



# ALSTON MOOR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Alston Moor Parish Council held on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2019 at 7pm in Alston Town Hall.

**Present:** Cllrs: A. Martin (Chair), D. Athey, M. Denoual, A. Green, E. Grew, T. Haldon, H. Ho, A. Holt, M. Hanley, R. Miller, G. Wright.

**Apologies:** Cllr J. Glendinning, C. Harrison.

**Absent:** none

**Declarations of interest:** listed under specific agenda items. Cllr Denoual 6a/JUN/19

## **1. Minutes**

**Resolved** that the minutes of the annual parish council meeting held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2019 be agreed as a correct record with the following amendment: in the public participation section 4G should be changed to broadband as the internet connection is not 4g. Proposed by Cllr Athey and seconded by Cllr Haldon. (10+ 1 abs)

## **2. Progress Reports**

### **2a/JUN/19 Ashgill footpaths**

Re: 2a/MAY/19 Weardale Estates responded to the council's request to dedicate the path down from Ashgill Bridge and the preferred option of diverting the registered footpath around the south side of Ashgill Farmhouse. A representative from the Estate team has made initial contact with Cumbria County Council to discuss how to proceed. The Rights of Way team is keen to progress the dedication and has indicated their willingness to negotiate the best option for the diversion.

### **2b/JUN/19 Tyne Willows Access Gate**

Re: 9/MAY/19 The issue of the damaged padlock, confirmed as criminal damage by the police, has been discussed with the Environment Agency, who have now changed the way they manage access to their gauging stations. Instead of a padlock with dedicated keys they provide a bar with a padlock for the EA and ask the owner to supply their own padlock. As there was insufficient time to arrange this before the Appleby Fair travellers arrived, two temporary padlocks have been purchased. A key has been supplied to the ambulance crew and to Local Links, and additional keys can be cut.

### **2c/JUN/19 Electric Car Charge Point at Tyne Willows**

Re: 2c/MAY/19 The Wi-Fi at Tyne Willows Pavilion has gone live, and can be accessed with a code kept at the gym. However, this is not ideal and Charge My Street are considering what best to do to avoid misuse by some members of the community.

Cllr Martin reported that she had contacted SKS to ask the school to discuss what could be done to avoid damage. There are possible solutions, but part of the agreement with Charge My Street was to enable internet access for people using the playing field.

### **2d/JUN/19 Victorian style footway lighting**

Re: 7/MAY/19 An officer from Eden District Council intends to meet with Cumbria County Council's lighting team to discuss which lights they are prepared to upgrade, as the parish council have only agreed to accept lights that have been upgraded.

### **2e/JUN/19 Working Groups & other meetings**

Re: Appointments/MAY/19 It has been a short month so it has not been possible yet to make progress with setting up working groups. The Nenthead representative to the Alston United Charities does not necessarily need to be a parish councillor; they can be anyone appointed by the council. A representative for Garrigill will also need to be appointed as Cllr Grew's 4 year term of office is up.

The voluntary internet helper will aim to set up councillors' e-mail addresses this month.

### **2f/JUN/19 Nenthead snowplough report**

Re: 16/MAY/19 The Nenthead Community Works group has reached an agreement to maintain their equipment and to carry out emergency repairs during winter, as necessary, with STRPS. The snowplough has been taken to the workshop for summer maintenance and safety checks. Annual costs are likely to increase by around £2,000, leading the group to re-negotiate their contract with the County Council to

increase their payments and to provide winter maintenance training for the drivers. Funds are needed to pay STRPS for the summer maintenance work, and the legal fees associated with the new contract so the group would like to request payment of the annual donation.

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

#### **3a/JUN/19 Alston War Memorial mis-spelt name**

An e-mail from Cllr Glendinning stated that Beatties of Carlisle can correct the misspelt name for £48, which can be paid out of the donations from the WW1 exhibition in Local Links. It will be about eight weeks before the work can be done. Members wished to record their thanks to Cllr Glendinning.

#### **3b/JUN/19 Alston Moor Care Alliance & Ambulance meeting report**

No meetings had been held since the last council meeting, and the Ambulance meeting was cancelled. However, there is a meeting this week at the County Council depot to consider whether the garage would be suitable for housing the ambulance.

#### **3c/JUN/19 Alston Moor Partnership**

A meeting is due to be held this week.

#### **3d/JUN/19 Garrigill Ward Meeting**

The meeting took place on 15<sup>th</sup> May and was attended by two parish councillors and four residents. There were updates from Alston Moor Community Energy and on the ambulance meeting. The open forum expressed disappointment that not all Garrigill cllrs attended, and asked the parish council to minute this. The noticeboard has arrived, and is just waiting for someone to put it up. Information on the next meeting to be held on 2<sup>nd</sup> November can be posted to the council face book page.

#### **3e/JUN/19 Nenthead Ward Meeting**

***Nenthead Village Hall*** – an application for funding to improve the heating has been made.

***Nenthead noticeboard*** – talks are ongoing with the chapel, who may have a suitable redundant board.

***Nenthead snowplough*** – would welcome new drivers.

***Lack of road markings*** – there are no road markings at the turn-off into Vicarage and Hillersdon Terrace. The County are looking into this as it has to be put forward as a new request since there have never been any road markings. The County hold an annual road markings and signs review, to enable all the requests to be processed as one traffic regulation order. The Ward secretary has been copied into correspondence.

#### **3f/JUN/19 Appely Fair parish representatives**

The parish representatives met with the police on the Market Cross every day. There were no serious issues reported. Some of the posts at Townfoot were knocked down, one or two horses were not tethered on the playing field, and the entrance to the gym was blocked. It was pointed out to the Alston Fitness Club working group that had they met with the directors as requested, they could have discussed whether any management of the space was needed.

Some travellers camped on their historic campsite on the waste ground at Spar, whose owners were advised by the police that once the travellers have set up camp they cannot be moved.

#### **3g/JUN/19 Councillors surgeries**

Cllrs Holt and Denoual held a surgery in Alston Town Hall while the market was on, and received good feedback from members of the public. They agreed it was a useful exercise and could be repeated in the other communities when events are happening. It was suggested that a rota could be set up so the surgeries were not left to a few people to do. It was agreed to discuss the use of Facebook at the end of the meeting.

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

Cllr Driver sent a written report which was circulated and noted. It was agreed to post written reports from the county and district cllrs on the parish website. **Action CI.**

***Cumbria Health Scrutiny*** – thanks were made to Cllr Hanley, whose clinical expertise will be invaluable on the committee.

***Nenthead Mines asset transfer*** – will be going to cabinet this month. Nenthead Mines business case is one of the strongest the County has received, and they have been excellent custodians. There is still some work to do to ensure there are good lines of communication, especially with the Nenthead footpath group and Rights of Way team, with the aim of improving access to the site.

**Joint working/communications**– there is a lot of joint work on projects and Cllr Driver will be happy to take e-mail questions if anyone has any queries.

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

Written reports were received from Cllrs Sharp and Hanley, who also reported as follows:

**Housing survey** – this has been delivered and it is hoped that everyone will fill it in; additional copies can be e-mailed if needed. It has also been sent to businesses, who might have people working for them who would like to move to the area.

*Cllr Sharp agreed to ask if the community led housing survey will link into the work being done with the Conservation Officer.*

**Council appointments** – Cllr Sharp was congratulated on her appointment to the executive as the Communities portfolio holder, and to the Human Resources and Appeals Committee. Cllr Hanley has been appointed to chair the Housing and Communities Scrutiny Committee and to the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee and the Environment and Economy Committee. Cllr Sharp has been appointed as representative to Alston Moor Partnership and Cllr Hanley to the Cumbria County Council Health Scrutiny Committee. Both stressed the potential benefits for rural areas with a focus on upskilling and re-skilling rural populations, and the need for the district and parishes to work well together.

**Garrigill cemetery** – concerns have been raised about the condition of Garrigill cemetery, which has debris on the main path, trees overhanging graves, rabbit holes and empty gun cartridges. Tree roots have obstructed some grave plots, with the result that people who have paid for a plot may be unable to use it when the time comes. Cllr Sharp has contacted the relevant officers at Eden.

**Park View Lane/Jollybeard** – there has been a number of ongoing issues over land ownership, with the County Council [un?]able to identify which areas belong to the County and to the Housing Association.

### **5. Public participation**

*Residents supported the decision to post the county and district reports on the council website.*

### **6. Planning applications**

**6a/JUN/19** 19/0306 Full application. Relocation of agricultural building and retrospective discharge of condition 3 (landscaping works) attached to approval 13/0172. Land opposite Battery House, Nenthead, Alston CA9 3LW for Mr E. Scott.

*Cllr Denoual declared an interest as a neighbour.*

**Recommended** for approval. Proposed by Cllr Holt and seconded by Cllr Ho. (4+ 6 abs)

**6b/JUN/19** 19/0314 Full application. Two replacement first floor timber frame windows. Co-operative Supermarket, Market Place, Alston CA9 3HS for the Co-operative Group.

**Recommended** for approval. Proposed by Cllr Green and seconded by Cllr Martin. (nem con)

**6c/JUN/19** 19/0317 Full application. Garage extension and storm porch. Henley Mount, Townhead, Alston CA9 3SL for Mr & Mrs Pattinson.

**Recommended** for approval. Proposed by Cllr Wright and seconded by Cllr Athey (9+ 2 abs)

### **Decision notices**

**6i/JUN/19** 19/0160 Full application. Conversion of redundant school building into two dwellings. Salvin School Hall, The Butts, Alston CA9 3JQ for Mr W. McNabb. Permission granted with conditions.

**6ii/JUN/19** 19/0192 Full application. Demolition of existing garage and part demolition of stable block, to be replaced by double garage and workshop. The Hermitage, Alston CA9 3DB for Mr R. Glover. Permission granted with conditions.

### **7. Proposal for Alston Moor Parish Council to adopt the Alston Moor Community Plan**

**Resolved** to support the Alston Moor Community Plan. Proposed by Cllr Martin and seconded by Cllr Wright. (10+ 1 abs)

### **8. Eden District Scrutiny Review**

An e-mail was received from Eden District Council inviting the council to recommend priorities for the Scrutiny Committee over the next 12 months. The main areas Eden cover are: Housing, Street cleaning, rubbish and recycling, Leisure, Food safety, Addressing fuel poverty, Grants for people with disabilities,

Growing Eden's economy, Assisting with flooding, Working with communities, and Public toilets. They can also consider issues about crime. They would like reasons for the suggestions.

The following suggestions were made:

**Public toilets** – concerns about the policy of handing over public toilets to parish councils, and the potential costs to the community.

**Street cleaning and recycling** – although key service centres have the road sweeper come out regularly, the villages are only swept occasionally. Why not more frequently?

**Crime in Eden** – concerns about antisocial drivers, and road safety in rural towns, villages and the open countryside. Also, noise pollution and the health risk from exhaust fumes.

**Devolution** – concern about when footway lights that are no longer active will be removed.

Members wishing to add to this list were asked to e-mail any additional priorities by the end of the week.

**Action.**

## **9. Co-option of two Nenthead Councillors**

Two Nenthead residents attended the meeting and spoke briefly about their interest in joining the council. A third person from Alston had responded to the poster or social media post inviting anyone interested to contact the clerk, but was unable to attend the meeting.

**Resolved** to co-opt Laura Seaton and Zerel Robson.

## **10. Consultations and Correspondence**

### **10a/JUN/19 Notices of events/meetings**

EALC/EDC Sustainable Communities workshop 5<sup>th</sup> June

VE Day 75 – 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> May 2020 – this is to be a weekend of planned activities, and communities are encouraged to register to participate. Agreed to discuss further when Cllr Glendinning is present.

### **10b/JUN/19 Information received**

Police report

Benchmark report 2019 on Alston Front Street

Nenthead Chapel May 2019 update

Alston with Garrigill Educational Foundation report

EDC – Notice of Removal from the list of Assets of Community Value – formal notice that the George and Dragon has been removed from the list of assets that is maintained by EDC *[added 'that is' to avoid an implication that the asset itself is maintained by EDC]* as the five year period from 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2013 has expired.

Gala Day 29<sup>th</sup> June 2019 – The Ambulance service will be present with the aim of attracting new people to become community responders.

## **11. Administration**

### **11a/JUN/19 Proposal to purchase tablet computers for councillors use**

The reason for the proposal is to enable members to keep council business separate from their personal or business use by providing tablets for use only with council work. The equipment would belong to the parish council and would be returned at the end of a term of office or upon resignation. It should reduce the amount of paper used by the council, and reduce the risk of non-compliance with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). Noted that the district council are aiming to go paperless, with a potential saving of £10k.

**Resolved** to ask Cllr Martin to obtain prices for tablet computers and software for the next meeting. Proposed by Cllr Miller and seconded by Cllr Wright. (8+ 1- 2 abs)

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

Review of Alston's experience of Appleby Fair

## **13. Finance**

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

The statements as of 31<sup>st</sup> May 2019 were as follows:-

Alston Moor Parish Council tr/ac	£87,106.62
Alston Moor Parish Council bus/ac	£12,700.88
Eden Credit Union	£7,008.58

**13b/JUN/19 Accounts for Payment**

The following accounts were for payment:-

<i>Summary of accounts for payment: -</i>	£1,158.47
<i>Summary of income received since last meeting: -</i>	£1,336.65
<i>Summary of accounts paid since last meeting: -</i>	£831.93

**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 Wright and seconded by Cllr Holt ((9+ 1 abs) *Cllr Green had to leave the meeting.*)

**13c/JUN/19 Proposal to accept the conclusions of the internal audit report**

**Resolved** to accept the conclusions of the internal audit report. Proposed by Cllr Holt and seconded by Cllr Wright. (nem con)

**13d/JUN/19 Proposal to approve the Annual Governance Statement for the external audit**

The questions for the Annual Governance Statement were read and agreed.

**Resolved** to approve the Annual Governance Statement. Proposed by Cllr Haldon and seconded by Cllr GW (nem con)

**13e/JUN/19 Proposal to approve the Accounting Statement**

The Accounting Statement was circulated before the meeting.

**Resolved** to approve the Accounting Statement. Proposed by Cllr Haldon and seconded by Cllr Wright (nem con)

*14. The meeting closed to discuss a staffing matter.*

*The meeting closed at 8.50 pm.*

Signed: .....

Dated: .....