



Ashington Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on 1st October 2015 at 7.45 p.m. in Ashington School, Foster Lane, Ashington

**Present: Councillors M. Woolley, K. Wood, T. Kearney, N. Clark, S. Cox, G. MacPherson, S. Ball, N. Spiers, J. Stillwell, L. Di Castiglione,
Parish Clerk Karen Dare
County Councillor Philip Circus
Neighbourhood Warden Andy Webster
13 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.

302/15 APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE

Cllr R. Strudwick (personal), District Councillor John Blackall (business)

303/15 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

The Chairman reminded Councillors that previous declarations still stand.

Cllr Kearney declared a personal, prejudicial interest in planning application DC/15/1804 as he is a near Neighbour.

Councillor Woolley explained that whilst he did not have a specific interest in application DC/15/1886, as he has land around his house, and has a major landowner as a neighbour, he felt it best that he did not participate in debates on major new site planning applications in Ashington until the Neighbourhood Plan is completed.

304/15 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 3rd September 2015 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman. Proposed by Councillor Cox and seconded by Councillor Spiers, and agreed.

305/15 REPORT FROM THE NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDENS & YOUTH WORKER

Wardens report (See Appendix 1).

Councillors considered whether it would be useful to purchase an in-car digital camera for the Wardens vehicle for the purposes of recording/collecting evidence. Likely cost £100-150. It was agreed that this could be useful but that Policies/Procedures need to be investigated to ensure that it would comply with legislation. **KD C/F**

Questions for the Wardens from Councillors: None

Youth Worker

Report (see Appendix 3).

Questions: None

A meeting of the Community Partnership group took place on 29th October and Councillors will be provided with a copy of the minutes in due course.

306/15 YOUNG PERSONS ADJOURNMENT

None present.

307/15 REPORT FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

District & County Councillor Philip Circus reported:

HDC issues

1. Nuthurst Parish Council is the closest Parish in Horsham District to having its Neighbourhood Plan adopted, having recently passed the referendum stage.
2. HDPF – the Inspector has not yet approved the document so it looks likely that HDC will move the adoption date from 21/10 to 19/11.
3. HDC has established a working party to look at its governance methods.
4. HDC continue to look for more ways to save money and are investigating fortnightly general waste collections (rather than weekly). This could coincide with replacement of the fleet of refuse vehicles in 2 years' time. No decisions have been taken yet but this was done at Mid Sussex District Council and recycling rates increased significantly plus the Council saved money. Councils need to reach recycling targets otherwise they will be fined by the EU and there are many more items that can now be recycled which reduces general waste. HDC are working with Sainsburys to reduce food waste (eg reducing offers that encourage overstocking, longer Use By/Best Before dates, possibly food waste collection).

WSCC issues:

1. Jeremy Hunt (Cabinet Member for Education) chaired a meeting on 28/9 about the future of schools in the Chanctonbury area. There is a lot of misinformation being spread by various interest groups. WSCC has no plans to close Rydon, it has no firm proposals at this stage and is only consulting on the education principles. WSCC need to consider what is best for the education of pupils in the area.
2. He had a meeting with the new Highways Area Officer (Chris Stark). Each Parish had a long list of outstanding highways issues and WSCC is looking to remove

projects that are not achievable/relevant/practical and focus on those that can be done. They would be looking at:

- a. Kate's Cakes slip road signage issues
- b. Speed bumps London Road – granite setts are expensive to maintain
- c. Flooding at Spring Gardens

They ran out of time to discuss the other Ashington issues on the outstanding list.

Questions:

1. The Chairman pointed out that the Parish Council had already 'pruned back' the highways list to the bare minimum and WSCC need to make sure that it starts to address issues as no progress has been made on them for a very long time.
2. With all the new developments going on in the area is it worthwhile to reduce bin collections to fortnightly? Philip Circus responded that the matter would be looked into very carefully and residents will be given the full facts before being consulted on proposals. Household Waste Recycling Sites offer more recycling choices than the blue bins eg batteries, textiles, light bulbs but it is not sustainable to make special journeys to these sites but waste can be disposed of when passing.

ACTIONS OUTSTANDING:

D = Minuted but deleted from next agenda.

C/F = Minuted and carried forward to 'Actions Outstanding' on the next agenda.

308/15 VAS Sign Billingshurst Road

County Councillor Philip Circus will discuss this project with Highways Area Officer Chris Stark. Chanctonbury CLC has asked WSCC Officers to give Parishes details of s106 Transport funds being held on their behalf and their expiry dates so that everyone can make sure projects are identified in good time and are not handed back to Developers because they are unspent.

C/F

309/15 Clerk recruitment

Celia Price has been offered and has accepted the position of Clerk & RFO. She will start on 26th October and there will be a two week handover with Karen Dare. Celia was present in the public gallery and was congratulated on her new job.

With Karen Dare reducing her hours to focus solely on the Neighbourhood Plan it was proposed that the monthly allowances for home and phone use are also reduced:

Home use – from £10 to £3

Phone/broadband etc – from £7 to £2

The Council will provide a Pay as You Go SIM card for Karen to receive calls. Karen will use her own laptop / old mobile phone for Council business. Agreed by all. **KD D**

The Chairman made a speech thanking Karen for her service to Ashington over the past 10 years and presented her with a gift (a meal for 4 up to the value of £125 and a bottle of champagne).

310/15 STATUTORY RESOLUTION

As an employer listed in Part 2 of Schedule 2 of the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013, Ashington Parish Council has the power to designate who within the organisation can join the pension scheme. It is proposed that all members of staff holding an employment contract with Ashington Parish Council are eligible to join the LGPS. Membership is not extended to any other individuals.

The Council proposes to adopt the Auto Enrolment Staging Date of 1st October 2015 and any new employees employed after this date will be automatically enrolled into the pension scheme effective from their date of commencement of employment with Ashington Parish Council. Decision to be taken at the Council meeting of 5th November 2015.

311/15 Election of Chairman

Councillor Woolley explained that when elected in May this year he had decided that this, his 6th year as Chair, would be his last, as doing justice to family, work and PC commitments was becoming increasingly difficult. However, with the appointment of a new Clerk later this month he had decided that it made more sense to stand down now rather than in a few months' time, so that a new Chair and a new Clerk could start work together. He confirmed that he would stay on as a Councillor, and would be there to support the new team as they settled in to their roles. He thanked all Councillors for their support during his six years as Chair.

Cllr Clark had been nominated by Cllr Strudwick and, there being no other nominations, Cllr Clark was elected as Chairman and would take over at the November PC meeting. A new Vice Chairman would be appointed at the November meeting. **KD D**

312/15 Recording of Council meetings

Following the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, and with regard to regulations on Access to Local Government Meetings, all attendees of the meeting are advised that they have a right to film/record the meetings of Ashington Parish Council. All attendees are also advised that by attending a meeting of Ashington Parish Council, they give their consent to being filmed/recorded. Any equipment plugged into the main electrical power supply of Ashington School must be PAT tested.

It was proposed that the following wording be added to all agendas of Ashington Parish Council:

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. Agreed by all. **KD D**

313/15 Social Media

Following the interview process it has been suggested that the PC raise its connectivity with residents by setting up Facebook and Twitter accounts. There will need to be strict

guidelines in place to make sure they are used appropriately. Other Parish Councils do have Social Media policies and sites. It was proposed that this be investigated by the new Clerk. Agreed by all. CP C/F

314/15 Mill Lane road culvert

At long last the report is almost complete and a detailed proposal is imminent. The EA has approved the proposed solution (to divert flow from one branch of the stream back into what was its historic route). This will need permission from the landowner and the EA once the full details of the proposal are presented.

CORRESPONDENCE

315/15 For action:

1. West Sussex Cycling and Walking Strategy – what are our local priorities? It was agreed that the Clerk complete the survey. KD D
2. Request from Thakeham Parish Council to ‘join forces’ to lobby the re-structured WSCC highways team on the lack of action from WSCC to tackle any highways issues. Agreed. KD D

316/15 For information:

1. Premises Application LI/15/0301/PREM for SF Connect, London Road (new petrol station) for:
 - a. Sale and supply of alcohol by retail for consumption on the premises Monday to Sunday, 06:00hrs till 22:00hrs
 - b. Premises open to the public Monday to Sunday, 24 hours each and every day Has been granted, however, the applicant is reminded by HDC in red lettering that Planning restrictions only allow the premises to open between the hours of Monday to Sunday 6am-10pm.
2. Letter from Steyning Grammar School Headteacher regarding STARS Area consultation – circulated by email
3. HALC minutes – circulated by email
4. Sussex Police Priorities to 2020 – details changes in the way Sussex Police will be working in the future, circulated by email.
5. SALC – information session for Parishes to consider Community Wardens

317/15 General:

1. Information from CAGNE (Communities Against Gatwick Noise and Emissions)
2. AiRS & SALC AGM details
3. Local Council Review magazine
4. Thank You note from Ashington Festival.

318/15 PUBLIC ADJOURNMENT

The Chairman explained that, in order that residents got the most benefit from their 5 mins maximum participation time, Councillors would listen to residents questions without debate or comment but would follow up on the items either by reporting back at the next meeting or directly to the individual outside of the meeting.

Members of the public reported:

Several residents spoke about the Chanctonbury Nurseries planning application and their comments are summarised:

1. Traffic along Rectory Lane will be a problem due to parked cars
2. It is too many houses in the village and facilities cannot cope with additional pressure
3. No provision of first-time buyers homes
4. Where will the caravans go as there is no space elsewhere.
5. Foul drainage will be a problem
6. The road to Warminghurst and on to Storrington is dangerous and more vehicles will use this road from the new development. This will cause problems for walkers, equestrians & cyclists.
7. Danger at the junction of Meiros Way/Rectory Lane and many residents have had near misses.
8. Lack of school places
9. Application is premature and should wait for the Neighbourhood Plan
10. Asbestos and glass contamination are on site and extreme care must be taken during decontamination
11. Ashington is a village with limited facilities and services. It is not a town.
12. Improvements to FP2607 are inadequate as a benefit to the community. No-one will use this footpath anyway as it is unsafe and unlit.
13. The Developer is trying to get permission before the HDPF is adopted and the Neighbourhood Plan prepared.
14. The Developer has convinced many residents that this is a 'done deal' and they should not have behaved this way.

Other comments:

1. Land to the west of Penn Retreat – Rabbit lorries are still dumping contaminated soil on this site and levels are rising very high. The soil is contaminated with glass and asbestos. Oak trees have been removed from the site. This is being used as an illegal landfill site. Clerk to ask HDC Enforcement to investigate again. **KD D**
2. Margaret Alford expressed concern about the Youth Club because some youths had told her that they don't like the way it is being run at present. She asked if Parish Councillors actually visited the Youth Club rather than just reading the Youth Workers glowing report every month? Cllr Stillwell reported that she visits the Youth Club on a Monday night session and that Cllr Clark visits some Thursday sessions. Cllr Clark responded that the Youth Club cannot possibly appeal to everyone and that both the Monday and Thursday sessions were well received by young people. He would speak with those youths that had expressed concerns to Margaret Alford to see if their concerns could be addressed. The Community Partnership Group is made of Parish Councillors, Parish Clerk, Youth Worker and his manager and meets monthly to discuss the provision of youth work in the village to make sure the Parish needs are being met. **NCI D**

The Chairman thanked residents for their comments and closed the public adjournment.

319/15 PLANNING.

The Planning Committee met on 16th September and Councillors have been provided with a copy of the minutes. Agreed by all.

320/15 Correspondence

None

321/15 Neighbourhood Plan update:

Karen Dare will start work on this from 9th November.

KD C/F

322/15 New Enforcement Allegations/Information

None

323/15 Amendments

None

324/15 Applications

Cllr Kearney moved to the public gallery.

DC/15/1804 Demolition of existing dwelling and ancillary buildings and erection of 3 new dwellings – Coatings, London Road

The Parish Council object to the application on the grounds of: overdevelopment of the site; highway safety – vehicles from the two semi-detached homes have to park in tandem and will need to reverse out onto London Road opposite the junction with Cricketers Close; impact on neighbouring properties; proposed homes are high value and Ashington needs smaller (lower price) properties.

Cllr Kearney moved back to the meeting table.

DC/15/2163 Surgery to 2 x oak trees - 1 Cricketers Close

The Parish Council has no objections but suggests that a tree surgeons report is needed and that the works should be agreed with HDC's Arboricultural Officer and carried out by a professional tree surgeon.

Cllr Woolley left the meeting room and Cllr Clark took the Chair.

DC/15/1886 - Demolition of the existing nursery buildings and the redevelopment of the land for 77 dwellings together with associated access road, car parking, landscaping and open space – Chanctonbury Nurseries, Rectory Lane

The Clerk had prepared a briefing note which, together with the application documents, Councillors had studied over a period of time prior to the meeting. Councillors agreed the following response:

Ashington Parish Council strongly objects to the application on the following grounds:

HDC Housing Strategy

The application site is partly within and partly adjacent to the BUAB of Category 2 (Medium Village) as defined in HDC's Core Strategy and emerging HDPF. The proposed development would, therefore, be partly an extension to the settlement and, as the site is not allocated for development in the emerging HDPF, the application is in conflict with Policies 2,3 and 4 of the emerging Development Plan. The development is in a countryside location and is inconsistent with Policy CP5 of the adopted Core Strategy and with the overarching strategy set out in the emerging HDPF and should be refused. 77 new homes represents an increase @7.7% in a medium village with limited facilities and services, this is excessive.

The application makes many references to HDC's SHLAA as indicating that the site is suitable for development. The SHLAA is not an allocation of sites but merely a strategic indicator of site suitability, specific site issues are not assessed in the SHLAA process. HDC has not allocated this site for development in its emerging HDPF. The Parish Council is embarking upon its Neighbourhood Plan and will consider Chanctonbury Nurseries site, alongside a number of other sites that have been put forward for development, for suitability for future housing developments in Ashington. In addition, the SHLAA identifies the site as potentially suitable for @25 homes, not the 77 as proposed in this application, is this overdevelopment?

It should be remembered that the original use of this site was for horticulture. The greenhouses and hard standings on the site were constructed for Chanctonbury Nurseries horticulture business. The small office buildings on the site, built to serve the horticulture business, have had minor extensions but the site remains largely as it was designed for the horticulture business. The applicant argues that this site is Previously Developed Land (PDL) but it is the understanding of the Parish Council that PDL excludes agriculture and forestry and that agriculture is defined (Building Regulations Class 3) as including horticulture, fruit growing, growing of plants for seed and fish farming. Can this site really be classed as Previously Developed Land? It is hardly 'developed' to the same extent as most brownfields sites are.

Location (sustainability)

The provision of affordable homes is welcomed, however, this benefit to the village would be lessened because of the site's location and limited levels of local services and facilities that would be available to these residents who are likely to have lower than average levels of car ownership.

There are a limited range of services and facilities in Ashington. Opportunities to travel by public transport are limited, with the walking distance to the nearest bus stop (hourly service) being 800m away, which exceeds the recommended 400m distance. There would be heavy reliance on the private car for all journeys. Other bus stops (Foster Lane and The Sands) are slightly closer to the site but the service is very infrequent (one service on a Thursday to Tesco, two return journeys per day to either Pulborough or Storrington but on Monday and Friday only).

The centre of Ashington (local grocery shop) is 1km from the site – further than the normal person would walk and, therefore, there will be heavy reliance on private cars. There are already serious congestion issues experienced by residents living near the local shop area and this development will make the situation worse. It is unreasonable to expect the residents to walk 1km to the shop, pick up a few groceries and then walk 1km home (whilst carrying shopping). The situation might be different if the residents had opportunity to linger at the shop, grab a coffee etc but it is simply a village shop where residents supplement their larger supermarket shop with small daily items. Walking 1km to work on a morning and 1km home on an evening would not be unreasonable but there is little employment locally, in the same way that walking to school on a morning and back in the afternoon would be reasonable but not to the local shop for a pint of milk, newspaper or takeaway.

The applicant makes reference to residents of the site using FP2607 for access to the School, Recreation Ground area of the village (education & leisure facilities), however, the reality is that this option will not be appealing (or safe) to many residents. The route is 'poorly surfaced, narrow and has poor natural surveillance' (Design & Access statement 2.4) and is unlit. Photographs of the footpath show how unappealing it is. This route is unlikely to encourage residents to access these facilities on foot or by bicycle and residents are more likely to rely on private cars for this journey. Resurfacing of FP2607 within and outside of the development is proposed by the applicant, however, this will do little to make its use more appealing or even very safe. Residents could certainly not use the footpath after dark.

The Parish Council objects to any 'urbanisation' of FP2607 (lighting, surfacing etc) and, as the landowner over which FP2607 crosses to access the site, is very disappointed that it has not been consulted about the proposals to upgrade of the footpath surface. The Transport Statement Part 1 s1.3.1 identifies public concerns as being the overgrowing vegetation along the Rectory Lane footpath making it unusable for pedestrians. In response, s 3.2.1 suggests that WSCC need to be informed and asked to cut the vegetation. The reality of the situation is that it does not get cut and pedestrians walk in the road, on a blind bend. It is a constant source of irritation for residents living to the west of the footpath. The Developer should secure agreements with WSCC on the regular maintenance of this hedge.

The Transport Statement Part 1 s1.3.1 also identifies the Rectory Lane/Meiros Way junction/corner as being an issue to local residents. S3.4.3 describes Rectory Lane as being 'generally at least 4.8m wide' thus allowing a car and large vehicle to pass each other. In reality, it is tight for two cars to pass each other on this corner with one usually having to wait for the other or one bumping up the kerb in order to pass. The Transport Statement does not assess this junction in any detail and merely dismisses residents' concerns based on the fact that there have been no actual accidents. Improvements to this junction/corner are a real opportunity for the Developer to make a positive impact in Ashington.

Table 5.2 of the Transport Statement makes for interesting reading – The Mill House Hotel and Restaurant closed some years ago; it is hard to see how or why someone would walk to Big Plant Nursery (especially as there is no footpath for the last part of this journey) or how they would get any purchases home on foot or by bike(!); there is no East Wolves Industrial Estate. How are residents expected to walk FP2607 safely at night when it is entirely unlit and passes very close to a pond. These ‘desktop (Google)’ mapping exercises bear no resemblance to reality.

Table 6.6 of the Transport Assessment Part 1 assigns no trips that require a left turn out of the development, yet Table 6.5 assigns 7% of all trips to Storrington. It is hard to see how residents travelling to Storrington would not turn left and get to Storrington via Warminghurst. This is a well-known local shortcut that avoids peak hours congestion on the A24, particularly at the Washington roundabout. This route is hazardous in that it is narrow in width, with few passing places and poor junction visibility at the Rock Road junction. Increased usage of this route will be hazardous to pedestrians, equestrians and cyclists. This has not been assessed as part of the Transport Assessment. It is concerning that the Transport Assessment may have been prepared by someone who does not know the area very well (Google again?)

There are genuine concerns that a development of this size will have a detrimental impact on Ashington Primary School. No data is presented to show that the school has sufficient capacity to accommodate children likely to become residents. Residents who live further away from the school than this proposed site are concerned that their children will not get a place at the school if this development goes ahead. It is not sufficient for the applicant to provide s106 funds for education when the real impact is that this development could potentially lead to Ashington children not being educated at their local school. Where is the data to show that this has been assessed?

The facilities available to residents in the local area; the accessibility of these facilities and; the limited opportunities for trips by modes of sustainable transport all limit the sustainability of the site.

Affordable Homes and Local Need

Policy CP12 of the Core Strategy requires provision of 40% affordable units on developments involving 15 or more homes. This application proposes only 35% and is, therefore, inconsistent with Policy CP12. The emerging HDPF Policy 15 states that 35% affordable homes should be provided on sites of this size. Which Policy applies?

Some of the need for affordable homes as identified by the Ashington Housing Needs Survey 2012 has already been fulfilled on the Meiros Farm site (DC/10/0864) and Penn Retreat site (DC/14/0089). The advice of HDC’s Housing Manager should be sought on the outstanding balance of need for Ashington.

Planning Statement p39 s6.3 states that proposed 1 and 2 bed properties represent 56% of the total and that Development Control Policy DC18 specifies that 64% of new homes should be 1 and 2 bed units. Therefore, the proposal is contrary to Policy DC18.

The applicant argues that 'family sized units in the North West Sussex SHMA' are needed, however, the Ashington Housing Needs Survey 2012 clearly identified a need for small market units for first time buyers in Ashington as the vast majority of existing homes in the village are larger family units. Is the application seeking to address a District need or specifically an Ashington need? Therefore, the Parish Council object to the balance of unit sizes in the application as they are not appropriate to Ashington.

The Parish Council is not in favour of the affordable units being built in 'enclaves' and would prefer a more even distribution throughout the development.

Loss of Business/business site

Whilst the current business use only employs one person, nevertheless this is a recognised business site in Ashington. The business does bring trade to other local businesses including shop, garages etc

The applicant states that there is no need for this kind of storage facility, however, a recent planning application to HDC (DC/15/1824) shows that Ashington Autos is looking for an open storage site for vehicle parking. Why should new, greenfield, agricultural land be permitted for open storage when facilities already exist in the village? In addition, planning application DC/15/1696 (& DC/15/1697) is seeking a change of use from B8 to B1 at Carbank which, as a result, will see the storage facility at Carbank closed. Therefore, there is one business in need of storage and one storage business potentially closing, which means a definite need for retention of the Chanctonbury Nurseries storage facility in Ashington.

The applicant presents no evidence to show that there is spare capacity at other caravan storage sites in the area. Local, anecdotal, information indicates that other storage facilities are operating at full capacity and are operating a waiting list system. The applicant should provide this information.

The Planning Statement p57 (and other documents) make reference to 'East Wolves Industrial Estate'. No such facility exists. There is a storage business at a property near East Wolves Farm (Carbank) but this does not make it an 'industrial estate'. The nearest industrial estates are at Wiston Business Park and The Hollow, Washington and neither are within safe walking/cycling routes or distance of the site.

The use of Chanctonbury Nurseries land for B8 storage is not 'harmful' in this location. The Parish Council is not aware of any significant issues that residents suffer as a result of approved storage uses on this land and, therefore, there is no justification for conversion of this land to residential use.

Existing Site Condition

The applicant places great emphasis throughout the application on the site being well screened from neighbours and views and therefore development for houses will be well contained. It seeks to address the current dilapidated nature of the site by developing it for houses. If, as the applicant claims, the site is well screened from views then the

dilapidated appearance is irrelevant and should not be used as a reason to support a housing development. Redevelopment would not lead to any significant benefit in terms of visual improvement to the surrounding area.

Public consultation

The public exhibition was very badly organised and publicised and, consequently, very poorly attended. The applicant chose an unknown venue, outside of the main village centre and inaccessible except by private car. The Parish Council did alert the applicant to this issue some time before the exhibition, however, the exhibition went ahead but the venue was changed during the exhibition. It was too late to notify residents of the change in venue and many had already elected not to attend due to the unknown original venue!

Throughout the public consultation process the Developer (and persons acting on their behalf) has presented their proposals as a 'done deal'. They have used words such as 'allocated site' at meetings with the Parish Council and phrases such as 'the site is one of three sites within Ashington that was identified as suitable, available and deliverable by Horsham District Council' in their literature distributed to residents. They have sought to imply to residents that HDC has already agreed to a housing development on the site. This has led many residents to feel that there is no point in making any comments or getting involved as their voice will not be heard.

Proposed open spaces

The application proposes three small open spaces, all of which are very close to roads and close to houses. It is unlikely that these will be considered safe for young children to play in by their parents and there could be conflicts between noisy children and nearby residents. They would be better located together to make a larger open space, away from roads and conflicts with vehicles and residents.

The Landscape Design & Appraisal report part 1 s2.1 describes the main, central open space as a 'detention basin for retention and discharge of water also acting as an informal recreation and play space'. One of the other open spaces at the north of the development is also to be a 'detention basin'. We understand this to mean that they are occasional ponds that double-up as a children's play areas. We consider that the two uses are incompatible and represent a significant safety hazard to young children. Ponds, however shallow, should be fenced to prevent accidental drowning. We would prefer to see a dedicated pond area for surface water collection, entirely separate from any play areas/open spaces proposed on the development.

Landscaping

The rear garden of Plot 53 as shown on the indicative Masterplan is in conflict with the Masterplan showing the proposed Character Areas (Area 3 in Figure 5.1 of the Landscape Design and Appraisal Statement compared to drawing D2331 L.204 at the end of the Landscape Design and Appraisal Statement). How can the back garden of Plot 53 be a 'Character Area' when it is to be entirely enclosed by a closeboard timber

fence? A reduction to the size of garden at Plot 53 should be made to allow for a 'landscape buffer' between the garden fence and the site boundary.

Cllr Woolley returned to the room and resumed the Chair.

Horsham District Council

325/15 Approvals

DC/15/1478 Proposed front dormer - 9 Hillcrest Drive

DC/15/1557 Demolish existing conservatory and erect replacement conservatory – Broomsticks, Ivy Close

DC/15/1556 Demolish existing porch and erect replacement porch; replacement of back door - 7 Chanctonbury

DC/15/1593 Retrospective extension of existing residential accommodation into redundant storage area by way of forming replacement living/dining/kitchen area, which includes external alterations to the outbuilding; the erection of a wood burner flue etc - Jinkes Farm Muttons Lane

DC/15/1595 Retrospective extension of existing residential accommodation into redundant storage area by way of forming replacement living/dining/kitchen area, which includes external alterations to the outbuilding; the erection of a wood burner flue etc - Jinkes Farm Muttons Lane

326/15 Refusals

DC/15/1375 Surgery to 1x Chestnut - 6 Woelfs Close London Road

Reason: works are unnecessarily harsh and inappropriate for a tree of high amenity value and under stress.

DC/15/1577 Two storey side extension - 1 Hole Street

Reason: excessive scale, mass and bulk would cause harm to the design and appearance of the host dwelling and would unbalance the pair of dwellings to the detriment of the countryside.

327/15 Withdrawals

None

328/15 Appeals made/ decisions

None

The next Planning Committee meetings are scheduled for 14th & 28th October at 7.30pm in Ashington Sports Pavilion.

FINANCE

329/15 Correspondence

None

330/15 Income

HDC Environmental Cleansing Grant £1784.33

Donation to First Responders £65.42

HDC – Precept £46,944.50

331/15 Expenditure

		Cheque no.	
Mark Adsett	Gardeners contract payment	£508.33	
	Hanging basket watering (4 weeks x £65, for 16 weeks, final payment)	£260.00	1690
Mrs K. Dare	Clerks expenses (home & telephone)	£17	
	Anti-virus software	£54.99	
	Stationery	£39.39	
	Total	£111.38	1691
WSSC	Salary and on costs (September)	£1087.35	1692
ACCT	Planning committee 16/09/15	£3.80	1693
Ashington PCC	Youth Worker September 2015	£1083.33	1694
SP Services	Responder equipment	£93.89	1695
	Responder equipment	£95.88	1696
S. Fenn	Responder expenses	£78.29	1697

It was resolved that the schedule of payments shown above be approved for payment.
Agreed by all.

332/15 MEETINGS

The Clerk, Cllr Clark & Cllr Stillwell had attended a Chanctonbury Youth Project Community Partnership meeting on 28th September (minutes circulated separately to Councillors).

The Clerk, Cllr Clark & Cllr Stillwell had attended a Wardens Steering Group meeting on 28th September.

333/15 MINOR MATTERS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS

1. Cllr Wood reported that Old London Road verge was seriously overgrown. The Clerk responded that she had advised the Council some months ago that WSSC had advised against cutting this back as it would encourage travellers back to the area (as they had parked up here several times in the past few years).
2. This years' hanging baskets were poor, could this be reported back to the Nursery? The Clerk responded that she had agreed to accompany Mark Adsett

when he takes the baskets down so that they could look in the bottom of the baskets to see if the liners were fitted properly. She would report back to the Nursery.

Councillors thanked Malcolm Woolley for being Parish Chairman for the last 6 years and gave him a well-deserved round of applause.

The next meeting will be held at **7.45pm on Thursday 5th November 2015 at Ashington School, Foster Lane.**

The meeting finished at 9.20pm

Signed.....

Date.....

334/15 APPENDIX 1: REPORT FROM NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDENS

THEFT

Several incidents of petty theft have taken place in Ashington this month. This has mainly been from gardens targeting petty items including flower pots and shoes, sheds have also been broken into but surprisingly nothing has been stolen. There has also been an incident of a vehicle being targeted with tools being taken.

Some Youth early morning on the way to school have been shop- lifting in the Co-op. I have spoken with the staff and have managed to identify offenders. I will be doing home visits to update their parents.

CRIMINAL DAMAGE

There have been reports of damage to downpipes at the community centre, CCTV has been checked but in this instance nothing was captured on camera.

The area around the CO-OP has also been targeted with a staff members vehicle being "Egged" offenders have been identified and all information has been passed onto the police.

There has been a targeted incident against a resident with food being thrown through an open window, causing damage to carpets and other personal belongings inside the property. Police were called and offenders were dealt with.

ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Once again a very busy month dealing with issues of ASB.

We are working with all partnership agencies which have taken a lot of resources and our time attending meetings to find solutions and to stop these incidents of ASB. We are working closely with offenders as well as reassuring the victims of this ASB. Lots of reassurance visits have been made to residents who have found themselves to be victims of this type of behaviour. All issues have been reported to the police.

We have been working closely with those involved with littering across the village, educating them and getting them to help litter pick hotspot areas. Litter has been particularly bad this month, when time has allowed we have been litter picking hotspot areas.

There have also been several incidents of confiscation of drug paraphernalia this month from some youth. Lots of drug and substance misuse intelligence has been passed onto the police this month.

NEIGHBOURHOOD DISPUTES

Still trying to help those who have been affected by issues. The majority of incidents are around inconsiderate parking. Several residents have managed to resolve issues after speaking with neighbours. Others who cannot settle their disagreements have been directed to mediation or relevant agencies that will deal with the issues they are having.

THE YOUTH

Monday evenings are now host to a drop in session at the youth club for Ashington's youth. This is open from 7pm until 9pm and has proved to be very popular since its launch at the start of the month. Approximately there are 14 – 16 youth attending on a

regular basis this includes youth who aren't attending and aren't engaging with the Thursday evening youth club sessions. Tea and toast is provided, and it has been a good information point for us to speak with the youth and to explore issues that they have. Two youth have already been signposted to relevant agencies regarding their issues. We have offered to help with this drop in session for six weeks; we will re-evaluate our needs to be at this session at the end of this period. It is such a valuable service that we can direct youth towards during the dark evenings ahead this winter.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

We are unsure about the future of neighbourhood watch in the village; we are just waiting on an update from the neighbourhood co-ordinator. Once again we must stress that this is such a valuable resource to have in the village, and we will do anything we can to support this scheme in Ashington. We will try and get an update from the co coordinator for this area.

PARTNERSHIP WORKING

This month has been very proactive with working with partner agencies; PCSO's are visiting the village on a regular basis and working alongside us on numerous issues across the village.

ELDERLY/VULNERABLE

Several elderly vulnerable residents this month have had medical issues, some have been admitted to hospital some have just need reassurance and some have just needed a few extra visits this month.

Whilst visiting elderly vulnerable residents we have been performing check on fire alarms, community link alarms and other various safety precautions, we have been reminding them that winter is coming and to make sure that they have got supplies in, torches that work and to just be aware of home security when leaving their properties such as leaving lights on etc.

Two more safeguarding referrals have been made this month. To make sure that the services these elderly vulnerable residents require is met. Another community link alarm has been fitted this month to a resident.

Trips have now been organised for the elderly vulnerable for the next three months. Starting with a trip to Bognor Regis town centre on the 9th of October, this is for them to do some early Christmas shopping.

In November we will be attending the theatre, to see a show "Christmas Memories" followed by the Wardens Party on the 28th of November. At the start of December we have arranged another Christmas shopping day and finally on the 11th of December we will be going out for Christmas lunch. These trips and outings are something that the elderly vulnerable residents look forward to and is a high priority in their calendars! It is lovely to see them feeling included in the community and not feeling isolated especially as the nights get longer.

Also we can report that following the success of the first gentleman's trip a second trip has been organised and it was fully attended. This is with thanks to the church volunteers who are now responsible for running this activity, it is brilliant for us as we can signpost any elderly/vulnerable gentleman to this activity.

Lunch club was a success again this month; we had a lovely home cooked meal by Pat followed by a session of games provided by Horsham District Council. A great time was had by all attendees.

We have still got a list of volunteers who are happy to visit elderly/vulnerable in the village.

If anyone knows of a resident in the village who may welcome a visit from one of the volunteers please let us know.

Due to the popularity of the Tuesday minibus trip, we now have a waiting list for elderly/vulnerable in the village wanting to join in the trip. We have now decided that it may be necessary to arrange another day for a shopping trip on a regular basis. If we can get the volunteer drivers on a regular basis we will start this trip on a Thursday starting in the New Year. This way all residents that need to use this service will have a chance. Numbers have increased over the last year with residents wanting to do shopping trip.

WARDEN PARTY

It's that time of the year again! Invites have now started to be printed and will shortly be arriving through letterboxes throughout the village, several grants have been applied for this event it is with great thanks to the Ashington Festival Committee who have donated £200 towards this event, we are awaiting on a reply from Saxon Weald and Horsham District Council for any financial help that they can contribute. Letters have been sent to local businesses asking for donations towards the raffle, we are also asking residents of Ashington for donations towards the raffle. All money raised by the raffle will go towards minibus usage throughout the following year; any money left over will be donated to Ashington Lunch Club and Vintage Tea Club. We have had an offer of thirty Brownies to help serve on the day, live entertainment has been booked and all volunteers are on standby including minibus drivers, etc. If anybody would like to donate to this event don't hesitate to contact us on 0776414367 (Jayne) or 0776414368 (Andy)

WARDEN

Lots of training has been booked for us to attend in the following months, including safeguard training and rest centre training.

We are still awaiting updated flyers and posters reintroducing us and our roles within the Ashington community.

335/15 APPENDIX 2 – Police Report

A copy of the Horsham District monthly update for July 2015 has been put on the Parish Council's website www.ashingtonpc.org.uk

336/15 APPENDIX 3 Report on Ashington Youth Centre

Overall Priorities for Autumn term (September - December)

1. Trial and review of new rhythms in weekly AYC programs. Agreed within CPG to trial new format for Autumn term.
 1. New Timings
 2. New Age groupings
 3. Working with Wardens to establish youth drop in sessions Monday & Thursday PM.
 4. Topical Session Structure
2. Grow attendance of members engaged with AYC
 1. Establishing a new group of YP in new age group.
3. Develop and establish more effective communication strategy to Young People, Parents & Community.

September 2015 / Impact

Two evenings of Youth Activity

- It has been our desire to establish two evenings of youth activity based out of Ashington Youth Club.
- September 7th marked the first evening of 'Monday night drop-in' at Ashington Youth Club with the support of the Neighbourhood Wardens.
- Monday evenings have been increasingly successful, engaging a widespread variety of young people with the youth club and continuing to build relationships with the youth team (SYW & Volunteers) as well as Neighbourhood Wardens.
- It has also been increasingly fruitful, spending more time in the community building relationships with young people. Alongside young people personally inviting their friends, this has been the most effective way of engaging young people with youth provisions from Ashington Youth Club.
- Across the two evenings, we currently see between 40-60 young people every week.
- Our desire is to engage as many Ashington young people as possible, providing a safe and enjoyable space for young people. Currently as it is a new initiative with a new evening and new formats, there is a considerable space for growth in numbers, particularly in our 13-16yrs age group.
- A fear we previously had with changing the format of our evenings was that by excluding certain age groups for Thursday sessions, they would be disengaged from youth provisions all together. We have been pleasantly surprised in the success of Monday evenings and the distinct lack of negative feedback regarding new formats.
 - These new formats will be something that we review over the autumn term.

Community visibility & Social Media

- Ashington Youth Club is continuing to be more visibly signposted and advertised.
 - Printed posters are located throughout Ashington village in the notice boards.
 - Di Clarke has included information regarding AYC in the village newsletters highlighting services as well as a need for further volunteers.
 - Rydon Community College include information regarding AYC in their weekly e-newsletter.
 - Flyers readily available in Steyning Grammar School in the Cuthman centre.
 - Young people continue to take flyers to personally invite friends and peers.

- I have continued to use social media as a further platform of keeping young people informed of youth provision in the community. In particular, I have had a positive response from our younger age group using regular activity on Instagram and facebook.
 - We have a number of Young people who assist and are a part of

- Looking ahead, with the help of volunteers, we hope to have an informative website and regular email newsletter established by the autumn term, in line with the beginning of the new academic year.

- I continue to maintain positive relationships with local schools. In particular, I will be attending Rydon CC to deliver two assemblies this term.

Further Training

- It has been approved with my Line manager for me to attend a number of training days in London this term, part of Resurgo's Spear coaching for leadership course.
- This has been funded through a bursary and Ashington Church.
- These dates include
 - September 29th & 30th
 - October 19th & 20th
 - November 17th & 18th
 - December 3rd & 4th
- I will be making the necessary arrangements for the sessions I miss to be covered.

Paddy Donovan. 28.09.2015

337/15 APPENDIX 4 Funds held on behalf of others

First Responders Funds: £3625.70

Bingo Club: £264.19