



Ashington Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 5th September 2019 at 7:45p.m. in Ashington School, Foster Lane.

Present: Councillors: N. Spiers, S. Ball, T. Moss, T. Kearney, P. Kerrey, J. Stillwell, L. di Castiglione & G. MacPherson, J. Morris

Also present:

Clerk – Karen Dare
District Cllrs - J. Blackall
County Cllr P Marshall
23 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.

182/19 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received and approved from: Cllr M. Woolley & T. Watson, District Councillor P Circus & J Saheid

183/19 Declaration of Interests and notification of change of interest

None. The Chairman reminded councillors that previous declarations still stand (as defined under the Localism Act 2011).

184/19 Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 4th July 2019

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

185/19 Neighbourhood Wardens Report (Appendix 1)

Update from the Chairman on the Warden Working Party –
Christina Arnold started as the new Ashington Warden on 12th August.

From Sharon Cadman HDC - HDC are adding 'Breach of a Byelaw' to the current Fixed Penalty Notices that authorised officers can issue. This will mainly be with regards to HDC byelaws across the district but if you would like your wardens to issue FPNs for a breach of a parish byelaw, please would you email me back with official delegated authority for them to do so and also attach a copy of your local byelaws, for our info. Any fees collected will be fed back into your individual warden scheme budget for them to spend on local issues.

The Chairman clarified that there are no byelaws in Ashington relating to Parish Council land. It was suggested that it should be checked whether littering & dog fouling are automatically offences on public land or whether there needs to be byelaws made.

Clerk CFWD

The Chair invited questions:

Cllr Stillwell reported that there is nothing in the report about Elderly & Vulnerable persons and that they haven't received Warden visits in some time.

186/19 Youth Worker Report (Appendix 2)

The Chairman gave an overview of the report.

Cllr Moss praised the Youth Worker on his efforts organising fundraising activities and his attendance at the Ashington Festival where he manned the Youth Club stand all day and on his own.

187/19 Report from District and County Councillors

District Councillor Blackall reported:

1. There is currently an independent review of Planning Enforcement to make sure HDC is adhering to best practice.
2. HDC are looking at 'green issues' more closely and will be prioritising tree planting, extending woodlands etc that will benefit future generations.
3. Novartis site – full Council have deferred a decision on the planning application as they weren't happy with the Transport Assessment. It is a brownfield site in the centre of Horsham.
4. The Neighbourhood Plan for Storrington, Sullington & Washington has been approved – it has taken 4 years of patience, commitment and dedication from the volunteers involved.

Questions were invited from Councillors –

1. Can residents get involved in tree planting? HDC are still working out how new tree planting can be achieved

Questions from Members of the Public:

1. How can HDC stop tree felling on potential development sites, sometimes many years before planning applications are even submitted? HDC should be protecting trees. A recent example is the unnecessary and premature clearance of an Ancient Orchard on Chichester Diocese land north of Rectory Lane, Ashington. Site 1 has also undertaken recent clearance. Cllr Blackall explained that if there are trees of any value in the Parish then Will Jones at HDC should be contacted as he could look at whether a TPO is appropriate.
2. Could HDC supply memorial trees? The resident was advised to contact the Woodland Trust for this.

County Councillor Paul Marshall reported:

1. WSCC is keen to promote Environmental projects and there are possibly some projects that can be done locally. Cllr Moss had shown an interest and will liaise directly with WSCC.
2. The CLC is changing the way it grants funds small projects – crowd funding will still be used for bigger projects but small projects can apply to a new 'micro fund' <£750.

Questions were invited from Councillors – none

Questions from Members of the Public:

1. Residents from Luckista Grove, Billingshurst Road spoke about their inability to walk into the village and other problems because of: speeding vehicles, heavy lorries, lack of pavement, road signs not being compliant with standards, road markings fading, overgrown hedges. The Chairman responded that the PC has been trying to setup a Community Speedwatch Scheme for many years but has a lack of volunteers – several residents immediately volunteered.

County Councillor Paul Marshall said that a Community Highways Scheme application form would need to be submitted and assessed by WSCC before any improvements would be considered.

It was suggested that the Speedwatch Scheme would be a good starting point and a relatively simple project to get off the ground. It has been very successful in Storrington.

Clerk to get in touch with residents, other volunteers and Sussex Police. **Clerk CFWD**

188/19 Young Persons Adjournment – none

189/19 Public Adjournment

Items NOT relating to the Neighbourhood Plan:

1. The footpath from Kate's Cakes, along the A24 to Ashington is well overgrown and the surface is badly deteriorated and unsafe. It needs a safety barrier.
The Neighbourhood Plan is proposing an upgrade to the footpath from the village to Malthouse Lane as an alternative route for residents to use rather than the A24.
The condition of the path will be reported to WSCC. **Clerk D**
2. A resident asked about Litter Wardens. The Chairman responded that the PC is discussing this later in the meeting.

The Chairman clarified some items of misinformation that had been circulating around the village on websites, social media and telephone calls to the PC during Regulation 14:

1. Site 4 is not one of the 'preferred sites' in the draft Plan, despite what their representatives may have intimated during their drop-in sessions or canvassing activities around the village.
2. The Plan proposes @225 homes, not 1000.
3. It is highly unlikely that there will be 'thousands' of new car movements in Church Lane. A full Transport Assessment will accompany any planning applications.
4. There is to be no building on the Recreation Ground
5. There are no plans to knock down the church and run a new road through the graveyard necessitating exhumation of bodies – the Chairman spoke to a very distressed resident who had heard this rumour.

The Chairman clarified that 26 sites had been considered and after 3 years of work, supported by HDC and a Planning Consultant, this had been narrowed down to 3 sites (sites 1,5,6) based on sound planning reasons.

Items relating to the Neighbourhood Plan:

1. A resident suggested that 'site 4' has been very active at community engagement. How is the Parish Council going to get the right information out to residents?
The PC/Steering Group must follow strict protocols and procedures and cannot get involved in any site-specific promotion. Sites 1,5 & 6 will be doing their own publicity in due course.
2. A resident commented that even when the Plan is made this won't stop Developers from trying to get permission for their sites. This is true but without a Neighbourhood Plan the village is very vulnerable to applications from all sites and any new sites that come forward.

190/19 Action List Update (CFWD = carry forward to next meeting, D = delete)

- a. ACCT working together – the Council's insurance would cover a contracted Litter Warden under Employers, Public Liability & personal accident. The Council would need to organise training and equipment and ensure that the person is capable/competent of carrying out the required duties. Councillors to discuss. Advertise, deadline mid-October for decisions in November. Cllrs Spiers & Ball to draft an Advert & job description. **CFWD**
The Clerk has been made aware that two residents in Blakiston Close regularly litter pick Rectory Lane to Warminghurst Church and along Park Lane and they have asked if the PC could provide some basic equipment. A basic set of litter picking equipment is up to £60 per person but the Wardens may have some spares that belong to the PC.
The Council agreed to check what resources the Wardens have and, if necessary, purchase 5 x litter picking sets. **Clerk CFWD**
- b. There but Not There Armed Forces Covenant grant – Creation of a Memorial Garden. The bench still needs to be installed and Mark Adsett has been asked to assist. Target opening date is Remembrance Sunday.
- c. The Council's Data Protection Officer 12 month contract expires on 4th October 2019 and the renewal price would be £350. The DPO was appointed for 12 months to get the Council GDPR compliant with advice, policy documents etc but now that this is done the Council may not consider it necessary to renew. The Council is not required to have a separate DPO and can appoint the Clerk as the DPO. Agreed by all to appoint the Clerk. **D**
- d. Councillors email addresses – Cllr DiCastiglione still to take action. Clerk to re-send setup email. **Clerk D**

- e. Website accessibility – the work has now been completed and circulated to Councillors to approve. Agreed by all. **D**
- f. Skatepark signage – the cost is £65 + VAT for 2 x A4 signs on dibond with scratch resistant covering. Agreed by all. **Clerk D**
- g. Volunteering – how do we encourage more residents to get involved in local volunteering opportunities?
Summary of discussions: some village clubs are closing due to lack of volunteers, volunteers are fragmented in the village, should the PC take the lead and co-ordinate activities, there are possible inefficiencies, lack of information about what all the various groups are doing, how do we get more volunteers, some communities manage volunteers/services better than others and can we learn from this. It was agreed that Councillors have a think about the issue. **CFWD**
- h. Defibrillator – the defibrillator at the Community Centre has been replaced by the Ashington Responder with a new one and she has agreed to check both it and the one at Ashington Autos on a regular basis. At some point they will both need new batteries & pads – would the PC consider funding this or does the PC consider that this should be paid out of Responder funds? What does the PC want to do with the ‘old’ defibrillator? It needs a new battery & pads. Could it be installed elsewhere in the village? Suggestions? It was agreed that Elizabeth Greenfield (Responder) be invited to attend a PC meeting to present information. **Clerk CFWD**

191/19 Correspondence received for Action

1. WSCC – looking for opinions on their County Local Committee effectiveness, deadline 30th September. No action.
2. HDC – invitation to Civic Service 6th October 2019. Deadline for response is 20th September. No action.
3. WSCC – invitation to Draft Transport for the South East (TfSE) Transport Strategy drop-in sessions. No action.
4. WSALC AGM & Autumn conference invitation (3rd October). No action.
5. WSCC - West Sussex Care Guide Review – Survey 21 August to 25 September 2019. NO action.
6. Invitation to SECAMB AGM 20th September. No action.
7. Glen Chipp, HDC Chief Executive has asked whether it would be helpful or useful to you and your Parish Councillors if he attended one of your forthcoming Parish Council meetings. Agreed. **Clerk D**

192/19 Correspondence received for Information

1. WSCC – Electric Vehicle Strategy Consultation (ends 2nd October)
2. WSCC – Environment Newsletter & Climate Change Newsletter
3. Gatwick Airport - Final Masterplan
4. CAGNE – Gatwick Airport expansion plans
5. HALC – Minutes from the June meeting
6. HDC - South Downs National Park Local Plan 2014 - 2033 has now been formally adopted
7. HDC – Planning Training response to feedback.
8. HDC – ASB leaflet
9. Age UK – new CEO for Horsham District

193/19 Meetings attended by Councillors

Cllrs Spiers had attended the Youth Partnership meeting on 2nd September 2019.

Cllr Stillwell & Spiers attended a Warden Partnership meeting on 2nd September 2019.

194/19 Matters raised by Councillors

1. Cllr Moss is keen to raise Environmental items/projects – put on agenda for next meeting **CFWD**
2. Cllr McPherson will be attending the SSALC AGM as part of his job.

3. There is the possibility of more grant funds for the 'memorial garden'. Closing date for applications is December. Councillors agreed for Cllr McPherson to draft a bid. **CFWD**

195/19 **Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman thanked Bill Whittaker on behalf of the Parish Council and villagers for all of his hard work in refurbishing the Scout Hall to a very high standard. Bill thanked the Chairman and explained that funds were provided by ACCT and that the hall is now available to hire.

PLANNING

196/19 **Minutes of the Planning Meetings held on 17th & 31st July & 21st August 2019**

Minutes of the planning meetings had been distributed to Councillors. Agreed by all.

197/19 **Planning Correspondence –**

- a. Shipley Parish Regulation 14 Neighbourhood Plan consultation runs from 2nd September to 13th October. Shipley Parish, including Coolham, is an 'unclassified' settlement in the HDC settlement hierarchy and is, therefore, not expected to have many new houses at all. The Plan proposes to simply assess any applications for new homes on an individual basis and against the desire to use infill or brownfield land as a priority. No comment.
- b. West Grinstead (including Dial Post, Littleworth, Partridge Green and West Grinstead) Parish Regulation 14 Neighbourhood Plan consultation runs from 29th July to 23rd September. Summary – the PC initially proposed 60-70 new homes but this figure was increased by HDC to minimum 110. The PC has identified commercial land (brownfield, Huffwood industrial estate, north of Star Road industrial estate) in Partridge Green, close to the centre, for new homes but the land is currently in commercial use so there is a desire to move commercial tenants to new commercial spaces to enable housing on the site. The PC has identified some greenfield land, south of Star Road industrial estate, that could replace the lost commercial land. No comment.
- c. HDC – Draft Statement of Community Involvement 2019 is out for consultation, ends 6th September 2019. The Clerk has read this and has no issues to bring to the PC's attention.

198/19 **Neighbourhood Planning Update**

Regulation 14 consultation period is now over and the responses are being collated by the Clerk.

199/19 **New Enforcement Allegations – none.**

200/19 **Planning Applications**

DC/19/1752 Construction of a detached two storey dwelling - Malthouse Farm Malthouse Lane
The Parish Council Objects to the application on the grounds that it is: Outside the BUAB on a site not identified for development within HDPF nor in the emerging Neighbourhood Plan. Not consistent with the spatial strategy in the emerging NHPlan. Rural location, well outside the existing settlement and the use is not essential to this countryside location. Not in keeping with the local area. Proposal is to build on the former dew pond which was essential to surface water management in this area.

DC/19/1710 Variation of Condition 1 to previously permitted application DC/18/1569 (Reserved matters application for the erection of 4 dwellings and appearance, landscaping, layout and scale, following approval of previous outline application DC/14/1944 relating to the erection of 4 dwellings.) Relating to amendments to plots 1, 2, 3, 4 and car port plot 1 - Yew Tree Cottage Billingshurst Road

The Parish Council has no objections.

201/19 **Horsham District Council Decisions**

Approvals

DC/19/1290 Erection of an agricultural barn and internal access track - East Wolves Farm

DC/19/1215 Extension of existing dormer over existing ground floor rear extension - Spindleberry

Cottage Mill Lane

DC/19/1042 Raise part of roof with the installation of a roof light to front - 2 Hole Street

DC/19/1091 Erection of a two storey front extension, south and east window alterations to elevation - 3 Swan Orchard

DC/19/0976 Erection of a single storey rear extension and conversion of existing garage into habitable living space - The Meads 2 Rectory Close

Refusals

DC/19/0796 Erection of a detached single storey steel framed shed - Foster Lane (Ashington Community Centre)

Reasons: The proposed building would be of a scale, height, and appearance that would result in a dominant building that would sit in a prominent location and would not reflect or relate to the character and appearance of the wider locality. It has not been demonstrated that there is a need that would justify the size and scale of the building, and it is not therefore considered that there is public benefit that would outweigh the identified harm.

DC/19/1053 Erection of 2.No two storey dwellings with associated parking and landscaping - Land North of Baden House London Road

Reasons: scale, siting & design are overbearing, harmful loss of outlook for neighbours, limited aesthetic quality.

Withdrawals

DC/19/1497 Non Material Amendment to previously approved application DC/18/1569 (Reserved matters application for the erection of 4 dwellings and appearance, landscaping, layout and scale, following approval of previous outline application DC/14/1944 relating to the - Yew Tree Cottage Billingshurst Road

DC/17/2861 The construction of a single storey commercial unit and associated vehicle parking, ancillary external areas and vehicular access. - Land Adjacent Malthouse Lane

Appeals

None

FINANCE

202/19 Correspondence

- a) Risk Management Schedule amendments – Cllrs Moss, MacPherson & the Clerk were working on some amendments. **CFWD**
- b) Review of Landscape Gardener's contract and payment – a working party of Cllrs Morris, Kearney & the Clerk would look at this and undertake the Annual Inspection of Council Land at the same time. Clerk to arrange. **CFWD**
- c) The Clerk reports that online banking and payment authorisation is now set-up and working well.
- d) The quarterly bank reconciliation for 30th June has been prepared and signed by Cllr Ball
- e) The quarterly budget report for 30th June shows that:
 - a. there is an unbudgeted figure of £1399.13 for HR costs associated with the previous Clerk.
 - b. It is highly likely that Clerks costs will be significantly overspent this financial year. Noted.
- f) SSALC are running a Finance Workshop for Councillors on various dates in November. The cost is £70 per person. No attendees.
- g) Parish Council laptop – the PC laptop completely died and the Clerk had to install a backup of PC files on to a personal laptop so that her work could continue. The PC should look to purchase a new laptop and has an IT budget of £1500 although there is no urgency as the Clerk's personal laptop is no longer used for any personal business and personal files have

been removed from it. It was agreed that the Clerk should investigate costs and present a proposal.

CFWD

203/19 **Income** - none

204/19 **Expenditure (Appendix 3)**

It was resolved that the schedule of invoices for payment totalling £4,798.89 for September 2019 be approved. Agreed by all. Invoices received during August were approved at Planning Committee meetings and are noted on their minutes.

205/19 **Date of Next meetings**

The next Planning Committee meeting is at **7:30pm on Wednesday 18th September 2019** in Committee Room 2, Ashington Community Centre. **These are NOT Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group meetings.**

The next Parish Council will be held at **7:45pm on Thursday 3rd October 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 9.15pm

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.

Appendix 1 – Warden Report

July

Criminal damage

The Scout Hall windows were damaged. I have still not ascertained who has done it although they have been replaced now. The community centre trust are looking at placing a CCTV camera over there. This would help secure evidence if it was ever required and deter further damage.

There was also a report of flowers being pulled up and destroyed around a grave in Ashington Church. I am still looking into this at present.

Anti-social behaviour & Crime

There are still a lot of ongoing problems with the youths in their vehicles at the scout hall car park. This is a huge ongoing problem that has been ongoing for some time. We had an agreement that the youths would park in the community centre car park which they do some of the time.

Sometimes when they are parked in the scout hall car park they are actually using the recreation ground which I strongly promote but there is a small group that ruin it for everyone and cause anti-social behaviour.

PC Bailey and myself along with some PCSO's from Horsham have been trying to enforce the Public spaces protection order that is in place across Horsham district and prohibits vehicles from driving anti socially (such as skidding in the car park) but of course this is only enforceable if we are on duty and witness it ourselves. We are still not

receiving the reports through to the police so as far as the Police are aware from their system there isn't enough anti-social behaviour complaints to warrant sending dedicated resources down here to help tackle the problem. I am urging all residents to please report any instances of anti-social behaviour to the police so we can get some dedicated support to deal with this issue.

Anti-social Driving

If any resident witnesses anti-social driving they can report to www.operationcrackdown.org or telephone 01243642222.

People in Sussex can text officers on 65999 with details of people they suspect of drink or drug driving.

Litter

Litter has been a big problem at the community centre. I am going to do some focussed work around this and deal where appropriate.

Cold callers

None reported

Neighbourhood disputes

None reported

Fly-tipping

2 x garden waste fly tipped down Old London Road. This has been reported but still hasn't been cleared so I will be flagging it again if its still not gone within a week.

Dog fouling / issues with dogs

I have had reports of dog fouling becoming a problem near the scout hall. Although when I went to look there wasn't any there. I will keep an eye on this area and see if it starts becoming a problem.

Other

I have put in a bid for funding to open the youth club up two Friday evenings a month to the 17-21 year olds to do some work around different issues. It will give them somewhere to hang out and also open up opportunities to work around issues such as drug use and safer driving. I am arranging a drugs specialist police officer to come in and do work around drug use. I am also looking at a visit from an ex prisoner who has served many years in HMP for different offences. He now does talks to people about how he got to that point and the mistakes he made. Starting from really petty crimes and how things escalated and spiralled out of control. I think it would be a real eye opener for the young people to hear first-hand from someone who has turned their life around. (I'm not saying lots of our young people are destined for the world of crime, but I think if it sends any sort of message to make anyone at all stop and think before acting then it's worth it.) There will be food provided for the young people and I will work in partnership with Nick on this. At present we are looking to kick this off in the Autumn ready for the colder and darker evenings where they want somewhere to go.

Warden Monthly Report

August – Ashington

| | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------|---|----------|---------------------------------------|----------|
| Patrol Hours | | No of visits To Elderly/Vulnerable | 8 | School Contact/Engagement | 1 |
| Foot (high visibility) | 34 | | | | |
| Vehicle | 14 | | | | |
| Clear up/disposal reports | | ASB Incidents | | Police Reports Made | |
| Fly tipping, flyposting | 2 | noise | 0 | phone | 1 |
| graffiti | 0 | Neighbours | 0 | email | 1 |
| dog fouling | 1 | driving/vehicles | 1 | intelligence report | 1 |
| litter | 1 | alcohol/drugs | 2 | E-CINS | 0 |
| drug litter | 1 | | | | |
| Community Events Attended | 1 | Youth Engagement/Activities | 9 | Fixed Penalty Notices | 0 |
| Yellow Card Warnings | 0 | Parking Notices Issued | 0 | Reports to Operation Crackdown | 0 |

ASB/Crime/Criminal Damage

The scout hall car park is still an issue with vehicles meeting up and parking there. There is hopefully going to be a camera installed in that car park to make identifying vehicles and dealing with any issues easier when we are not on duty.

This may also act as a good deterrent for people using the car park in an anti- social way.

Parking/Vehicles

I have received one complaint about vehicles using the two roundabouts by the BP as a race track. Historically this has always been an on and off problem over the years and previously in the police when I dealt with the same issue we had people coming from Worthing to use the roundabouts as a race track. Although I have only received one complaint myself I have seen that there are more complaints on Next door. I am liaising with the police to try and get traffic units down here on their downtime, especially as this is happening in the early hours of the morning. Residents still need to report it to the police because the more reports they receive the more likely they are to place resources here to tackle the problem.

If any resident witnesses anti-social driving they can report to or telephone 01243642222.

People in Sussex can text officers on 65999 with details of people they suspect of drink or drug driving.

Fly tipping/Littering/Graffiti

There were reports of bins tipped over across the village overnight on 25th August. I am trying to arrange viewing the cameras to see if we can see who it was and deal appropriately.

There was also a report of drug paraphilia being left along spear hill.

Christina and I did a litter pick of the village whilst out on foot and that skate park.

2 x garden waste fly tipped down Old London Road. This has been reported but still hasn't been cleared. I have sent another email requesting its collection.

I have also asked if we can have the hidden camera put up Old London road to try and catch fly tippers so Horsham district council can prosecute.

This is always a hot spot area and this was something Jayne and myself explored before and I think it would be very beneficial.

Community Engagement/Events/Meetings

Meetings this month – Age UK

- Clubs and volunteer support from HDC – 06.09.19
- English rural housing meeting – 02.09.19
- Joint working plans with Nick –youth worker – 02.09.19

Patrols (foot/visible and car)

We have been out on foot and we are making our way around different areas at different times. We have also been litter picking whilst we have been on foot. Slowly we are making our way around all the bridle ways so Christina is aware of where they are.

Elderly and Youth

We are working with two residents in the village to make sure they are safe at home and have accessed all services that they can to make that possible.

We are also working with five young people in the village for a range of different reasons from drug abuse to homelessness.

Licensing

None

Dog related issues

I have had no new reports of dog fouling but I know that some areas such as by the scout hall car park are still an issue. When Christina and myself were out on foot

patrols we didn't think in general dog fouling was a big issue at the moment and only found a couple of pieces down the alley ways.

Cycling

None

Parish Specific/Other

Christina has now started and is enjoying the role so far. She has some training coming up but is with me when she is not doing training until her training has completed.

Nick, myself and Christina are getting the plans in place for the older youth drop in.

The warden Christmas party has been booked for Sunday 1st December. More details to follow.

We have been doing a lot of work with some of our youth this month who are going through some very difficult situations. We are sign posting where appropriate and have made 2 safe guarding referrals.

The festival was a big success. We had Barry the Neighbourhood Warden from Billingshurst come over to work the festival which was helpful. There weren't any problems and everyone dispersed at the end of the evening. We had no problems with the youths although at times of the evening we did have a lot of them in the Skate Park; but this made monitoring what they were doing really easy because they stayed in one place.

Appendix 2 – Youth Worker Report

Summer Activities

- We ran the following activities throughout July and the summer:
- Lee Hayes, manager of the local Co-op joined us for an evening learning about FairTrade. Some of the youth enjoyed it but others lost interest. For those who stayed to listen, they were rewarded with free FairTrade products including chocolate!
- Mr 'H' - a drama teacher who use to teach at Ashington, joined us for a drama workshop where the youth engaged in a number of games designed to help them get to know each other and step out of their comfort zones. He had them in the palm of his hand and everyone had a great night!
- During the 'minute to win it' games, we got silly and awarded prizes for stacking coins, eating sweets quickly and throwing balls into a tube!
- The year 5 taster evening was amazing, with 15 new young people turning up and showing an interest in joining the club in September. On the Thursday, we had a few of the current year 7s join us for the new date but there was less of a buzz so I will have to see how that works.
- The end of year party involved food, outdoor games and lots of silliness and prizes. The Thursday group had a brilliant time with water pistols and water balloons outside.
- We took 11 young people go-karting in August - using the Ashington Minibus to get us there and back. We got a discounted rate thanks to a dad from the club and the young people raced around the track at lightning speeds! Many requests to do more!

Youth Club Evenings

- I've really enjoyed some special times with the older group on Thursdays towards the end of term. They are a close-knit bunch and I'm sad they are now too old to keep coming on a Thursday. I hope they will start coming to the older youth drop-ins that I am going to restart this month.

- We've had a few incidents where volunteers have either overruled each other or me - sometimes rightly and others wrongly. To that end, I have started putting together a volunteer handbook outlining what's expected of volunteers and the rules we hope to abide by.

- I have one more parent who is willing to help fortnightly, and a new crop of interns starting at the church this month who can be added to the rota too.

Pastoral

- There have been no major issues to speak of.

Other

- We didn't enter a float into the carnival this year but I did run a stall at the festival. It was quiet, away from the youth club and I was disappointed to be out of the main hub of activity. I got a few people visiting the stand and raised a few pounds. Overall, I'm not sure how successful it was and I would want to do more next summer.

- Our cake sale fundraiser was amazing and we raised £350! We are grateful for the Parish Council's match-funding again.

- I am meeting with Bryony this week to talk about how to engage more with the older youth who currently sit in their cars in the car parks during the evenings.

- I am in the process of trying to organise the youth club opening for after-school drop ins twice a week. This needs to go through the AYC committee and my line manager - but I do have some volunteer support already and I think it could be a great addition to what we already offer.

Numbers

- Average year 6-7 numbers on a Monday night are 27.

- Average year 8-9 numbers on a Thursday night 5.

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

Appendix 3 – Expenditure

| | | |
|----------------------|--|-----------|
| Mrs Karen Dare | Home office (July) | £20.00 |
| | Home office (August) | £20.00 |
| | Neighbourhood Plan (postage) | £8.00 |
| | Print cartridges | £45.00 |
| | Print cartridges | £32.98 |
| | Fencing materials | £324.08 |
| Mark Adsett | Landscape Gardening (August) | £793.75 |
| Ashington PCC | Invoice YW-201908 (August 2019) | £1,083.33 |
| WSCC | Salaries and Costs (August 2019) | £1,969.75 |
| Ashington Youth Club | Match fund of £370 cake sale fundraising | £370.00 |
| EcomSolutions | Website Accessibility amendments | £132.00 |

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