



Ashington Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 16th May 2019 at 7:45p.m. in Ashington School, Foster Lane.

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

Also present:

Clerk – Karen Dare

District Cllr J. Blackall

County Cllr P Marshall (arrived at 8.15pm)

28 Members of the Public

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.

097/19 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received and approved from: Cllrs J. Stillwell, T. Watson, L. di Castiglione, District Councillors P Circus & J Saheid

098/19 Election of Chairman and signing of declaration of office

Cllr. Spiers was nominated by Cllr. Moss and Seconded by Cllr. Woolley. There being no other nominations Cllr. Spiers was unanimously elected as Chairman and signed the declaration of acceptance of office.

099/19 Election of Vice-Chairman and signing of declaration of office

Cllr. Ball was nominated by Cllr. Spiers and Seconded by Cllr. Moss. There being no other nominations Cllr. Ball was unanimously elected as Vice-Chairman and signed the declaration of acceptance of office.

100/19 Allocation of committees and formation of any new committees as required by the Parish Council. New Committee/Working Group allocation:

Finance – Cllrs Woolley, Macpherson, Moss, Spiers, Watson

Planning – Cllrs Stillwell, Morris, Woolley, Spiers, Kearney

Staffing – Cllrs Spiers, Ball, Watson

Warden Steering Group - Cllr Ball and Cllr Stillwell

Youth Partnership Group - Cllr Spiers and Cllr Ball

It was suggested that Councillors on Warden and Youth Groups going forward should not serve more than 2 years as it is good to get a fresh outlook on these issues on a regular basis. Agreed.

101/19 Appointment of representatives to outside bodies

Ashington Community Centre – Cllr Watson to remain as Observer, add Cllr Morris and nominate him as a Trustee as ACCT now have Trustee indemnity insurance. Agreed.

102/19 Confirmation of the schedule of meetings for 2019-20

The schedule of meetings was distributed to all Councillors prior to the meeting. It is on the Council website.

103/19 Annual Review of the Code of Conduct

The Clerk confirmed there were no amendments to the Code of Conduct previously adopted by the Council. All Councillors to sign the acceptance sheet and approve the Code of Conduct. Agreed by all.

104/19 Annual Review and Approval of Standing Orders

The Clerk confirmed there were no amendments to the standing orders previously adopted by the Council. The Council to approve the Standing Orders. Agreed by all.

105/19 Annual Review of the Register of Members Interests

All Councillors have been emailed a copy of the Register document and were reminded to complete a new register of member's interests and return to The Clerk by 31st May 2019. The Clerk clarified that Councillors 2018 Registers would remain in force until their 2019 Registers are received.

106/19 Annual Review of the Council's Financial Regulations, Financial Risk Assessment documents and Asset Register

The Financial Regulations were reviewed in May 2018 and no changes are considered necessary. Councillors approved the document.

The Clerk has found a Risk Management Schedule dated August 2018 that was presented to Council at the September 2018 meeting by the previous Clerk. Minute 190/18 of September records that further amendments are necessary to this document. In October 2018 minutes a working party made of the previous Clerk, Cllr Moss & Cllr MacPherson was established but minutes from November & December report no progress. It was proposed that this matter be addressed and a document presented at the next Council meeting. Agreed by all.

The most recent Asset Register dated 6th September 2018 had been circulated. The Clerk reports that the Sony Vaio laptop is now redundant as she only used it for the Council's accounts during the period when she was not Clerk because the accounts software was not compatible with her personal laptop. The laptop is not in good working order. Councillors agreed that this can now be disposed of and removed from the Asset Register.

107/19 Annual Review of Councillors' and Chairman's allowances

Councillors were reminded that the Council does have a scheme of member's allowances. It was noted that this scheme was introduced in April 2008 following a recommendation to all Parishes from HDC's Independent Remuneration Panel. The Scheme has not been amended since then and the Clerk notes that HDC's most recent Independent Remuneration Panel report of August 2015 contains no reference to Parish Councils at all. Councillors were reminded that they can claim all modest expenses incurred on the execution of Parish Council business.

All councillors informed the Clerk that they did not want to take the £430pa allowance. The Chairman pointed out that this meant a 'saving' of £4730 to the Council pa.

108/19 Declaration of Interests and notification of change of interest

Cllr Woolley informed those present that he had always included on his annual Registers of Interests form his ownership of Church Farm House and surrounding land. Since the selection of some of that land by the Steering Group for inclusion in the Neighbourhood Plan he had added 'Site 5' to the description of his land ownership on the form. He would continue to leave the meeting each and every time any matter relating to new homes or the Neighbourhood Plan was raised. He would also leave the room during the Public Adjournment part of this meeting as he was aware that his recent letter to the Chairman (Appendix 5) could wish to be discussed by Members of the Public. He would also leave the meeting for discussions on the Memorial Garden (Minute 115/19) as a suggested location for the garden is very close to his land.

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

109/19 Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 4th April 2019

The minutes of the meeting dated 4th April 2019 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman. Proposed by Cllr Kearney, seconded by Cllr MacPherson and agreed by all.

110/19 Neighbourhood Wardens Report (Appendix 1)

The Chairman confirmed for the purposes of those present that one Warden had resigned recently following a prolonged absence due to ill-health and the second Warden was currently on Maternity leave.

Update from the Warden Working Party – the Clerk had sent HDC a list of 'concerns' regarding the new Service Level Agreement and an amended document had prepared by HDC. This new document was much more acceptable to the Parish Council. Councillors agreed to inform HDC that it would like to renew the Warden Scheme for a further 3 years from 1st April (as this makes for clearer invoicing and keeps the Ashington Scheme in line with others in the District). Bryony is expected back to work from Maternity leave in late May.

The Chair invited questions: none

111/19 Youth Worker Report (Appendix 2)

Cllr Ball gave an overview of the report. In addition, the Youth Worker had developed a new website and asks everyone to comment and give him feedback (ashingtonyouth.co.uk), he had secured fresh fruit from the Co-op for Monday night Youth Club, planned some fundraising activities eg car wash, quiz night, bake sales and the Parish Council had previously agreed to match any fundraising up to £2k.

It was agreed that the Clerk write to the Co-op to thank them for their support for the Youth Club.

The Chair invited questions: None

112/19 Report from District and County Councillors

District Councillor J. Blackall reported:

1. Thanked voters for re-electing himself and Philip Circus and electing Jack Saheid. They will endeavour to send one Councillor to every Parish Council meeting.
2. The biggest priority at HDC at present is Housing and the number of new homes required in the District. Their current target is 900pa but this is likely to be increased by Government to 1000pa in 2020 and probably 1100pa in 2021 and beyond. HDC does have a current 5 year Housing Land Supply (HLS) ie it has plans that will see the right number of homes built in the next 5 years but needs to look beyond this. If it can't demonstrate a 5 year HLS then it will be vulnerable to speculative planning applications on potentially unsustainable sites anywhere in the District. HDC has to co-operate with neighbouring Councils and help supply their housing needs if they don't have a 5 year HLS. Areas such as Crawley, the coastal strip

and to the south of the District are constrained because of the SDNP, AONB, other protected land or they are simply 'full'.

3. With such pressure to find land for homes Parishes are much less vulnerable to high levels of new homes if they have a Neighbourhood Plan than if they don't.

County Councillor Paul Marshall reported:

1. He had received emails from residents about speeding on London Road and problems with HGV parking on Old London Road near the BP garage. If the Parish Council wished to try to address these issues it would need to be done via a Traffic Regulation Order and he would be supportive of any applications.

The Clerk informed those present that the Parish Clerk is trying to set up a Speedwatch Scheme and that volunteers should contact her.

Questions were invited from Councillors – none

Cllr Woolley left the room.

113/19 Public Adjournment

1. WSCC grass cutters had missed cutting the verges in The Sands – Clerk to report to WSCC.
2. A Litter picker is needed quickly as youths are congregating on the Recreation Ground in the lighter evenings and leaving their litter. This is on the agenda for the June meeting.
3. There had been vandalism to the Scout hall windows after the mesh grills had been removed and sent off for repairs. The perpetrators had been identified. Wardens are needed to clamp down on this behaviour. The Council has just agreed to renew the Warden Scheme for further 3 years.
4. Ken Wood formally thanked the Parish Council for his leaving gift, presented at the April meeting.
5. How can we increase security in the village in light of an increase in vandalism. Is it possible to have cameras around the village. The Council has just agreed to renew the Warden Scheme for further 3 years. The Clerk will ask HDC about cameras as they have them in Horsham town.

A large number of attendees wished to ask questions about the Neighbourhood Plan. These included:

1. Why 225 homes when the Housing Needs Assessment states 123-200
2. Will the school lose the allotment & access to Forest schools
3. How will local roads cope with extra traffic
4. Why is Chanctonbury Nurseries included when HDC refused permission a few years ago
5. What involvement has Cllr Woolley had in the Plan given that he owns Site 5
6. Why have sites 5 & 6 been chosen when HDC's SHELAA describes them as 'not developable'
7. How will the School accommodate extra numbers of pupils
8. How do we keep up to date with the work on the Plan and with the Parish Council
9. Why is access proposed beside the Church.

Summary of responses and discussion:

1. The Neighbourhood Plan has been worked on for the past 3 years and residents have had many opportunities to get involved and it is disappointing that only now that the sites have been chosen have some residents decided to engage with the Plan. However, it is excellent that residents are keen to understand the Plan, how it has taken shape and how it will move forward.
2. The Neighbourhood Plan is not permission to build. It is a framework to show where new homes should go and it takes into account the wishes and aspirations of the residents that have come forward over the past 3 years. There is still a long way to go before the Neighbourhood Plan is formally adopted and there are a number of public consultation phases and a public referendum to go through before it is approved.

3. The District Councillor has explained the pressure for new homes in the District. Without a Plan HDC will allocate sites and specify numbers. The village will lose control over new housing and will likely receive little or no community benefits as a result of the new housing. A Neighbourhood Plan offers a degree of protection and control to the village.
4. Once the Plan is in place then the sites will still need to apply for planning permission. There is a long way to go yet before any homes are built and there is no guarantee that planning permission will be granted. Residents will be able to view and comment upon all planning applications in the normal manner. Planning applications will include Highways assessments.
5. The Plan has been formulated by a Steering Group made up of 3 Parish Councillors and 4 members of the public. It has not been prepared by the Parish Council. Cllr Woolley has had no part whatsoever in developing the neighbourhood plan. He is a resident of Ashington and has received the same information as every other resident, nothing more. Cllr Woolley submits his Register of Interests every year and declares his house and land. The Clerk has copies of these documents as far back as 2012, pre-dating any talk about Neighbourhood Plans.
6. There is lots of 'misinformation' being spread, particularly on Facebook, about the Plan. The Parish Council has been answering all posts on its Facebook page in a prompt and professional manner. It will always engage with residents and answer questions and concerns. The Steering Group and Parish Council have 'nothing to hide'. Residents are encouraged to engage with the Council in constructive dialogue.
7. Any plan for new homes is going to be controversial. It is impossible to please everyone but the neighbourhood plan has been developed so that it is the best we can get for the village.
8. Information about the Plan is on the Parish Council website Ashingtonpc.org.uk. Residents can follow us on Facebook for regular updates. There are articles in Sussex Local every month, posters on the noticeboards, leaflets through doors, banners at the side of the road. Contact the Parish Clerk either by email, phone or Facebook/Messenger if you want information or to get involved.
9. The Neighbourhood Plan is not just one document but a whole series of documents, each of which underpins the Plan and informs the decision making within the Plan. All documents were sent to HDC for a 'healthcheck' and the feedback is positive. There are some minor amendments to make before the Plan can then be sent out to formal consultation (Regulation 14 Pre-Submission consultation). This is likely to start in June and will last 6 weeks. Over the coming weeks more information will be available to residents.
10. The consequences of not having a Neighbourhood Plan could be disastrous for the village as HDC will step in and allocate homes for us. We will lose control over numbers, locations and what community benefits will be given and where they will be located.
11. No houses is not an option.
12. 225 homes are planned because the Housing Needs Assessment specifies 123-200 but states that over the past years Ashington has 'under-delivered' new homes so there is a deficit and recommends a figure nearer the upper end of the range. Since the HNA was written HDC's housing numbers have been increased by Government and all Parishes were recommended to increase numbers by @15%, hence 225 homes.
13. The period of the Neighbourhood Plan is 2017-2031 so 225 homes over the next 14 years is not too bad for Ashington although there are never any guarantees that the figures won't need to increase.
14. HDC's SHELAA is a desktop study of all available sites in the Parish. It is a high-level assessment and does not take any account of residents needs, priorities, vision etc. The Neighbourhood Plan has captured this information and shaped the Plan. Any SHELAA site can come forward for development via a Neighbourhood Plan.
15. District Cllr Blackall praised the work of Thakeham PC who embraced their Neighbourhood Plan at a very early stage in their introduction. They worked with Developers and alongside the new homes they have a new village hall, sports pavilion, football pitches, shops, cricket ground. In addition, because they have a Plan, they are able to resist unsuitable new developments.

16. The Steering Group has engaged with the planning agents for all 3 allocated sites. They have got them working together to deliver a comprehensive 'masterplan' as this will give the best layout, design, transport, benefits package for the village. This is pretty much unheard of co-operation in the planning world but it is of mutual benefit to all parties, including the village.
17. The Neighbourhood Plan identified the village needs through extensive community consultation and is looking to deliver new youth club, sports pavilion, football pitches, outdoor gym, flood relief for Mill Lane amongst other things.
18. Ashington has had relatively few developments in the past 17 years so the community benefits have been minor eg funding to replace play areas, tractor for ACCT.
19. The Steering Group has been in discussions with WSCC regarding school places and will continue this dialogue as the Plan develops. WSCC will be consulted on every planning application. Planning School Places is not an exact science as numbers of pupils cannot be known until the number & size of homes planned is revealed and this won't be known until planning applications are submitted.
20. If residents want a Doctors Surgery then Ashington will need thousands more residents and, therefore, many more than 225 homes built.
21. The Neighbourhood Plan will secure the allotment and Forest Schools access on Site 6. The owner of Site 6 has been very generous to the School over the years. The Clerk has met the Headteacher, Business Manager & Chair of Governors and the dialogue will continue.
22. The Plan is being written by a Planning Consultant, acting on behalf of the Steering Group, paid for by the Parish Council to ensure that the Plan is written so that Developers can't get away without delivering the proposed benefits.
23. The road access is via the Church as there are already 2 existing driveways serving the house and farm.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their questions, encouraged them to engage with the Neighbourhood Plan and Parish Council. The public adjournment was then closed.

Cllr Woolley returned to the room.

114/19 **Young Persons Adjournment** – none

115/19 **Action List Update (CFWD = carry forward to next meeting, D = delete)**

a) **ACCT working together**

1. The One acre repairs/replacement of equipment – there are 2 rotten logs that require immediate replacement. The cost is £204 for delivery of 2 new logs and £1100 for installation (including removal, installation, muck-away, concrete & plant hire). The work is expected to take 1 day. Councillors to discuss. Agreed by all.
2. Cllr Kearney had undertaken a safety inspection of the ACCT Play Area and ACCT will be attending to all of the repairs before the 'handover' of part costs & safety inspections to the PC – Clerk to check progress with ACCT **D**
3. ACCT has not purchased the new litter bins. The Clerk has advised them to consult with HDC on designs & locations and asked for a date of installation so she can arrange for them to be emptied by HDC. **D**
4. As per the agreement a Litter Warden needs to be agreed and sought. The Clerk has drafted some thoughts and these will be circulated to Councillors for discussion at the next meeting. **CFWD**

Cllr Woolley left the room.

- b) **There but Not There Armed Forces Covenant grant** – Creation of a Memorial Garden. The bench, commemorative plaque & fixing bolts have been ordered and are due to arrive soon. A silhouette also needs to be sited somewhere. A suggested date for completion of the project is 28 Jun as this marks the centenary of the signing of the Treaty of Versailles which formally brought war against

Germany to an end and is also exactly 5 years from the date on which Arch Duke Ferdinand was assassinated, the event that triggered the war. Councillors agreed that siting the garden on Parish Council land would make for simpler planning & maintenance in the future. All agreed that a quiet place, in the heart of the village, in public view would be best. It was agreed that the land between Church Close and the Church was the best location, exact siting to be decided when the bench arrives. Clerk to organise timescales & installation. **CFWD**

116/19 Correspondence received for Action

- a) Letter from Cllr Woolley to the Chairman regarding Declaration of Interests (Appendix 5). Since publishing this matter on the April agenda one resident has written to the Council to suggest that Cllr Woolley should step down.

The Chairman re-iterated that Cllr Woolley had not taken any part whatsoever in the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan. All Councillors agreed that Cllr Woolley had always acted with the utmost integrity and with the best interests of the village in mind. He had always been mindful of his land ownership and had even absented himself from Council discussions when not strictly necessary so that he would not risk accusations of prejudice against either the Council or himself. He is a very experienced and knowledgeable Councillor and has done some great work for Ashington village. All Councillors agreed that Cllr Woolley should not be asked to step down from the Council.

Cllr Woolley returned to the room.

- b) WSCC Operation Watershed Active Communities Fund details for 2019/20 – are there any projects in the Parish that could benefit from funds? No projects were identified. It was confirmed that the flooding in Mill Lane area was included as a Policy in the Neighbourhood Plan and measures to address the issue were proposed for Sites 1,5,6.

117/19 Correspondence received for Information

1. Letter from HDC detailing the changes to the Council's planning process & prior letter from a Rudgwick resident expressing concern about HDC's proposed changes to planning procedures.
2. AiRS – Village Halls improvement grant fund launched.
3. WSCC – 'how well did we communicate our budget changes' survey
4. SSALC – 'have your say on the future of the NHS' survey
5. Wiston PC – the TRO application for 40mph along the length of Hole Street has been submitted. The gateway signs cannot be moved to the boundary as the verge isn't wide enough and their design is such that installation of an Ashington Parish sign on the rear is not possible.
6. Sussex Police – update on Horsham District Rural Initiative
7. HDC – consultation on list of requirements for planning application validation. The Clerk has read this and suggests no comments are necessary.
8. WSCC – update on Crowd-Funding initiative
9. Invitation to Discover Gatwick events in May & June. Cllr Woolley had attended previous events and informed those present that they were very interesting events.
10. Horsham Older People's Forum meeting 29th May.
11. SSALC – West Sussex Civilian Military Partnership Board are hosting a 'Your Army' briefing on 22nd May.
12. West Sussex Vision and Strategy for Adult Social Care Launch Events on 6 and 19 June – Invitation
13. West Sussex Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2019 - 2024.
14. NHS CCG May Newsletter

118/19 Meetings attended by Councillors

Cllrs Spiers & Ball had attended the Youth Partnership meeting on 29th April 2019.

119/19 **Matters raised by Councillors**

1. Cllr MacPherson responded to criticism from the Facebook 'Ashington Action Group' that the Neighbourhood Plan allocated sites in the west of the village were chosen because all Parish Councillors live elsewhere in the village and would not be affected by the new homes. This criticism is entirely unfair and untrue. The allocated sites were chosen for sound planning reasons. All Councillors and Clerk would be affected to varying extents by the developments.
2. Cllr Ball reminded those present that it is the Ashington Community Centre Trust AGM on Thursday 23rd May at 7.30pm in the small hall at the Community Centre. All are welcome to attend.
3. Cllr Woolley suggested that a Finance Committee be arranged to look at the annual accounts ahead of the Audit (5th June). Clerk to arrange.
4. Cllr Morris asked if Neighbourhood Watch had been informed about the recent spate of vandalism at the Scout Hall. Pass to ACCT.

120/19 **Chairman's Announcements**

1. Following the recent Elections, the Parish Council has a vacancy for one Councillor. The normal process is to fill the vacancy by Co-option. A vacancy within 6 months of a normal 4 yearly election cannot be filled by election ie residents can't call for another election so soon after a normal election. The Council can either: fill the vacancy by co-option or leave it unfilled for the remainder of the 6 month term and then fill by co-option. It was agreed that the Council try to fill the vacancy by co-option. Clerk to arrange notices. **CFWD**

PLANNING

121/19 **Minutes of the Planning Meeting held on 17th & 24th April 2019**

Meetings were cancelled as there were no applications to discuss.

122/19 **Planning Correspondence** - none

123/19 **Neighbourhood Planning Update**

The Draft Ashington Neighbourhood Plan (ANP) and supporting evidence was sent to HDC for a 'healthcheck'. Feedback was received on 13th May 2019 and the summary page can be seen in Appendix 6. The full report is available on the Parish Council website. The report has been sent to the Planning Consultant for comments and an action plan to be agreed. The Plan will progress to Pre-submission Regulation 14 as soon as possible.

124/19 **New Enforcement Allegations** - none

125/19 **Planning Applications**

DC/19/0976 Erection of a single storey rear extension and conversion of existing garage into habitable living space - The Meads, 2 Rectory Close. No objections.

126/19 **Horsham District Council Decisions**

Approvals

DC/18/2443 Prior approval for the proposed change of use from offices to a dwellinghouse - Fairwater Ltd Lodge Farm Malthouse Lane

DC/18/2479 Notification for prior approval for a change of use from storage (Class B8) to (four) dwellinghouses (Class C3) - Lodge Farm Malthouse Lane

DC/18/2480 Notification for prior approval for a change of use from premises in light industrial use (Class B1 (c)) and land within its curtilage to (two) dwellinghouses (Class C3) - Lodge Farm Malthouse Lane

All 3 applications were 'notification for prior approval' to HDC only. These are not consulted upon. A fourth application is still outstanding.

DC/19/0397 Erection of a single storey side and rear extension - 2 Magnolia London Road

DC/19/0244 Raising of roof for the conversion of loft into habitable living space with the installation of two rear dormers and erection of a single storey rear extension - Rosewood Ivy Close

DC/19/0267 Erection of 1.no non-illuminated noticeboard - St Peters and St Pauls Church Church Lane

DC/19/0217 Retention of rear decking (amendments following refusal of previous application DC/19/2136) – 5 Mill Lane

DC/19/0463 Demolition of existing single storey side extension and erection of a two storey side extension - 18 Fairfield Road

DC/19/0405 Replacement of all existing windows to west elevation with UPVC units and replacement and alterations to roof. (Listed Building Consent) - 25 Church Lane

DC/19/0534 Erection of a boundary wall to the west of courtyard with a square brick pillar, and completion of courtyard wall to the south to match existing boundary wall (Householder Application) - The Willows London Road

DC/19/0535 Erection of a boundary wall to the west of courtyard with a square brick pillar, and completion of courtyard wall to the south to match existing boundary wall (Listed Building Consent) - The Willows London Road

Refusals

DC/19/0459 Outline application for the erection of a dwelling with all matters reserved - Meadow House Billingshurst Road

Withdrawals

None

Appeals

None

FINANCE

127/19 Correspondence

- a) Online Banking – the Clerk is now setup with online access to the Councils accounts. New account signatories are required as only Cllr Kearney is authorised. The Clerk can make online payments in the interim period when signatories are not set-up (subject to Council approval). It is suggested that at least 2 new signatories are required and authorisation is set at minimum of 2 Councillors as it is currently. Cllrs Woolley, Kearney & MacPherson all agreed.
- b) HDC – the Environmental Cleansing Grant paid to the Parish this year will be £3,795.12 (up £56.09) from last year. No notification of the annually increased cost of litter & dog bin emptying has been received yet.

128/19 Income

HDC – Precept £50,418.50

HDC – Environmental Cleansing Grant £1,897.56

HMRC – VAT Reclaim £9,210.73

129/19 Expenditure (Appendix 3)

It was resolved that the schedule of invoices for payment totalling £5,748.03 for May 2019 be approved. The Clerk confirmed that the April salaries invoice covered 2 months. Agreed by all.

130/19 Date of Next meetings

The next Planning Committee meeting is at **7:30pm on Wednesday 29th May 2019** in Committee Room 2, Ashington Community Centre.

The next Parish Council will be held at **7:45pm on Thursday 6th June 2019** at Ashington School, Foster Lane.

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

Meeting closed at 9.20pm

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.

Appendix 1 – Warden Report

None

Appendix 2 – Youth Worker Report

Senior Youth Worker's report

April Activities

- We ran the following activities throughout a largely reduced calendar in April due to the Easter holidays:

- Easter egg blowing/decorating: we learned how to make eggs hollow and the decorate them with paint and ribbon. The children enjoyed trying something new, and had fun seeing the yolk and white be blown out of the eggs! They produced some amazing-looking eggs too!

- Bronze UK Youth Achievement Award: we made a start with this award for the older group and got four of the six signed up. We chatted about what they could do and got them all set up with plans and ways to move forward.

- Temper Temper Chocolate: This local company came in and kindly ran a night for cost where the youth could make their own chocolate buttons and decorate them. They loved this and left with a bag full of delicious chocolate!

Youth Club Evenings

- It's been great to welcome Alex Clarke volunteering at the club as part of his DofE. Now that the weather is getting better and the evenings are lighter, he is leading the football outside and the youth are really enjoying having him.

- The UK Youth Achievement Award has started ok, but is difficult to gather enthusiasm for! With very low numbers on a Thursday night, there isn't a group mentality to help gain momentum or pursue it. I am persevering anyway and I think we will have breakthrough soon!

- The response to the Ashington Carnival was muted, with many young people not showing interest. One girl got very excited and come up with an idea but then her parents informed me

she wouldn't be around for the carnival. I think I need help from the AYCC to push the carnival in person. I have asked and am waiting for their input.

Pastoral

- There have been no pastoral issues to speak of.

Other

- I have signed up and started to build a website. You can see it at www.ashingtonyouth.co.uk - constructive feedback is very welcome!

- I have sent out a long email to 22 of the club's volunteers, supporters and committee members outlining five fund-raising events that I'd like to run over the next three months. I hope to raise money to fund the refurbishment of the club, as well as buying new equipment and organising days out for the young people. I will then use the Parish Council's matching scheme to double what we raise!

- I have initiated a parent rota with mixed responses. Two parents have withdrawn their children from the club as they were offended at being asked, but two other parents have agreed to help regularly. I am yet to see a parent turn up to their allotted slot so we will see what happens.

- Now that the evenings are lighter, I intend to start some detached youth work, meeting with the older youth in the car parks after youth club has finished. I am in the process of finding someone to do this with me and will start once I have help.

Numbers

- Average year 6-7 numbers on a Monday night are 30.

- Average year 8-9 numbers on a Thursday night 3.

Nick Taylor - Senior Youth Worker - nick@ashingtonyouth.co.uk - 07966 985921

Appendix 3 – Expenditure

Mrs Karen Dare	Home Office (April)	£20.00
Mark Adsett	Landscape Gardening - April 2019	£533.75
Ashington PCC	Invoice YW-201904 (April 2019)	£1,083.33
WSCC	Salaries and Costs (April 2019)	£3,348.80
AiRS	Subscriptions	£50.00
HALC	Subscriptions	£15.00
Complete Weed Control	Weedkilling	£540.00
S. Ball	CLr Wood leaving gift	£77.95
EcomSolutions	Website hosting & emails	£79.20

All to be paid by Bank Transfer

Appendix 4

Funds held by the Parish Council on behalf of others (as at 31st December 2018):

Ashington Rangers £724.01

Ashington Residents Association £615.85

Appendix 5

Malcolm Woolley

The Chair,
Ashington Parish Council

March 25th 2019

ONGOING DECLARATION OF INTEREST

During my years as a Councillor I have always been aware that as a small landowner, with land close to the centre of the village, eventually there may come a time when I had a potential interest in housing development in the village.

When the Neighbourhood Plan made the “call for sites”, along with 25 others I put my land forward for consideration, and then took no part in the work of progressing the Plan.

Last month, after the Exhibition when the Preferred Sites were presented to the village, I found myself an “interested party” in one of the 3 Preferred Sites in the Plan.

In my mind, this means that if I continue as a Councillor after the elections this May, I need to manage very carefully any potential conflict between my personal interests and the duties of a Councillor to act in the best interests of the village as a whole.

I believe that I can do this, by withdrawing from all Council discussions relating to the Neighbourhood Plan, and even absenting myself from the whole of a month’s Council meeting where development is a major topic on the agenda.

However, what is important is not that I believe I can be scrupulous in managing any potential conflict, but that residents’ faith in the impartiality and objectivity of the Council is not undermined, and that my fellow Councillors are comfortable with me in their ranks.

Given this, I would like to propose that this letter be placed as an item of Correspondence for Action on the agenda of the April PC meeting, where it can become a statement for the record of my ongoing declaration of interest.

Also, I would suggest that it be discussed in my absence in open forum.

Following this, should Councillors feel in any way uncomfortable that I remain on the Council, then I would completely understand, and I think it would be appropriate for me to resign at the May meeting (assuming I am re-elected in the May elections).

In conclusion, my personal feeling is that important though the Neighbourhood Plan is, it won’t be the only issue facing Ashington over the coming years, and I would like to think that I could continue to contribute on those other issues, as I have done in the past.

Yours truly,

Malcolm Woolley

Appendix 6

HDC Ashington Neighbourhood Plan Healthcheck Comments May 2019

“ASHINGTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN 2018 – 2031 HEALTHCHECK COMMENTS May 2019

Thank you for submitting a draft of the Ashington Neighbourhood Plan to HDC for an informal health check. It is clear that a great deal of hard work has gone into the preparation of the plan to date.

The comments set out below provide a number of more general and detailed comments on the plan, together with an explanation as to why the comment has been made.

The level of work and effort put into the Neighbourhood Plan and the attempts to make the evidence base is to be commended. Every attempt has been to meet the Objectively Assessed Need locally through the allocation of site which are deliverable and available.

Please ensure there is explanation in the plan which provides a clear context to a commitment to review the plan in 2021 as the HDPF is being reviewed.

Summary of General Issues:

1. The plan has been positively prepared. There are no significant showstoppers and it is envisaged the Regulation 14 consultation will further refine the plan positively.

2. Please ensure all maps, figures, tables are numbered/formatted correctly.
3. On the NPPF, please ensure you are referencing the 2018 version, not the 2011 version as this leads could lead to inconsistency.
4. Policies should be given paragraph numbers – this makes the document easier to use and refer to when applicants and planning officers are using the plan to make applications / decisions.
5. It is commendable that your engagement with developers has been positive. Please confirm all infrastructure requirements are secured through policy wording and there is complete clarity on what is expected of in terms of contributions. Please ensure infrastructure contributions are aligned with national policy (NPPF).”

There follows 9 pages of detailed comments. The full report can be viewed at Ashingtonpc.org.uk