



ALSTON MOOR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Alston Moor Parish Council held on Monday 4th November 2019 at 7pm in Garrigill Village Hall.

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

Apologies: Cllrs L. Seaton, M. Hanley.

Absent: none

A letter of resignation was received from Cllr Athey.

1. Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the parish council meeting held on Monday 7th October 2019 be agreed as a correct record with the addition that Cllr Robson declared an interest in 19/06/19. Proposed by Cllr Glendinning and seconded by Cllr Martin. (10+ 2 abs)

1a. Report from Eden District Council & discussion on the Alston Moor Housing Survey

A representative from Eden District Council reported that they are keen to support housing projects within the district and have received £938,640 of government funding for community led housing projects. The initial task in Alston was to undertake a housing needs survey, which was sent to all households. A acceptable 23% response rate was received, out of which 11.4% of participants need to move within the next 5 years. Some may be eligible for affordable housing. Additional secondary data has been used to supplement the report. An informal group has been set up in Alston to explore further, and possibly consider whether empty properties could be brought back into use. Another local issue is the affordability of living in hard-to-heat homes.

1b. Report from Eden Housing Association on the Local Lettings Policy

The Local Lettings policy was circulated before the meeting. It has been in place for a number of years and has worked well. Eden Housing Association has a high turn-over on their housing stock in Alston and Nenthead, as properties in the area can be harder than the average to let. People moving in from away, who are not used to rural living, may not stay for long. The policy prioritises local people, and Eden Housing would like to continue this. They work with Cumbria Choice, with the first priority local need; after three advertisement cycles they can bring new people in. Currently, there are vacant flats in Nenthead that have been empty for a year, so if anyone is aware of anyone looking for accommodation, they could be advised to contact them.

Questions

Eden Housing Association carries out home visits on potential applicants, unless they live too far away, in which case a telephone call is made. They can set up starter tenancies, and assured councillors that if a tenancy is problematic due to anti-social behaviour, tenants can be evicted. Checks are as thorough as possible, but they do rely on people to report incidents.

Resolved to support the continuation of the Local Lettings policy. Proposed by Cllr Wright and seconded by Cllr Martin. (nem con)

1c. Local occupancy clause and the implications for home owners wishing to sell

The parish council were contacted by some residents living in former council houses, who want to sell their property, but are finding it difficult due to a local covenant requiring them to sell to local people. They have only had one or two viewings over the past couple of years, and the lack of interest has stopped them moving on, or being able to sell a deceased owners home.

District Cllr Sharp reported that she has taken up the issue with Eden District Council officers, as there is a procedure to lift the covenant that can be initiated once the owners contact the council.

2. Public participation

A resident spoke about the issue he had with the service provided by Building Control, following the renovation of a barn into living accommodation to extend his house. Following approval he received a number of visits from the inspector, which he recorded. Subsequently, the building has suffered from some serious structural defects which will be costly to put right. Building control stated that only one visit had been carried out, as they have no other recorded visits. The applicant disputes this as the visits from the inspector led him to think the building was serviceable. He proposed to follow up with a formal complaint.

Resolved that the parish council would support the applicant and write to Eden District Council with a request to be kept updated. Proposed by Cllr Glendinning and seconded by Cllr Martin. (nem con)

3. Progress Reports

3a/NOV/19 Alston Ward vacancy

Eden District Council have been notified of the vacancy for the Alston Ward and will notify the parish council on whether they can co-opt.

3b/NOV/19 Youth Club report

Re: 1a/OCT/19 A report was received from the youth club leaders stating that the youth club has between 30 and 40 people listed. They have developed good links with the PCSO officer and have discussed issues such as respect for the local area, use of language, littering and personal safety with the young people. They have highlighted the danger of climbing on the old primary school roof, explaining that they are trying to secure the building for long term use.

The youth club finishes at 8.30pm, but they are aware that some young people are allowed out later. Turning off the lights around the toilets might help, but young people are not always deterred by the lack of lighting to catch up on Wi-Fi.

What the youth club needs is a dedicated space, with a variety of activities and support beyond the weekly two hour session they are able to offer. Some progress is being made since the Oaklea Trust got involved, but it was a setback losing the opportunity to bid for the Eden District Council Signature Fund.

It was reported that a bin had been set on fire in the public toilets. The member reporting this was advised to report it to the police.

3c/NOV/19 Alston Mill Race Survey

Re: OCT/19 A drop-in session was held for residents with properties on the line of the Mill Race. Those attending were able to watch CCTV images of sections, which has identified some issues including areas where the culvert has been damaged by tree roots. It is also apparent that from around midway down the town the race becomes contaminated by sewerage, which could be a reason for asking for Northumbria Water's input into identifying a solution.

3d/NOV/19 NWEL works – Tyne Willows

Re: PP/OCT/19 NWEL apologised for the delay in returning to the site besides the Cumberland to finish off their works. They hope to be returning to Alston in early November, when they have finished a task in Carlisle. They have been asked about repairing the footpath, where the water drains across it, to compensate for the inconvenience.

3e/NOV/19 High Street Heritage Action Zone (HAZ) bid

Alston Moor Partnership have informed the parish council that their bid was not successful, with feedback stating that the number of residential properties amongst the retail section, and small population, counted against the town.

3f/NOV/19 Parish Councillor Training

Re: 3b/OCT/19 CALC are able to offer three potential dates on Wednesday evenings – 13th November, 20th November and 27th November. It was agreed to hold the training session on Wednesday 20th November.

3g/NOV/19 Replacement items – commercial bin/Christmas lights

Re: 3a/OCT/19 The commercial bin for the Community Warden has not been returned, so was reported to the police as stolen.

The Christmas lights were lent out for an end-of-term event, but as several sections were not returned, new lights have had to be purchased.

It was agreed that the lights should not be lent out again, and should be stored in a secure area of the building.

Another mystery concerns the Environment Agency padlock on the Tyne Willows barrier. The EA padlock has been removed and replaced with another padlock. They are very concerned as this is now the second time their padlock has been taken, and have asked the parish council to investigate. Replacement costs are around £150 each time, and there is the issue that persons unknown can at present access the playing field. SKS contractors have confirmed they were not responsible. The police have been informed.

4. Progress reports from working groups and council representatives

4a/NOV/19 Alston Moor Care Alliance & Ambulance meeting report

A report on Alston Moor Care Alliance was circulated. There were no meetings about the ambulance.

4b/NOV/19 Traffic Management meeting report

A report was circulated.

Townhead waiting restrictions proposals – the parish council were invited to comment of the informal consultation, which is to go back to committee for discussion ahead of a formal consultation. The proposal is for double yellow lines on the junction for the minimum permissible on the junction of the Nenthead and Middleton roads besides the old Police Station.

Resolved to support the Townhead waiting restrictions proposals. Proposed by Cllr Wright and seconded by Cllr Martin. (11+ 1-)

Townfoot school crossing – the SKS head attended the meeting and a discussion was held on what could or could not be done to improve pupil safety. Current highways legislation limits what can be achieved, but the CRASH group have been asked to give this matter priority.

Alston Car parking – it was suggested that a small working group is set up to discuss what options there are for car parking.

Cllrs Harrison, Grew, Wright and resident Ian Grey offered to take part. **Action CI.**

4c/NOV/19 Alston Moor Partnership

No members had attended the last meeting.

4d/NOV/19 Community Plan meeting report

Cllr Denoual reported that the group met to work through the Community Plan with the aim of drawing up an action plan.

Alston Moor Partnership held a members' meeting to discuss what actions the members might be interested in following up.

The Community Volunteering working group have advertised for a local group to take on the Volunteer Co-ordinator as a project. If there are expressions of interest they will need to meet to consider them.

4e/NOV/19 APD report on website discussions

Cllr Holt reported that a small group met to identify what was needed to update the website, potential new providers were reviewed and a notice placed on Facebook to invite local contractors to register an interest.

4f/NOV/19 Nenthead Recycling Centre

Cllr Denoual reported that she was contacted by the Eden District Council officer responsible for recycling centres, who is willing to meet with her to discuss tidying up the site and garden areas when he is back from holiday. Cllr Wright offered to attend when a meeting date is set up.

4g/NOV/19 Alston surgery

Requests concerned the condition of trees behind the town hall, and leaves on the footpaths.

A request was made to add North Loaning to the areas that need sweeping. **Action CI.**

Noted that residents could be asked to report issues such as these to Local Links, especially if urgent as one of the remits when they were set up was to pass on these matters to the relevant authorities.

4h/NOV/19 Garrigill cemetery

A report was circulated. Cllr Grew reported that a suggestion has been made to take out alternate trees along the main path in a zig zag pattern, to reduce the problems they are causing. This will have to go out to consultation.

4i/NOV/19 LEADER new funding round

A new round of funding has been announced targeted on tourism. Cllr Harrison agreed to forward details as it could be a potential source of funds for a new car park. **Action CH.**

5 County Councillor's Report

Apologies from Cllr Driver.

District Councillor's Report

Former Methodist building - building control have visited the site to check the condition from a safety perspective.

Swales Trust Fund – managed by Cumbria Community Foundation; this trust can assist students studying farming and forestry.

Training – a 2-day training session is available for Domestic Abuse Champions.

Active Cumbria – Fit for All has a 3 year strategy for older adults. They aim to find community leaders to encourage residents over 65 to become more active.

6. Planning applications

6a/NOV/19 19/0737 Tree Works. Holly tree near meeting house: small crown lift and shaping in the crown/sides, as shown on the photograph provided, to allow more light into the building and restrict interference with a large Yew tree; Alston Conservation Area. The Society of Friends, Quaker Meeting House, Front Street, Alston CA9 3SF for Ms K. Webb.

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

Decision notices

6i/NOV/19 19/0569 Full application. Proposed machinery and vehicle storage shed. Pennine Environmental Solutions Ltd. Pennine Shed, Bingsteads House, Nenthead, Alston CA9 3LS. Permission granted with conditions.

6ii/NOV/19 19/0604 Full application. Change of use of factory and office buildings to 2 no. residential dwellings. High Mill Site, Northern Units, Alston for Acumen Investigations Services Ltd – Mr I. Grey. Permission granted with conditions.

6iii/NOV/19 19/0615 Full application. Single storey extension to rear. Far Galligill, Nenthead, CA9 3LW for Mr T. Ellis. Permission granted with conditions.

6iv/NOV/19 19/0562 Full application – Retrospective change of use of bank (A2) to coffee shop (A3) to ground floor and basement and residential (C3) to upper floors. Re-instatement of door and addition of 2no velux windows to front elevation. Former HSBC, Market Place, Alston CA9 3QN.

The planning officers responded to the council's recommendations last month by stating that they had carried out a site visit, and were satisfied with the door.

The clerk was asked to request a copy of the report and to pass on the council's view that the work had not been carried out to the standard they would expect in a Conservation Area. The door sill is damaged and cast iron piping has not been used externally. **Action CI.**

7. Proposal to fund the Garrigill Christmas lights out of the Property Management budget

Although donations have been received from residents for Christmas lights, Garrigill would like additional lights, and as they had missed inclusion in the precept for the current year, asked if funding could be found from the property management budget.

Resolved to allocate up to £150 for Christmas lights for Garrigill village green. Proposed by Cllr Grew and seconded by Cllr Haldon. (nem con)

8. BT phone consultation – intended payphone removals at Garrigill, Nenthead and Nentsbury

An e-mail was received from Eden District Council stating they were contacted by BT as part of a formal consultation process on the removal of public payphones in the district. Boxes at Garrigill (123 calls), Nenthead (13) and Nentsbury (0) were included, with a list of the number of calls within the last twelve months.

There are two options besides removal: submit a case to veto the closure of the phone box via Eden District Council or adopt it for £1 and make it into an asset for people to enjoy.

There has been no change to the situation over the lack of a mobile signal in Garrigill since the last review. Only some mobile phones work in Nenthead, and it was pointed out to BT last time that visitors to the area may not be aware of this, so would need access to a public phone box, especially as there is a record of cycling accidents.

It was agreed that it was difficult to argue a case for Nentsbury, and that the telephone box would require maintenance if it were to be kept.

Resolved to ask that the phone boxes in Garrigill and Nenthead are retained, for the same reasons as stated in the last review. The phone box at Nentsbury can be removed. Proposed by Cllr Wright and seconded by Cllr Miller. (nem con) **Action CI.**

9. Planning for the future of Alston Public toilets

There is a need to consider whether the parish council intend to take on the public toilets in Alston to avoid closure in 2022, and to make plans for budgeting for them. As a number of new councillors have joined since this was first discussed the suggestion is to set up a meeting/working group to discuss what is involved with Eden District Council, then report back to the council to reach a decision.

Resolved to ask an Eden District Council officer to attend a council meeting to discuss the public toilets in Alston. Proposed by Cllr Wright and seconded by Cllr Miller. (nem con)

10. Representative to lay wreath on Remembrance Sunday

A letter was received from the vicar inviting a representative to lay a wreath at this year's Remembrance Sunday Service at St Augustine's on Sunday 10th November, starting at 10.45am. There will be 2 minutes silence at 11am and a procession to the war memorial, weather permitting.

It was agreed to ask Mrs Bell if she would be happy to lay the wreath again. Cllr Robson offered to lay the wreath at Nenthall.

11. Alston Moor Emergency Plan

A request to discuss updating the Alston Moor Emergency Plan was made following the Community Plan meeting. This will mainly involve identifying key contacts. ACT have produced leaflets for households and can provide advice on setting one up. Some members questioned the value of producing Emergency Plans which go out of date before coming into use. Deferred to the next meeting.

It was suggested that Alston Moor would benefit from having more defibrillators that can be used for children under 12. The schools would be the ideal location. However, as NWAS have stated that the two public defibrillators in Alston Town Centre were adequate, research is needed into appropriate locations and funding.

12. Consultations and Correspondence

12a/NOV/19 Notices of events/meetings

CALC AGM 9th November 2019 Cllr Ho offered to attend.

Garrigill Ward meeting 13th November

12b/NOV/19 Information received

Police report – November 2019

Alston Moor Repair Café report

NALC briefing on Neighbourhood Planning and Community Health and Wellbeing

Local Council Review – Autumn 2019

13. Administration

13a/NOV/19 Proposal to adopt the application form for co-opted members as agreed by the ADP working group

Resolved to adopt the application form for co-opted members. Proposed by Cllr Holt and seconded by Cllr Grew. (nem con)

13b/NOV/19 Proposal to adopt the 2019 Financial Regulations as agreed by the ADP working group

Resolved to adopt the updated 2019 Financial Regulations. Proposed by Cllr Haldon and seconded by Cllr Holt. (8+ 1- 3 abs)

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

Hustings for political candidates

Additional defibrillators for Alston Moor.

15. Finance

15a/NOV/19 Bank statements

The statements as of 30th October 2019 were as follows:-

Alston Moor Parish Council tr/ac	£64,115.99
Alston Moor Parish Council bus/ac	£12,714.04
Eden Credit Union	£7,008.58

15b/NOV/19 Accounts for Payment

The following accounts were for payment:-

<i>Summary of accounts for payment: -</i>	£1,302.37
<i>Summary of income received since last meeting: -</i>	£886.00
<i>Summary of accounts paid since last meeting: -</i>	£1,438.05

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 Martin and seconded by Cllr Green. (10+ 2abs)

15c/NOV/19 Financial Statement to September 2019

Resolved to accept the Financial Statement. Proposed by Cllr Haldon and seconded by Cllr Holt. (11+ 1 abs)

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

Signed:

Dated: