

## ALSTON MOOR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Alston Moor Parish Council held on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2015 at 7.15pm in Alston Town Hall.

**Present:** Cllrs: A. Martin (Chair), B. Aves, D. Athey, P. Godwin, E. Grew, T. Haldon, M. Herdman, S. Hill (following co-option), R. Miller, D. Phillips, A. Robertson, R. Thomson.

**Apologies:** Cllrs: J. Glendinning, A. Green, G. Wright.

**Absent:** none.

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

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

*Apologies from Cllr Robinson who sent a written report:-*

**Roadworks on Hartside** – work will be starting shortly to support the road below the mast on Hartside. The hill is slipping and there will be major work required. As the work is below the road she was advised there will be no disruption to traffic.

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

*Cllr Hymers reported on the following:*

**Haggs Mineshop planning issues** – there is to be a hearing at the end of the month and Cllr Hymers met with the chief planning officer to explain that the business is an asset to the community.

**Street lights** – nothing further has happened, and the delay was reported as due to sick leave. He has been promised an answer for next week, and will follow up with Electricity North West Ltd if there is further delay.

**Garrigill scaffolding** – Cllr Hymers contacted the tenant, who expects the work to be finished by Christmas, and he suggested to him that it should be taken down if not attended to within the next couple of months.

**Garrigill Recreation Grounds shed roof** – additional funding is being sought, but Garrigill may have to come back to the parish council to ask for more assistance as it is proving difficult to find funding streams. Possibilities are the County Council's Neighbourhood fund and Eden's Community grants.

**Syrian refugee crisis** – Eden District Council are waiting for the government to say what they intend to do. Eden and Cumbria County Council have discussed their offer, but can take it no further.

**Henderson's Wood seat** – Cllr Hymers was thanked for funding the new seat for the woods.

*Cllr Godwin reported the following:*

**Eden Local Plan** – the objection to downgrading Nenthead from a key hub has been listened to and it will be included in the proposed submission version. She confirmed that the comment on the future of Nenthead school will not be a part of the plan.

**Post 16 transport** – the Eden District Council leader has been asked to write to central government highlighting concerns about this issue, and to provide adequate funding to the county council to administer. It has become apparent that there is a failure in communication over transport to Carlisle College, who have provided a taxi for students, and should have informed parents, but some students did not seem to be aware of this. Cllr Godwin offered to follow up with the College.

**Visit by Grants Panel** – this took place on a Saturday, with representatives visiting locations in receipt of grant funding including South Tynedale Railway. Alston Moor Partnership, while the parish surgery was underway, Nenthead Village Hall and Nenthead Chapel project.

### **1. Minutes**

**Resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2015 be adopted as a correct record. Proposed by Cllr Aves and seconded by Cllr Athey. (nem com)

### **1a Request to audio record council meetings**

The public and press are now able to record council meetings, so the council were invited to consider if they would like to record the meetings.

**Resolved** to routinely record meetings and to acquire the equipment to do so. Proposed by Cllr Haldon and seconded by Cllr Athey. (2 abs)

The clerk was asked to follow up.

### **1b Co-option of Nenthead Ward Councillor**

**Resolved** to co-op Stan Hill for the vacancy on the Nenthead Ward. Proposed by Cllr Herdman and seconded by Cllr Aves. (nem con)

Cllr Hill signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and took part in the remainder of the meeting.

### **1c Introduction and discussion with Dean Raine, Police Community Support Officer for Alston**

The new Police Community Support Officer for Alston introduced himself and explained that he has just started work in Alston following the re-organisation of the police with Alston now part of the rural Penrith area. He was asked to give Alston particular attention and will be coming up regularly for foot and vehicle patrols. As a Community Support Officer he is able to carry out much of the work the police do, with the exception of making arrests, but can get a patrol up if needed. He has a lot of experience with anti-social behaviour.

In response to questions he pointed out that he is aware of the drugs issue and has been in touch with the schools and asked to take part in an anti-bullying week.

The Eden team are to get 4x4 vehicles to deal with the bad weather, but if Hartside is impassable or there is a patrol closer to Alston from the Brampton area during an incident, common sense will be used to make use of the nearest team.

Residents are encouraged to ring 101 for non-urgent incidents and 999 for emergencies.

### **1d Cumbria Partnership NHS Foundation – naming of Alston Hospital Minor Injuries Unit**

David Lewis, Associate Medical Director, who has responsibilities for community hospitals, was introduced, and explained that since Alston is geographically isolated there is a need to maintain an emergency service, and there are no plans to make any changes. The only problem is over the name 'Minor Injuries Unit', which is defined nationally as having critical decision makers in attendance, and while the local community are aware that the GPs are not always available, visitors do not realise this. A name change to 'Nurse-Led Treatment Centre' will get around this issue, in advance of a formal request from the Care Quality Commission. DL issued a guarantee that the service will remain and carry on as before, although there may be the possibility of extending the hours slightly. Hospital staff are in agreement that the service is not a fully operational minor injury unit.

The parish council were asked to let the community know that there will be no change to the service.

DL was asked to supply a short paragraph about the change to put in the next Alston newsletter and for the clerk to put on Facebook. **Action.**

Members requested that it be made clear that the unit is nurse-led, but supported by GPs, when available. Other concerns raised were over staffing, and the council were told that hospitals are empowered to bring in staff from elsewhere. Retirement of GPs is another looming issue, and the national shortage of GPs may make recruitment difficult. This is the responsibility of the Community Partnership Trust.

DL was thanked for attending the meeting.

## **2. Matters Arising from the Minutes**

### **2a/OCT/15 Post-16 transport**

Re: CC/SEP/15

**Post-16 transport** - the parish council were copied in to correspondence between the County Council, William Howard and Rory Stewart. This explained that an agreement has been made with Shap families to pay £380 per year for transport to Ullswater Community College, and it is hoped that something similar can be set up for Alston families, with the school making up the difference out of the 16-19 budget.

### **2b/OCT/15 Street lights No 17, Spring House**

Re: DC/SEP/15 Eden District Council has received a quote for replacing and installing a new control box, which is cheaper than replacing the whole light. It has been ordered and should be arriving in the next few weeks. The parish will be informed when this happens.

### **2c/OCT/15 Local Delivery of Services**

Re: 2d/SEP/15 An e-mail was received from Eden District Council thanking the parish council for their interest in participating in the pilot. The first step will be for Eden District Council to produce a table of the discretionary services it currently provides on Alston Moor and a pro-forma for the parish council to

complete, listing the discretionary services it already undertakes. The next stage will be for the Community Advisory Group to meet with parish representatives to begin discussions and view the services under consideration. Progress will be reported to Council in February 2016.

Noted that this correspondence was the standard letter sent to everyone. Cllr Godwin reported that it is early days yet for Eden District Council, and they will want to look at all the services delivered by the parish council. She offered to check what was happening with the funding for Appleby's public toilets.

**Action.**

**2d/OCT/15 Tour of Britain 2015 funding application**

Re: 2e/SEP/OCT/15 An e-mail confirming an award of £500 was received from Eden District Council. The event in Alston Town Hall was a great success, raising funds for breast cancer and the ambulance appeal. Cllr Miller raised £80 from the car park on Tyne Willows run by the Community Warden and others. Thanks to everyone, especially AMBA and the WI, and Cllrs Miller, Martin and Godwin who were instrumental in making the day a success.

**2e/OCT/15 Paperless Planning applications**

Re: 3/SEP/15 An e-mail was received from Eden District Council stating that they were sorry the parish council did not want to go digital at this stage, but it may be something to consider for the future. They will continue to consult on paper, but to contact them if anything further is needed to consider an application.

**2f/OCT/15 Eden Local Plan – Status of Nenthead**

Re: 4/SEP/OCT/15 An e-mail was received from Eden Planners stating that the draft local plan is to be agreed by the Executive on 6<sup>th</sup> October. Nenthead is now a Key Hub, in response to the parish's comments.

**2g/OCT/15 Seat for Henderson's Wood**

Re: 6/SEP/OCT/15 The Community Warden would like the parish representatives to agree a site for the seat in Henderson's Wood.

Cllrs Athey and Miller offered to identify a site, and help with concreting it in place.

**2h/OCT/15 Uncapped mine on Flinty Fell**

Re: 9f/SEP/OCT/15 Cllr Haldon reported that the resident who attended last month's meeting had sent details of the location, resulting in an agreement with the landowner to cap the mine shaft. Thanks were given to Cllr Haldon for following this up.

**2i/OCT/15 Nenthead Election Results**

Re: SEP/OCT/15 It was confirmed that no apology has yet been received from Eden District Council for the mix-up over the Nenthead results. Cllr Phillips offered to attend the next Eden session which is to be held in Lazonby, and to ask for an apology on behalf of the individuals concerned if nothing is heard by that date.

*Cllr Godwin declared an interest.*

**Resolved** that Cllr Phillips could speak for the council if a satisfactory response is not obtained before the Eden meeting. Proposed by Cllr Athey and seconded by Cllr Aves. (3 abs)

**3. Planning**

**3a/OCT/15** 15/0830 Full application. Proposed agricultural steel portal building. The Hermitage, Alston CA9 3DB for Mr R. Glover.

**Recommended** for approval. Proposed by Cllr Haldon and seconded by Cllr Aves. (nem con)

**3b/OCT/15** 15/0832 Full application. Erection of three market led and one affordable dwelling. Land adjacent Fell View, Nenthead CA9 3PS for Mr J.R. Edgar.

Cllrs Phillips and Herdman declared an interest and left the room after the residents spoke.

**Resolved** to adjourn the meeting for five minutes to allow residents to speak.

*The residents elected a spokesman, who stated the reasons why many Nenthead people wished to object to the application, although as he pointed out not all were planning objections. A petition is to be submitted to Eden District Council.*

*Firstly, there is no good reason for additional properties to be built, as there are many already on the market, including one which has been for sale for 6 years. Access is along a road which has seen 14 new properties built recently; some are still empty and unsold. The residents were not aware of any surveys that had demonstrated housing need. The site access is on the narrowest point of the road, with a blind crest and bend. The road is poorly drained and additional points of access will add to the danger when*

*there is ice across the road. There is no scope for additional roadside parking, and in winter, when it is impossible for vehicles to use the road, the vehicles from these properties will add to the parking chaos in the village centre.*

*The proposed development has been described as infill, but the very particular landscape of widely spaced houses is what defines the character of the upper village and to build here will destroy the special environment valued by residents and visitors.*

*Photos were circulated to demonstrate that a wide angle lens had been used for the applicant's photos to make the space appear wider than it is.*

*It was confirmed that a child had been hit by a car, and pets killed on the road at this point.*

The meeting re-convened.

It was pointed out that work done by highways on the road in the past had resulted in flooding of properties lower down, and there was a concern that additional building could increase the risk. As noted by the residents, the drainage at Whitehall is poor, and the area subject to adverse weather.

**Resolved** that the parish council are not prepared to make a recommendation until highways have assessed the current condition of the road, and a flood assessment has been undertaken to ensure that other properties within the village are not adversely affected. Proposed by Cllr Athey and seconded by Cllr Miller. (nem con)

**3c/OCT/15** 15/0837 Cert. of Lawful Application for a proposed use of holiday let as permanent residential dwelling. Stonebarn Cottage, Low Galligill Farm, Nenthead CA9 3LW for Mr T. Ellis.

**Recommended** for approval. Proposed by Cllr Thomson and seconded by Cllr Aves. (1 abs)

**3d/OCT/15** 15/0878 Full application. Proposed painting of front facing elevation with white paint. Hundy Cottage, Front Street, Alston CA9 3SG for Miss L. Ford.

**Recommended** for approval. Proposed by Cllr Robertson and seconded by Cllr Thomson. (1 abs)

#### **Decision Notices**

**i/OCT/15** 15/0638 Full application. Proposed conservatory extension. Low Blackburn Bank, Leadgate CA9 3BU for Ms A. Bondi. Permission granted with conditions.

#### **4. Periodic tree survey – appointment of surveyor**

The parish representatives and the contractor decided that an initial meeting was not necessary and would be carried out once the parish council confirmed the appointment. He has put together proposals for carrying out the work and guidance notes for councillors to use between surveys (circulated).

A quote was provided for £20 per hour, with travelling time included in the overall chargeable time. The first survey is likely to take longer than subsequent surveys, estimated at 4-5 hours inclusive of travelling time. The council needs to identify what level of detail to include, with the assumption that public safety is the priority, but the council may also wish to benefit wildlife, landscape and silviculture, in which case funds will need to be put aside to deal with the recommendations.

**Resolved** to appoint Andrew Nicholson to carry out the periodic tree surveys on land owned or leased by the parish council. Proposed by Cllr Herdman and seconded by Cllr Aves. (2 abs).

#### **5. Request to support the refurbishment of Langwathby's tennis courts**

The parish clerk from Langwathby wrote to say that they are applying for grant funding to refurbish the tennis courts in Langwathby. They have succeeded in obtaining much of the funds, but have been asked by the Eden Community Fund to gather additional evidence of the benefit to the wider community. A tennis coach from Penrith has offered to work with community groups to provide tennis coaching. The parish council were asked if they would be willing to write a letter of support.

**Resolved** to write in support of the application for funding the refurbishment of the tennis courts in Langwathby. Proposed by Cllr Grew and seconded by Cllr Athey. (4 abs)

#### **6. Support for Syrian refugees**

Discussed during the district councillor's report.

#### **7. Proposal to set up an Alston Ambulance support group when funds reach £500**

The clerk reported that the fund to support the ambulance has gone over £400, and if fundraising is to continue, and it is expected that it will be necessary, the council might consider encouraging interested

people to set up a support group, or alternatively set up a separate bank account when the funds go over £500.

Cllr Martin reported that there is an Ambulance working group in existence that might be able to set up as a community group and open a bank account. To progress. **Action.**

#### **8. Community Warden – potential to extend contract by an additional 4-6 weeks**

The clerk reported that the contract is due to end on 30<sup>th</sup> November, but as the Community Warden has spent very little on expenses, there are funds remaining in the account which could allow an extension for a few extra weeks. She asked if the council would like to consider this.

Cllr Miller declared an interest.

It was confirmed that the Community Warden is doing an excellent job, and working more hours than required because he enjoys the work.

**Resolved** to extend the Community Warden's contract while funds permit. Proposed by Cllr Herdman and seconded by Cllr Aves. (nem con)

The clerk explained that the contract with Enterprise for the waste collection can be suspended when the current contract expires, but it would be helpful to know if the council are planning to precept for the Community Warden next year. Agenda item for discussion. **Action.**

#### **9. Alston's Christmas lights**

The clerk reported that she was contacted by Cllr Glendinning to say he has put some thought into managing the Christmas lights to minimise risk. The Friends of the Town Hall are willing to pay for a frame for the Christmas tree light, but would like representatives from the parish council to agree it. The electrician should get costings over the next few weeks, and has tested most of the lights from last year. Cllr Glendinning discussed the lights with the relief caretaker, made suggestions to improve access to the Town Hall lights, and suggested leaving the frame up on the Market Cross to make the task of lighting it easier.

Cllrs Miller and Athey volunteered as parish council representatives.

#### **10. Garrigill – unsightly scaffolding on building and request for a plaque to mark Tynehead School**

The scaffolding issue was discussed during the district councillor's report.

Cllr Grew reported that she had been asked by a former pupil about getting a plaque to mark the site of Tynehead School, which is now little more than a pile of stones. It was suggested she speak to the landowner. **Action.**

#### **11. Agenda items for next Traffic Management meeting**

Nenthead cobbles

Access to Tyne Willows from Station Road as parked cars obstruct visibility. There are similar issues with the access road to Jollybeard and Kings Arms Lane.

Speed ramps on the Firs, which have sunk, resulting in damage to vehicles and drivers mounting the pavement to get around them.

#### **12. Correspondence for information**

##### **12a/OCT/15 Notice of events and meetings**

CALC AGM – 14<sup>th</sup> November 2015

CALC - Notice of training events

##### **7d/OCT/15 Literature**

CALC Circular – October 2014

Local Council Review – autumn 2015

#### **13. Reports from working groups and representatives**

##### **13a/OCT/15 Nenthead Ward Meeting**

Cllr Herdman reported on a good attendance by residents, who raised concerns about the proposed Whitehall development. There were also concerns about the comments in the draft Eden Local Plan about inaccurate comments about Nenthead Primary School.

**Nenthead cobbles** – the results of the survey in the Community Shop have been collated, with a majority of residents in favour of keeping the cobbles, but with a request that they are maintained properly as they are not in a good condition. Agenda item for the Traffic Management meeting, but urgent issues should be reported to the Highways Hotline.

#### **13b/OCT/15 Barclays Bank Closure working group**

Cllr Martin reported that the group met several times. Barclays have promised an ATM, but the community will have to identify a suitable site. Contacts with other towns said the promise had been made, but not one had a replacement ATM when the bank closed. Barclays were informed of this, but said they would stand by their promise if a site could be found. It was agreed that the criteria for a successful ATM is needed before any recommendations can be made. **Action.**

The group also discussed Alston Post Office, and understand from the owners that they are currently working on a business plan to become a Post Office Local.

#### **13c/OCT/15 Community Wheels Steering Group**

**Garrigill Tuesday Community bus service** – Cllr Grew reported that the bus has had to be cancelled twice because no drivers were available. Although 30 people signed up the bus has only been used once, and another time when 5 people wanted it there was no driver available. Currently there are only 4 people on the rota, which is not enough to run the service, and it is doubtful if it can continue unless more drivers can be found.

Cllr Phillips offered to put an article in the newsletter calling for volunteer drivers. **Action.**

**Public bus service** - from 11<sup>th</sup> October there will be a daily bus operated by Go North East, (except for Sunday), running between Hexham, Alston and Haltwhistle. Timetables are available from Local Links.

### **14. Items for next month's agenda and urgent business**

#### **14a None attendance of council meetings**

**Resolved** to accept that Cllr Glendinning was unable to attend council meetings for the last six months due initially to a bereavement and followed by an incapacitating accident. To give leave of absence for a further month and to ask that the council be notified of his intentions before the next meeting. Proposed by Cllr Herdman and seconded by Cllr Aves. (2 abs)

#### **14b Star Councillor of the Year finalist**

The clerk reported that Cllr Martin has been nominated as one of three finalists for the NALC Star Councillor of the Year, and invited to attend the award ceremony in Birmingham.

**Resolved** to use the Chairman's Allowance to pay for transport costs. Proposed by Cllr Athey and seconded by Cllr Herdman. (nem con)

### **15. Finance**

#### **15a/OCT/15 Bank statements**

The statements as of 5<sup>th</sup> October 2015 were as follows:-

Alston Moor Parish Council tr/ac	£21,593.07
Alston Moor Parish Council bus/ac	£12,666.20
Eden Credit Union	£7,008.58

#### **15b/OCT/15 Accounts for Payment**

The following accounts were for payment:-

<i>Summary of accounts for payment:-</i>	£1,936.74
<i>Summary of income received since last meeting:-</i>	£4910.69
<i>Summary of accounts paid since last meeting:-</i>	£555.52

**Resolved** that sufficient funds are held in balances for the clerk to be authorised to settle all the accounts listed during the coming month (appendix I). Proposed by Cllr Aves and seconded by Cllr Herdman (nem con )

*The meeting closed at 9.15pm*

Signed: .....

Dated: .....