



# Ashington Parish Council

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**Members of Ashington Parish Council are summoned to** a meeting of the Ashington Parish Council at **Ashington School at 7.45 p.m.** on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 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 5<sup>th</sup> January 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
8. Correspondence (for action)
  1. Letter from Steyning PC – does this PC consider it reasonable that WSCC CLC Community Initiative funding is not available to Parish Councils
  2. WSCC Consultation on 'mobile waste services' – WSCC is proposing to stop the green waste & white goods service from the fortnightly rural car parks waste service.
  3. Does the PC wish to sign a Government e-petition against onshore wind turbines on the grounds that they are expensive, inefficient, destroy the countryside.
  4. Ashington Childrens Nursery (Methodist Church) – want to meet with Councillor(s)
  5. WSCC Infrastructure Works Programme 2012/12 and Forward Programme 2013/14 (basically Highways capital projects) – no projects for Ashington are included. The Clerk has asked for an update on the A24 resurfacing.
  6. Billingshurst Road speed data – Clerk to present summary
9. **Public Adjournment**  
Opportunity for members of the public to raise matters of concern
10. Planning

Correspondence: ERHA will be holding an informal 'drop-in' session to gather any final applicants for the new homes.

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.

Re-submitted to HDC for determination

Horsham District Council

Approvals:

DC/11/2602 Non material amendment to DC/10/0864 (Erection of 29 dwellings) to include repositioning of plot 7 one metre further south, removal of quoin detail from brick and to raising of cycle/refuse store roof at apartment plots 20 to 28 - Meiros Farm Rectory Lane

Refusals: DC/11/2373 Erection of oak framed agricultural barn to house hay and agricultural products and small farm office - Mitchbourne Farm Malthouse Lane

Withdrawals: None

Appeal decision: None

Appeals: None

11. Finance

Correspondence:

1. Bank reconciliation & budget update.
2. Open spaces maintenance costs
3. Consider a request from Metrobus to install 'real-time' bus information boards at the bus stops in the village. Cost to the Parish Council @£7000-8000 per sign.

Income: Environmental Cleansing Grant £1084

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 1<sup>st</sup> March 2012, 7.45 pm at Ashington School, Foster Lane, Ashington.

Planning Committee – Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> 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 26<sup>th</sup> January 2012.



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### Schedule of payments February 2012

Mark Adsett	Gardeners contract payment	£475.00	
	Ditch clearance work	£360.00	
	Remove dead trees	£45	
Mrs K. Dare	Clerks expenses (home & telephone)	£17	
	Postage	£2.21	
	Total	£17	
WSCC	Salary and on costs (January)	£820.05	
Plusnet	Broadband	£17.99	DD
Ashington School	Meeting cost	£20	
Ashington Youth Club	grant	£600	
(as agreed at last meeting)			
SP Services	Responder Equipment	£181.06	

## **REPORT FROM NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDENS JANUARY 2012**

### **Problems with Drugs / Alcohol**

We have kick started the year by attending various meetings and trying to establish a joint up approach to tackling the issue of drugs in Ashington. The meetings we have attended have been to follow up with particular individuals with the aim of trying to get other agencies to help support those concerned. This has included meetings at Steyning grammar and in Ashington too. We have noticed a considerable deterioration in some of the youngster's health and as such have advised them to see their GP.

In addition to this we have been able to get an experienced drug worker, an ex user himself, to agree to do a few sessions in Ashington. His first session has already proven successful with some encouraging links forged with a couple of our known users in the village. We are planning to give a hard hitting session in the youth club with the drug worker.

Alongside our attempts to try and educate and perhaps steer young people away from drugs we too are passing intelligence onto Sussex Police to show that ultimately drug abuse will not be accepted and is also illegal.

### **Criminal Damage**

Since last month we have noticed a significant reduction in Criminal Damage with only a few reports having come our way. This could be down to the weather or perhaps we hope down to our direct intervention and educational advice with the young persons of Ashington.

We must still emphasise however the need to report all instances of criminal damage no matter how small to Sussex police.

### **Youth Club**

This now has become our number one goal and priority this year. We really need to get some momentum behind getting a better use of the resources in the village and one such resource that is under used is the youth club and Willard gym. It is our aim to establish an action group to push ahead with the issue of youth provision for the village. This group hopefully will consist of representatives from different agencies such as HDC, Ashington Parish Council, The Church, Ashington youth club and ourselves. We too are looking into the possibility of obtaining funding from grants etc. One such opportunity is currently being pursued with Sussex Police who have a potential sum of money for community based projects.

The youths of Ashington are constantly telling us that they don't have anywhere to "hang out" and spend time together. We have often moved them on from play parks and outside the co-op because they are making too much noise. They often just want somewhere to sit and chat and spend time with their friends. It is our goal to establish a safe environment where they can come and relax, out of the weather and spend time with their friends without the fear or worry of being constantly moved on etc.

## **Dog foul Signage**

Residents in certain areas of the village may have noticed and increase in the dog foul signage. This is temporary signage that has been put in place in hot spot areas and will be removed in the next few weeks. The signs have been placed to highlight some of the worst areas and as a reminder to dog owners that it is their responsibility to pick up after their animals. We cannot put a stop to this alone we need the help of all residents to report any dog owners for not cleaning up after their animal. We are still trying to establish a pool of volunteers who would be willing to give up some time to help clear the recreation field of dog foul before the sports on a weekend. Obviously this isn't a nice job but neither is having to clean dog poo from clothing and of course there are some extremely severe health implications related with dog foul too. If you think you can help please get in touch with us.

This month in particular we have seen a rise in complaints about Dog Noise, i.e. dogs barking early in the morning and late at night. We have dealt with this by spending some time in the affected areas along with posting a letter through resident's doors. We asked people to be mindful of their fellow residents and keep their animals under control especially early and late in the day.

## **Elderly and vulnerable visits**

We have seen an increase in our vulnerable visits with certain individuals taking quite a lot of our time. We have been working closely to sign post them to relevant agencies to help deal with their individual needs. Having recently received some fuel poverty training and been made aware of exactly what is out there for those feeling the pinch we have been keen to pass this information on. We have been ensuring that our elderly and vulnerable residents are all keeping warm and that they are not afraid of turning on the heating etc. We too have been carrying out informal assessments of their properties to make sure that they are as warm and insulated as much as possible. Having spent a good deal of time with certain individuals we have noticed, sadly, a number of them have been deteriorating. We have increased our number of visits to these particular residents and have been making sure to sign post them to relevant agencies when the needs arise.

Due to the increased amount of time that we are spending working with the elderly and vulnerable we have started to look at the possibility of starting a group of volunteers who could help us by visiting some of these residents. We appreciate that there is more to it than just getting people, things like CRB checks but we are hoping that with a little thought we could get a group to take some of the pressure. With some of the elderly and vulnerable residents just having someone pop round for an hour to have a cup of tea really makes a considerable difference to their quality of life. In addition to this we are keen to establish a group of handy people who could help with certain odd jobs, gardening etc.

## **NEW MINIBUS**

The new minibus is here and as part of the bus arriving we have been pleased to already have at least 12 people signed up to use it. The first trip, almost

fully booked, leaves on the 2nd feb and will hopefully be a start to a new successful service in the village. We are still keen to find new driver volunteers and people to act as escorts for the trips. In addition to the planned trips on Thursdays we are keen to make use of the bus for other trips. Not only for the elderly and vulnerable residents but we too want to get the youths out of the village on trips. We have many of them interested and they can see the advantage of being able to get out and about at a relatively low cost. They have already come to us with ideas for trips which is great.

### **Anti Social Driving**

We have had a number of complaints about speeding within the village. Not just down the main roads but also within the housing estates too. We would like to ask people to think about their speed when driving in some of the small built up areas as you never know what is around the corner.

We have been passing intelligence on to Sussex Police regarding certain drivers and riders. In particular our concern is regarding young persons riding under the influence of substances unknown.

We are working with Sussex Police to get some pro active speed monitoring within the village. Hannah our PCSO is now trained to use a speed gun and hopefully if we can get an approved sight or sights in the village we will be able to get her to come and work with us to raise the profile of speeding in the village.

### **Adverse Weather / Emergency Planning**

Over the next couple of months we are going to be attending several training sessions with regards to emergency planning and especially adverse weather. We will be attending a multi agency event in Kent in March as well as some in house familiarisation training too. In addition to training we soon will be receiving an emergency radio for our vehicle so that we can be easily contacted and deployed where needed no matter what.