



Ashington Parish Council

Minutes of the remote meeting held on Thursday 1st April 2021 at 7.45p.m.

Present: Councillors: N. Spiers, P. Kerrey, T. Kearney, T. Moss, M. Woolley, J. Morris, S. Ball, T. Watson, G. MacPherson, J. Stillwell

Also present:

Clerk: Karen Dare

District Councillor: John Blackall

County Councillor: Paul Marshall

3 Members of the Public (including Rector James di Castiglione)

084/21 **Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received and approved from:

Parish Councillor: Paul Linehan

District Councillor: Philip Circus

No apologies from District Councillor J Saheid

Neighbourhood Wardens: Bryony Sparks & Christina Arnold

085/21 **Declaration of Interests and notification of change of interest**

The Chairman reminded Councillors that previous declarations still stand (as defined under the Localism Act 2011).

Cllr Woolley reiterated his ongoing declaration of interest in the Neighbourhood Plan and HDC's Local Plan (items 096/21 & 097/21 & 99/21 (application DC/21/0445)).

Cllr MacPherson declared an interest in item 092/21.

086/21 **Public Adjournment** - Members of the public can ask questions.

Rector James di Castiglione spoke about the PC/Church Youth Partnership. The partnership was put in place 7 years ago with the aim to deliver youth services to the village. Over the years there have been two Youth Workers – Paddy Donovan for 5 years and Nick Taylor for two. Paddy is being ordained into the Church of England on 26th June and will become a curate in Ashington under James' supervision. During the pandemic the Church have reflected upon their priorities and what is important to them in a post-Covid world. They have recently been working through some issues regarding delivery of secular youth services with Ashington Youth Club that have highlighted the difficulties in delivering non faith-based youth work by Church employees.

Both the Church and the Youth Club have benefitted from the agreement over the past 7 years and the Church remain passionate about youth work and village life and are keen to continue to help Ashington flourish, but they cannot guarantee that delivery of youth work will always be secular. The Rector thanked the Parish Council for their support over the years but felt that it was time for the partnership to end so that they can re-organise their youth work to focus on non-secular activities.

Practicalities of ending the agreement would need to be worked out but as Nick has planned activities until the end of the summer term it makes sense to finish on 22nd July. Nick will also put some activities in place before he leaves for the youth during the summer holidays.

The Chairman thanked the Rector for his help and support over the past 7 years with the delivery of youth services to Ashington.

The Council was informed that the person who writes the village printed Newsletter was not continuing and she is looking for someone to take on this role. Her group of residents who deliver the newsletter are happy to carry on. The newsletter is good for the elderly who do not have access to websites, social media etc. The Newsletter is not a PC publication.

The Clerk will put out an advert on Facebook.

Clerk D

A member of the public asked if the new hedging in the memorial garden on Church Close was consistent with the wording of the donation and had the PC contacted the donor to check that it was OK to buy the hedging plants?

The Clerk confirmed that the wording of the donation was clearly minuted in February (Minute 036/21) and that Parish Councillors had assessed the project against the wording of the donation and considered that the hedging would benefit wildlife in the area. The donor had also made it clear to the Clerk that they did not need to be consulted every time the Parish Council wished to draw down on funds.

Another member of the public reported that people are creating many new footpaths through America's Wood. This is destroying surface vegetation. Could the Parish Council consider putting up some signage alerting the public to the fact that this is ancient woodland?

The Clerk reported that she has noticed this over recent months and that it may be happening because the public footpath through the wood is being churned up by horse riders, so pedestrians are trying to find alternative routes. She has already reported this to WSCC as well as reporting that the gates along the path have been removed to make it easier for horse riders. It is for the landowner to manage the woodland and they could put up signage.

Clerk to report to WSCC and Paul Marshall.

Clerk D

087/21 Reports from District & County Councillors

District Councillor John Blackall reported:

HDC Local Plan:

1. HDC is no further forward with selection of the large, strategic development sites and is not happy that the Government has not extended the deadline for updated Local Plans. In addition, much of the Government's housing data was based on pre-Brexit, pre-Covid conditions and, given that the UK population is predicted to drop by 2 million (700k in London alone), HDC considers that this must have an impact on future housing needs. They have been putting pressure on local MP's but with no success so far. Andrew Griffith MP does not want to see huge developments in West Sussex that could stretch all the way down the A29 and A24 to the South Downs National Park.
The Gatwick Diamond has suffered enormously because of the pandemic. Gatwick airport has seen most airlines withdrawing their services. Unless travel recovers quickly then employment in the area will not recover. Air travel may never recover to pre-Covid levels. The vaccination programme in the UK is very successful but this is not the case in other countries. All of this has a huge impact on the local economy. Patterns of work are changing, working from home will continue and there will be lots of redundant space in town centres that could be used for residential purposes.
However, HDC needs a Local Plan now otherwise the District will become a free-for-all to Developers. There are many Developers itching to develop all around Ashington. If the Local Plan fails then the Neighbourhood Plan will be of limited use as Developers will get approvals for sites not allocated in the Neighbourhood Plan and HDC will not be able to stop this. Parish Councils could write to MP's to ask them to look at Government housing targets. Buck Barn and Adversane strategic sites campaign groups are very organised and are bombarding District Councillors with objections to them being included in the HDC Local Plan.
2. In terms of potential new housing for Ashington – the HDC Local Plan Regulation 18 draft included @600 homes in total for Ashington. The Regulation 19 draft is currently scaled back and is very similar to the Ashington Neighbourhood Plan.

Questions:

1. Why did HDC remove the rights of communities to make statements at Council/Cabinet meetings? This is anti-democratic.
Cllr Blackall reassured the PC that the main forum for Parish Councils to speak is on planning matters at Planning Committee meetings and that the time limit is now 5 minutes, whereas members of the public are only allowed 2 minutes. There are some individuals and groups that seek to platform their own views on many issues, including international issues that are not directly relevant to HDC. This matter has been stirred up to look like Parish Council rights have been withdrawn but this is not the case.
2. Cllr Watson asked if the PC should be campaigning against large scale development in Ashington?
District Councillor Blackall stated that Ashington should do everything it can to get the Neighbourhood Plan approved at Referendum as it will help protect Ashington against uncontrolled development. The Parish Council has done a very good job and has an excellent Neighbourhood Plan that will help control development. Ashington would need vastly improved infrastructure and facilities, that it lacks at present, if it were to take hundreds more homes over and above the Ashington Neighbourhood Plan allocation.

County Councillor Paul Marshall reported:

1. Andrew Griffith MP is fighting Ashington's case against hundreds more homes than the Neighbourhood Plan. But it is important that HDC adopt a Local Plan and have a 5-year Housing Land Supply. The HDC Regulation 19 draft Local Plan does support the Ashington Neighbourhood Plan.
2. The new booking system for the Horsham Amenity Site is now in place and this will cut the long queues and safety issues. Billingshurst Amenity Site doesn't need to be booked in advance. Any problems then please report to Paul Marshall.
3. WSCC are removing lots of Ash trees along the A24 as part of a £1.5million Ash dieback project. He felt that better signage would help people understand what is going on.
4. Update on WSCC adoption of highways issue raised at last meeting – information on Mill Lane has been circulated.
5. He is standing for re-election on 6th May and his priorities are:
 - a. Economic recovery – skilling and re-training people into new careers. Aviation will take time to come back but there are opportunities in food & drink, leisure, solar capability, hydrogen, green homes. We are well placed in the green economy here in West Sussex. He is a Board member of the Local Enterprise Partnership which help businesses grow.
 - b. He is working with District Councils on their 5-year Housing Land Supply and the infrastructure needed eg roads, health, education
 - c. A new Fire Station is being built at Broadbridge Heath
 - d. In Adult Social Care he is looking at a White Paper that proposes Social Care working closer to health services.
6. Clerk to send information about the America's Wood PROW issue and he will ask Officers to look into it.

Clerk D

Questions: none

The Chair thanked both Councillors their attendance and reports. They left the meeting.

DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN:

088/21 Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 4th March 2021

The minutes of the meeting dated 4th March 2021 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman. Proposed by Cllr Kerrey, seconded by Cllr Morris and agreed by all.

089/21 The Parish Yard - update

1. Surveys were done in March. Once the reports are available then an architect can produce concepts and plans prior to planning application.

CFWD

090/21 Annual Review of ACCT/PC agreement –

1. ACCT have presented a draft Licence (rather than Lease) for the skatepark and Over 12s play area and Cllrs McPherson & Linehan are in discussions with them about it.
2. ACCT still need to transfer ownership of skatepark equipment to PC (by simple letter).
3. Clerk to amend & update gardener's contract. KD CFWD

091/21 **Youth Services Review** – Cllrs Spiers & Ball and the Clerk attended a meeting on 17th March. A follow-up meeting took place on 31st March. Some areas of the agreement needed clarifications, some parts were not being met (financial reporting) and finances were questioned.

Joint Church/Parish Council Statement:

Since 2014 the Parish Council and the Chanctonbury Churches have had a joint agreement for the provision of a share of a youth worker for the village. This came about when WSCC withdrew the youth worker scheme and Ashington Youth Club (AYC) needed a part time youth worker to fill the vacuum. At the same time the Church needed a part time youth worker. A mutually beneficial partnership was agreed where the Church appointed and managed a youth worker for 24 hours a week and the same individual then worked in conjunction with Ashington Youth Club for 12 hours, funded by the Parish Council.

This agreement has worked extremely well for the past 7 years with collaboration from all sides. Since the start of the agreement the Church has expanded 3-fold and the need for a part time youth worker has changed to needing a full-time youth worker. Hence, they have given the Parish Council notice to end this agreement.

To assist the AYC and the village, the Church has agreed to extend the notice period to the end of the academic summer term, giving the AYC almost 6 months to formulate alternative plans for youth provision for the village.

No doubt the Parish Council will continue to support the AYC in some way however this is an ideal opportunity to re-evaluate what type of youth provision and how much youth provision is needed in 2021 and in the future. Current funding of the Youth Club is a substantial financial commitment from the Parish Council.

Over the coming weeks the intention is to work closely with the AYC committee to help them formulate plans, setting a budget, and gaining the Council's approval for a way forward.

Cllr MacPherson was put in the Waiting Room (ie outside the meeting).

092/21 **Correspondence received for Action** –

1. Consider a request from residents at 4 & 5 Church Close to plant a hedge on PC land to the rear to soften the appearance of the new fence that has been erected by the neighbour to the south. This would improve the amenity of the area and their privacy. The residents are prepared to pay for and undertake the work and take advice from the Parish Council on the type / nature of planting but are keen to secure some semi-mature trees/ bushes to reinstate the hedge that was lost.

Councillors raised concerns about future maintenance – responsibility and costs in terms of regular cutting, watering during the summer and while establishing etc. Also, potential root damage to the footpath. Councillors agreed that it did not want to set any precedent for residents who might apply to plant up on PC land and any applications will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. Permission in this case could be granted solely because the hedge adjacent to the public footpath has been removed by a resident and replaced by a fence, and that PC permission for this planting could be given only in order that the old hedge can be replaced for the amenity of footpath users.

It was agreed that the residents could plant a hedge subject to the residents watering during the period of plant establishment, with plants that are easy for the Council's gardener to maintain. Cllr Spiers and Mark Adsett (gardener) to meet with the residents to agree a plan. It is also a requirement that the large pile of ivy behind the Church Close homes is removed from PC land by the homeowner. Clerk to add to the Landscape Gardener contract.

Clerk D

Cllr MacPherson was readmitted to the meeting.

093/21 **Meetings attended by Councillors** –

The Chair & Vice Chair have attended Youth Partnership meetings on 17th & 31st March.

Cllrs Morris & Moss attended an ACCT meeting on 24th March 2021.

Cllr Moss attended a WSALC meeting on 9th March. Summary - 6 new Directors to WSALC Board. Trevor Leggo remains CEO SSALC, with support to WSALC and ESALC. Mark Mulberry Secretary and his company (Mulberry and Co) with Anna Beams to support. New website being finalised. More member focused, more interaction with Clerks, more transparency & openness.

Cllr Ball attended a Youth Partnership meeting on 29th March.

094/21 **Matters raised by Councillors**

Speedwatch update from Cllr Kerrey – Following the latest guidance from West Sussex Police Ashington Speedwatch resumed on Tuesday 30th March. Although we have to observe 2M social distancing during each session we are now allowed to have a full complement of three volunteers. Fortunately, we have managed to retain all the current volunteers however it is our objective to bolster our numbers over the coming months so that we can extend our presence in the Village.

Cllr Stillwell raised the issue of the unadopted section of Mill Lane at the last meeting. WSCC has confirmed that it would not adopt the road until it was brought up to modern standards and that this would need to be agreed by the owner, local residents and Parish Council and the costs for doing so would not be borne by WSCC. In addition, WSCC advise that there is a prima facie argument that those using the road with motor vehicles are most likely to be the residents, their visitors and invitees and those seeking access to the club building – and not ‘the public’ as a whole – because it does not provide a ‘through route’. Therefore, it is not a public road in the true sense.

Councillors were concerned at District Councillor Blackall’s comments about the robustness of the Neighbourhood Plan in the situation whereby the HDC fails to produce a Local Plan. It is understood that if HDC has no Local Plan then numbers of new homes in Ashington could increase significantly above the Neighbourhood Plan but, with a Neighbourhood Plan, at least all the new homes would have to comply with Neighbourhood Plan policies and the village would still receive 25% of CIL and not 15%. This would be used to deliver new community facilities.

The PC has prepared a leaflet explaining the importance of the Neighbourhood Plan and this will be delivered to all households before 6th May. But some people may vote by post and the deadline is 20th April. The Clerk will put a copy of the leaflet on the PC website and Facebook page.

Cllr Moss reported that at the upcoming ACCT AGM he would not be re-standing as a Trustee. He also reported that he had attended to conferences recently on loneliness, by Age UK/HDC and Sussex Association of Youth Clubs. More information in due course.

Cllr Watson reported that the Newsletter deliverer in Willow Way did not want to continue.

Cllr Kearney reported that the recent planning application for Coatings, London Road had been amended to remove the large, two-storey garage/office.

Cllr Stillwell reported that a friend of hers had recently picked up 40-50 poo bags along the road to Broadbridge Farm. Is a bin needed in this area? Cllr Watson and the Clerk will monitor as this is a regular route for them.

095/21 **Chairman’s Announcements -**

Future meetings – It would appear that the Government are not extending the legislation that allows for remote meetings on or after 7th May. The Clerk’s understanding is that the PC could continue with remote meetings until 6th May but thereafter must resume physical meetings. This would mean that planning committee in mid-May would be the first physical meeting and that the full Council’s June meeting will need to be a physical meeting. ACCT would need to agree to the use of the Scout Hall/Committee Room 2. Councillors discussed this – concerns were raised about the small size of Committee Room 2 for committee meetings and asked whether there would be limits on numbers attending meetings in the Scout Hall. Clerk to investigate. **Clerk CFWD**

AGM Business - reminder, if anyone is considering stepping down from positions of responsibility and if anyone wishes to be considered for positions then please speak to the Clerk or Chairman by 14th April. Positions available are: Chair, Vice Chair, Finance Committee, Planning Committee, Staffing Committee, Representatives – ACCT, Youth Club, Wardens, WSALC/SSALC, HALC. Agreed.

The hedging plants have arrived, and the Chairman has arranged a Working Party for 10am 6th April to plant them and sow the wildflower seeds at the memorial garden.

PLANNING

Cllr Woolley was put in the Waiting Room (ie outside the meeting).

096/21 Neighbourhood Planning Update

The Referendum is scheduled for 6th May 2021 following a positive Independent Examiner's report. All Referendum information is available to read on the HDC website and on the PC website.

The Clerk has prepared an information leaflet to be delivered to all households. Councillors to approve.

Costs: Printing – 2 quotes £108 or £130

Delivery - £251.91 (outlying homes will need hand delivering by volunteers)

Agreed by all, Clerk to decide on printer depending on turnaround time.

It was reported that there is some misinformation being spread on social media that assumes the Neighbourhood Plan (225 homes) and the Local Plan (400 or 600 homes) are mutually exclusive. This is not the case at all. If the Neighbourhood Plan does not pass Referendum then HDC could still allocate the Neighbourhood Plan sites, as well as all the other sites north of Rectory Lane, giving 600 homes in total. If the Neighbourhood Plan does not pass the Referendum, then HDC control all development in Ashington.

097/21 HDC Local Plan Review Update – the Local Plan Reg 19 consultation is scheduled to take place in June-July 2021 which means that paperwork should be available shortly.

Cllr Woolley was readmitted to the meeting.

098/21 Minutes of the Planning Meeting held on March 17th, 2020.

Minutes have been circulated. Agreed by all.

099/21 Planning Applications –

DC/21/0341 Single storey rear extension - 27 Covert Mead

The Council has no objections.

DC/21/0431 Variation of condition 1 of planning permission DC/19/1788 (Erection of 7no dwellings comprising a mixture of detached and semi-detached properties, with associated parking and landscaping works). Amendments to site layout / boundaries, fenestration and internal layouts - Lodge Farm Malthouse Lane

The Council has no objections

Cllr Woolley was put in the Waiting Room (ie outside the meeting).

DC/21/0445 Permission in Principle for residential development comprising between 1 and 9 dwelling houses - Land at Ashington House London Road

This is a 'Permission in Principle' application and the PC has not been consulted.

The permission in principle consent route is an alternative way of obtaining planning permission for housing-led development which separates the consideration of matters of principle for proposed development from the technical detail of the development. The permission in principle consent route has 2 stages: the first stage (or permission in principle stage) establishes whether a site is suitable in-principle and the second ('technical details consent') stage is when the detailed development proposals are assessed. The Clerk has contacted HDC to find out if Permission in Principle applications are consulted upon.

The Parish Council Objects to the application – the site was considered and rejected during the Neighbourhood Plan process (now at Referendum stage). It was not included in the HDC draft

Regulation 18 Local Plan. It is outside the BUAB, in the countryside, forms part of historic parkland associated with Holmbush House, and is in an unsustainable location compared to other available sites.

Cllr Woolley was readmitted to the meeting.

FINANCE

100/21 Correspondence –

1. HMRC – receipt of the Council’s annual VAT reclaim (paid)

101/21 Expenditure (Appendix 3)

It was resolved that the schedule of invoices for payment totalling £5,531.43 April 2021 be approved. Agreed by all.

FOR INFORMATION ONLY:

102/21 Neighbourhood Wardens Report (Appendix 1)

No further information.

103/21 Youth Worker Report (Appendix 2)

No further information.

104/21 Correspondence received for Information –

1. WSCC – Post-16 Transport consultation (circulated via Facebook)
2. Gatwick Airport newsletter
3. Armed Forces Covenant – update
4. WSALC – service & subscriptions update from 1st April & other correspondence
5. RBLI – preparation for VE Day
6. HALC Update
7. HDC – new house on London Road (opposite Co-op) will be known as Garden Cottage.
8. HDC – Community Climate Fund opens for applications 5th April.
9. WSCC - A24 Worthing to Horsham Corridor Feasibility Study Stakeholder July 2020 Webinar Summary Report
10. West Sussex Transport Plan Review Survey, Autumn 2020 – Feedback Summary

PLANNING

105/21 Planning Correspondence –

1. Response from Chanctonbury Nurseries promoter to the PC’s comments on their recent proposals.
2. HDC – Development Control Department update

106/21 New Enforcement Allegations –

EN/21/0083 Alleged: installation of air conditioning unit on top of dormer without permission - 9 Alicia Avenue

EN/21/0099 Alleged: Breach of condition 6 of AS/5/98, unauthorised dormer extension and insertion of new window - Chanctonbury View 13 Turnpike Way

EN/21/0104 Alleged: erection of garage building in front of the - property without planning permission - 29 Willow Way

EN/21/0105 Alleged: erection of annex in rear garden without planning permission - 29 Willow Way

107/21 Horsham District Council Decisions

Approvals – none

Refusals - none

Withdrawals – none

Prior Notifications –

DC/21/0318 Prior notification for the erection of a building for agricultural use - Springfield Spring Gardens Washington. Prior Approval Required and REFUSED

Appeals – none

FINANCE

108/21 **Income –**

Parish Yard (February) £759.43

HMRC – VAT return of £3190.64

Kite & Thomas – roundabout sponsorship £277.50

109/21 **ITEMS SUSPENDED AND CARRIED FORWARD:**

None

110/21 **Date of Next meetings**

Planning Committee meeting: **7:30pm on Wednesday 14th & 28th April 2021**

Finance Committee meeting: **8pm on Wednesday 28th April 2021**

Parish Council: **7:45pm on Thursday 6th May 2021**

Members of the public were then asked to leave the meeting as Councillors needed to discuss confidential matters: None

Meeting closed at 9.30pm

Signed: **Dated:**

Members of the public should be aware that being present at a meeting of the Council or one of its Committees will be deemed as the person having given consent to being recorded (photograph, film or audio recording) at the meeting, by any person present.

Warden Monthly Report

March 2021 Ashington

Patrol hours TOTAL:	76	ASB incidents TOTAL:	6
Foot (high visibility)	46	Noise	0
Vehicle	30	Neighbours	1
Notices/warnings TOTAL:	9	Driving/vehicles	1
Fixed Penalty Notice	0	Bikes	0
Yellow card warning	0	Alcohol/drugs	2
Community Protection Warning/Notice	0	Public order	2
Parking alert	9	Clear up/disposal reports TOTAL:	10
Police reports TOTAL:	8	Fly tipping / flyposting	2
Phone (including 101 and 999)	2	Graffiti	0
Email	3	Dog fouling	3
Intelligence report	1	Litter	3
E-CINS (multi-agency reporting)	1	Drug litter	2
Verbal	1	Hazards	0
Media reports TOTAL:	2	Community events attended	0
Press release / Community magazines	0	Reports to Operation Crackdown	0
Social Media	2	Safeguarding referral	0
Admin	38	School contact	8
Visits to vulnerable people (all ages)	26	Youth engagement	9
Signposting	2	Reports to DVLA	1

ASB/crime/criminal damage

We have been working with the Co op this month following a complaint around non-compliance of covid regulations from an individual customer. They have also expressed concerns around shop lifting so we have passed details on to the police for joint working.

We have again been finding individuals and groups using the skate park, we have been able to speak with some of the young people involved and explained to them again that due to lockdown all skate parks are currently closed which is why the barriers are across.

This month we spoke with an individual about the use of electric scooters and advised that it is against the law to ride an e-scooter on a public road or pavement.

Following a report from the police rural crime team we have been regularly patrolling local farm land which has been recently used by a group for drinking alcohol and inhaling nitrous oxide. We collected a large amount of litter from the site. If anyone has any further information on this please do get in contact.

A resident handed a set of number plates to us this week which were found on the edge of their property, we have passed this information onto the police.

If anyone sees or hears anything suspicious then please report it on 101 or 999 if something is happening in that instance.

Parking/vehicles

A resident raised a concern with us this month around school parking, a number of vehicles were parking on the pavement or close to the junction of Willard Way, and this has resulted in a child

nearly being knocked over by a vehicle. We have been targeting patrols around school drop off and pick up to speak with drivers and advise them around safe parking.

Fly tipping/littering/graffiti

There has been two reports of fly tipping this month both incidents involved a number of tyres being dumped on the verge.

We have reported in a number of potholes in the local roads.

We have also been out litter picking this month as there has been several complaints around the amount of litter. We were able to hand out litter picking to a resident who wanted to include this on his regular walks. If anyone in the village would like to borrow equipment for litter picking then please do get in contact.

Community engagement/events/meetings

This month we have been on a training course run by Horsham District Council around 'Tackling loneliness and Isolation'. It has really got us thinking about what projects we might run coming out of lockdown to encourage intergenerational work. If anyone has any ideas or suggestions then we would be interested to hear them.

Patrols (foot/visible and car)

We have patrolled the whole village on foot and vehicle at various times of the day throughout the month.

Elderly and youth

We continue to write and deliver our newsletters, were we have been able to we have stopped to check in with the residents that we deliver to. The newsletters are gratefully received by all and we know they enjoy the quizzes and various challenges that are included.

This month we have been able to work with the storehouse in ensure residents in need of food are receiving parcels.

We have been spending time engaging with young people around the village who are currently on furlough, we were able to give out bike safety advice to one young person.

Licensing

Nothing to report

Dog related issues

There have been a number of complaints around a number of bags of dog poo being left on verges or thrown in bushes. We would like to remind all dog owners to 'bag it AND bin it'.

Cycling

Nothing to report

Parish specific/other

We raised concerns to the police regarding a minor in the village with regards to their safety. This is an ongoing investigation and we are currently supporting those involved.

Appendix 2 – Youth Worker Report

Youth Worker's Report - March 2021

During March we continued with Zoom calls twice a week on Mondays and Thursdays as

previously, with one new girl joining us on Monday nights. With the years 6-9, we introduced weekly themes and challenges with big prizes available to be won. We set them homework challenges each week and every time, they did a fantastic job of rising to the challenge and when they won the Amazon voucher, they were thrilled!

We have continued posting on social media, and updating Facebook where needed. Parent interaction has been great and in writing the annual report, we heard back from five young people and five parents who gave glowing reports on the club over the last year.

We have made some plans for the summer term, including themes for club nights when we reopen, and some one off events that should keep the young people interested and increase the amount of face to face time we spend with them, which is great. These include: car wash fundraiser, bike ride, monthly Zooms interviewing people with interesting jobs, litter pick and supporting the Ashington Cougars Football Festival in June.

We are now in the planning stage for reopening club from Monday 19th April. We are risk assessing the space we have and making sure we are following the government guidance to allow us to reopen safely. As of today, we are unsure of the exact opening times of the club as it is suggested that we don't mix year groups yet, meaning we have to find other slots to open that fall within our working hours and that are staffed by competent, trained volunteers if I can't be there. Jack and I are attending more training this month, this time on 'Lonliness in Young People', adding more knowledge to our understanding of how to best support young people at this time. I have also completed my C0, C1 and C2 safeguarding training with the Diocese this month.

Appendix 3 – Expenditure

Karen Dare (Clerk)	Home office (March)	£20.00
	Land Registry search	£3.00
	Print cartridges	£49.99
Mark Adsett	Landscape Gardening (March)	£587.50
Ashington PCC	Invoice YW-2021-03 (March)	£1,083.33
WSCC	Salaries and Costs (March 2021)	£1,527.80
EON	Monthly Direct Debit Parish Yard - electricity	£20.00
Business Stream	Monthly Direct Debit Parish Yard - water	£20.00
N. Spiers	Hedging plants	£306.09
WSALC Ltd	Subscription 21-22	£810.42
WSCC	Payroll admin	£47.30
Navigus Planning Ltd	Neighbourhood Plan support	£1,056.00

All to be paid by Bank Transfer

Appendix 4

Funds held by the Parish Council on behalf of others (as at 31st December 2020):

Ashington Rangers £724.01

Ashington Residents Association £615.85

Ashington First Responders £1,509.48