



# Ashington Parish Council

Clerk to the Parish Council: Mrs. K. Dare, Honeysuckle House, London Road, Ashington, Pulborough, West Sussex, RH20 3JR, Telephone 01903 892991  
Email: [clerk@ashingtonpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@ashingtonpc.org.uk) [www.ashingtonpc.org.uk](http://www.ashingtonpc.org.uk)

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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 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2012

## A G E N D A

1. Apologies and reasons for absence
  2. Election of Chairman and signing of Declaration of Acceptance of Office
  3. Election of Vice Chairman and signing of Declaration of Acceptance of Office
  4. Allocation of Committees and formation of any new Committees as required by the Parish Council  
Present Committee Allocation:  
**Finance** - Cllr Norton, Cllr Carver, Cllr Brennan, Cllr Woolley, Cllr Clark  
**Planning Committee** –Cllr Norton, Cllr Carver, Cllr Wood, Cllr Kearney, Cllr Woolley, Cllr Harbour
  5. Appointment of Representatives to serve on Outside Bodies  
Present Appointment of Representatives:  
Ashington Community Centre Observer- Cllrs Clark & Stillwell  
Horsham District Association of Local Councils - Cllr Clark  
BTCV (Tree Warden) – Cllr Wood  
Ashington Youth Club – Cllr Clark  
Ashington Residents Association – Cllr Norton
  6. To confirm schedule of meetings for 2012-2013 – see attached
  7. Annual Review & Approval of Code of Conduct – Councillors to make sure they are familiar with the Code
  8. Annual Review & Approval of Standing Orders – Councillors to make sure they are familiar with the Standing Orders
  9. Review of Register of Members Interests – Councillors are asked to review their interests and declare any new interests
  10. Review of Council's Risk Assessment documents – financial & Litter Warden
  11. Review of Councillors Allowances and Chairman's Allowance
- Monthly Parish Council business
12. Declaration of Interests and notification of changes to members' interests.

13. Approval of the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> April 2012.

14. Report from the Neighbourhood Wardens.  
Opportunity for members of the public to ask questions of the wardens.

15. Young Persons Adjournment  
Opportunity for young people to speak to the Parish Council.

16. Report from District and County Councillors

17. Actions Outstanding:

- a. Community Action Plan – update
- b. Housing Needs Survey – update
- c. Annual Report – proposal not to circulate paper copies to all households
- d. Annual inspection of Council land – volunteers required.

18. Correspondence (for action)

1. Invitation for the Chairman to attend the HDC Annual Reception on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May at 7pm
2. HDC – Community Governance Review - Deadline for comments – 28<sup>th</sup> May.
3. WSCC – proposed west Sussex Health & Wellbeing Co-operative, inaugural meeting 31 May at 2pm.
4. HDC Health & Wellbeing outreach work – advisors can visit to talk to members of the public about their wellbeing. Residents Association? Youth Club?
5. HDC – CLC working with HDC & Parish Councils. Meeting Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> May 7.30pm, Steyning Centre.
6. Invitation to AGM of Purple Bus – 19<sup>th</sup> June at 6pm.
7. Invitation to WSCC ‘Local Youth Provision’ meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> May at 2pm.

#### **19. Public Adjournment**

Opportunity for members of the public to raise matters of concern

20. Planning

Correspondence: None

New enforcement allegations:

EN/12/0162 Unauthorised works to TPO Trees 1016 – Welbourne, Well House Road

EN/12/0180 Extension added on to detached Garage and residential use – Feathers, London Road

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/12/0668 Surgery to one Quercus Robur on land adjacent to 39 Rectory Close – Oakwood Copse, Ivy Lane.

DC/12/0827 Surgery to 1 x Oak tree on land to rear of 34 Rectory Close – Oakwood Copse, Ivy Lane

DC/12/0733 Two storey side extension - 32 Fairfield Road

Horsham District Council

Approvals:

DC/12/0256 Ground floor rear extension to form an orangery with associated internal works - 11 Church Close

DC/12/0346 Single storey rear extension and extension of garage and re-surfacing of driveway and hardstanding - 31 Hillcrest Drive

DC/12/0310 Extend factory working hours from 0600 hours to 2300 hours Monday to Saturday - New Highfield Works Spring Gardens

Refusals: None

Withdrawals:

DC/12/0596 Extending to the side of existing dwelling to form a new 3 bedroom dwelling – 1 Hillcrest Close

Appeal decision: None

Appeals: None

11. Finance

Contract Reviews – Parish Clerk & Landscape Gardener

Correspondence:

1. HDC – Parish Council commitment to the Warden Scheme.

Income:

Donation to Ashington First Responders £819.05

HDC Precept £46,396.90

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 7<sup>th</sup> June 2012, 7.45 pm at Ashington School, Foster Lane, Ashington.

Planning Committee – Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> May 2012, 7pm at the Parish Office, Sports Pavilion, Church Lane

Finance Committee – Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> May, 7.30pm at the Parish Office.

**PUBLIC AND PRESS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND**

Karen Dare, Clerk to Ashington Parish Council 26<sup>th</sup> April 2012.



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## Schedule of payments May 2012

Mark Adsett	Gardeners contract payment	£475.00	
Mrs K. Dare	Clerks expenses (home & telephone)	£17	
	Postage	£9.84	
	Total	£	
WSCC	Salary and on costs (April)	£820.05	
Plusnet	Broadband	£17.99	DD
Ashington School	Meeting cost	£20	
Mrs B. Hill	Clerk – April	£50	
Ashington Festival	grant (as agreed at last meeting)	£500	
Ashington Parish Council	transfer to NS&I	£5457.08	
(In Oct 2011 we received £5457.08 from S&F. Would normally transfer these funds to NS&I account)			
SOS Systems	photocopier	£52.22	
HALC	subscription	£15	
BT	phone bill	£55.80	
HDC	Neighbourhood Wardens (Sept 11 to March 12)	£33,787	
Helping Hand Company	litter picking equipment	£69.60	
M. Woolley	meeting at HDC	£15	
ACCT	Parish Office rent	£189	

## **REPORT FROM NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDENS APRIL 2012**

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

This month we have seen a distinct change for the better in the behaviour of some of our worst offenders in this area. Seemingly this is something to do with a new found hobby and passion for the skate park and roller blading. We have seen quite a dramatic change in behaviour and outlook in some of the young persons who were the worst for substance misuse. It appears that in their own way they have found a reason to at least cut down if not stop some of their drugs / alcohol intake. This is extremely positive and we can already see the affects. As a group they look healthier and are making a positive effort to do things for themselves by getting out of the village etc. Let's hope this continues into the future.

### **Residents Association**

We organised a drugs and alcohol awareness session for the residents association which seemed to go down well. Kirsty (from the anti social behaviour team) Jo (Young persons alcohol worker) Darren (Horsham Police) provided an interactive session. They gave insight into the different types of substances out there, their effects, the penalties for taking them and more over the support that is out there for anyone associated.

### **Criminal Damage**

This month has been a good month as we haven't had any complaints of criminal damage. The only damage that appears to have occurred has been at the skate park on one of the ramps. However after talking with the users of the area and observing them it appears that this is as a result of the heavier use and the fact that some of the surfaces could do with "refreshing". The young persons using the area did in fact come up with a couple of helpful solutions that might stop future damage too.

### **Home / Property Security**

This month Ashington has been the victim of a few "odd job" men calling on residents and in some areas even leaving cards. We have had on at least one occasion complaints the individuals have been a little persistent in their attempts to make repairs to walls, roofing, gardens etc. These individuals are trying to take advantage of some of the elderly and vulnerable residents of the village and we wanted to make everyone aware. They seem to be using a small green van to get about in. This has been reported to the Police and their advice is if at any time you feel threatened, pressured or uncomfortable to simply tell them no and to call the Police right away.

Also we would again like to take this opportunity to remind people to make sure that their homes, garages and sheds are left secure. We have had a recent spate of break-ins in the Ashington and Washington areas so would like everyone to be safe and secure and not a victim.

If anyone is in need of advice about home security or would like to purchase items from a range of home security products at cost prices please don't hesitate to get in touch with us.

### **Litter**

We seem to have made a break through with the CO-OP regarding Litter. Horsham District Council has asked them to be more responsible for their area and have asked them to carry out a little pick outside the shop. We are

keen to help ensure that this is carried out and after speaking to a few shop staff were under the impression that they fully intended to do it but that they were doubtful the co-op would buy them a litter picker to do the job. It just so happens that we have a spare litter picker and have kindly donated it to the co-op so they can carry out their litter picking duties. We shall wait and see if this helps make a difference to litter in the area.

### **Elderly and vulnerable visits**

We have finally settled on the New Forest area as our Elderly and Vulnerable trip this year. This will be taking place on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of May and we already have a good number of people coming.

We are continuing to carry out our weekly visits and are carrying out checks to fire alarms and community link alarms that many of them have. With finances at a squeeze during the current financial climate we are very conscious that the elderly and vulnerable might be struggling especially. We have been helping to deal with issues of high bills, money worries and anything that might be causing a worry. Through HDC and other agencies we have access to a lot of helpful information and support for this very thing. If you or anyone you might know has concerns and worries about finances don't hesitate to get in touch.

### **Village Minibus**

The Village bus is working well. Tuesdays is the new day and over the last few weeks we have had a full load (of passengers and shopping on the way back). We have finally created a better schedule created after much discussion with those who use the bus. The bus will run 4 weeks of every month. First week going to WORTHING, Second week to HORSHAM, Third week to WORTHING, Fourth week to HOLMBUSH.

### **Youth Provision**

We have been approached by two different groups who use the skate park asking if we can take them to other parks, roller disco and especially scaterham a specially designed outdoor skate park in Caterham. We are in the process of getting groups created so that they can make use of the village minibus and hope to make a trip or two out of the village with these groups soon.

We have been working closely with the young person's alcohol worker who has offered if and when needed targeted sessions with any young persons in Ashington. We continue to monitor those young persons who drink and will involve the alcohol worker if and when needed. In addition to this we should be getting the snack wagon back in Ashington again very soon too!

### **CO – OP**

We continue to work closely with the co-op and are working to deal with several issues in this area. We continue to provide a high visibility presence in the area to deter any anti social behaviour / gathering. A side benefit of our presence in the area is a deterrent to anyone trying purchase age related products for those underage.

We are still very much aware of the Co-op intending to open late. We are continuing to monitor them along with licensing teams in case this extension causes undue problems. It is our intention to work closely with the co-op as

much as possible but rest assured if they fail to comply with rules and regulations this will be reported.

The Co-op is currently without a full time manager. There is someone acting as manager but hopefully soon we will have an idea of who will be taking over. It is our intention once this manager is in post to have a meeting with them to discuss ongoing concerns and the worries about what the future could hold.

As most will be aware the Co-op recently suffered an early morning break-in. This resulted in a window being smashed and batteries being stolen. Thankfully a local resident alerted the Police and the two offenders were arrested shortly afterwards. It would appear that they had intended to get more than batteries but either through bad planning and or execution failed.

### **Bullying**

We continue to work closely with a number of residents with regards to the issues of bullying. Yet again we have had a number of incidents of bullying reported to us this month. We are spending time with the victims and their friends / family trying to get to the heart of the issues at hand. We have been working closely with the Police and other agencies that might be able to help like schools etc. We continue to offer support to those involved and are trying to ensure these issues are dealt with as effectively as possible.

### **Parking**

This month we have had a number of complaints regarding vehicles parked in residential areas that are causing somewhat of an eye sore. Having discussed this issue at the recent residents association meeting unfortunately there is very little that anyone "officially" can do. Ashington is lucky to be a village without too many parking restrictions and as such there is often no reason to stop someone parking somewhere. The Police have little powers too. Only if a vehicle is causing an "obstruction" might they be able to help. Horsham Parking services can only enforce parking restrictions such as yellow lines etc. So the only solution we can offer is to talk to those who own the vehicles concerned and perhaps express how it causes you a problem / discomfort. We are of course happy to help in anyway we can but, like you, in the instance we can only appeal to someone's better nature.

However I would like to take this moment to appeal to everyone to be considerate to other road users and pedestrians when parking their vehicles. Parking your car on a pavement may not block the road but perhaps give a thought to an individual in a wheel chair or a mother with a push chair who then has to go out into the road to get past. In addition give a thought to other residents when parking near their home.

### **Reporting Incidents to the Police**

We are still encountering incidents where residents are not reporting things to the Police and instead are only reporting them to us. Some are reluctant to bother as they seem to have had a bad experience previously or in few isolated cases they can't be bothered and see it as our responsibility as wardens. We would again like to remind everyone that we aren't actually on duty 24/7 but the Police are. In addition the Police will record every incident called in to them. This will aid us and you in building up a picture of what has been happening over time.

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. They can be emailed via [contactcentre@sussex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:contactcentre@sussex.pnn.police.uk) where you can report non emergency problems. If you are a victim of criminal damage for instance this can be emailed through with as much detail and information as possible. You can even send the police a text message on **65999** to alert them of a drunk driver or similar issues.

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.