



Ashington Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 2nd November 2017 at 7:45p.m. in Ashington School, Foster Lane, Ashington

Present: Councillors: N. Spiers (Chairman), J Stillwell, S. Ball, T. Currell, T. Kearney, G. MacPherson, M. Woolley, K. Wood.

Clerk: Celia Price

Neighbourhood Warden: Bryony Sparks

County Councillor: P. Marshall

District Councillors: P. Circus, D. Jenkins

7 members of the public

10 young people

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.

208/17 APOLOGIES

J. Blackall (District Councillor), S. Cox, L. di Castiglione, R. Strudwick (Parish Councillors)

209/17 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

The Chairman reminded councillors that previous declarations still stand.

210/17 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting dated 5th October 2017 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman. Proposed by Cllr Currell, seconded by Cllr Stillwell and agreed by all.

211/17 Neighbourhood Wardens Report (Appendix 1)

Bryony Sparks gave an overview of the monthly report. Questions and comments were invited from councillors and the following was raised:

- The Chairman thanked the youth present for working with the wardens and litter picking. This was supported by a round of applause by all.
- The Chairman asked for clarification that many of the current issues are being caused by youth coming into the village rather than the villages own young residents.

B. Sparkes confirmed this as correct.

- Cllr Wood expressed concerns about continued and increased parking on foot paths.
- B. Sparks confirmed that the wardens would issue advisory notices when witnessed.

212/17 Youth Worker Report (Appendix 2)

Cllr Ball gave an overview of the monthly report, she also gave an update following the youth club AGM which was held yesterday (1st November). Questions and comments were invited from councillors and the following was raised:

- Cllr Stillwell asked how often the Youth Worker and Wardens meet up.
- B. Sparks responded that this depended on what was going on. Whilst she has not had a face to face for a few weeks, they are in continuous contact by phone and text and communication is good.

213/17 REPORT FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

On behalf of Horsham District Council, Councillor Circus reported the following:

- All parishes are being encouraged to employ wardens and HDC are working on proposals on how to facilitate this. Ashington is widely regarded as the example to follow.
- Fortnightly waste collections will start from February 2018. Additional recycling bins are available for free (£5 delivery charge) if applied for by 30th November. Additional refuse bins will be assessed by need and anyone wanting to apply should contact HDC.

The parish council will communicate the above via Facebook, the website and notice boards.

- The Government have, once again, allocated the largest number of new houses in West Sussex to the Horsham district. HDC will be communicating concerns regarding infrastructure and sustainability to Downing Street.

On behalf of West Sussex County Council, Councillor Marshall reported the following:

- The London Road bus stop has been discussed with HDC and WSCC and it is understood that the PC are awaiting further guidance.
- A meeting with a resident in Rectory Lane who is concerned regarding road safety has been scheduled with WSCC, the clerk and Cllr Marshall.
- The next CLC meeting will be held at Storrington First School on 15th November, all are welcome to attend.
- The WSCC minerals plan is now subject to a judicial review resulting in the need for WSCC to review their plan.

214/17 PUBLIC ADJOURNMENT

The Chairman invited questions and comments from the public and the following was raised.

- Question to Cllr Circus – If HDC are assisting financially with other parishes employing wardens will Ashington receive additional funds so we can go back to full time wardens?

Cllr Circus responded by clarifying that HDC would not be funding other parishes but would be promoting and encouraging participation in the scheme.

- The A frame board outside the co-op is a great way of letting the village know what is going on. This is an ACCT initiative and the clerk will pass on the positive comments.

- Please can the parish council do a summary of decisions made at the meetings that can be put on the noticeboards.

Yes, we will look into this.

- Question to Cllr Circus – Are HDC working with manufacturers so packaging is recyclable.

Cllr responded clarifying that this is a government initiative and is not something that can be tackled locally.

- The Old London Road needs a cul de sac /no through way sign.

The parish council continue to work with WSCC to find solutions for the problems in this area.

- The planning application for the Ashington Autos new site does not include removing the vegetation (which is ideal dormouse habitat).

The clerk will report to HDC enforcement for investigation.

- Question to Cllr Circus – Why are developers over pricing new houses? Is this so they can say there is no need for housing in the area?

Cllr Circus confirmed that HDC have no control over what developers charge for their houses, he did however note that this appears to be a national not local problem.

- Lorries are parking on the footpath along the old London Road on the approach to the BP garage, what can be done about this?

The parish council continues to work with WSCC to find solutions to the problems in the area but to date there have been no suitable resolutions found.

- Where are the parking wardens that were promised?

The chair responded that the new parking arrangements in the district are still in their infancy and is sure that when available we will see parking wardens in the village.

- Why has the highways work been carried outside the Co-op making it easier for cars to mount the footpath near the postbox?

The clerk will contact WSCC Highways for further information.

- Why have councillors agreed to apply for S106 funds instead of the monies that were put into the Icelandic banks for the upkeep of these areas.

Cllr Woolley responded advising that the monies referred to are in National Savings, this sum was provided by developers for the future upkeep of public spaces (not play equipment). It is a capital amount which produces interest for this purpose. The money is 'ring fenced'. In addition, if the capital were eroded interest would be reduced and there would be no money for general landscaping maintenance.

Improvements to the play areas were strongly supported in the recent NP survey and the parish council is responding to this request.

- Many footpaths in the village are in a poor state of repair, who should be contacted about these?

The clerk will forward details of the WSCC Rights of Way Officer.

215/17 YOUNG PERSONS ADJOURNMENT

The Chairman invited questions and comments from the young people present and the following was raised.

- Please can we have another bin near the skatepark?

This has been actioned following the request at the last meeting and all information, including costs have been passed onto ACCT.

- Is the youth shelter being taken away?

Absolutely not, there are no plans to remove this valuable resource.

- Is there any news on getting some lights in the youth shelter?

Costs have been obtained and passed onto the youth club committee who are working with the youth worker and Cllr Marshall to look into funding for this as well as other youth club projects.

Cllr Marshall also advised that he will arrange a meeting with Dean Wadey (WSCC Principal Community Officer) to help move these projects forward.

- There is a big dip in the road on the roundabout outside Swan Close.

This has been reported to WSCC highways and was caused when SGS installed the gas main into the new development. The repairs are due to be carried out within the next week or so.

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

216/17 ACTIONS OUTSTANDING

Highways

- a) London Road (grass verge outside The White Cottage)
The Rangers are awaiting confirmation of approval of their risk assessment and a date from WSCC
- b) London Road bus shelter
Nothing to report

Mill Lane Culvert

A letter has been distributed to residents inviting them to join a community group led by Cllr Currell and Cllr Stillwell.

Pond maintenance

The clerk has made contact with HDC and a pond inspection will take place during November. No work will take place on the ponds until after the meeting has taken place and advice received.

S106 applications

Warmingshurst and Posthorses play areas

Councillors were sent information prior to the meeting including a summary of the consultation process, designs and costings. Councillors were asked to approve the plans and financial contribution of 33% enabling the S106 application to be completed with HDC by mid November for the December approval meeting. All agreed.

Multisports Court

Quotes and information are being collated for the resurfacing of the multisports court

Councillors email addresses – Data protection regulations

The IT audit is scheduled for Thursday 9th November.

Additional litter bin near the youth shelter

Prices have been obtained from HDC and all information passed on to ACCT.

CORRESPONDENCE

217/17 For action:

None

218/17 For information:

The following were distributed to councillors prior to the meeting for information.

- a) HDC Voluntary services event information
- b) WSCC e-newsletter
- c) IGAS community fund information
- d) Came and Company – Council Matters (Autumn 2017)
- e) SSALC – Chief Executive's bulletin 35
- f) HDC – response re: planning delegation proposals
- g) HDC – information regarding the changes in bin collections

219/17 PLANNING.

There was no planning meeting in October.

220/17 Correspondence

None

221/17 Neighbourhood Plan update

Site assessment visits have taken place and the Planning Consultant is currently preparing the Site Sustainability Assessments in collaboration with the NP Clerk. In the mean-time the NP Clerk is obtaining quotes for the resurfacing of the MSC which is a project identified from the neighbourhood plan consultations.

222/17 New Enforcement Allegations

EN/17/0505 - Carbank Ltd, East Wolves Farm

Number of car parking spaces

EN/17/0513 - 16 Covert Mead

Alleged change of use of land to incorporate additional land into residential curtilage and erection of boundary fence.

223/17 Amendments

None

224/17 Applications

None

Horsham District Council**225/17 Approvals**

DC/17/1786 – Four Winds, Billingshurst Road

Retrospective application for the erection of a combined garden store and greenhouse

226/17 Refusals

DC/17/1584 – Coconino, London Road

Proposed creation of new access and driveway

DC/17/1616 – 27 Merios Way

Retrospective change of use application to incorporate additional land into residential curtilage and erection of boundary fence

227/17 Withdrawals

None

228/17 Appeals made

DC/17/1584 – Coconino, London Road

Proposed creation of new access and driveway

229/17 FINANCE

Correspondence for action

None

230/17 Income

Kite and Thomas £ 2077.50

231/17 Expenditure

Month	Payee	Description	Amount	Chq No.
Nov- 17	Mrs Celia Price	Home Office - October 2017	10.00	

	Phone - October 2017	7.00	
	Printer cartridges	56.00	
	Paper	9.00	
		<u>82.00</u>	1914
Mrs Karen Dare	Home Office - October 2017	5.00	
	Mileage - site inspections	16.40	
		<u>21.40</u>	1915
Mark Adsett	Landscape Gardening - October 2017	508.00	1916
Ashington PCC	Invoice: YW-201710 Youth Worker (October 2017)	1083.33	1917
WSSC	Invoice tbc - salaries	1539.50	1918
DS Newland	Invoice: 4321 Repairs to benches and bins	920.00	1919
Ashington CE School	Invoice: 101017a. Hall hire April 17 - March 18	216.00	1920
SSALC Limited	Invoice 11380 Clerks day	39.00	1921
		<u>4409.23</u>	
	November 2017 Total Expenditure	4409.23	

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

232/17 MEETINGS

Cllr Ball attended the ACCT Trustees meeting on 11th October

Cllr Ball and Cllr Spiers attended the Youth Partnership meeting on 31st October.

Cllr Ball attended the Youth Club AGM on 1st November

The clerk attended the clerks networking training day on 2nd November.

233/17 MINOR MATTERS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS

The chair has been made aware of correspondence regarding the skatepark and litter in the area which has highlighted the misunderstandings between ACCT and the Parish Council with regard to maintenance responsibilities. Cllr Wooley, Cllr Ball, Cllr Currell and Cllr Wood agreed to form a working party and the clerk will approach the ACCT to arrange a meeting.

The next Planning Committee meetings are at **7:30pm on Wednesday 15th November 2017 and Wednesday 29th November 2017** at the Sports Pavilion, Church Lane.

The next Finance Committee meeting is at **10:30am on Wednesday 29th November** at Ashington Community Centre (committee room 2)

The next Parish Council will be held at **7:45pm on Thursday 7th December 2017** at Ashington School, Foster Lane.

The meeting closed at 9:02pm

Signed.....

Dated.....

Appendix 1
WARDEN REPORT – October 2017

CRIMINAL DAMAGE

The warden vehicle was a victim of criminal damage this month. A tyre had been tampered with, valve cap removed and pressure let out of tyre. The garage that the vehicle has gone to for repair stated that the tyre needs to be replaced due to damage. The windscreen wiper was also broken off at the base damaging the metal arm. The side of vehicle has been scratched causing damage to paintwork. We would like to say a very big thankyou to Ashington Autos for arranging for the vehicle check and repair following the damage.

We are aware of who the offender was that damaged the vehicle and all details have been passed to the police. We would like to state that it is not a youth from the village.

Damage has been made to a resident's vehicle this month. Glass and nails were placed under vehicles tyre causing a puncture when resident drove their vehicle. All these issues have been reported to the police and they are doing further investigations regarding the incident.

An incident was reported to us about the cash machine outside the co-op being scammed. Several residents had money taken out of their accounts. We are pleased to report that three people have been arrested for placing a skimming device at the cash machine.

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

It has been a busy month with reports of ASB.

The youth shelter has been an issue with large amounts of litter. We have been making the youth litter pick on a regular basis.

Lots of residents calling us regarding concerns of youth smoking cannabis on the rec. All intelligence has been passed to police.

Several reports of youth using the skate park area for substance misuse. We have been patrolling on a regular basis in this area and all intelligence we have gathered is being passed to the police. Several youth who use this area on a regular basis have been complaining to us of the older youth's behaviour asking if we can help stop the substance misuse in the shelter as it ruins it for those who just like to meet up and have a chat with their friends using the shelter as their meeting point.

There have been several reports made to us by parents of children being bullied in the ball court by older youth. When patrolling this area we have spoken to those concerned stating that this ball court area is free for all to use not just exclusive to their groups.

There have been reports of youth sitting at the side of the community centre under the covered area by the doors. Lots of alcohol and smoke related litter has been left. We will be checking the CCTV to try and identify those responsible for the littering and underage drinking.

We have issued incident diaries for residents to fill in who are experiencing ASB issues. These will then be handed to the police and ASB team once completed.

We continue to have regular meetings with the police to deal with the ASB issues in Ashington. We are doing joint foot and vehicle patrols when shifts allow.

We have been reminding all residents who are a victim/witness of Anti-Social Behaviour to report to the police non –emergency 101 or 999 if it is an emergency. This needs to be done by all concerned as it will record data. This then forms a picture of what the offender/s are doing across the village.

PARKING

Once again a busy month for parking issues across the village. We have made several home visits to residents who are having issues when parking their cars in the village. This month has seen an increase on hand written letters being left on cars that are parked legally but just outside someone's property who do not like anyone parking there. The cars that have received these rude and aggressive letters on their windscreens have not been illegally parked; they are not causing an obstruction. One resident actually had full dog foul bags placed on their vehicle. Another vehicle had the wing mirrors bent in and wipers front and rear tampered with. This is unacceptable and as such criminal damage to another person's property. We have all letters and signage that has been left on the vehicles and we will be passing all intelligence to the police. Some of these incidents have left some residents quite distressed and fearful for their cars being damaged.

As a village the parking of resident's vehicles has increased, unless the vehicles are causing an obstruction unfortunately due to no parking restrictions across the village there is not a lot we can do. We have suggested those affected by the parking, talk to their neighbours or those concerned to come to a solution which suits both parties.

COLD CALLERS

Residents have been reporting to us on a regular basis any suspicious activity across the village concerning cold callers; we have asked that they report to the police. Vehicle registration details have been given to us and we have reported on operation crackdown. Most of the cold callers who have been knocking doors are asking if anyone wants their drive jet washed or trees cutting. Luckily all residents concerned refused. We have been advising everyone not to buy anything from cold callers.

NEIGHBOURHOOD DISPUTES

We continue to support and work with those affected by neighbourhood disputes. We have had meetings with social housing officers, police and other agencies to try and resolve some of the issues that are causing problems for the residents concerned. Safeguarding referrals have been made where needed. Joint welfare home visits with the police have been made to some residents to offer reassurance. Mediation has been offered to residents to try and come up with solutions to the issues they may be experiencing.

We are working closely with environmental health HDC and residents to deal with some issues they are having with neighbours. Hopefully this issue is being resolved.

FLY-TIPPING

There have been 5 incidents of fly-tip this month. The Hot spot area is Old London Road. Horsham District Councils cleansing Department have been very prompt in removing the fly-tip. Following a meeting this month with HDC it has finally been agreed that cameras are to be placed in the Old London Road. Signage will be placed in the area stating that these cameras are operational. Hopefully this will catch/deter further fly-tippers. Hopefully this will be in place in the next month.

One concern over the last month on Old London Road we have reported three separate incidents of dumped suitcases. These suitcases have all had tags and identification on from recent flights. We have removed all tags and information and have handed over to the police to investigate further. This is a concern to us as the suitcases are in good condition and not something that we would expect to see dumped at the side of road. This incident has been

happening over the last three weeks. All suitcases have been empty. If we receive further information on this issue we will let you know.

DOG FOUL/ISSUES WITH DOGS

There have been three reports made to us this month of aggressive dogs attacking other dogs. We have asked for descriptions of offender and dog and will approach them when we see them out and about in the village.

There have been numerous complaints of dogs barking from across the village. Some residents have felt that the dogs sound in distress. We have been trying to locate the properties where the continual dog barking is coming from. We will do a leaflet drop in the hot spot areas. We have signposted two residents with concerns to environmental department HDC re noise nuisance issues. Two phone calls by concerned residents have been made to the RSPCA to investigate further.

One verbal warning was issued to a dog walker this month following her not picking up her dogs foul. When approached she apologised as she did not realise her dog fouled. She immediately returned to collect the dog foul in a plastic bag. We did state if caught again she will receive an on the spot fine

ELDERLY/VULNERABLE

The beginning of the month we took a group of elderly/vulnerable to a Full of Life event organised by Age Uk at Steyning. It was very much enjoyed by all who attended. It was to promote health and wellbeing. Most of the group took part in the activities which included manicures, massage advice on health eating, tuition on how to access the internet and use of technology and free lunch was provided. We will be asking if it's possible for Age Uk to put a similar event on in Ashington in the New Year.

More residents have been approaching us about how we can help older relatives living in the village. We have added all to our list of jobs to do. Hopefully we will get to make home visits to those residents over the next month. We have been reminding some residents that we are not a care service, we are just there to offer advice and to sign post to relevant agencies for help with their needs. Several have phoned asking us for details of help cars etc., we have passed all relevant information to them.

It has been very difficult for some elderly residents this month trying to renew blue badge etc. We have been offering support with filling out the necessary on line forms needed to request replacement badges

At some of the clubs this month we have delivered talks and discussions on cold callers, scams and purse snatches. We were just giving advice on how to stay safe when out and about with their purses/wallets and cards. All have been given stickers for their doors saying no cold calling welcome at the address. Police gave a talk at lunch club on scams and handed out informative booklets for everyone to take home and read.

A session on falls prevention was given. Just reminding everyone of things they can do to make their home safer and to prevent falls etc.

Dates have been booked already for Christmas events. We will be taking some residents for the annual Christmas lunch outing to a local restaurant for a full Christmas lunch on the 10th December, Christmas lunch club is the 6th December followed by Christmas bingo on the 15th December. We have also managed to fit in a Christmas shopping trip on the 8th November to Bognor. This gives those that attend the chance to buy Christmas presents for family and friends.

We would like to say a huge thankyou to the children/parents/teachers of Ashington School who contacted us following their harvest festival event to offer us over thirty harvest festival parcels to deliver across the village to residents that they felt would appreciate this kind gesture. We collected the parcels from the school and delivered within the elderly/vulnerable groups. The response was brilliant. Comments such as "That's really made my day", "How kind of someone to think of us", "What a lovely treat" and "that's really lifted my mood thank you". We will be delivering all the cards and letters from residents who received the parcels to the school thanking them for their kind donations.

The church volunteers have provided us with food parcels and co-op vouchers that are to be kept in our office for when we need them for residents within the village who are finding things a little tough due to personal circumstances. We will keep records of when we have the need to use them. We can't thank them enough as this will help enormously when we come across residents who may need a little extra help.

WARDEN CHRISTMAS PARTY

We are delighted to announce that we will be having a Christmas Warden Party this year. It is our way of saying a big thankyou to residents in the village for all their help and support throughout the year.

We do rely heavily on grants and donations to provide this party and as such I would like to say a very Big Thankyou to the Ashington Festival Committee who has given a grant to make this event possible. This has allowed us to book the entertainment and help towards the food. They have also given a grant to supply sherry for the event.

The community Centre Trust have also given us a grant to pay for the venue for the event.

Thank you to them for their generous grant.

We would also like to say a big thankyou to Pat Webb for offering to organise the refreshments for this event. We can't forget to thank all the volunteers who have given up their spare time to help bring this event together. We have some doing transport, floristry to provide table decorations, help in kitchen the list goes on. Invites have been delivered to all residents across the village.

We are planning a huge raffle of which the proceeds will go towards providing the transport free for all the clubs/activities throughout the year. We have sent out letters asking local businesses for donations for the raffle.

MINIBUS

We are still looking out for more people to help with escorting on the minibus or driving the minibus. If you would like to volunteer please contact Jayne07764146367 or Bryony 07764146368

Appendix 2
Senior Youth Worker's report - November 2017
October Headlines & Highlights

Youth Club

- Youth Club remains well attended with up to 30 young people attending individual sessions
- Of those numbers, only a small minority of members being from outside the village. These young people come from communities without youth provisions such as Dial Post, Thakeham and West Chiltington.
- In November, we're excited to have a number of 3rd party sessions being run. Sussex Clubs for Young People are coming in to run a DJ music workshop as well as a local company providing an informative session on reptiles.

Young People attending Parish Council

- In October, I was able to bring a handful of teenagers attended the Parish Council which provided them with an insight into the workings of the Parish Council as well as an opportunity to address their own concerns which coincided with other concerns in the community. Young people appreciated the platform and councillors pro-active response.
 - A number of young people have shown interest in attending meeting more frequently to further discuss ongoing concerns and issues for young people in Ashington.

Ongoing links with local schools

- Over the past 3 years, I have had an extremely positive ongoing relationship with Rydon CC. This term I am working with the team from SGS to develop a new relationship with the Rock rd team after their restructure, developing new ways we are able to work together with their pastoral support team going forward.
- In the past, Nick Wergan and his team have been supportive of local youth workers such as myself to be integrated into the school to support young people from our community.

Concerns of large groups

- There have been concerns raised over large groups of young people congregating in the skate park on the weekend (Up to 30+ teens). On occasions this has led to anti-social behaviour. The wardens and myself have addressed this issue and it has been highlighted that the majority of these young people come from outside the village, being dropped off by parents due to Ashington's central location.
- Particularly, concerning anti-social behaviour. Young people we have relationships with in the village and through the youth club were able to help wardens identify individuals involved.

AYC AGM - 1.11.17 19:30

- The Management Committee had to rearrange the AGM meeting for unforeseen circumstances, so will now be held on Wednesday November 1st at 7:30pm in the Youth Club.
- We hope to make some developments on future plans concerning further resources for young people like a music & multimedia studio. We are excited to submit a number of grant applications due to the ongoing help and support of Paul Marshall who will be joining us.

30.10.17 - Paddy Donovan, Senior Youth Worker // paddy@ashingtonyouth.co.uk

Appendix 3

Funds held by the Parish Council on behalf of others

Ashington Rangers	£ 1011.01
First Responders	£ 2779.85
Bingo Club	£ 264.19