



Ashington Parish Council

Clerk to the Parish Council: Mrs. K. Dare, Honeysuckle House, London Road, Ashington, Pulborough, West Sussex, RH20 3JR, Telephone 01903 892991
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Members of Ashington Parish Council are summoned to a meeting of the Ashington Parish Council at **Ashington School at 8.00 p.m.** on Thursday 1st March 2012

A G E N D A

1. Apologies and reasons for absence
2. Declaration of Interests and notification of changes to members' interests.
3. Approval of the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on the 2nd February 2012.
4. Report from the Neighbourhood Wardens.
Opportunity for members of the public to ask questions of the wardens.
5. Young Persons Adjournment
Opportunity for young people to speak to the Parish Council.
6. Report from District and County Councillors
7. Actions Outstanding:
Item 85 Community Action Plan – update
Item 215 Hanging Baskets – selection of Nursery
8. Correspondence (for action)
 1. Billingshurst Road speed data – Clerk to present summary.
 2. HDC – Settlement Sustainability Data Review. It is proposed that the Clerk complete this.
 3. List of Parliamentary consultations. The Parish Council does not normally respond to these.
 4. Southern Water – drought planning draft for consultation
 5. HDC Senior Persons Council asking what the PC is doing for older people in the village. The Clerk has responded.
9. **Public Adjournment**
Opportunity for members of the public to raise matters of concern
10. Planning
Correspondence: HDC – Planning Framework: How much Housing does Horsham Need?

New enforcement allegations: None

Amendments: None

Applications:

DC/10/1288 Proposed stationing of 6 traveller/gypsy pitches plus outbuildings and storage area. Formation of new access and hardstanding.

Update

DC/12/0310 Permanent extension of hours after the temporary permission DC/09/2281 (Extend factory working hours from 0600 hours to 2300 hours Monday to Saturday) - New Highfield Works Spring Gardens Washington.

DC/12/0346 Single storey rear extension and extension of garage – 31 Hillcrest Drive

Horsham District Council

Approvals:

DC/11/2345 Surgery to oak tree – The Wickets, London Road.

Refusals: None

Withdrawals: DC/11/2457 Treeworks – Plot 8 Blakiston Close. HDC's Tree Officer advises - the works are exempt from the requirement to make a formal application

Appeal decision: None

Appeals: DC/11/2373 Erection of oak framed agricultural barn to house hay and agricultural products and small farm office – Mitchbourne Farm, Malthouse Lane.

11. Finance

Correspondence:

1. The weedkilling contractor has reported that the annual cost of weedkilling will be £320 + VAT. This is the same as last year.
2. NS&I – the Council's bank account will become a postal account from 21st May 2012.

Income: National Savings account annual interest £417.70

The invoices shown on the attached schedule are proposed for payment.

12. Meetings attended and reports by Councillors

13. Minor matters raised by Councillors to be referred to the next agenda

14. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Parish Council - Thursday 5th April 2012, 7.45 pm at Ashington School, Foster Lane, Ashington.

Planning Committee – Wednesday 14th & 28th February 2012, 7pm at the Parish Office, Sports Pavilion, Church Lane

PUBLIC AND PRESS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND

Karen Dare, Clerk to Ashington Parish Council 23rd February 2012.



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Schedule of payments March 2012

Mark Adsett	Gardeners contract payment	£475.00	
Mrs K. Dare	Clerks expenses (home & telephone)	£17	
	Postage	£1.23	
	Total	£18.23	
WSCC	Salary and on costs (February)	£820.05	
Plusnet	Broadband	£17.99	DD
Ashington School	Meeting cost	£20	
M. Woolley	Meeting at HDC	£10	

REPORT FROM NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDENS FEBRUARY 2012

Problems with Drugs / Alcohol

We have been busy with various meetings concerning particular individuals and the issues of alcohol / drugs. This targeted approach has come from our recent work at identifying the worst abusers within our young persons age group. This work has partly been down to the recent drugs worker that we have had in the village.

With the snack wagon proving to be a success within Ashington we are working with the youth service and hope to secure this for a further 6 weeks. It is proving a popular haunt for the youth of Ashington and an important source of informal educational information. It is certainly helping to promote drugs awareness as well as sexual health amongst different age groups within the village.

On the 11th of April the Residents association have their AGM within which we are helping to arrange a "drugs awareness" session. This will hopefully provide the residents with an appropriate amount of information about the different drugs out there and the potential signs associated with their use etc.

We continue to work with Sussex Police toward identifying those using and more importantly those dealing drugs in the area. We have recently received some intelligence that we continue to gather and pass on. Can we appeal to anyone that does have any information regarding drugs in Ashington that they can report this to us, the police or to crime stoppers anonymously.

Criminal Damage

Unfortunately this month has seen a number of incidents of criminal damage. One such instance has proven extremely distressing to the over 95 year old who was the victim. We are extremely interested to find out if anyone knows any information regarding the recent damage that has occurred in the village and would ask that if anyone does that they either report this to us or the police.

Graffiti

We have had a recent incident of graffiti on the scout hut wall. Although only in chalk it covered the whole wall and some of it requires more than a simply wash off. We have reported this to Horsham who will send someone to pressure wash this off.

Litter

We have been carrying out a number of hot spot litter picks that are off the beaten track. Such as at the balancing ponds and areas behind houses. In addition to carrying out these litter picks we have been keen to educate those responsible for dropping the litter. Whenever we can link a group of people to a particular area / amount of litter we have been asking them to pick up after themselves and hope that slowly we are influencing them to take pride in their own village.

In addition to these areas we have also noted that the CO-OP / Shops area has a large amount of litter regularly. We are going to be working closely with the co-op and other businesses to help take more responsibility in keeping this area tidy.

Youth Club

Our project with the overall aim of getting the youth club open more is still ongoing and still very much a priority. On a positive note we have had a number of volunteers approach us with an interest in the gym and we are hoping to explore the possibility of raising funds to pay for them to get the necessary qualification to run this.

Dog fouling

This is still an emotive issue within Ashington and we are getting a number of calls each week regarding this. We are gathering intelligence and identifying particular offenders. Ultimately these people will be spoken to and where necessary targeted patrols will be instigated to catch them in the act. We are very much aware of the areas within Ashington where this is a big problem and are out there observing them when we can.

In addition to dog foul, dog noise is also an issue and we are working together with residents where this is an issue. Again we appeal to dog owners to be mindful of their neighbours and their local area.

CO – OP

Having had a somewhat eventful half term week surrounding the co-op area we have been making an extra effort to patrol / target harden this area. The CO-OP has always been the area where a lot of the youth of Ashington have chosen to meet / gather. We are working with this co-op to ensure that they are strongly enforcing their “think 25” campaign when it comes to alcohol and cigarettes. In addition we are making them aware that there are certain individuals that could be purchasing alcohol and supplying those underage.

As well as dealing with what goes on in the area we also have been keen to tidy up the physical area too, we have spoken to the co-op regarding the dangerous broken / damaged paving slabs outside, the dim lighting and will continue to work with them to improve the area. We too are going to arrange for a meeting with the manager, as soon as he is back from holiday.

Underage Drinking

We have noticed a considerable increase in the consumption of alcohol by those underage. As such we have been taking a zero tolerance policy and have been confiscating any alcohol seen and will be taking those found under the influence home to their parents.

We have also made it clear to those that are over 18 that if they are found in possession of alcohol whilst in the company of those under age that they will have their alcohol seized. This is to reflect the possibility that they could be supplying those underage.

Everytime a confiscation occurs details are taken and passed onto Sussex police.

Elderly and vulnerable visits

We continue to carry out our weekly visits. As ever these are taking quite a large proportion of our time. We are still on the look out for some volunteers to help us with these visits. Our visits often just form a monthly, weekly or sometimes daily check on some of the most vulnerable members of the community. This can be an important link with the outside world for some and actually we are finding it a valuable service to those residents. If you feel that

there is someone in the community that we are not currently aware of please do let us know. Remember vulnerable doesn't just mean old too. They could simply be someone living on their own or someone with a disability too.

New Minibus

As with many CHANGE is a scary word. The minibus has caused a little confusion amongst the elderly / vulnerable community of Ashington. Some already use different minibus services and with another one to get their head round they have found it slightly confusing. We are working out which day best suits our residence and have currently changed this to a Tuesday (from 6th March). We too are trying to get our residents settled with the routine of our bus by deciding to be the driver / escort for the first few Tuesdays. We believe once they have gotten used to when the bus goes and the process to book that this will be a simple addition to their other trips out etc.

Anti Social Driving

We have seen an increase of anti social driving at the Billingshurst road end of the village. Particular attention has been given to the roundabouts where drivers have been seen driving extremely dangerous. We would urge anyone seeing such driving to report it to the police either via 101 or operation crackdown.

With the recent accidents down Billingshurst road we are keen to help draw attention to / enforce the speed limit in this area, however the Police are currently reviewing all the SID (speed indicator device) sites and until such time as these have been carried out we wont be able to deploy the device.

Reporting Incidents to the Police

We have noticed recently that there are a large number of incidents occurring within Ashington that are not being called through to the Police. We feel that residents are calling us to report incidents and when we are not on duty or do not answer are simply then waiting for us to come back on duty before they do. We would like to remind everyone and urge everyone to report things through to the Police as well as ourselves. The Police are on duty 24 / 7 whereas we aren't. The Police can be contacted in a number of ways from the 999 call in an emergency to 101 in a non emergency situation. There too are other ways to get in touch via their website and even text message. Without your support in contacting the Police to report instances of crime we can't build up a picture of what is going on in the village and in addition we can't get the support from the Police that we too need.

Adverse Weather / Emergency Planning

We attended an multi agency event in Maresfield regarding emergency planning. We found the event very informative and were able to gain a detailed knowledge of what services and equipment is out there in case of an emergency. This ranged from specialist equipment for animal rescue to full decontamination tents.

Farm Watch

At the moment there is a network of rural businesses particularly farms that are linked through sussex police called "Farm Watch". This network is regularly updated via email and text message regarding instances of suspicious activity and crime associated with these businesses. In a move to step up the reaction time and increase the strength of this network we are exploring the addition of a radios to key members of the scheme. The idea

would be that rather than wait for information to be processed and then sent out a more “live” real time information network could be setup. This in addition has an excellent emergency response / planning implication as we would end up with a radio within our vehicle.

Wardens Office

We have been exploring ways to make us more accessible to the public as well as tidy up a few health and safety concerns regarding our office and we are very close to finalising a move within the community centre building that will tick all these boxes. It will make the office much more accessible as it will be on the ground floor and will be a much easier and visible location for all to find.