

ALSTON MOOR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Alston Moor Parish Council held on Monday 3rd September 2018 at 7pm in Nenthead Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs: T. Haldon (Chair), D. Athey, B. Aves, E. Grew, J. Glendinning, A. Green, R. Miller, A. Hewison, H. Ho, A. Martin, M. Shepherd.

Apologies: Cllrs: C. Harrison, D. Phillips, P. Godwin, G. Wright.

Absent: none

Declarations of interest: listed under specific agenda items. 6f/SEPT/18 Cllr TH & Cllr RM 12b/SEPT/18

1. Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the parish council meeting held on Monday 6th August 2018 be agreed as a correct record. Proposed by Cllr TH and seconded by Cllr BA (9+ 2 abs)

1a Appraisal and management of Alston & Garrigill Conservation Areas – report from the Conservation Officer

The Conservation Officer explained that Eden District Council is to carry out a Character Appraisal for Alston, and a review of the existing Character Appraisal for Garrigill. The planning authority has a duty to designate areas of special architectural or historic interest as conservation areas. They also have a duty to review these designations on a regular basis to determine if the boundaries are correctly designated. The appraisal is carried out in consultation with the public, and is used to demonstrate the area's special interest, to explain the reason for the designation, and to be used as a material consideration in planning decisions.

As there are a number of conservation areas across Eden, a generic conservation management plan is in place, but is now out-of-date and needs to be reviewed and updated.

Alston Conservation Area was designated in May 1976, but does not have a Character Appraisal or specific management plan. It was added to the Heritage at Risk category in 2016, due to loss of traditional features, deteriorating condition of buildings and shop fronts, vacant buildings and a decrease in visitors. From 1996 an Article 4 directive required planning permission for certain developments including the appearance of window, painting and rendering and alterations to boundary walls. Alston has a Townscape Heritage Initiative in place, which aims to improve the appearance of shop fronts.

Garrigill was designated in November 2000 and had a Character Appraisal published in December 2007. This identified the village as having a majority of buildings fronting the road, unbuilt areas, and buildings of yellow stone, with stone flagged roofs. Negative features include the loss of features, parking on road verges, loss of external staircases and modern extensions.

The first stage of the appraisal for Alston is a desktop study of the heritage designation, and review of significant developments, making use of existing documents such as the Historic Area Assessment published by English Heritage. The existing document for Garrigill already documents this, but both areas will receive a field investigation to identify the important features of buildings, the street furniture and landmarks, as well as identifying negative areas such as the loss of traditional windows and doors. This helps identify areas for improvement and buildings that should be listed. The information is recorded on an annotated map and observation sheet.

The draft appraisal for Alston should take around 6 weeks, with the task for Garrigill being to confirm which areas are significant and to set out new management proposals. There is no definite timescale, but Eden are keen to involve the local community and would welcome volunteer involvement.

Members suggested approaching the Historical Society. **Action CI.**

There was a plea for joined up thinking between departments, for example many properties within the Conservation Area have received planning consent for upvc windows.

It was questioned why scaffolding had been allowed to remain up on a listed building in Garrigill for 6 years.

This was noted by the Conservation Officer, who was thanked for attending the meeting.

2. Progress Reports

2a/SEPT/18 Bring sites

Re: 2a/AUG/18 A report was circulated following the site visit with an EDC officer. Council representatives present at the initial meeting in Alston agreed that the contractor who cuts the grass around the car park on Tyne Willows should be asked to keep the waste area besides the recycling centre tidy.

Nenthead cllrs pointed out that not all the bins at Nenthead had been emptied, as was agreed at the meeting. Members were asked to send photos to the clerk to forward to Eden. **Action all.**

Noted that the site at Alston was tidy because a local cllr had cleaned up before the meeting.

The clerk is contacting the North Pennines AONB about suitable plantings for the Nenthead site, and suggested that both sites might be suitable for a bug house. There are a number of good examples around the country. She would like to discuss this with the AONB, and wondered if it might be possible to organise a workshop for local people to design and build something.

Resolved to follow up the proposal for bug houses near the bring sites. **Action Cl.**

2b/SEPT/18 Market Cross pigeons

Re: 2b/AUG/18 Council members have put up netting around the Market Cross, which so far has successfully deterred the pigeons from roosting there. Thanks were given, but the parish would still like the County Council to come up with a long term solution.

2c/SEPT/18 Planning enforcement

Re: 11/AUG/18 An e-mail was received from planning to confirm that the alleged unauthorised access gate on land between Redwing and High Skydes is being investigated and the parish council will be informed of the outcome in due course.

2d/SEPT/18 Water problem on Tyne Willows footpath

Re: 2e/AUG/18 The clerk reported that she has not succeeded in speaking directly to the potential contractor, and is waiting for him to get back to her. In line with council policy, she asked for council representatives to oversee the works.

Resolved that Cllrs AG and TH would oversee the works.

2e/SEPT/18 Devolution – Alston Public Toilets

Re: 8/AUG/18 Eden District Council have asked the council to confirm whether they intend to take on the toilets in Alston, as they need to know before 2022 to decide what action to take. This does not need an immediate decision, but is a matter the council need to think about over the next few months.

It was noted that a lot of visitors are making use of the Spar toilets, but also that the local outdoor centres bring groups of children to the public toilets. It was agreed to ask Eden District Council for a count of the numbers using them and to check the last date for a decision. **Action Cl.**

2e/SEPT/18 Ashgill Footpath

The Weardale Estates Land Agent will be in Alston on the 6th September and would like to meet with council representatives to discuss the possible dedication of the footpath besides the bridge at Ashgill. In an earlier e-mail he proposed that in exchange for dedicating this path, the Estate would like to extinguish footpath 302008, which runs past Ashgill Farmhouse.

Members agreed at the time that they could not support this proposal as f/p 302008 can be used by walkers who might find the steep access from the bridge difficult. A Nenthead councillor also requested a discussion about locked gate in the bridleway at Priorsdale.

Cllr TH offered to attend the meeting. **Action TH.**

2f/SEPT/18 Good Neighbour Scheme application

Re: 13c/AUG/18 A working group met to draw up the application, but on the advice of the Locality Manager there is some research to do on other schemes and organisations before submitting.

One member questioned the value of the scheme as there are already local people doing this type of voluntary work. However, others pointed out that contrary to perceptions the Good Neighbour scheme is not regulation heavy. The aim is not to interfere with what already happens, but to try and support it and to broaden the net by involving more people. It only needs a handful of volunteers to bring about improvements, then there is also a need to build in succession as many existing volunteers are themselves getting on in years. Funds are available, and the County Council wants to see an application from Alston, even if at this stage we do not know how it will work.

3. Progress reports from working groups and council representatives

3a/SEPT/18 Nenthead public toilets

An informal chat has been held with the Community toilets group chair, who is happy to hand over the management of the toilets, but upset that the people doing the complaining had not approached her directly. There are funds in the bank, but the grant from Eden District Council has not been collected.

A Nenthead group is willing to take on the toilets, but need assurance that they will be able to get the funds from Eden this year as they cannot manage without them. District Cllr PG had offered to talk to Eden and it was agreed to ask her about progress. **Action PG.**

3b/SEPT/18 Neighbourhood Plan team

A meeting had been held with the North Pennines AONB, but as the group chair was not present no report was given.

3c/SEPT/18 Nenthead footpath group

The group have met with the Isaac Tea Trail promoter who was keen to see the access to the Hush, and interested in restoring it. There is a fallen tree blocking the path.

3d/SEPT/18 Report from Alston Moor Care Alliance

Nothing further to report as no meetings took place last month.

4 County Councillor's Report.

Cllr Driver reported on the following:

Alston Moor Care Alliance – as stated earlier the group have not met, but a lot of work has been happening in the background, focusing on the Grisedale Croft building. This is mostly confidential at this stage, but is looking positive. A lot of resources are being put into projects on Alston Moor, and the work of officers will feed into the next meeting.

Cllr CD has identified that there is a lack of easily accessible information in leaflet form on what is available locally in terms of health care. She is keen to find some money to work with a graphic designer to address this.

Winter preparedness – a wide review has been held on community self help, including discussion on how farmers can help, the County has moved from a risk adverse stance to one of support. They are working via CALC and will come back with a report on what it means for the Nenthead snowplough and the wider community.

In answer to a question about farmers clearing roads, it was confirmed that as long as this was related to business use they should be insured. The County will not take action against farmers.

Alston old primary school project– representatives from strategic organisations make up the membership of the steering group, including Cllrs CH and AM. The project is being well supported from the county council and other non-local organisations.

District Councillor's Report

Cllr Sharp reported on the following:

Old Methodist chapel – an Environmental Health officer has been up to look at the building after a piece of stone fell off, and commented that the foliage around the building is helping keep the stonework in place. Eden were also informed about young people getting into the building, although the advice is to report any unauthorised access immediately to the police. The legal process is ongoing, and an update will be given.

Scrutiny review on public participation – Cllr LS is on a scrutiny panel looking at how people participate in public life, and the deterrents such as a lack of transport and child care. They also aim to put strategies in place to encourage people to stand for election.

Bus transport – changes to the bus timetable have led to a lot of complaints from the Nenthead people who used to use it, as the Telford bus now terminates at the Spar stop.

Housing scrutiny & benefits loss – many people will be less well off because of changes to disability payments, and are concerned about losing housing benefits. This will be raised again at the housing scrutiny meeting. It is a big issue across Cumbria, and is also been discussed at county level.

5. Public open session

Minewater treatment works – following the approval by the County Council of the minewater treatment works site residents said they wanted to request independent testing of samples on the site. They would like the samples supervised by local people. They also asked that data from the electronic monitors should be made public.

Community resilience – a request was made by a student working on a dissertation on disaster management and community resilience for anyone willing to help with research on local perspectives on community resilience. Alston is particularly well placed to look at how the community can play a bigger role following the ‘Beast from the East’ snowstorm last winter. Anyone wanting to help was asked to make direct contact.

6. Planning applications

6a/SEPT/18 18/0634 (Tree Works CA) A) Larch: Remove (roots too close to next door's kitchen and needles going down the kitchen chimney; roots are lifting the drive); B) Cherry: Remove (serious rot, boot-lace fungus under bark, honey fungus); C) Maple: Remove (close to house, worried about root system and branches touching house); D) Small Leylandii: Remove; E) Silver Birch: Remove (woodpecker holes); F) Beech: Remove branches over the pool; G) Cherry: Prune limbs not in good health and reshape as best possible; Garrigill Conservation Area. St John's House, Garrigill, CA9 3DS for Mr Tony Collins.

The Arboriculturist from Eden District Council visited the site and concluded that a TPO is not needed and that they will have no objections to the proposed work. Only 2 of the trees proposed for removal are visible from outside the site, and there will still be 12 trees within the gardens.

Recommended for acceptance. Proposed by Cllr AG and seconded by Cllr EG. (nem con)

6b/SEPT/18 18/0626 Full application. Extension to form cycle café and creation of access and parking. The Barn, Garrigill CA9 3DY for Mr & Mrs S & A Drane.

Recommended for approval on the condition that Highways find the access acceptable. Proposed by Cllr AG and seconded by Cllr EG. (10 + 1 abs)

6c/SEPT/18 18/0646 Full application. Retrospective planning permission for the permanent retention of steps, platforms and associated handrails and fencing, and permission for the installation of a new water monitoring structure. Land to the northern bank of the river Nent to the east of Force Cottages, Alston for the Coal Authority – Mr Kirk.

Recommended for approval. Proposed by Cllr JG and seconded by Cllr EG. (6+ 5 abs)

6d/SEPT/18 18/0646 Full application. Part retrospective application for erection of poly tunnel, proposed sunroom and detached garage workshop (re-submission of 17/0584). Valley View, Nenthead, Alston CA9 3NA for Mr & Mrs Baker.

Recommended for approval. Proposed by Cllr BA and seconded by Cllr DA. (10+ 1 abs)

6e/SEPT/18 18/0672 Conservation Area Erection of a non-illuminated notice board. Garrigill Village Green, Garrigill CA9 3DS for Alston Moor Parish Council – Mrs C. Johnson

As the applicant it was decided to make no comments.

6f/SEPT/18 18/0717 Full application Detached timber frame building. Gatecroft, Garrigill CA9 3EB for Mr M. Burton.

Cllr TH declared an interest.

A proposal for a time extension as the application had only been received this morning was not carried.

A recommendation for approval was not carried on the vice-chair's casting vote. (2+ 2- 6 abs)

It was agreed to include the voting figures in the response to EDC.

6g/SEPT/18 18/0293 Full application Erection of garage and storage building. Rose Bank, Leadgate Road, Leadgate for Mr S. Catlin. The parish council expressed concerns about the proposed building. Additional information confirmed that the proposed building will be 3 metres lower than the existing building, approximately 6 metres longer and very slightly wider. Eden District Council would like comments within 14 days.

Recommended for approval. Proposed by Cllr AG and seconded by Cllr JG. (nem con)

Decision notices

i/SEPT/18 18/0449 Full application. Proposed embankment stabilisation works to prevent metal mine diffuse pollution to the river Nent. Land to the eastern bank of river Nent adjacent The Nenthead Mines, Nenthead, Alston for The Coal Authority – Mr J. Bagnall. Permission granted with conditions.

ii/SEPT/18 18/0456. Full application. Re-culverting of a section of Garrigill Burn. Land adjacent to B6277 North East of Garrigill, Alston for The Coal Authority – Mr J. Bagnall. Permission granted with conditions.

iii/SEPT/18 18/0502 Listed building. Listed building consent for alterations to front elevation including repairs to windows and replacing render. Alston Clock Shop, Market Place, Alston CA9 3QH for Mr P. Docherty. Permission granted with conditions.

iv/SEPT/18 18/0520 Full application. Proposed dry stone walling, associated repair works, installation of leaky dams and localised watercourse widening to reduce metal mine pollution. Land at Garrigill Mine site, Garrigill for The Coal Authority – Mr J. Bagnall. Permission granted with conditions.

v/SEPT/18 18/0634 Conservation Area Tree Works 2) Remove sapling (220mm) pushing against dry stone wall; 3) Beech and 4) Sycamore: Crown lift to 10ft from ground level 6) Remove saplings growing against wall. St Augustine's Church, Alston. There is no objection to the works being carried out and no requirement to serve a TPO.

7. Parish Seats – proposal to replace damaged wooden seating with plastic planks – Cllr TH

Samples of recycled plastic planks were circulated last month, and it was suggested this material could be used to repair damaged benches. Current costs to replace all the timber would be between £100 and £120, This could added to the precept, possibly budgeting for 2 benches per year, but it might be useful to purchase the materials to repair one seat.

Resolved to buy some recycled plastic planks to repair one seat. Proposed by Cllr TH and seconded by Cllr MS. (nem con)

The clerk started to put together a list of all the seats around Alston Moor with their condition, but it is incomplete, so would welcome information on damaged seats. **Action.**

8. Signature Projects Fund

This is a new opportunity from Eden District Council inviting parish councils to submit an Expression of Interest by 3rd September 2018 on behalf of community groups and to act as the accountable body for the projects. £300k is available in total with applicants eligible to bid up to £100k.

Two Expressions of Interest have been submitted by the applicants: Alston Old Primary School project and AMBA for High Mill, which they hope to buy and put in a lottery bid. Both were able to submit their own project outline, but will require the parish council to act as the accountable body should they be successful. Eden District Council have said they will offer training sessions for the applicants and parish councils before a full bid is required. The parish council at this stage needs to confirm if it is willing to be the accountable body.

Cllr CD reported that the Expression of Interest is not for publication at this stage, but it is a clear outline of what it is hoped to achieve. The parish council and applicants will be contacted to discuss the application process, with an open session planned for October.

Aspirations are for the old primary school to continue in use as a community space, as evidenced in the emerging community plan.

9. Cybermoor cabling – Cllr AM

When Cybermoor was active as a company they installed quite a bit of cabling around the town, across the road from the Town Hall and behind the church, which it is believed is no longer being used. It was questioned whether any redundant cabling should be removed. Noted that the business had been sold to Quickline.

Resolved to write to Cybermoor to enquire if the cables are their responsibility. Proposed by Cllr AM and seconded by Cllr BA. (nem con)

10 Consultations and Correspondence

10aSEPT/18 Nenthall War Memorial

An e-mail was received from the Alston Moor Remembers group asking permission to have the letters on the Nenthall War Memorial painted. There are approximately 430 letters to paint and three quotes obtained for the work. The total price should not exceed £250. Any funds remaining will go towards having the lettering refreshed on the Alston War Memorial, which is hoped can be done next year, with the cost raised through donations in the exhibition room.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission have been consulted and confirmed that patination oil should be used, and that they are happy for a signwriter to carry out the work.

The parish council were asked if they would give permission and whether they would prefer the group to pay the signwriter directly or for the money to be handed over to the council for payment.

Resolved to ask the Alston Moor Remembers group to go ahead with refreshing the lettering and that it was acceptable to the parish council for them to pay the contractor directly. Proposed by Cllr AM and

seconded by Cllr BA. (9+ 2 abs)

It was reported that the group hope to get the work done over the next few months. A relative of the person on the Alston War Memorial whose name was misspelt, has asked again about getting the lettering changed. It was agreed to write to say it is hoped to do the work as soon as funds can be raised.

Action CI.

10b/SEPT/18 Notices of events/meetings

None to report.

10d/SEPT/18 Information received

Alston Moor Police Update (circulated)

Coal Authority update (circulated)

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

11a/SEPT/18 Internet connection

The clerk reported that the internet in the Town Hall office failed on the 29th August and has not yet been restored by Quickline. Noted that public wifi should be installed in the building later this week, and may be an alternative.

12. Finance

12a/SEPT/18 Bank statements

The statements as 31st August 2018 were as follows:-

Alston Moor Parish Council tr/ac	£51,102.02
Alston Moor Parish Council bus/ac	£12,686.01
Eden Credit Union	£7,008.58

12b/SEPT/18 Accounts for Payment

The following accounts were for payment:-

<i>Summary of accounts for payment: -</i>	£924.44
<i>Summary of income received since last meeting: -</i>	£580.67
<i>Summary of accounts paid since last meeting: -</i>	£833.32

Cllr RM declared an interest for re-payment of materials purchased for the Market Cross.

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 TH and seconded by Cllr MS (10+)

13 Applying the Nolan Principles

Discussed in confidence after the meeting closed to the public.

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm

Signed:

Dated: