



ALSTON MOOR ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Hustings for the Westmorland and Furness Unitary Authority held at 7.30pm

Candidates for the new Unitary Authority, which will shadow Eden District Council and Cumbria County Council over the next year before formally replacing them in April 2023, were invited to speak for up to five minutes and take questions from the floor. Taking part were Andy Baker (Lib), Michael Hanley (Lab), Ian Lindley (Lab), Mary Robinson (Ind) and Richard Sanderson (Lib)

Many searching questions were asked including candidates' views on services, second homes, services for women, the impact of rurality and the Coal Authority scheme for Nenthead.

The chair thanked the candidates and opened the Annual Parish Meeting.

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 27th April 2022 following the Hustings for WFC in Nenthead Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs: N. English (chair), B. Cooper, M. Hanley, C. Harrison, S. Hattersley, H. Ho, I. Lindley, R. Miller, A. Robertson and approx. 27 members of the public.

Apologies: Cllr Claire Driver, P. Best, Michael Beveridge (Conservative candidate)

1. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 23rd April 2021 were approved as a correct record with the addition of M.Hanley to the attendance list. Proposed by E. Grew and seconded by C. Harrison.

2. Matters Arising out of the Minutes of the last AGM

None.

3. Report from Alston Moor Parish Council

Copies of the annual report were circulated and are published on the council's website. The chair reported on a recent meeting with the Monitoring Officer following the completion of a Code of Conduct report that determined no further action needs to be taken. The report may be released later, but the main conclusion was that there was nothing substantial enough to take the complaints forward, and in the unlikely event that alleged criminal activities had taken place they should have been reported to the police. Support from Eden District Council may be available for new and existing councillors if required to avoid future pitfalls. With this matter behind us and new councillors joining, the parish council has the potential to serve the community well.

The chair was thanked for stepping in at a difficult time.

No questions were received.

4. Reports from County, District & Parish Councillors

4a Eden District Council

Cllr Sharp sent a written report with useful information and contact details. (Appendix 1).

Fit for All – this is linked to primary care and will take place weekly in the Masonic Hall, it is hoped to increase membership and help people become more mobile, especially important after months of covid lockdown.

Hardship Fund – set up to help support residents.

Eden Community Fund – a new round of funding will go live in May for community groups.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee fund – an impressive range of services including many parties have been planned across the district, with funding made available for parishes and local organisations planning activities around the Jubilee. There is still time for interested groups to apply.

5a Reports from Local Organisations & Charities

Nenthead Community Works

M. Denoual reported that two new directors have been appointed during a challenging year with recent changes to the legislation banning the use of red diesel. The gritter needed a new body and thanks to a community grant they were able to employ someone for vehicle maintenance. Thanks also to the numerous volunteers. There is a dedicated Facebook page which has received positive feedback. Residents are welcome to attend the AGM in June. (Appendix 2)

5b Alston Moor Historical Society

A. Robertson reported on the last year with meetings held on zoom, membership increased from 40 to 100 but the experience is not the same. The first in-person meeting is to be held this month. The Society's eligibility for the covid business grant support enabled the society to put up street name plates around Alston Moor. They also improved the acoustics of the archives with new carpets and desks to create a semi-silent area. Parish council assistance in paying the office rent enables them to archive precious unique documents and books, and a memory bank of the local heritage. The county archivists have pointed out that they are running a near to professional service which the volunteers should be proud of. Work is ongoing on a website with the aim of cataloguing all the documents. The plan is to re-open again every Saturday, appointments can also be made.

5c Alston Recreation Ground Trust

Cllr Sharp gave the report. (Appendix 3)

It has been a busy year with the refurbishment of the embankment slide, work has now started on the basketball court, new fencing for the ponds and a gate for the toddler playground. A new woodland walk is almost complete. Fundraising for the bike track is progressing with the fund reaching £22,500.

They are also working with the Market group on a series of monthly events to attract visitors and funds from an EDC Jubilee grant are to be used to develop a Jubilee garden.

DRAFT

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm

Signed:

Dated:

Eden District Council agreed the Final Budgets for 2022/23 and the Medium Term Financial Plan, with no cuts to services and a freeze on Council Tax, meaning that the Council's portion of the Council Tax will remain at £200.75 for a Band D property.

[The approved Corporate Plan 2019 to 2023](#) sets out the council's plans, vision and the priorities for Eden district over the next 4 years.

As part of the proposed budget, the Council is providing additional funding in 2022/2023 in the following areas to support its corporate priorities and provision of statutory services:

Name	Description	2022/2023
Open Space / Play Area Improvements	Additional funding for Open Space and Play Areas owned and managed by Eden District Council to maintain and/or renovate.	£50,000
Queen's Platinum Jubilee 2022	Funding to support community events in relation to the celebrating of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.	£20,000
Cultural Development Initiatives	Subject to further cabinet approval.	£235,000
Business Support in Economic Development	Extension of contract for support.	£36,000
Development Management	Additional costs of resourcing due to backlog and staff market pressures on planning, enforcement and Ecology Officer.	£431,000
Local Plan Review	Additional funding for the review of the Local Plan to reach deadlines in 2022/2023.	£50,000
Zero Carbon Biodiversity initiatives	Subject to further cabinet approval.	£100,000
Resources	Additional Resources to support Licencing, Finance and Health and Safety and to ensure that legal obligations are met. This is partly due to difficulties with recruitment due to pending Local Government Reorganisation.	£163,000
Officer Training and Development	Increase in budget to support Eden staff toward the Local Government Reorganisation and support recruitment and retention.	£50,000
Single Site Project	Non-capital costs of moving staff into a single site during 2022/2023	£40,000
Microsoft Licences	Increased licencing costs due to old systems which have been delayed for upgrade due to Covid19.	£25,000
		£1,200,000

Voreda House – Single Site

The beginning of refurbishment work at the new single site net zero carbon headquarters at Voreda House in Penrith have started. Collinson Construction are the contractors working on the refurbishment of the building.

Following the completion of their initial enabling works in February, Collinson Construction are now on site to install security fencing and welfare accommodation for its construction workers. This work is being carried out ahead of construction work beginning, imminently.

Once the site compound has been established, the work to retrofit Voreda House to Passivhaus design principles will begin. The removal of the existing external cladding will begin, once the retained areas in the central core of the building have been protected. It's hoped work will be completed, ready for handover to the Council, before the end of the year.

Eden District Council has remained committed to moving to a single site to replace its current, outdated offices, Town Hall and Mansion House, for a number of years. The Council purchased Voreda House from the NHS in July 2020 specifically for this purpose.

Since the announcement on Local Government Reorganisation last summer, the vision for Voreda House has changed from being a straightforward single site for Eden District Council to being a modern, accessible public service hub for the new Westmorland and Furness unitary authority, built to the highest environmental standards.

The decision on the configuration of Local Government Reorganisation in Cumbria has only strengthened the need for a local service hub in Penrith at Voreda House. The chosen East-West configuration of the new unitary councils has resulted in an authority with a geographically large footprint, leaving significant distances between existing service centres in Eden, Barrow and South Lakeland.

No decision has been made as to the location of the headquarters of the new authority. However, the Council believes that the risk of local government services and jobs moving out of Penrith is much greater without Voreda House, and it remains fully committed to the delivery of the project.

Voreda House also provides an opportunity to co-locate with partners and create a new model of integrated public services for the area. The move to Voreda House will also open opportunities for the repurposing of Mansion House and the Town Hall to make greater contributions to the economic and cultural fabric of Penrith and the wider area.

Eden District Council has received £850k grant funding from the Government to make the project net zero carbon. Salix Finance, a non-departmental public body owned wholly by Government, managed the transfer of these funds to the Council. Salix Finance provides 100% interest-free capital for the public sector to reduce their energy costs by enabling the installation of modern, energy-efficient technologies and replacing dated inefficient technologies.

Arts and Culture in Eden Development Framework and Options for the Town Hall

In Spring 2021, Eden District Council commissioned We Are Team to create an Arts and Culture Programme for the district, and to review the council's arts and culture funding. The aims of the commission are to increase participation in Arts and Culture, develop the creative economy, connect communities, support educational opportunities, develop the visitor offer, add to town centre vibrancy and contribute to economic development.

In January 2022 Cabinet approved a budget of £235,000 for Cultural Development Initiatives under corporate priorities, subject to further Cabinet approval.

At the April meeting, Cabinet approved the proposals to support the establishment of a firm foundation for Arts and Culture in Eden through a Development Framework that provides both funding for Arts and Cultural activities and a physical environment for activity to flourish through repurposing the Town Hall in Penrith.

In particular it was agreed to allocate funds from the Cultural Development Initiatives Corporate Priority for the purpose of supporting key Arts and Cultural organisations in Eden and for widening participation in Arts and Culture in Eden.

£112,000 from the Cultural Development Initiatives budget was agreed for supporting key Arts and Cultural Organisations in Eden. Support for key Arts and Culture Organisations in Eden District will take the form of service level agreements with five of the larger scale arts organisations in Eden. This investment plan will help to build the Arts and Cultural sector's foundations, capacity and enable creative growth. For the five arts organisations, Eden District Council's goal through the proposed investment is to support both programming and organisational resilience.

A further allocation of £112,000 from the Cultural Development Initiatives budget was agreed for widening participation in Arts and Culture in Eden through an Open Access Grant. Applicants will be able to apply to the grant fund through a series of funding rounds scheduled to run until the end of December 2022. Applicants would have until March 2023 to draw down all funds and would be able to apply for up to 80% of their total project costs (with a maximum grant of £10,000). A grant panel will be chaired by the Leader of the Council and include the Assistant Director of Communities, the Arts and Culture Officer as well as sector representatives, both creative practitioners and those involved in supporting the sector.

The cabinet approved to progress the refurbishment of the Town Hall at Penrith including agreement to use £150k from the agreed capital programme allocation of £750k for the refurbishment of the Town Hall to fund delivery.

Inspiring Eden programme

Eden District Council launched its Inspiring Eden Economic Prospectus, which looks to support local businesses and drive economic prosperity in the area.

The economic programme has been pieced together following feedback from local stakeholders and in collaboration with organisations including Eden District Council, Cumbria County Council, Cumbria Chamber of Commerce, Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership, the Federation of Small Businesses, the Family Business Network, the Cumbria Social Enterprise Network, Red Kite Innovations and several of the district's businesses.

The new Prospectus provides an overview of the vision, direction of travel and work streams for driving economic recovery and prosperity across the district in the coming months and years.

Economic development activities will be taken forward through 14 work streams. These include: business support, employment and skills, connectivity, the A66 Northern Trans-Pennine project, inward investment, sites and premises, and town centre plans. The work streams also focus on a range of sectors including the visitor economy, knowledge-based industries, rural economy and creative industries.

A critical cross-cutting theme in Inspiring Eden is decarbonisation, which seeks to both promote green tech-based businesses, as well as embedding decarbonisation principles across the whole economy.

To accelerate delivery of the programme, Eden District Council is investing £780,000 over the next 12 months.

For more information on Inspiring Eden, visit www.eden.gov.uk or contact the Council's Economic Development team at econ.dev@eden.gov.uk.

First round of consultation on Inspiring Eden work streams

Following on from the publication of the Council's Inspiring Eden economic prospectus, the first round of informal consultation is now open on the first three work streams and residents and businesses are being asked to have their say on the Business Support prospectus, a sector-focussed Visitor Economy prospectus and a Business Charter prospectus.

The Business Support prospectus outlines the range of offers for local businesses to help them recover and thrive once more. Eden firms can access funded membership to a number of local business networks, up to £2,000 grant from the Eden Apprenticeship Scheme, guidance and funding to reduce their carbon footprint through the Greening Eden Business Grant, one-to-one expert business support and access to a range of other support offers available across the district.

The Visitor Economy prospectus pulls together and drives forward a range of initiatives to support this sector with the key focus being on collaboration through the Eden Tourism Network.

The Business Charter prospectus sets out how the council will align its services behind economic recovery and prosperity, and provides a platform for the council to understand business needs, demands and ambitions in the business community.

The Visitor Economy and Business Support prospectuses are available to view at www.investineden.co.uk/why-eden/inspiring-eden/. Please email your comments to the Economic Development team econ.dev@eden.gov.uk by Friday 27 May 2022.

Inspiring Eden - Expression of Interests sought

[Inspiring Eden](#) has launched an expression of interest form to collect and collate project proposals from across Eden to shape and develop a programme and pipeline of projects to drive and accelerate delivery of Inspiring Eden, the Councils plan for economic recovery and prosperity.

The aim is to capture current and emerging project information so as to develop a co-ordinated and robust approach that will enable communities and businesses across Eden to access and benefit from local and strategic investment including the Inspiring Eden Investment Fund and the Government's Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal and Shared Prosperity Fund. The information will also be used to inform bids for external funding including, for example, investment from the Government's Levelling Up programme.

Copies of the Inspiring Eden Expression of Interest form can be downloaded at http://investineden.co.uk/files/Expression_of_Interest_Inspiring_Eden_FINAL.docx

For this initial phase the deadline for submission of completed Expression of Interest forms is 5pm Friday 20 May. (There will be further opportunities to submit Expressions of Interest later in the year).

Completed forms should be emailed to econ.dev@eden.gov.uk

Youth Employment Hub

The Eden Youth Hub supports Eden's NEET (Not in Employment, Education or Training) 16-24 year olds to overcome barriers to employment.

Working in partnership with Inspira, Cumbria County Council and DWP, the service is delivered through a Youth Employment Worker (YEW). The YEW works across Eden providing an holistic employment support service; a 'one stop shop' where young people go to access a range of information, advice and guidance along with a breadth of learning, training, health improvement and apprenticeship opportunities.

As a drop-in, the Youth Hub offers space for intervention/ appointments to evaluate the needs of candidates and signpost them to the appropriate support. This includes a range of engagement activity such as DWP Employer Recruitment group sessions, mentoring/ coaching, health interventions and job training opportunities.

A key focus for the Hub is preparing young people for work. There is support to help move the young person toward work, with interventions including help with identifying pertinent job roles, guidance with job applications, preparation and mentoring for interviews and support with the transition into work.

This peripatetic role enables closer working, builds rapport, trust and inclusivity that was missing for DWP clients and CCC NEET young people. The Hub opened in October 2021.

There is also a rural outreach youth worker role attached to the hub to engage and work with young people living in the rural parts of Eden.

Nutrient Neutrality rules – please note that this doesn't directly impact Alston Moor as we don't feed into the River Eden

Nutrient pollution is an environmental issue that affects many natural areas in England. Increased levels of nutrients in water, like nitrogen and phosphorus, can speed up the growth of certain plants, negatively impacting wildlife. The sources of these nutrients generally include sewage treatment works, septic tanks, livestock, arable farming and industrial processes. Extra wastewater from new housing developments can also affect nutrients.

An approach called 'nutrient neutrality' looks to shape developments with suitable mitigation measures, meaning damage to protected sites and wildlife is avoided.

In March 2022, new nutrient neutrality notifications were received by the Council from Natural England, which advised that river catchments in Eden will be affected.

As a result, when determining planning applications, the Council must now ensure that developments do not increase levels of nutrients. Development can only proceed if it is 'nutrient neutral'. Information on how this is to be calculated has been provided to the Council.

In relation to the notifications, an Eden District Council spokesperson said:

"On Wednesday 16 March, Eden District Council received a notification from Natural England that many parts of the District fall within the catchment area of one or more European protected sites requiring nutrient neutrality strategic solutions. The Council also received a letter from the Government's Chief Planner about this issue.

"The advice was issued to the Council without prior notice.

"Eden District Council is working hard to understand the advice and its consequences for developments within the district. Further updates and guidance specific to Eden will be provided as soon as possible.

"As a result of these notifications, any new planning applications or applications in progress may be delayed until the Council is confident that the development in question either: does

not require nutrient neutrality considerations – for example, works to a listed building – or has nutrient neutrality secured as part of the planning application.”

NHS FUND TO INVOLVE THE THIRD SECTOR IN IMPROVING MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Almost £250,000 is being made available for community organisations in north Cumbria to support people with severe mental illness.

Third sector groups are being encouraged to apply for grant funding to help people with severe mental illness gain better access services and support. The money from the NHS has been made available to support people to improve and stay well in the community.

The NHS Community Mental Health Transformation Programme was set up by NHS North Cumbria Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to improve the health needs of adults with severe mental illness (SMI) in north Cumbria.

Almost a quarter of a million pounds is being made available and the funding is managed by Cumbria Community Foundation in three separate funds.

The Healthier Lifestyles Fund will specifically support interventions that target health risks such as smoking, obesity, and frailty, and focused on meeting both the physical and psychological needs of people.

The Positive Changes Fund will help people who often face challenges to access services easily. It will support groups such as LGBTQ+, refugees, veterans, ethnically diverse people and the gypsy, roma, traveller community engage with statutory and community mental health services and to develop community support plans.

A third fund targeting those with eating disorders is in development.

Cumbria Community Foundation will host the fund from the Community Mental Health Transformation Project to provide grants to the third sector, in order to help people with SMI live well in their communities. Organisations applying on their own can apply for up to £25,000 and partnership bids can apply for up to £75,000. The closing date for applications is 6th May 2022.

Applicants interested in applying should contact Sarah Thompson, Grants & Programmes Officer at Cumbria Community Foundation sarah@cumbriafoundation.org or visit www.cumbriafoundation.org for more information.

Woods into Management Forestry Innovation Funds

Last month, the Forestry Commission (FC) announced the re-opening of the Woods into Management (WiM) Forestry Innovation Funds.

Up to £3 million will be made available in 2022/23 to support innovative projects designed to improve the ecological condition of woodlands, and their resilience to climate change, via increased demand for wood and woodland management.

Applicants are invited to submit multi-year proposals spanning up to three financial years (ending March 2025), and projects may be costed at up to a maximum of £100,000 per year.

There are a number of funds that are now open for applications. Through these regional funds, the FC is looking to support innovative proposals that will bring increased areas of woodland into active management and improve their ecological condition.

The Regional Woodland Restoration Innovation Fund is likely to be of interest to councils as FC is encouraging bids from membership organisations and councils to support projects through engagement with members and local community groups.

If you have any queries about the funds, please contact wimfif@forestrycommission.gov.uk.

Applications for the funds close on 9 May.

Further information: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/woods-into-management-forestry-innovation-funds>

Application form and guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/woods-into-management-forestry-innovation-funds-application-form-2022>

Blog summary of previously successful applicants:

<https://forestrycommission.blog.gov.uk/2021/12/07/woods-into-management-forestry-innovation-funds-projects/>

Funding to provide long-term income for woodland creation

Last month, the government announced that £10 million is being made available for farmers and land managers to create new woodlands to help tackle the effects of climate change through the Woodland Carbon Guarantee, which provides new income in the form of long-term payments for the amount of carbon a new woodland will store.

Farmers and land managers across England are encouraged to apply for the scheme by 24 April, ahead of the fifth auction which will take place online between 9 and 15 May.

Administered by the Forestry Commission, the £50 million scheme will help accelerate woodland planting rates and help permanently remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

Following an online auction process, successful bidders will be offered the option to sell woodland carbon in the form of Woodland Carbon Units – a financial value given to each

tonne of carbon stored – to the government over 35 years at a guaranteed price protected against inflation.

Before applying for the Guarantee, land managers will need to have registered with the Woodland Carbon Code, which provides the tools and information required to verify and record the carbon they are capturing and can sell in future.

Announcement: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/10-million-to-provide-long-term-income-for-woodland-creation-with-fifth-auction-of-woodland-carbon-guarantee>

Guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/woodland-carbon-guarantee>

Registration: <https://www.woodlandcarboncode.org.uk/>

Traveller Site Fund for councils

Last month, DLUHC launched £10 million funding for 2022/23 to support councils in building new transit and permanent traveller sites, to refurbish existing permanent traveller and transit sites and provide temporary stopping places and facilities.

Funding is available to councils in England for building new or improved accommodation for travellers who have their needs assessed under the Planning Policy for Traveller Sites or the National Planning Policy Framework. It can also be used for the provision of temporary stopping places.

The funding can be used for new sites, to improve existing sites through both refurbishment and rebuild, to improve site infrastructure, or to pay for public spaces on existing sites, such as community centres, play areas for children and stabling for horses.

The fund closes at midday on 13 June. For any queries please email: travellersitefund@levellingup.gov.uk.

Announcement: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/10-million-for-traveller-sites-across-england-will-improve-life-chances-and-reduce-unauthorised-encampments>

Prospectus: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/traveller-site-fund-202223-prospectus>

Assessment and scoring criteria: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/traveller-site-fund-202223-assessment-criteria-guidance>

Correspondence: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/traveller-site-fund-202223-letter-to-local-authorities>

Collection: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/traveller-site-fund-202223>

Nenthead Community Works C.I.C



Registered Office:

**Hayring Farm
Nenthead
Alston
Cumbria
CA9 3LW**

Nenthead Community Snow Plough

Update for Alston Moor Annual Parish Meeting held 27th April 2022

It has been another challenging year and set to continue, what with the recent changes in legislation relating to the use of red diesel. Our overall running costs are set to rise.

We have appointed 2 new directors and now employ someone local to undertake maintenance and repairs to our vehicles.

Following the purchase of our new vehicle and gritter earlier in the year , we held a fundraiser to find a name for the new gritter truck ,thank you to all who donated we raised £220.47. The winning entry was drawn by our chairman Tony Pennell during the ‘Big Breakfast’ held at Nenthead Village Hall and we now welcome ‘ MARGRIT’ to the team joining ‘Big Bertha’.

We thank Alston Moor Parish Council for the community grant which we are due to receive in May. And in turn thank the Alston Moor Community who contribute via the precept from which these grants are funded.

As always thanks also need to be given to all our volunteers without which we would be unable to offer this vital winter service or run the company.

The work of Nenthead Snow Plough can be followed on our designated Face Book page [@NentheadSnowPlough](#) , we have received some really positive feedback and support from the community which is always appreciated.

Our AGM is due to be held during June, date to be confirmed.

Fairhill

Work to tidy up the land is progressing well. We have refurbished the embankment slide and are now doing the same with the basketball court. A new woodland walk is nearing completion. New fencing for the pond areas and a gate for the Kiddies' playground have been installed.

We have been involved in many fundraising events for the bike track. We heartily thank the residents, businesses and musicians who have contributed to our efforts. We have been awarded grants as well, including £10,000 from the National Lottery. The present bike track fund is £22,500.

This year we are working with the Market group to establish a series of themed monthly events which will hopefully attract visitors to the area.

We are using funds from a Jubilee grant to revamp the Angel area of Fairhill, with seating, flower tubs and shrubs which will form a Jubilee Garden. The remaining grant will enable us to hold an old fashioned May Fair at the May Market.

June will see the Fairhill Fun Cycle Ride starting up again, just one of a series of fundraisers lined up for the coming months.