



ALSTON MOOR BUSINESS ASSOCIATION MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

Date/Venue: Thursday 27 August 2020, 5.30pm, online via Zoom

Present: Ian Grey (Chair), Gina Perryman, Gary Wright, Lesley Mearns, Janis Goodfellow

Apologies: Andy Holt, Guy Harmer, Elaine Edgar

Minutes of committee meeting held on 30 July 2020

Agreed, with no matters arising. **Action for Gina** to update and publish on the website. All action points discharged, or carried forward as detailed below.

Finance and Membership

No change to finances since the last meeting. Increase in membership to 85.

Free Membership Offer

5 new members have joined since the last meeting, and several more businesses are known to be interested. It was unanimously agreed that we should extend the free membership offer into 2021, to continue to support all businesses through the ongoing Covid pandemic. Members who had paid their 2020 fee will have this carried forward to cover 2022.

Marketing Group sub-committee

Gina provided an update on activities since the last committee meeting:

Caravan/Holiday Parks project - Jane from Alston TIC is continuing to work through the list, contacting operators to agree placement of Alston leaflets/posters. Feedback from operators continues to be positive.

An all member email went out asking someone to volunteer to take the lead on marketing Alston Moor retailers and service providers to residents, to encourage them to shop locally. One person came forward and Gina is setting up an initial meeting with them.

Front Street Steering Group/Meathaw Hill A686 closure

The test panels have been laid on Front Street and their performance will now be monitored. The A686 will be closed between the two Leadgate junctions for about 5 weeks from 1 September. Gina has worked with Claire Driver and the Highways Team at Cumbria CC to improve signage on the A69 and other routes into Alston that make it clear that the closure is beyond Alston, and that businesses are open. There will be no signage on the Weardale and Teesdale approaches, which is good. Gina and Claire will now turn to bespoke signage for the Front Street closure of about 5 days in early October, using the same model as that for the long United Utilities closure.

United Utilities sub-committee

There are no grants currently being considered by the sub-committee. There's around £300 left in the budget. **Action for Ian** to meet with UU once a demand for grants picks up again to see if they will allocate more funding.

Reopening High Streets Safely (RHSS)



Gina is leading on this for AMBA. The first round of update reminders have been issued and actioned for the online guide www.alstonmoorhealth.org/guide. Gina's still working with the Parish Council's Press Officer for some wider press releases on that.

A work party, led by Claire Driver, has looked at street signage. It seems that there hasn't been a problem with people distancing on Front Street. So, it has been decided this week that other than a poster in shop windows, and maybe some footprint stencils outside the Co-op, nothing more is needed at this point. Now that decision has been made, the next piece of work to start is a leaflet (based on the poster), and this will form part of what is distributed to Caravan/Holiday Parks; Gina will be taking that forward.

High Mill update

Ian advised that he received an unfavourable opinion from Cumbria CC in relation to car parking plans for the factory part of the site, so this idea has been shelved. Cumbria CC were mainly concerned about traffic flow, and whether the Mill Race could cope with increased traffic above it.

Cumbria Tourism - membership renewal

We have engaged well with Cumbria Tourism this year, and they have offered us some specific support in terms of marketing Alston Moor, as well as sending out regular emails with useful information, which we have been able to share with members. It was unanimously agreed that we should renew our membership, which is about £250 + VAT.

Committee tasks

Gina asked what availability committee members had to take on some tasks. Each of us present offered up an approximate number of hours per week, and expressed preferences based on individual skills. **Action for Gina** to allocate some tasks that need doing.

AOB

Gary is kindly storing the leaflets and bedroom browsers that had been in the AMP shop. They are at his unit at Skelgillside.

Potential MP visit – action point carried forward to keep in touch to arrange Neil Hudson visit. **Action for Janis**. Disappointingly, despite his office having said he was keen to visit Alston, we were not made aware that he was coming to Bonds last week, until we saw a report on it in the media.

Ian has established contact with one of the STR trustees to see if we can offer any support. Janis advised that STR are looking to reopen the railway and the cafe at Easter.

Christmas trees – Brian Cooper is happy to do the maintenance on the trees in October, but would like some help putting them up. Gary kindly offered to assist with that. The trees are in High Mill.

Date of next meeting

Thursday 1 October, 5.30pm via Zoom.

The meeting closed at 6.35pm.