correspondence

9a/JAN/20 EDC – notice of recharge for footway lighting

A letter was received from Eden District Council stating that the re-charge costs for using Eden's contractors until 31st March 2022 is £24.19 per light per annum for basic maintenance and £42.32 per light for electricity giving a total cost of £66.51 per light per annum.

The clerk was asked to request an up-to-date list of the footway lights to be transferred to the council.

Action CI.

9b/JAN/20 Alston Fitness Club precept funding for membership development

Discussed earlier in the meeting under 4c/JAN/20

9e/JAN/20 Notices of events/meetings

Eden & South Lakeland Special General Meeting to discuss a merger proposal with the Affinity Credit Union. 21st January 2020.

Nenthead Ward meeting 27th January 2020

CALC training on How to be a transparent town or parish council – 19th February 2020 Cllrs Denoual, Grew, Hanley, Holt, Robson and Wright said they would be interested in attending.

9f/JAN/20 Information received

Police report January 2020

Clerks & Councils Direct – January 2020

Scrap book of cuttings – Nenthead Arts Centre, a scrap book of cuttings about Alston Moor going back 30 years kept by Dick Phillips has been donated to the Centre.

10. Administration

No additional matters for discussion

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

Agenda – the Epiacum café has around 60 square metres of left-over plastic panels for car parking, which they are looking to sell. This might be of interest for Tyne Willows. As a related matter, the condition of parking area at Tyne Willows.

Nenthead footway lights ongoing issues.

Service award scheme to recognise local effort

Proposal to set up a Town Hall Management Committee

Review of fund in Eden & South Lakeland Credit Union – later agenda

Traffic Management agenda – obstruction of public rights of way at Hartside Top, additional agenda items to be forwarded to the clerk.

Urgent matters – noted that the head teacher from SKS has resigned due to personal reasons, and that the former head has agreed to help out in the interim until someone new is appointed.

There are reports of thieves in the area from Farm Alerts, so residents are asked to keep a look out for any unusual activity.

12. Finance

12a/JAN/20 Bank statements

The statements as of 31st December 2019 were as follows:-

Alston Moor Parish Council tr/ac	£60,136.59
Alston Moor Parish Council bus/ac	£12,720.38
Eden Credit Union	£7,008.58

12b/JAN/20 Accounts for Payment

The following accounts were for payment:-

<i>Summary of accounts for payment: -</i>	£4,490.40
<i>Summary of income received since last meeting: -</i>	£6.34
<i>Summary of accounts paid since last meeting: -</i>	£1,732.51

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 Wright. (nem con)

12c/JAN/20 Internal Audit report

Resolved to accept the internal auditor's report. Proposed by Cllr Haldon and seconded by Cllr Wright. (10+ 1 abs)

The meeting closed at 8.26pm

Signed:

Dated: