



# Ashington Parish Council

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## Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at 7:45p.m. in Ashington School, Foster Lane.

**Present: Councillors:** N. Spiers, P. Kerrey, J. Stillwell, M. Woolley, G. MacPherson, J. Morris, T. Kearney

**Also present:**

Clerk – Karen Dare  
District Cllr - J. Blackall  
County Cllr - P Marshall  
17 Members of the Public  
Councillor vacancy candidate – Paul Linehan

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The Chairman reminded members of the public the requirement that they limit their participation to the Public Adjournment sections of the meeting. If Members of the Public have questions for Police/Wardens & District/County Councillors, then the Clerk will pass these on if these individuals have left the meeting.

Members of the Public are reminded that Standing Orders allow for 5 minutes maximum participation.

### 026/20 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received and approved from: Cllr S. Ball, T. Watson & T. Moss  
District Councillors: P Circus & J Saheid  
Neighbourhood Wardens – Bryony Sparks & Christina Arnold

027/20 **Councillor recruitment:** One applicant has come forward (Paul Linehan). He gave a short presentation about himself. Councillors agreed unanimously to co-opt Paul Linehan onto the Council. He took his place at the meeting table. Clerk to arrange the new Councillor notifications & documentation.

**Clerk D**

### 028/20 Declaration of Interests and notification of change of interest

Cllr Woolley will take no part in HDC Local Plan Review discussions (see Minute 034/20). The Chairman reminded councillors that previous declarations still stand (as defined under the Localism Act 2011).

### 029/20 Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2020

The minutes of the meeting dated 9<sup>th</sup> January 2020 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman. Proposed by Cllr Stillwell, seconded by Cllr Kerrey and agreed by all.

### 030/20 Neighbourhood Wardens Report (Appendix 1)

Cllr Stillwell summarised the Wardens report for the purposes of those present. She also advised that the Wardens have a Defibrillator in their vehicle, and they are First Aid trained. If the Parish Council agrees then they could become Community First Responders when they are on duty.

At the Steering Group meeting HDC confirmed that they will not fund CCTV training for the Wardens. The village CCTV cameras are all owned by ACCT but PC & ACCT will need to discuss this issue alongside HDC.

These matters can be discussed at the Annual Wardens Review & Appraisals which are due shortly.

The Chair invited questions from Councillors:

Cllr Stillwell suggested that the Wardens could be involved in a street party to commemorate VE day in May. Cllr MacPherson & ACCT are already working on some ideas for the day. More details in due course.

The Chair invited questions from Members of the Public: None

### 031/20 Youth Worker Report (Appendix 2)

The Chairman gave an overview of the report. He also added that the Youth Club are working on a project to collect residents old/unused cables & leads as they can be sold & recycled for @£1/kg

The Chair invited questions from Councillors:

Cllr MacPherson is interested in how many 'out of village' youth attend the Youth Club sessions with their Ashington friends. Chairman to ask the Youth Worker. **NS D**

The Chair invited questions from Members of the Public:

A member of the public suggested that the bullying incident referred to in the report may have been an adult bullying a child. The Chairman clarified that the details in the report were deliberately sparse to protect the identities of those involved but that the matter is being dealt with by the Youth Club.

### 032/20 Report from District and County Councillors

District Councillor Blackall reported:

Andrew Griffiths MP has recently stated that one of the biggest issues in his constituency is overdevelopment. There has been a 10% increase in votes cast since 2010 and this reflects the pace of new building and population growth. The Govt. had previously set a target of 900 new homes pa in the District and this is increasing to 1300pa from 2022-2036 and HDC need a land supply to achieve this. However, the projections are based on Govt. housing estimates from 2014 but projections from 2016 show housing need has dropped but Districts are still required to adhere to 2014 figures. HDC needs 650 homes pa for its own needs and the additional numbers are because neighbouring Districts cannot find land for homes and HDC has a 'Duty to Co-operate'. In 2019 HDC completed 1300 homes which was 400 over target but they cannot offset these against any shortfalls in subsequent years. HDC have granted 7000 homes permission but they have not been built yet, perhaps because of market forces.

Questions were invited from Councillors: none, see Minute 034/20

Questions from Members of the Public: none, see Minute 034/20

County Councillor Paul Marshall reported:

1. Mill Lane flooding – WSCC Engineers need to witness the flooding before they can raise a job to clear the drains. Photo evidence from residents is not enough to raise a job.
2. Drifting at northern roundabouts – WSCC cannot install an Engineering solution and consider enforcement by the Police to be the only action that can be taken. The Police do not have the manpower to devote to this issue. In addition, the perpetrators know that the Police response time is >15 minutes, they are very organised and: meet up at McDonalds at Buck Barn and remove their number plates; advertise the location on a Facebook page; know that residents are reluctant to report issues. Clerk to send information to Paul Marshall who will discuss with PCC. **Clerk D**
3. Gritting routes have been re-instated by WSCC.  
The Clerk pointed out that whilst the gritting routes are back to those of last year the ploughing routes are not and London Road, Billingshurst Road and Hole Street will not be ploughed in the event of snow (Minute 038/20h)
4. He will shortly be meeting Cllr MacPherson in his employment capacity to discuss Armed Forces projects.
5. He had secured £2k for the Youth Club from WSCC for computer equipment. Further grants of up to £750 are possible from the WSCC Micro-fund scheme.

Questions were invited from Councillors:

Cllr MacPherson questioned the WSCC response to the PC's concerns about amenity tips in Appendix 5. He had evidence from national sources that suggested the WSCC information is not correct and that their actions could be making the situation worse. It was agreed that Cllr MacPherson share his information with County Councillor Marshall so that he can take it up with Officers & Cabinet members.

**GMcP D**

The 'landslip' on the A24 ON slip road at the north of the village still had not been dealt with and cones have been in place for months. Clerk to forward details.

**Clerk D**

Questions from Members of the Public:

A resident asked if WSCC have stopped their drain/gully clearing work as Rectory Lane & Mill Lane are still flooding during rain, even though both areas have been reported many times to WSCC. County Councillor Marshall reported that recent heavy rains have resulted in high numbers of reports to WSCC and see point 1 (above).

**033/20 Young Persons Adjournment – none**

Cllr Woolley left the room

#### **034/20 HDC Local Plan Review & Neighbourhood Plan**

For the purposes of transparency, the Chairman & Clerk had met with Cllr Woolley (at his request) soon after the Local Plan Review documents were released by HDC. They identified that the Local Plan Review could impact upon the Neighbourhood Plan and all agreed that his ongoing declaration of interest with 'Site 5' would potentially prejudice his views on the Local Plan Review documents and, therefore, he should not be part of any Parish Council discussions on the Local Plan Review or Neighbourhood Plan.

The Chairman made the following statements of fact:

HDC Local Plan Review 2019-2036 is proposing a potential 400 homes north of Rectory Lane in Ashington that may be appropriate to 'meet wider housing demand in the south of the District'. These are in addition to the 225 proposed by the Neighbourhood Plan that was a housing figure agreed with HDC some years ago. It seems that HDC are seeking to use Ashington to deliver homes that needed in the south but not necessarily in Ashington. HDC comments that: further assessment is required to understand how community needs arising from this scale of growth could be met and they mention issues of capacity at the nearby school and health facilities.

There is an HDC Parish Workshop meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> February that the Clerk & Councillor Ball will attend.

The Clerk has arranged for an urgent meeting with HDC (19<sup>th</sup> February 2020) and has sought the advice of the Parish Council's Planning Consultant on the Local Plan Review documents. County Councillor Paul Marshall asked the Clerk to send him details of the meeting and he would see if he could attend.

**Clerk CFWD**

The Chairman then expressed serious concerns that an additional 400 homes is not Ashington's 'fair share'. He explained that the PC had been working closely with HDC during the Neighbourhood Plan and had agreed that 225 homes was 'appropriate' given Ashington's status as a 'medium village with limited services & facilities' in HDC's own settlement hierarchy. This number was derived from the Housing Needs Assessment which showed that up to 200 homes were appropriate and + 15% was added to recognise the pressure HDC was facing to deliver high numbers of homes. The PC now considered that the past 3.5 years on the Neighbourhood Plan have been wasted and considerable money, time & effort from the PC & community have been lost. HDC have simply dumped more homes in Ashington without considering the effect on the Neighbourhood Plan or our community.

He also pointed out that there is considerable disparity between 'medium villages' with some having only 25 homes but Ashington is targeted with 600. All the other medium villages added together have less homes than are proposed for Ashington.

There are other settlements that have significantly more infrastructure than Ashington (classified as 'Large village/Small towns' in HDC's hierarchy) but are earmarked for less housing than Ashington. It seems that HDC have done a basic desktop exercise and simply chosen all sites in the District that are 'easy' to deliver. Some of the information in site assessments is wrong and is clearly 'copy & pasted' between different sites. Ashington does NOT have a direct bus service to Brighton – how do HDC not know this? Do they consider Ashington to be suitable for high numbers of homes based on incorrect information? How much do they really know about Ashington and its Neighbourhood Plan? The PC and Neighbourhood Plan team have lost all trust in HDC.

Questions/comments from Councillors (summary):

1. What has been the point in the past 3.5 years work on the Neighbourhood Plan?
2. The PC engaged with HDC, planned for a higher number of homes than many residents were comfortable with and still HDC want to dump more.
3. The Neighbourhood Plan proposes not only homes but many community benefits for the Parish and this is now in jeopardy. We do not want to be like other settlements whereby houses are delivered without the infrastructure and community benefits that we need.
4. Ashington increased in size by 60% in 2000 and now HDC want to do it again. It is not proportionate nor fair to target Ashington in this way.
5. HDC has identified 8 potential strategic sites but these will take time to deliver so is using the 'smaller' sites like those in Ashington to deliver numbers of homes in the short-term. It is just a numbers game and Parishes are simply powerless pawns.
6. Strategic sites can better deliver infrastructure than Ashington – adding 60% more homes to an existing settlement with limited services & facilities will mean that additional infrastructure will be 'bolted on' and will not necessarily be in the right places, if any is delivered at all. The Neighbourhood Plan tried to deliver facilities in the right places for the community.
7. We may be beside the A24 but village roads are narrow, sewage infrastructure is inadequate, school would need to expand and there is no infrastructure for these additional homes.
8. Southwater has expanded rapidly over the years and their children cannot all be accommodated in the nearest Secondary Schools in Horsham so they are transported by bus to Crawley. It cannot be right that Primary School age children in Ashington might be transported out of the village to other schools because too many homes have been built here.
9. Ashington does not have a direct bus link to Brighton – contrary to what is written in the Ashington Site Assessments. How do HDC not know this? Residents must go to Crawley by bus and then change to get on a bus to Brighton. Our young people cannot use buses to get anywhere that they need to be.
10. We have no health facilities nor do we have any buses that residents can use to get to our nearest health facilities.
11. Ashington residents have no sustainable transport options and are entirely reliant on private cars – how does an additional 600 homes fit with HDC's Policies on Sustainable Development & their recent Climate Emergency declaration?
12. All of this development in Horsham District will have an impact on the South Downs Dark Skies initiatives.
13. Did the Neighbourhood Plan consider designating some of this development land as 'Green Space' to protect it?  
The Clerk responded that in order to designate an area of land as Green Space certain criteria must be met and no development areas met the criteria. Other public areas in the village eg Recreation Ground are already designated as Public Open Space and, therefore, cannot be built on.
14. Our Neighbourhood Plan is robust but it is not yet finalised. Ashington played its part in making a good contribution to the overall housing need in the District with 225 homes in its Neighbourhood Plan, much higher than many other settlements. How can the PC now ask

residents to vote on the Neighbourhood Plan when there is the potential for 400 more homes in the pipeline?

A Councillor asked John Blackall what he and our other District Councillors were doing on behalf of Ashington residents:

John Blackall replied that residents need to make their representations to HDC so that final decisions can be made in October. He and the other District Councillors will look at the representations before making any decisions. Without a 5 year Housing Land Supply HDC is vulnerable to speculative development anywhere in the District so HDC must allocate sites and maintain control of housing numbers.

John Blackall also commented:

Washington roundabout is congested and needs a flyover, Buck Barn crossroads A24/A272 is very congested, there is an accident blackspot at A24 Copsale crossover, A24 south doesn't link to A27. HDC has raised these all issues with Govt. but their Housing policy needs to change. HDC is challenging the Govt. on housing numbers. WSCC need to plan more major infrastructure if the District is to have these large numbers of new homes.

District Councillor Blackall also clarified that consultation is 17<sup>th</sup> February to 30<sup>th</sup> March and the final housing site allocations will be decided by HDC in the October.

Questions/comments from Members of the Public:

1. The uncertainty over site allocations both in the Neighbourhood Plan and Local Plan is leading to stress & anxiety amongst residents. Large scale changes to Ashington are being proposed and this will be devastating to the village. There is a Facebook Group called Ashington Action Group that residents can join.
2. The Neighbourhood Plan is proposing to allocate Sites 5&6 for housing but the HDC Local Plan Review states that these sites can't be developed.  
The Chairman explained that the Neighbourhood Plan Site Assessment work is in great detail whereas HDC's are 'desktop studies' but that this is an issue that the PC will be taking up with HDC.
3. The village gets a range of community benefits from the Neighbourhood Plan but if HDC deliver the additional 400 homes what will the village get?  
The Chairman explained that Housing Developers give CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) money to HDC and 15% comes to the Parish if there is no Neighbourhood Plan but 25% comes to the Parish if there is a Neighbourhood Plan. The difference can be worth £millions. CIL money is meant to deliver infrastructure.
4. Why have HDC wrecked the Neighbourhood Plan?
5. The Neighbourhood Plan Regulation 14 documents all took a large amount of time to read and complete the response forms and now it all seems to have been a waste of time.
6. What's the point in responding as HDC are just going to do what they want anyway?  
The Chairman re-stated the importance in sending comments to HDC.
7. HDC's documents are hard to find on their website.
8. Why hasn't the PC publicised the HDC Drop-in session being held in Ashington and why is it being held in half-term when many people are away?  
The Chairman responded that the PC didn't know there was a drop-in session but would find out when/where and publicise it widely.
9. What happens if the Neighbourhood Plan doesn't get approved? Will Horsham allocate the homes anyway.  
The Chairman responded that the PC simply doesn't know the answer to this but will be asking HDC at its meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> February.
10. Why is HDC simply accepting Govt. housing targets? Opposition Groups to Mayfield Market town have presented site assessments to HDC that show harm from potential development but HDC are still looking at it as a possible allocation because they are using the developers own Site Assessments and not the Opposition Group's.
11. Ashington is a village and we want to keep it that way.

This is a key message that came out very clearly in the various Neighbourhood Plan consultations but HDC are ignoring it in favour of a numbers game.

12. Developers have stopped building homes in some areas because no-one is buying them, why do we need more?
13. The homes will not be affordable to local people with local jobs.
14. All proposed developments in the District will impact on Ashington residents in one way or another

The Chairman thanked residents for their questions/comments and for their attendance. He closed the public adjournment session

The Chairman explained that because of the impact of the Local Plan Review on Ashington and on the Neighbourhood Plan it is important that Ashington Parish Council and residents respond to the HDC Consultation. The Neighbourhood Plan had used the services of a Planning Consultant to advise throughout the project and Councillors were asked to consider a quote for £1,500 for him to prepare a response on behalf of the Parish Council. This would be funded from the Neighbourhood Plan budget. Agreed by all. Clerk to arrange. **Clerk CFWD**

The Consultant & the Clerk have also prepared a draft list of questions to ask at the HDC meeting.

Neighbourhood Plan update – some Archaeological remains have been found on Site 5 and a 'constraints map' has been drawn which will keep any development away from areas of importance. A Masterplan showing how the 50 proposed homes can be delivered on the site considering the constraints has been prepared and the information is being sent to Historic England for comment.

Cllr Woolley returned to the meeting.

#### 035/20 **Public Adjournment**

Items NOT relating to the HDC Local Plan or Neighbourhood Plan:

1. Could the PC clarify where the working Defibrillators are in the Parish? There is one at ACCT and another at Ashington Autos on London Road. Both are affixed to the outside of the buildings and SECamb are aware of them both such that if 999 is called then the caller will be directed to the nearest one. There is another in the Wardens vehicle (see 030/20). A recruitment drive was held at the recent Village Halls Open Day. Little Lifesavers were also present.
2. There is overgrown grass along The Sands path and in The Sands, near no. 19. These can be reported to WSCC via the LoveWSussex app or online.
3. A tree has been removed from the front garden of a property in Warminghurst Close and the front boundary fence moved to incorporate a previous area of tree/shrub. This is a matter for HDC Planning Enforcement.

#### 036/20 **Action List Update (CFWD = carry forward to next meeting, D = delete)**

- a. ACCT/PC agreement – update on outstanding play area repairs, issues surrounding Litter Warden?
  - a) Write formally to ACCT to say that in lieu of a Litter Warden the Neighbourhood Wardens are tasked with the job. Agreed by all. **Clerk D**
  - b) ACCT have written to say that the play area repairs are complete, Nigel & Terry to inspect them on behalf of the PC and confirm completion. **NS/TK**
  - c) It was proposed that now outstanding items have been completed the ACCT/PC agreement is in place and should be reviewed and agreed on an annual basis. Agreed by all. **Clerk D**
- b. There but Not There Armed Forces Covenant grant – the grant application had scored highly at the Regional Board and was now through to the National Board for judging.
- c. Defibrillator Working Party – Received the first cabinet for the defibrillator that will be going in the Red Lion, installation will be arranged. A second site has been identified and working with the management agents on an agreement. We will then try to get two additional defibrillators into the village.

- d. Hanging baskets Councillors to decide whether to install hanging baskets again in 2020 with associated costs of lamppost testing, baskets and watering. The costs have been included in the budget for 2020/21. Agreed by all. Clerk to arrange. **Clerk D**
- e. Weedkilling – does the PC want weedkilling done this year? A budget has been set aside for this. Agreed by all. Clerk to arrange. **Clerk D**

**037/20 Correspondence received for Action**

- a. Kite & Thomas (Ashington Autos) have given notice on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020 to quit 'green shed' but wish to retain the compound area on lease. The Clerk has checked the terms of the lease and 6 months' notice is required (unless the Council can find a new tenant). Given that the 'green shed' is in poor condition a new tenant is unlikely. Actions that need to be taken by 1<sup>st</sup> July or sooner:
  - a. Amend the lease and consider a new rental value for the compound only
  - b. The Valuation Office Agency (Business Rates) have advised that an Empty Property rate can be applied once the shed is fully vacated but until the shed is removed completely then the Empty Rate will be applied. Once demolished then no rates will be due. The Clerk has asked for the shed to be emptied and will advise the Valuation Office when this is done.
  - c. Decide what to do with the green shed long term
  - d. Financial implications – there will be a reduction in rental income and the Council will need to pay some Business Rates until the shed is demolished plus pay for the shed to be removed. No budget was set for this, but it was identified as a financial risk to the Council and other cost-saving measures were implemented in advance.

Councillors to consider options, discussion at next meeting.

**CFWD**

**038/20 Correspondence received for Information**

- a. Thank You email received from Lee English (ACCT) for the Council's attendance at Village Halls Open Day. The Chairman also congratulated & thanked Lee for a very well organised event.
- b. HDC – how Neighbourhood Wardens and new PCSO's are working together
- c. Horsham District Older People's Forum meeting dates 2020
- d. SSALC Strategy Review Survey
- e. HALC Agenda 27/1/20
- f. HDC – 'Discover Horsham District' website
- g. Response from Deborah Urquhart to Amenity Tip issues raised at the last meeting – see Appendix 5
- h. WSCC Gritting/Ploughing routes – new maps show that WSCC will:
  - a. Grit - Hole Street, London Road, Billingshurst Road & A24 + slip roads
  - b. Plough - A24+slip roads plus link road to Billingshurst Road roundabout (not the roundabout itself) and only if snowfall is >5cm. No other roads.
- i. HALC Minutes 27/1/20

**039/20 Meetings attended by Councillors**

Cllr Stillwell & Cllr Morris attended a Warden Partnership meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2020.

Cllr Ball & Spiers attended a Youth Partnership meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2020

Cllr Stillwell attended HDC's Councillor Conduct training session on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2020. Unfortunately, Cllr Moss could not attend as he has broken his arm.

**040/20 Matters raised by Councillors**

Cllr Kerrey reported: Speedwatch has managed to maintain a fairly regular presence allowing for the weather and unexpected roadworks at the roundabout by the BP garage.

Billingshurst Road is still producing about 10% of speeding drivers from the total traffic flow whereas London Road seems to be full of careful drivers, although this morning one driver was obviously in a tremendous hurry (47mph).

We are all gaining experience and many of the volunteers are now forming their own teams and schedules which means I no longer have to be at every session. It must be said that we are all looking forward to warmer and drier weather.

Cllr Stillwell reported that there are lots of potholes everywhere. The Clerk reminded everyone that the LoveWSussex App is excellent, but it did not appear to be working currently.

#### **041/20 Chairman's Announcements**

None

#### **PLANNING**

##### **042/20 Minutes of the Planning Meetings held on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2020**

The meeting was cancelled as there were no applications to discuss.

##### **043/20 Planning Correspondence –**

1. Proposed Submission Draft Soft Sand Review of the West Sussex Joint Minerals Local Plan, consultation ends 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2020. Ham Farm has been allocated as a sand extraction site. The PC had previously objected to this site being included. Clerk to re-send the Council's objections.

##### **044/20 Neighbourhood Planning Update**

See 034/20. No further update.

##### **045/20 New Enforcement Allegations – none**

##### **046/20 Planning Applications**

DC/20/0093 The use of Spear Hill Barn as a separate single dwelling house began more than four years before the date of this application (Certificate of Lawful Development - Existing) - Spear Hill Barn, Spear Hill

The Parish Council has no comments.

DC/20/0140 Retrospective application for the installation of a swimming pool within the curtilage - Malthouse Farm, Malthouse Lane

The Parish Council has no comments.

##### **047/20 Horsham District Council Decisions**

###### **Approvals –**

DC/19/2341 Part conversion of detached garage into habitable living space for the use of an office and erection of a single storey side extension - 4 Greenacres

DC/19/2330 Renewal of unimplemented Woodland Management Works and Reinstatement of Coppicing Regime - Land Parcel at 511759 115155 Muttons Lane

**Refusals** - none

**Withdrawals** – none

**Appeals** – none

#### **FINANCE**

##### **048/20 Correspondence –**

1. The Clerk reports that the quarterly bank reconciliation for 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019 has been signed by Cllr MacPherson.
2. Quarterly budget report – in addition to the previously reported over-budget items the Clerk reports that weedkilling expenditure is £770 (budget £500). This was a known item of likely overspend and next years' budget was raised to £1000. In addition, auditing costs were £751.30 (budget £700). Next years' budget was increased to £800.



3. The recent reduction in Clerks working hours has resulted in a monthly saving to the Council of £517.24. No overtime claim is necessary for January 2020. The budget for 2020-21 is in line with these figures with an overtime budget of £5,000 being available if necessary.
4. Appointment of Internal Auditor – it is proposed that Peter J. Consultants are re-appointed as the Council’s Internal Auditor for 19/20 accounts. Agreed by all. Clerk to arrange. **Clerk D**

**049/20 Income –**

Kite & Thomas – rent & roundabout sponsorship £2,077.50

Administrators of Singer & Friedlander bank £382.00 (takes the total recovered to 86.6%)

NS&I £1,365.93 bank interest

**050/20 Expenditure (Appendix 3)**

It was resolved that the schedule of invoices for payment totalling £3,204.79 for February 2020 be approved. Agreed by all.

**051/20 Date of Next meetings**

The next Planning Committee meeting is at **7:30pm on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2020** in Committee Room 2, Ashington Community Centre. **These are NOT Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group meetings.**

The next Parish Council will be held at **8:15pm on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2020** at Ashington School, Foster Lane. This will be preceded by the Annual Parish Meeting at 7.45pm

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

January 2020 – Ashington

<b>Patrol hours TOTAL:</b>		<b>ASB incidents TOTAL:</b>	
Foot (high visibility)	30.50	Noise	
Vehicle	27	Neighbours	
<b>Notices/warnings TOTAL:</b>		Driving/vehicles	
Fixed Penalty Notice		Bikes	
Yellow card warning		Alcohol/drugs	
Community Protection Warning/Notice		Public order	
Parking alert	5	<b>Clear up/disposal reports TOTAL:</b>	
<b>Police reports TOTAL:</b>		Fly tipping / flyposting	3
Phone (including 101 and 999)	1	Graffiti	
Email		Dog fouling	2
Intelligence report		Litter	
E-CINS (multi-agency reporting)	2	Drug litter	1
Verbal		Hazards	3
<b>Admin</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>Community events attended</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Visits to vulnerable people (all ages)</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>School contact/engagement</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Signposting</b>		<b>Reports to DVLA</b>	
<b>Safeguarding referral</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Reports to Operation Crackdown</b>	

## ASB/crime/criminal damage

We have received a couple of complaints regarding drug dealing within certain areas of the village. We are aware of the problems and are feeding the intelligence into the Police and working on developing this, but we are also encouraging residents to report incidents to the Police. We are finding some residents reporting drug dealing happening in the village but they cannot give any details about times or dates that it was witnessed which makes it harder for us to act on and pass onto the Police.

To report any non-emergency incidents to the police, residents can call on 101 or go online to <https://www.sussex.police.uk/> and follow the reporting link.

## Parking/vehicles

We received a complaint of a vehicle not having a valid Mot. This has been reported.

We received a complaint about vehicles being parked on the pavements and over a dropped kerb within a close in the village. We issued five parking alerts to advise on the problems with parking. We also received the question about tax and MOT on vehicles and informed the resident that anyone can check the tax or MOT status of a vehicle using <https://vehicleenquiry.service.gov.uk/> and then report it through the same site.

## Fly tipping/littering/graffiti

We received two reports of fly tipping within the last month. One is actually on private land and the other was up Park Lane which has been reported.

We also noticed one incident of fly posting on the road into the village. We removed the sign.

## Community engagement/events/meetings

HDC community safety partnership and Solomon Theatre Company have presented all the local secondary schools across the district with a drama and workshop to focus on awareness of knife crime and gang culture, we had the opportunity to attend a session to see what our young people are being taught.

Village Hall open day was a great success, we had a stand and it gave us the opportunity to meet some new residents in Ashington. It was also a chance for us to engage further with the community and another opportunity for residents to report information to us.

## Patrols (foot/visible and car)

We have covered the whole village numerous times across the month, both in vehicle and on foot and different times of the day.

## Elderly and youth

We have been working closely with residents regarding the flooding in Mill Lane and looking if there is a way of preventing further damage. This is a long standing problem that has happened numerous times over the year but we are exploring different avenues as to what causes the problem with the parish council.

We are working with a family to help identify a resident with possible signs of dementia and accessing the support that may be needed. This is requiring regular visits to check on their welfare and make sure they are safe.

We have been working with a vulnerable youth in the village and the family to support them with some challenges we have also worked with the youth club to best support this young person.

## Licensing

Nothing to report.

## Dog related issues

We received a complaint of dog fouling around the village. We are bearing in mind whilst out on foot but we have seen an increase. We are looking at what work we can do around education.

We had a complaint about a possible aggressive dog, we went and met with the dog and owner and from what we witnessed we had no cause for concern so updated the complainant of this. We will continue to monitor.

## Cycling

Nothing to report.

## Parish specific/other

We reported two large potholes on Park lane and rectory road. We also reported one tree down which was obstructing the public footpath.

We met with Chris Stark (head of WSCC Highways) to discuss the dangerous drifting at the north of the village, we wanted to ascertain if there was anything we were able to do with the road surface

and/or layout to deter the drivers from drifting at this site. Unfortunately there are not many options available for this. We also met with the area manager for the BP garage who is looking into putting up CCTV in the area.

We have printed out leaflets around how to report anti- social driving and would encourage residents who witness this to report every incident to [www.Operationcrackdown.org](http://www.Operationcrackdown.org) or by phone on 101 (non-emergency) or 999 (if it is an emergency).

## **Appendix 2 – Youth Worker Report**

Senior Youth Worker's Report

JANUARY 2020

January Activities

- We ran the following activities throughout January:
- On 13th Jan, we ran a DJ workshop with the kind support of an anonymous donor who funded the event, making it free for the young people. The youth enjoyed having a chance to mix songs, rap into the mic and be a DJ! We are in talks about possibly running ongoing workshops if there is a desire from the youth to do so. Watch this space!
- We held a bingo night, and the youth surprisingly enjoyed getting into the game and the tension when those last few balls were called was electric!! We will run another bingo night soon judging by their positive reaction!
- The youth LOVED making pizzas in a mug (who even knew that was a thing!?) and if nothing else, helped them learn to follow instructions, measure carefully and discover that they can cook!
- We bought a second game for the Nintendo Switch and the youth enjoyed battling against each other.

- We ran a third 'hot potato' night

Youth Club Evenings

- The average attendance has dropped slightly, but we have been blighted with awful weather on most Mondays, which in turn has caused the puddle (the lake) outside the club doors to be a barrier to members and their parents. I'm hoping that we can soon find a way to get the drainage fixed as it is a very unwelcome sight as one arrives to club.

Pastoral

- Sadly, we have had a couple of major incidents regarding one young person. This person is now banned from the club for 2 months. We are working closely with various other agencies to arrange an appropriate way forward to get them back in the club.
- There was a bullying incident at Ashington School that has crossed over into the club - again, we are working with all involved to make sure the club stays safe and welcoming to all.
- The volunteers and I continue to work hard to build relationships with the youth and get alongside them where possible. Many have had great conversations and helped the young people to open up about life.

Other

- We opened for the Ashington Village Halls Open Day on 25th Jan and we were thrilled to welcome lots of guests, many of whom were seeing inside the club for the first time. One new boy signed up and became a member, and one or two adults offered to help in various ways in the future.
- The DVD drop and buy at the Co-op continues to raise money.
- We raised £224 at the Warden's Christmas Party.

Numbers

- Average year 6-7 numbers on a Monday night are 33
- Average year 8-10 numbers on a Thursday night are 6.

Nick Taylor - Senior Youth Worker - [nick@ashingtonyouth.co.uk](mailto:nick@ashingtonyouth.co.uk) - 07966 985921

## **Appendix 3 – Expenditure**

Karen Dare	Home office (January)	£20.00
Mark Adsett	Landscape Gardening (January)	£533.75
Ashington PCC	Invoice YW-2020-01 (January)	£1,083.33
WSCC	Salaries and Costs (January 2020)	£1,452.51
EcomSolutions	Website hosting & emails	£115.20
		£3,204.79

All to be paid by Bank Transfer

#### **Appendix 4**

Funds held by the Parish Council on behalf of others (as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019):

Ashington Rangers £724.01

Ashington Residents Association £615.85

#### **Appendix 5**

### **Amenity Tip issues**

Thank you for your email of 14th January and for taking the time to contact me about a number of issues discussed at the most recent Ashington Parish Council meeting.

The ID checking scheme is not to inconvenience our residents, but to ensure their council tax is being used appropriately and for those sites near to the border, reduced usage will mean less traffic and queues at site. Although initially whilst the scheme is being implemented, some delays are expected at site, we are committed to providing residents with a high quality service and this will not change.

Residents will become familiar with the changes and have the required information ready. As users from outside of the county are denied access, they will no longer visit and the process will speed up. The changes started in early December when site visits were low to support users understanding the new system.

We currently have no plans to open the Horsham Household Waste Recycling Site more than the current five days allocated, but we keep this option under review to take into account population increases.

Fly-tipping is a national problem, particularly with the increasing costs of legitimate waste disposal. Legitimate householders in the county are very unlikely to fly tip waste, the majority of waste is deposited by rogue traders charging to take waste away illegally and then fly tipping it.

Fly tipping is a criminal offence, punishable by a fine of up to £50,000 or 12 months' imprisonment if convicted in a magistrates' court. The offence can attract an unlimited fine and up to five years' imprisonment if convicted in a Crown Court.

You can report incidents of fly tipping to the district or borough council in which the fly tipping has occurred, they have the power to prosecute offenders where they have the evidence to do so.

Yours sincerely

Deborah Urquhart  
Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Environment.