

ALSTON MOOR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Alston Moor Parish Council held on Monday 7th September 2015 at 7.15pm in Garrigill Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs: A. Martin (Chair), B. Aves, D. Athey, P. Godwin, A. Green, E. Grew, T. Haldon, M. Herdman, R. Miller, D. Phillips, A. Robertson, R. Thomson

Apologies: Cllr: J. Glendinning, G. Wright

Absent: none.

Declarations of interest: listed under specific agenda items.

County Councillor's Report

Cllr Robinson reported on the following:-

Tour of Britain – the county has patched the Hartside road for the tour, they agreed that school transport will not have to use the diversion, and a convoy has been organized to meet at 7.30am at Spar for a 7.45 start.

Cllrs reported a complaint about potholes on the Alston side of Hartside, which could be a nuisance for anyone cycling up to the top. It would be too late to do anything about this now, and the complainant was to be asked to identify where the potholes were.

Post 16 transport – the letter sent to parents of 16 + children stated that Alston is out of the catchment area for William Howard, which was clearly incorrect and added to the annoyance felt by a number of parents have been upset about the cost of transport, with some refusing to pay. Cllr Robinson agreed to discuss the issue with the Transport team again.

District Councillor's Report

Cllr Hymers reported on the following:

Syrian refugee crisis – Eden are to discuss their response tomorrow, but there are two empty hotels in Eden that might be suitable to take refugees, and people with appropriate language skills could be brought in to assist. They might also consider using the web to invite people to let them know if they have vacant property, although they do not want people to offer to let out a room. Eden Housing has some hard to let properties that might be suitable.

Members asked Cllr Hymers to let Eden know that Alston Moor would be willing to help, and that some residents had contacted the chair will offers of help.

Capital projects – Nenthead Ward meeting confirmed that they were interested in business units for the village.

War memorial streetlight – this is being reconsidered.

Alston banks – consideration is being given to an alternative banking solution for Alston, and Rory Stewart has contacted Barclays, which it is hoped may delay the closure until after Christmas.

Members remained concerned about the potential loss of the ATM in the town centre, as the one at Spar would not be able to cope with the level of demand.

Cllr Godwin reported the following:

Nothing further to report.

1. Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 3rd August 2015 be adopted as a correct record 15a/AUG/15 with the following amendment: Cllr Herdman not Cllr Haldon proposed the resolution to vire £500 from the Fire show budget to Nenthead snowplough. Proposed by Cllr Herdman seconded by Cllr Aves. (3 abs)

1a Appleby Fair travellers – discussion with Elaine Lomas from Eden District Council and Sgt Mike James

Elaine Lomas, the Principal Environmental Officer introduced Sgt Mike James, who works closely with her over Appleby Fair, and will shortly be the Community Policeman for Alston, when the transfer from Brampton to Penrith takes place.

Eden and the police come up to Alston most days during the Fair, although they cannot spend long as they have to visit all the encampments in the area. They are there to observe, discuss any issues with the travellers, oversee the clean up and keep a tally of numbers, which have been similar since 2012. This year the weekend before the fair was busiest, with most travellers moving on for the fair days. They were not aware of any major problems and thought the field on the Hartside road worked well.

It was pointed out that the wet weather caused problems, as the travellers didn't want to get stuck in the mud on the field and blocked the Leadgate road by parking alongside the field.

It was reported that numbers at the gym were down again, and there was concern that some of the travellers ignored the request for bow tops only beyond the pavilion. Next year the fair week is close to the bank holiday, which encourages the travellers to come earlier and stay longer.

EL said that they do their best to make sure the travellers are informed and will try to discourage early arrivals, but there is no behavioural pattern to fall back on, it is different every year. They will instruct the contractors to pick up rubbish immediately so it is not left lying. She checks the playing field part way through and picks up any scattered litter.

Sgt James reported on the structural changes within the police force that will see Alston covered from Penrith in future. Although the main focus of policing is on the urban areas, there will be cover for Alston and the rural north, with some of the main challenges being cross border crime, Appleby Fair, neighbour disputes and sheep rustling. New concerns are that with the closure of the banks there may be more cash in circulation. Residents should continue to contact the police by ringing 101 for non-urgent matters and 999 for emergencies.

2. Matters Arising from the Minutes

2a/SEP/15 Streetlights - Nenthead

Re: DC/AUG/15 Cllr Hymers e-mailed to say that a wayleaves agreement has to be signed by the property owners besides the lights as their land will have to be entered to switch the power supply to the new lights.

2b/SEP/15 Connecting Cumbria

Re: 2a/AUG/15 On 10th August Cabinet 4 (The Firs) and Cabinet 7 (Nenthead) went live, with others on the Raise, Slaggyford and Watergreens still to connect. It was reported that the signal in Nenthead is very good.

2c/AUG/15 Condition of Tynehead Road

Re: 2d/AUG/15 The drive at Crossgill has now been tarmaced and the problem resolved.

2d/SEP/15 Annual Tree Survey

Re 2f/AUG/15 Cllrs Athey and Robertson were asked to agree a date with the agent.

2e/SEP/15 Local Delivery of Services

Re: 5/AUG/15 Eden District Council thanked the parish council for the invitation to Cllr Slee to attend a meeting of the parish council, but asked that it be postponed until after the deadline for submitting expressions of interest has passed. They will be in touch later.

Cllr Godwin reported that Alston Moor is already responsible for many of the services on the list, and she would like to put together a report on who is doing what and what the costs are. She offered to make a start on this. **Action.**

2f/SEP/15 Tour of Britain 2015 funding application

Re: 10/AUG/SEP/15 An application for funding has been submitted, but as estimates had to be obtained it was not possible to get it in before the last deadline. Although a formal response has not been received the application is being looked at favourably, the only question is over the TV licence as it might not be possible to fully fund this. The total cost comes to £673 so the organisations involved, Alston Moor Business Association, Alston Town Hall and the parish council have been asked to make a contribution. The parish council contribution is for £35 for room hire. Alston Moor Film has waived the fee to hire the screen.

3. Planning

3a/SEP/15 15/0435 Full application. Change of use of former workshops, café & mining museum to residential use. Nenthead Mines Heritage Centre, Nenthead, Alston CA9 3PD for Mr B. Maguire.

Noted that the appearance of the mine buildings would not change much, as little in the way of structural alterations have been proposed.

Recommended that no comment be made. Proposed by Cllr Herdman and seconded by Cllr Haldon. (6 + 6 abs)

3b/SEP/15 15/0640 Full application. Proposed two log cabins for holiday purposes. Mark Close, Harbut Lodge from A689, Alston CA9 3BD for Mr & Mrs H. Wyatt.

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

3c/SEP/15 15/0724 Full application. Proposed steel portal extension. Sheep Riggs, Alston CA9 3BD for Mr A. Richardson.

Recommended for approval. Proposed by Cllr Herdman and seconded by Cllr Athey. (nem con)

Decision Notices

i/SEP/15 15/0567 Full application. Proposed single storey self-contained annex. Garrigill House, Garrigill, Alston CA9 3DS for Mr D. Greenhalgh. Permission granted with conditions.

ii/SEP/15 15/0391 Full application. Change of use of from A1 retail shop to C3 dwelling house. Barclays Bank Chambers, Front Street, Alston CA9 3SE. Permission refused.

Planning correspondence

Eden District Council made a request that future planning applications are sent by e-mail only in an effort to reduce costs. They are contacting the Key Centres in the first instance and Penrith Town Council has indicated that they are happy with this arrangement provided hard copies can be sent out upon request.

Noted that Alston Moor residents cannot easily get to Penrith to look at the plans.

Resolved that the parish council wished to continue to receive paper copies of plans, Proposed by Cllr Godwin and seconded by Cllr Martin (1 abs) **Action**.

4. Proposal that this council objects strongly to the proposal in the Eden Local Plan, that villages within the AONB, regardless of size and facilities, should be excluded from 'Key Hub' status

The clerk reported that Eden District Council agreed to a time extension to allow for comments.

Cllr Phillips reported that the old system of determining a key hub depended partially upon having a daily bus service, which some communities have lost, so it was necessary to change the criteria. However, Nenthead, despite meeting the criteria, was excluded on the grounds that villages within the AONB should not have from Key Hub status. He drafted a letter of objection, which was read out.

Resolved that the clerk would send the letter from Cllr Phillips to Eden District Council, with the inclusion of an objection to the inaccurate statement about Nenthead Primary School. Copies to go to the Chief Executive, the Leader, the AONB, Paul Fellows and the portfolio holder. Proposed by Cllr Phillips and seconded by Cllr Thomson. (nem con)

Cllr Phillips was thanked for putting the letter together.

5. The case for the use of upvc in the Conservation Area and elsewhere – leading to a proposal to guide planning decisions made by Eden District Council for Alston's Conservation Area

The clerk reported that she had circulated a paper by Cllr Robertson on the use of upvc. In discussion it was agreed that members should avoid personal preference when considering applications for upvc, but retain the right to comment on the quality and appropriateness of the materials used. It was observed that should the Alston Conservation Area be subject to an Article 4 directive over the type of materials used it would result in the removal of specified permitted development rights.

*An **Article 4 direction** is a special planning regulation adopted by a Local Planning Authority in all or part of their borough. It operates by removing permitted development rights from whatever is specified in the Article 4 direction.*

Resolved that this council does not consider the use of upvc should be an automatic reason for opposing a planning application within the Conservation Area. Proposed by Cllr Phillips and seconded by Cllr Robertson (8+ 1- 2 abs)

Cllr Robertson was thanked for the paper.

6. Seat for Henderson's Wood

The clerk reported that she had circulated details of a potentially suitable seat. The cost is £246.95 + vat, or a bit less if concrete instead of screw fittings are used.

Resolved to purchase the seat. Proposed by Cllr Martin and seconded by Cllr Grew. (nem con)

7. Correspondence for information

7a/SEP/15 EDC Council tax reduction scheme

Eden District Council stated that they pay a grant each year to offset the loss of council tax income arising from the national Council Tax Reduction Scheme. This reduces each year in line with the reduction in grant from the government. They do not yet know what the exact figure will be, but it will be around £1,419 for 2016-17 compared to £2,020 in 2015-16.

7b/SEP/15 Conclusion of audit notice

A letter was received from BDO, the council's auditors, confirming that there were no matters arising from the annual return.

Resolved to accept the report from BDO. Proposed by Cllr Haldon and seconded by Cllr Phillips. (nem con)

7c/SEP/15 Notice of events and meetings

CALC- Developing your skills programme Autumn 2015

7d/SEP/15 Literature

CALC Circular – July & August 2015

Connecting Cumbria Newsletter – July 2015

NALC – Financial Services Compensation Scheme

NALC Legal Topic Note – Health & Safety

NALC Legal Topic Note – Contracts

NALC Legal Topic Note – Procurement

NALC Legal Topic Note – Public Contracts Regulations 2015 – impact on the standing orders and financial regulations adopted by councils

NALC Legal Topic Note – Legal proceedings

NALC Legal Topic Note – Occupiers

Hospice at Home newsletter and Christmas Card selection 2015

Clerk& Councils Direct – September 2015

Alston Police Newsletter

8. Co-option of Nenthead Ward Councillor

The clerk reported that she was waiting for a response from Eden District Council to confirm that they have not received a request for an election, so the parish could proceed to co-opt a Nenthead Ward councillor. She expected to hear within the next few days.

Resolved to adjourn the meeting for 5 minutes to allow Nenthead resident Stan Hill to speak about his interest in standing for the Nenthead Ward. The meeting re-convened.

It was agreed to make the co-option at the start of the next council meeting, subject to there being no request for an election.

Eden have not issued an apology to the people affected by the error on the website, and one person has written to the Cumberland Herald to ask if anyone had printed out a copy of the original website report, as this evidence was asked for by Eden.

Resolved to write to Eden District Council again to request an apology, and to enclose a copy of the Alston Moor newspaper report on the elections, with a copy to the Chief Executive. Proposed by Cllr Martin and seconded by Cllr Grew. (nem con) **Action.**

9. Reports from working groups and representatives

9a/SEP/15 Friends of Alston Cemetery

Cllr Godwin reported that the Friends of Alston Cemetery meet with the district council every so often to discuss any issues and actions required. It is a part of the process of obtaining the Green Flag award to have a group set up, and there are currently three members.

A resident asked for a seat, which was paid for by 2 individuals and positioned to look out over Cross Fell. There has been some wind damage to the trees, and Eden are considering renewing the gates with recycled plastic. So far there have been no takers for the woodland burial plots.

Cllr Godwin stated that the Friends' requests are largely met, but complaints about the condition of the cemetery should be made to Eden or through feedback to the group.

9b/SEP/15 Barclays Bank closure working group

Covered earlier under the district council report.

9c/SEP/15 Traffic Management Extraordinary meeting

No comments received on the notes circulated earlier.

9d/SEP/15 Parish seats

A local resident has offered to paint the two wooden benches at Randalholme. This offer was accepted and the resident asked to contact Cllr Herdman to discuss the work.

9e/SEP/15 Alston Ambulance

An update was received from NWSAS to say that they will meet with Cohort 1 on 12th September to answer questions and to arrange for individuals to observe and work alongside ambulance crews, and agree a rota. They will also complete the interview process for the second group of applicants.

9f/SEP/15 Uncapped mine on Flinty Fell & Power of Water structure at Nenthead Mines

Resolved to adjourn the meeting to allow a resident to speak and to re-convene in 5 minutes.

The resident reported that he was concerned about an open mineshaft on Flinty Fell that appeared to have missed being capped. He has informed Weardale Estates, who have put up a fence around it, but it might not be seen in winter conditions and it is open access land.

It was suggested that he e-mail Cllr Haldon with the location for reporting to the Coal Authority, who have responsibilities for mine works.

The resident also had concerns about the power of water site at Nenthead Mines, which is to be pulled down, but is still working and had a lot of money spent on it. He thought it should be repaired.

He was advised that there are reports that the structure has been sold to Killhope Mines, who want the wheel and sluice gates. There were concerns about safety and the parish approached the County Council over this several times. Even if the reports of it having been sold were inaccurate there are maintenance issues to ensure its safety, and the small conservation trust does not have the funds. However, there may be some accountability to the funders and a Freedom of Information request might provide more information should the resident wish to pursue the matter.

It was agreed to put on the agenda of the next Nenthead Ward meeting.

9g/SEP/15 Lonning Handrail

It was reported that a local resident thanked those responsible for dealing with a complaint about the unfinished handrail from Church Road to the Old Methodist Chapel. The contractor has now completed the works.

10. Items for information/next month’s agenda/urgent business

None.

11. Finance

11a/SEP/15 Bank statements

The statements as of 7th September 2015 were as follows:-

Alston Moor Parish Council tr/ac	£21,398.58
Alston Moor Parish Council bus/ac	£12,666.20
Eden Credit Union	£7,008.58

11b/SEP/15 Accounts for Payment

The following accounts were for payment:-

<i>Summary of accounts for payment:-</i>	£1,160.47
<i>Summary of income received since last meeting:-</i>	£28.71
<i>Summary of accounts paid since last meeting:-</i>	£243.32

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 Haldon and seconded by Cllr Athey (1- 1 abs)

The meeting closed at 9.15pm

Signed:

Dated: