



Ashington Parish Council

Minutes of the remote meeting held on Thursday 1st October 2020 at 7:45p.m.

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

Also present:

Clerk – Karen Dare

Invited Guest - Rev. James di Castiglione, Rector - Parish of Chanctonbury

District Councillor: P Circus

County Councillor: Paul Marshall

5 Members of the Public

211/20 **Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received and approved from: P. Linehan, G. MacPherson

District Councillors: J. Blackall & J Saheid

Neighbourhood Wardens: Bryony Sparks & Christina Arnold

212/20 **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 224/20 & 225/20)

213/20 **Invited Guest Rev. James di Castiglione, Rector - Parish of Chanctonbury**

The Church are still operating their Covid Helpline 7 days per week until 9pm each day. Anyone can call if they are feeling anxious or need help eg prescriptions, shopping. They are also collecting donated food items and distributing them to those in need. The Neighbourhood Wardens are working in partnership with the Church to provide the services on offer. More information at chanctonbury.org.uk and on the Parish noticeboards.

The Church also has access to a 'hardship fund' that anyone experiencing financial difficulties can apply to for help. Plus, two church members have formed a small charity offering debt advice.

Church Services have restarted but those that do not wish to physically attend can watch the service on YouTube later in the day/week.

The Church is holding some open morning sessions in the near future and these are all 'Covid secure' and the Church will be holding a Remembrance service in the Church and this will also be available online for those that cannot attend.

Cllr Watson stressed that in the run-up to Xmas people are usually busy but January & February can be difficult months for people, especially with the cold, dark nights so additional promotion of the Helpline is vital at this time.

The Chairman thanked the Rector for all that the Church are doing in the village.

214/20 **Public Adjournment**

Members of the public can ask questions.

1. What is happening with the HDC Local Plan that proposes 600 homes for Ashington? The Chairman replied that the recent Govt. White Paper is proposing significantly more homes for the District so Ashington could have many more than the 600 they propose. We would not have any further information from HDC on the proposed 600 homes until the publication of the next Local Plan in November 2020.

2. The grass verge from the green at the southern end of The Sands northwards is encroaching across the pavement. The Clerk confirmed that this had been reported to WSCC Highways.
3. Residents of Beulah Cottage (behind Green Shed) expressed concern at their potential loss of screening/privacy when the Green Shed is removed. The Chairman reassured them that the Council is aware of their location, the differences in land levels, existing vegetation screening etc and would assess the situation once the shed is removed. The Council does not intend to sell any land to them to ensure their privacy but does plan to work with them to try to reach a compromise.

215/20 Reports from District & County Councillors

County Councillor Paul Marshall reported:

1. Covid statistics – WSCC currently 15.7 per 100,000 population vs 55 per 100,000 population in England. Areas with additional lockdown measures are at @300+ per 100,000 population. WSCC is Medium risk area, no areas are low risk. Cases in Crawley have quadrupled in 2 weeks so numbers can get out of control quickly. Horsham District has 13.2 cases per 100,000 population or 19 cases in total (population of 140,000). Spikes in cases are often traced back to one or two events eg family/house party.
2. Test capacity is good but lab capacity is reduced as tests are prioritised by area of highest need.
3. WSCC had studied the Govt. Planning White Papers and have great concerns about the algorithms used to calculate housing numbers. It is weighted heavily against West Sussex with a significantly higher allocation than other areas.
4. The Neighbourhood Plan is proposing @225 homes but HDC is pushing for 600 homes in Ashington and this is disproportionate to the size and sustainability of Ashington.
5. Another Govt. White paper proposed creating Unitary Authorities ie scrapping District/Borough Councils. WSCC had asked Govt. for more information on this and is open to discussions but the Govt. seem to have recently shelved the paper.
6. WSCC estimates that the financial impact this year on it could be @£9 -20million because the Govt has introduced grants and allowed some other financial measures to be put in place to ease the impact. However, a second spike means more demand on WSCC services eg children, adult, social care and fewer people will be paying Council Tax because of financial difficulties so WSCC is monitoring budgets but expects that the shortfall could be up to £44million next year.

District Councillor Philip Circus reported:

1. Govt. White paper on Unitary Authorities would mean that HDC ceased to exist but the Minister seems to have lost enthusiasm for the project. It has happened in many other areas but perhaps as District/Boroughs have been heavily involved in Covid response this is not the time for major change.
2. Finance – the Govt. is reimbursing direct Covid costs to HDC but not any indirect costs. HDC is losing income eg parking charges, leisure centre usage and this means financial difficulties. Govt. may award some grants but this is not guaranteed. Council Tax income may drop due to individuals having financial difficulties and HDC has been advised to be sympathetic to individual circumstances.
3. HDC is challenging Govt. on housing numbers. The algorithm pushes numbers from @800pa to @1700pa which is an absurd increase. There is a Motion at the next HDC meeting to oppose the figures.
4. No decisions have yet been made on the proposed sites in the draft HDC Local Plan. Councillors will be looking at all sites again when the Officers have evaluated them from a sustainability point of view.
5. The Chairman asked whether the 600 homes proposed for Ashington in the HDC Local Plan were because of the Govt. algorithm or whether Ashington could expect even more homes if the algorithm figures were approved by Govt.? District Councillor Circus stated that he had ‘vigorously opposed the 600 homes for Ashington’ and viewed the number as ‘totally absurd’. He explained that HDC Officers viewed Ashington as being more sustainable than other settlements, hence high numbers, but that he felt that this view is ‘profoundly wrong’ and that he disagrees with them completely.

6. In June 2019 HDC passed a motion on the environment and agreed to a Carbon reduction strategy and aim to become Carbon neutral by 2030. However, the strategy will cost money at a time when HDC is in a difficult financial situation. They would be applying to Govt. for financial help and are working with WSCC on an inter-authority waste group and expanding its remit to become an environmental group to help achieve the motion.
7. During lockdown and beyond District Councillors had not attended any Parish Council meetings but would now try to rebuild links with their Parishes.

Councillor Morris asked why HDC is looking at housing development on Rookwood Golf course, next to a nature reserve, when it has committed to environmental objectives. The Chairman pointed out that the Green Keeper at the golf course had recently been given notice to quit his property. District Councillor Circus responded that decisions had not been taken yet, he suspected that not all of the golf course would be built on with the northern part being retained, but that the decision would be taken by his colleagues in due course. He explained that HDC could raise £12million from the sale that would help safeguard frontline services and that this is an often-ignored financial reality.

The Chairman thanked both Councillors for their attendance.

DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN:

216/20 Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 3rd September 2020

The minutes of the meeting dated 3rd September 2020 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman. Proposed by Cllr Kearney, seconded by Cllr Kerrey and agreed by all.

217/20 Kite & Thomas (Green Shed) - update

1. Demolition & electrical works are scheduled to start soon.
2. Several Mobile café's have come forward and the Clerk met with them and asked that they put forward any proposals for them to operate at the site from November onwards (depending on progress of electrical works).
3. Several individuals, organisations and private companies have come forward and expressed an interest in running a permanent café on the site.
4. The PC is not intending to sell any part of the site.
5. Other suggestions for the site include: medical, allotments/garden, storage, commercial, nightclub (1 or 2 comments each) and deli/bakery (12 comments).
6. Other suggestions include craft space within a café for local traders, outside seating, dog friendly and public toilet.
7. The Clerk contacted Storrington PC who had quite recently tendered for a public toilet (2018) and learned that the cost is in the region of £70k for installation and @£5k annual servicing/maintenance. Storrington had decided not to go ahead with the project as it was prohibitively expensive, and an alternative solution was found.
8. A small number of neighbours have expressed concerns at: possible parking issues; noise; retention of trees on the site boundaries to protect their privacy. Councillors are aware of these and will keep them in mind.
9. The Clerk received a Business Rates invoice for the period 1/10/20 to 31/3/21 £1275.94 and has applied for Empty Property Rates Relief (Small Business Rates Relief doesn't apply if the property is empty). No decision on this has been received. As soon as the Green Shed is demolished, she will arrange for the rateable value of the site to be reassessed. At least HDC now have the correct contact details for invoices.
10. A name for the site is needed. The Clerk reports that Royal Mail does not have an official postal address for the site because it does not have a letterbox. HDC's Street Naming & Numbering Officer reports that he can arrange for a name to be registered with the Land Registry and for it to be added to the Council's Local Land and Property Gazetteer. A postal address could then be applied for, if considered necessary.
History of the site from lifelong residents shows that Fanny Adams had a drapers shop there and her brother Herbert had a bakery at the far end of the site. It was then followed by a workshop used by Nelson Tidey. It was also a grocer's and post office run by the Adam's who lived on the site. It was also used as a store for a horse cart inside along with all manner of

other bits and pieces. In later years it was used as a builder's workshop by the Stenning family. Dave Alford (Ashington resident) used to help out in the Bakery. The bus stop outside the site was known as the 'top of the common' stop.

Name suggestions are currently: The Old Bakery, Turners Yard, Farm Yard, Ashington Green, The Market, Market Place, The Place, Ashington Place, Parish Yard, Carters Yard, Turnpike. Councillors to email other suggestions to the Clerk.

It was agreed that the Clerk circulate name suggestions to Councillors and that a vote system be agreed and enacted.

It was also agreed that a sign/plaque detailing the history of the site be erected at some point.

11. Finance –

- a. current expenditure is £4862. A further £780 is due for labour associated with the electrical Kiosk installation. Demolition cost is £1,850. Additional costs are likely to be installation of distribution board in the new Kiosk (£1200), Meter installation, possible repairs to surfacing, vegetation clearance & disposal, new registered address, cctv camera ducting & pole, excludes camera (£600). It was agreed that a budget of £10k be set aside for getting the site cleared and up to specification.
- b. Depending on future users there may need to be some expenditure on capital items eg marquee, toilets, seating, bins or some of these can be hired in the short term. It was agreed that a budget of up to £5k be set aside for capital items.

Councillors agreed to apply for an S106 grant to help with setup costs for a café and/or whether to set a budget from Council funds (reserves). **KD CFWD**

218/20 Review of Emergency Plan – subject to a few name changes within the document and distribution list the document was approved. **KD D**

219/20 Review of GDPR Documents – Training Policy, Privacy Notice, Subject Access Request procedure, Breach Policy & reporting form, Document Retention & Disposal, IT Security Policy for Staff. All agreed. Clerk to update dates. **KD D**

220/20 Correspondence received for Action –

1. Email from resident – are the PC going to take part in the WSCC Donate a Tree Scheme and/or the 'Wilder Horsham District' project and/or the 'Lost Woods of the Low Weald and Downs' project. The Chairman clarified that some of these schemes are aimed at individual residents rather than Parish Councils and that Parish Councillors are welcome to attend events/meetings as residents.

221/20 Meetings attended by Councillors –

The Clerk & Chairman had met with a mobile café operator at Green Shed site. Cllrs Moss, Morris, Ball & Spiers had attended the recent ACCT AGM.

222/20 Matters raised by Councillors

Speedwatch update from Cllr Kerrey: September showed that traffic volumes have returned the pre-Covid lockdown levels although, and this might be just our impression, levels of excess speed have reduced slightly which we would like to think is a result of our efforts.

However, we have also noticed that 'interesting' comments from passing motorists have increased, which we ignore usually, but on two occasions we did pass a report of abusive behaviour to the Police. One instance involved a driver, on two occasions, slowing down to walking pace, and filming us with his phone as he passed, annoying for us and the cars behind him. In addition, and a surprise to us, a Police car sped past us at 38mph - he got reported. The Police instigated Operation Edward at the beginning of the month, and with the promise of Police support (if available), encouraged all the Speedwatch teams to pull out all the stops for the week 8-12th. Needless to say we did pull out all the stops and had session every day of the week covering Billingshurst Rd and London Rd, however the local Police seemed to have been busy and unable to visit.

Finally, I am pleased to report that we have another operative, Barbara, who was one of the original volunteers, but other commitments and the lockdown had prevented her until now being one of the team. She thoroughly enjoys Speedwatch and seems to know her cars, a useful skill.

The Clerk can confirm that the land at Cricketers Close (as discussed last meeting) is not owned by WSCC Highways. It is likely to still belong to a Developer (possibly unknowingly).

Cllr Watson reported that he & Cllr Linehan had installed another two defibrillator cabinets in the village and has produced a map to show their locations and this will be put on display on noticeboards, social media and in the Chemist shop. The defibrillators will be installed in the cabinets in the next 7-10 days. There is a need for one more location covering the centre of the village.

Cllr Kearney advised Councillors that there is a private Covid testing facility at the Coolham crossroads.

223/20 Chairman's Announcements -

Future meetings – Government Guidelines do not yet recommend physical meetings to resume unless necessary and business cannot be done via remote meeting. Council Zoom meetings are working well and should continue. Cllr MacPherson will advise the Council prior to each scheduled meeting if it is safe to meet in person.

The Chairman reported that he had recently seen a 'Free Library' facility in a village whilst on holiday. Councillors considered that this might work inside the wall on Green Shed land. Chairman to investigate.

The Chairman reminded Councillors that their PC email addresses are for Council business only and that they should keep their personal & PC business separate.

PLANNING

Cllr Woolley was muted and his video turned off.

224/20 Neighbourhood Planning Update

On 23/9/20 HDC Neighbourhood Planning Officer sent over the 83 Regulation 16 responses received by HDC (94 documents in total). These are being studied, including by the Parish Council's Planning Consultant, prior to a discussion on how to take the project forward.

225/20 HDC Local Plan Review Update – no updates.

Cllr Woolley was readmitted to the meeting.

226/20 Minutes of the Planning Meetings held on September 16th, 2020

Minutes of the planning meeting has been distributed to Councillors. Agreed by all.

227/20 Planning Applications –

DC/20/1679 Installation of a window to the west elevation - 9 Blakiston Close. The Council has no objections.

FINANCE

228/20 Correspondence –

1. ACCT report that a bollard in their U12s play area has broken and needs repair. They have a quote of £400 + VAT and will arrange for the works to be done. The PC previously agreed to pay half of all their play area maintenance costs. This agreement will be reviewed in January. Cllr Kearney will have a look at the repair needed.
2. The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) has published a new employment briefing on the national salary pay scales for clerks and other employees employed under the terms of the model contract. New rates are effective from 1st April 2020. As a result, the Clerk's salary has increased by 50p per hour (additional £390pa). Agreed by all. Clerk to process the paperwork. **KD D**
3. WSCC Pensions – amendments to the wording of two Clauses in the Local Government Pension Scheme Agreement. Agreed by all, Clerk to sign. **KD D**

229/20 Expenditure (Appendix 3)

It was resolved that the schedule of invoices for payment totalling £7,693.80 for October 2020 be approved. Agreed by all.

FOR INFORMATION ONLY:

230/20 Neighbourhood Wardens Report (Appendix 1)

It was noted that the Wardens seem to be spending almost one-third of their time on admin and that they had been asked to work in other Parishes recently but this is not documented on their time sheets. It was queried whether other Wardens come into Ashington to make up the time or if there is a refund due from HDC. Cllrs Stillwell & Morris to ask at the next Wardens Steering Group meeting.

231/20 Youth Worker Report (Appendix 2) – none.

Councillors agreed that the Chairman should write to Nick Taylor to thank him for trying to keep youth activities going throughout lockdown.

232/20 Correspondence received for Information –

1. Horsham District Resilience report
2. Thanks from ACCT for use of PC Zoom and Clerk's time/laptop
3. SSALC Chairs Networking Forum Zoom meeting
4. CAGNE – Gatwick 360 Unsustainable Future report
5. Rampion 2 – Community Project Liaison Group Invitation

PLANNING

233/20 Planning Correspondence – none

234/20 New Enforcement Allegations – none

235/20 Horsham District Council Decisions

Approvals –

DC/20/1097 Retrospective application for the creation of two charging bays with the installation of associated charging posts, power cabinets, substation and low voltage enclosure, along with the extension of hardstanding area to rear of sales building and installation of floodlights - BP Fuel Petrol Filling Station

DC/20/1325 Replacement roof to create habitable living space in loft. Erection of a single storey side and rear extension - 5 Timberlea Close

DC/20/1382 Prior notification for the erection of a secured building to store agricultural equipment , tractor and digger - Winstons Farm Muttons Lane

DC/20/1451 Prior Approval for the erection of a single-storey rear larger home extension, which would project 4.50m from the rear elevation, comprising a maximum height of 3.00m and an eaves height of 2.70m - 14 The Sands

DC/20/1501 Install 1 x 8m wooden pole - Church Lane

DC/20/1316 Fell 1 x Pine - 17 Linfield Lane

Refusals - none

Withdrawals – none

Prior Notifications - none

Appeals – none

FINANCE

236/20 **Income** – HDC Precept £50,866.50

237/20 **ITEMS SUSPENDED AND CARRIED FORWARD:**

AGM Business

238/20 **Date of Next meetings**

Planning Committee meetings: **7:30pm on Wednesday 14th & 28th October 2020**

Parish Council: **7:45pm on Thursday 5th November 2020**

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

Meeting closed at 9.15pm

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

August 2020 – Ashington

Patrol hours TOTAL:	42	ASB incidents TOTAL:	6
Foot (high visibility)	23	Noise	3
Vehicle	19	Neighbours	1
Notices/warnings TOTAL:	0	Driving/vehicles	2
Fixed Penalty Notice	0	Bikes	0
Yellow card warning	0	Alcohol/drugs	0
Community Protection Warning/Notice	0	Public order	0
Parking alert	0	Clear up/disposal reports TOTAL:	2
Police reports TOTAL:	0	Fly tipping / flyposting	0
Phone (including 101 and 999)	0	Graffiti	0
Email	0	Dog fouling	0
Intelligence report	0	Litter	2
E-CINS (multi-agency reporting)	0	Drug litter	0
Verbal	0	Hazards	0
Admin	31	Community events attended	0
Visits to vulnerable people (all ages)	7	School contact/engagement	0
Signposting	0	Reports to DVLA	0
Safeguarding referral	0	Reports to Operation Crackdown	0

ASB/crime/criminal damage

- We are still assisting the police with their investigations regarding the eggs thrown at a vehicle as reported in last month's report.
- We have received a number of noise complaints this month. We have endeavoured to speak with the residents affected and to engage with those involved in the anti-social behaviour.

Parking/vehicles

- We are working with the children's nursery on London Road regarding parking complaints from residents. We are looking at how we can help improve the situation for the nursery staff, the parents, and the nearby residents.
- We received a complaint regarding parking in Ivy Close following a note left on someone's car.
- We also received a complaint of vehicles parking on the pavements around Warminghurst Close.

Fly tipping/littering/graffiti

We completed a litter pick whilst out on foot patrol around the village.

Community engagement/events/meetings

- We are liaising with the ACCT and receiving updates on how things are opening again post lockdown.
- We have had a meeting with a member of the public regarding parking.

Patrols (foot/visible and car)

We have covered the whole parish this month on foot and in the vehicle.

Elderly and youth

- Whilst the issues at the Scout Hall car park seem to have calmed down considerably, we are still looking at long term solutions to prevent any anti-social behaviour in the area. We are also seeking further enforcement against the person for whom we issued a Community Protection Warning letter as they has since breached the conditions given to them.
- We have engaged with two young people who are struggling with personal issues. We are signposting them to other agencies where we can and offering support to help them overcome their problems. This has been a big piece of work for us and we will continue to do all we can to support the young people in the village.

Licensing

Nothing to Report.

Dog related issues

We are working with the Police to ensure that any orders on dogs that require a muzzle are being enforced as necessary.

Cycling

Nothing to report.

Parish specific/other

- We are continuing to deliver our newsletters, the feedback we are receiving is all positive, the newsletters are greatly received each fortnight for those who still are not able to get out and about.
- There are numbers of commercial waste vehicles that use A24 to transport rubbish to the landfill site in Horsham. It has been reported that the rubbish is not always secure and can spill out on the roadside or central reservation damaging the environment. We have assisted HDC colleagues in a targeted operation to take any enforcement action against the drivers of vehicles seen to drop litter.

Warden Monthly Report

September 2020 – Ashington

Patrol hours TOTAL:	75	ASB incidents TOTAL:	6
Foot (high visibility)	30	Noise	2
Vehicle	45	Neighbours	0
Notices/warnings TOTAL:	0	Driving/vehicles	0
Fixed Penalty Notice	0	Bikes	1
Yellow card warning	0	Alcohol/drugs	3
Community Protection Warning/Notice	0	Public order	0
Parking alert	0	Clear up/disposal reports TOTAL:	8
Police reports TOTAL:	5	Fly tipping / flyposting	5
Phone (including 101 and 999)	0	Graffiti	0
Email	2	Dog fouling	0
Intelligence report	0	Litter	3
E-CINS (multi-agency reporting)	0	Drug litter	0

Verbal	3	Hazards	0
Admin	40	Community events attended	0
Visits to vulnerable people (all ages)	9	School contact/engagement	1
Signposting	2	Reports to DVLA	1
Safeguarding referral	0	Reports to Operation Crackdown	0

ASB/crime/criminal damage

There has been a recent increase in drug dealing within the village, we have spoken with a few individuals warning them of the negative effects of taking drugs. We have reported any information we have to the police. We are working with local projects in an attempt to redirect certain individuals into more positive activities.

Can we ask residents to keep a look out for any suspicious activity in the village, if you notice anything please do get in touch with us.

This month has seen an increase of scooter use around the village unfortunately there has been at least one report of a scooter going missing which was thankfully found again. We were able to work with the family to property mark their bikes and scooters. Please be aware especially if leaving scooters outside of the school for the day that they should be secured or taken home again.

Parking/vehicles

We have received a report this month that the drifting which occurs at the roundabout by the BP garage has started up again. We will be leaflet dropping nearby residents soon. If you witness any such driving then please report it to the police on 101 as it is dangerous for all road users.

Fly tipping/littering/graffiti

There has been an increase of fly tipping up Spear Hill this month. We have found and reported four lots of rubbish which have all been removed together with a further incident on Old London Road.

We had a report of a bag having been dumped on Billingshurst Road, on further inspection this bag contained old masks, gloves and paperwork from Covid testing kits. Again, this was reported and cleared up.

Community engagement/events/meetings

We had the pleasure this month of being able to visit Ashington Nursery as part of their community week. We made all the children Junior Wardens and explained to them a few aspects of our job that they could help with. They were very keen to get out on foot patrol and ensure their adults were picking up after their dogs.

Patrols (foot/visible and car)

This month we have covered the whole village on patrol either in the vehicle or out on foot. We spent 30 hours on foot patrol and 45 hours on vehicle patrol.

Elderly and youth

We are continuing to write and deliver our newsletter to the elderly and vulnerable in the village, we do this every 2-3 weeks which also allows us to visit them. If you know of anyone who might benefit from these newsletters then please get in touch.

Licensing

Nothing to report.

Dog related issues

We received a report from the local vet of two dogs loose on Rectory Lane. Having driven up there we were unable to locate them, but if anyone has any further information on this then please let us know.

There has been an increase in complaints around dog fouling. We intend to go out in the next few weeks to highlight the problem again. Please can we remind all dog owners to bag it and bin it.

Cycling

There has been a number of children around on their bikes without helmets or lights on their bikes. With the evenings getting darker if your child is out on their bike please ensure they have the correct safety equipment.

Parish specific/other

We have done three litter picks this month which have tied in with the Great British Clean Up. There was a significant amount of rubbish found around the village. We would like to give a special thanks to those around the community who already help with litter picking but if you would like to get involved then please speak with us about Horsham District Councils 'Adopt a Street' scheme.

Appendix 2 – Youth Worker Report

Youth Worker's Report

During lockdown we have tried various ways to stay in touch with the young people of Ashington. To begin with, we ran weekly Instagram live videos and Zoom sessions. We played online games and quizzes and did some 'shout outs' etc. Attendance was high to begin with but dropped off over the following months.

Whilst I wasn't running youth club, I spent time planning for works to be done in the club and trying to fund raise money to do so. A crack team of Helen and Dan Lee, Nev Clarke and me have spent hours over the last few weeks ripping out the old kitchen and replacing it with a new one. We have raised funds to buy gazebos to allow us some more space to host young people outside where they don't have to wear masks, and a fogger to deep clean the club in between club nights.

In August, we opened for two sessions as test runs, to see what the take up was and to see if we could operate safely during the restrictions. We welcomed 16 young people over the two sessions who all enjoyed being back in the club. We made sure we were Covid-secure by having hand sanitizer, face masks, hand washing etc all available and enforcing social distancing at all times. We wiped down all contact points regularly throughout the session too.

I organised a bike ride for the beginning of September so that we could host and see young people without the confines of being indoor and wearing masks – however, despite initial excitement among the older youth, people weren't interested and I had to cancel it last minute.

I have been investigating more fund raising to buy new equipment and to get the inside of the club redecorated, and trying to develop a new system enabling us to ask young people to sign up before coming to club as going forward, out numbers will have to be limited to 15 per session (current Govt. guidance). We are hoping to open our doors mid-October but

this is dependent on any new systems being in place the club itself being in a clean and safe enough state to open.

I am facing challenges such as re-igniting excitement and awareness of the club, and assuring parents that we can keep their children safe here. I will attempt to advertise at Ashington School.

Appendix 3 – Expenditure

Karen Dare	Home office (September)	£20.00
Mark Adsett	Landscape Gardening (September)	£587.50
	Hanging Basket watering	£260.00
Ashington PCC	Invoice YW-2020-08 (September)	£1,083.33
WSCC	Salaries and Costs (September)	£1,483.97
Radii Skatepark Repairs	Skatepark resurfacing (agreed July 2020 165/20b)	£3,875.00
Complete Weed Control	Weedkilling	£384.00
		£7,693.80

All to be paid by Bank Transfer

Appendix 4

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

Ashington Rangers £724.01

Ashington Residents Association £615.85