



# 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 7.45 p.m.** on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> April 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 1<sup>st</sup> March 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:
  - a. Community Action Plan – update
  - b. Southern Water – proposed new sewer pipe connecting Viney Close to Covert Mead, across Parish Council & ACCT land
8. Correspondence (for action)
  1. Rampion Offshore wind farm proposal
9. **Public Adjournment**  
Opportunity for members of the public to raise matters of concern
10. Planning  
Correspondence: None  
  
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/12/0596 Extending to the side of existing dwelling to form a new 3 bedroom dwelling – 1 Hillcrest Close

Horsham District Council

Approvals:

DC/12/0207 Single storey rear/side extension with pitched roof, tile hanging to existing first floor rear and side only and new parapet wall to top of existing wall – Ivy Cottage, London Road

DC/12/0248 Renewal of unimplemented planning permission DC/08/2538 (Single and 2-storey extension) – Jinkes Farm, Muttons Lane

Refusals: None

Withdrawals: None

Appeal decision: None

Appeals: None

11. Finance

Correspondence:

1. Consider a request for a donation towards the cost of the Ashington Festival Day
2. West Sussex Mediation Service – application for a grant.
3. Litter picking equipment – the Clerk has two more volunteers (one for the Recreation Ground and one for the top end of the village). The kits are £26.50 each + delivery & VAT.
4. Thank You letter from Ashington Youth Club.

Income:

Donation to Ashington First Responders £515.00

Kite & Thomas rent & roundabout sponsorship £2027.50

VAT reclaim £2075.06

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 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2012, 7.45 pm at Ashington School, Foster Lane, Ashington.

Planning Committee – Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2012, 7pm at the Parish Office, Sports Pavilion, Church Lane

Finance Committee – has been moved from Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> April to Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> May, 7pm at the Parish Office.

**PUBLIC AND PRESS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND**

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



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### Schedule of payments April 2012

Mark Adsett	Gardeners contract payment	£475.00	
Mrs K. Dare	Clerks expenses (home & telephone)	£17	
	Postage	£1.52	
	Meeting at HDC (travel & parking)	£10	
	Meadow seeds	£29.44	
	Total	£	
WSCC	Salary and on costs (March)	£820.05	
Plusnet	Broadband	£17.99	DD
Ashington School	Meeting cost	£20	
ACCT	Play area rent	£12	
SALC	Subscriptions	£646.45	
D. Newland	urgent skatepark repairs	£60	
Parker Dann Ltd	DC/10/1288 response	£982.32	
HDC	dog & litter bin emptying	£286.00	
S. Fenn	responder expenses	£44.76	

## **REPORT FROM NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDENS MARCH 2012**

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

We have had a meeting with our neighbourhood Policing team regarding both drink and drugs in Ashington. We all agreed that we have tried many different approaches from anti-social behaviour contracts to drugs awareness but that for the repeat offenders it was now time for enforcement.

In addition to the enforcement we are going to be lucky to have the alcohol worker from Horsham in the village. She will target those that have recently been reported for alcohol abuse.

### **Criminal Damage**

Again this month we have numerous reports of criminal damage within Ashington. This has been reported as happening at strange times including around 6am in the morning. In addition to the strange times are the rather strange instances of damage. This has included several shallow spade dug holes appearing around the village. We would appeal to anyone who has witnessed any antics or criminal damage to report this to the Police.

### **Home / Property Security**

We would like to take this opportunity to remind people that with the light evenings approaching 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 undertook an intensive litter pick of the old London road down past Martins Farm towards Hooklands and were disgusted at the amount of rubbish down there. It ranged from general litter and waste to a large amount of fly tipping. The fly tipping included a TV, builders material and several large dustbin bags full of used cat litter. We managed to get what we could and for the larger items arranged for them to be collected by Horsham cleansing department. We are keen to try and catch anyone who fly tips so if you see any suspicious cars, vans, lorries in this area please do let us know. We are going to look into the idea of getting some anti-fly tipping / littering signage up the road.

### **New Minibus**

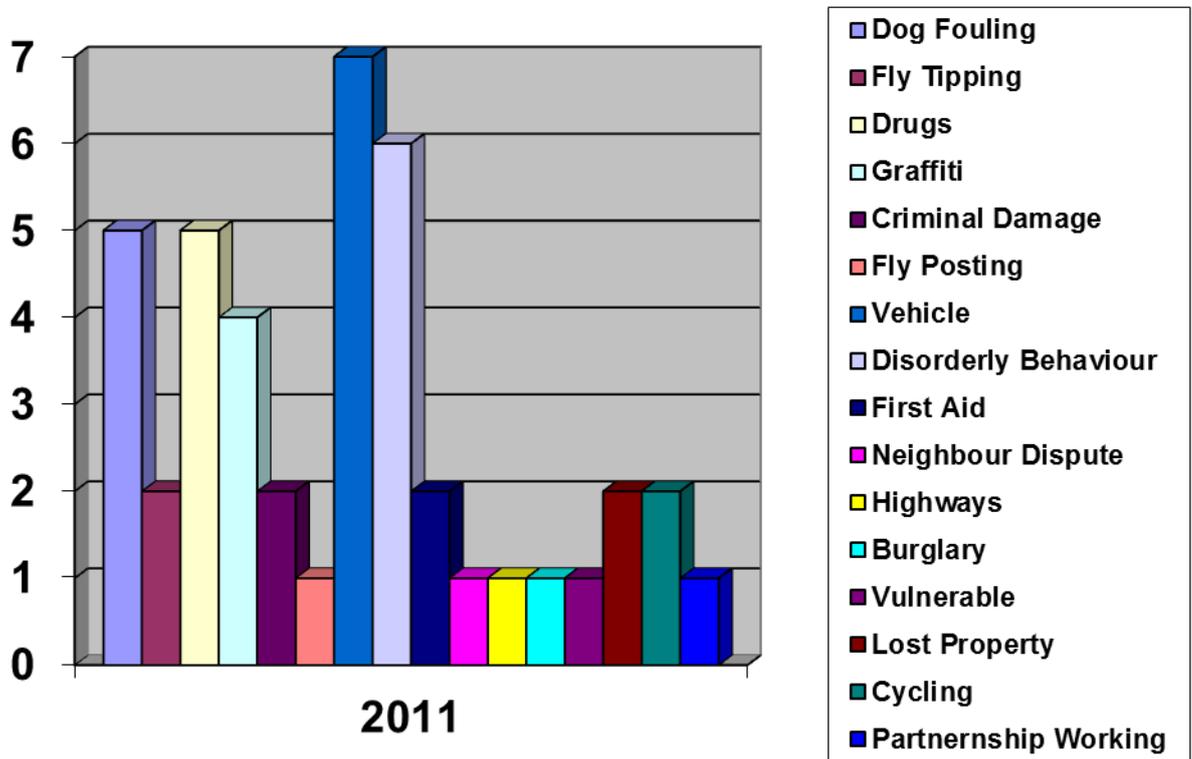
As promised we have been taking charge of the (now Tuesday) weekly shopping trips. This has helped to keep numbers at a steady level and also enabled those using the bus to get a better understanding of its operation. We hope that soon they will all be well trained users and able to continue on regardless of who is driving / escorting.

### **Youth Club / Youth Provision**

We continue to support the youth club when and where we can and were delighted to hear that they have managed to find (at last) someone to take on and run the Willard Gym. In addition it was great to hear of the recent Jumble Sale and its financial success for the club.

This week sees our last week for the snack wagon. However we have managed to get it again for the summer term and in addition we have managed to secure some extra funding for some dedicated outreach youth workers to be in Ashington for 5 weeks over the summer holidays.

### Summary of 2011



Horsham have looked at all of our jobs from 2011 and have compiled them into separate key headings illustrating the number of jobs attended. This is in relation to our T19 Incident report forms that we fill out for each incident requiring action.

### 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 have been in contact with a lady in Storrington who runs a volunteer group centred around visiting elderly and vulnerable residents. She was keen to get a meeting to look at being able to help out in Ashington. This would certainly be a good thing taking some of the weight off our shoulders as well as perhaps creating more of a routine. In addition these schemes often result in genuine friendships and support networks being formed.

We are trying to encourage some of the elderly and vulnerable residents to come up with a couple of favoured locations that as a group they might like to visit this year. Our intention is to either use the village minibus or the leisure link bus from HDC to run a couple of trips to “different” perhaps “harder to reach” locations that these residents might like to visit. We are particularly keen for this to involve a couple of residents that by disability do not often get the chance to get out and about.

### CO – OP

Having recently been made aware that the CO-OP is intending on opening later up until 11pm each night we were keen to express some concerns and to help try and ensure this was managed appropriately. We have been in contact with the Manager of the CO-OP and a few residents extremely local to the shop and are working together to try and reduce any potential impact that this might well have. We feel that 11pm is in fact too late and not necessary and as such are keen to get this reduced or that if this goes ahead that some clear “controls” are put in place. We have encouraged residents to get together to form a group that can voice their concerns directly to the Co-op.

In addition to the opening hours we have been trying to work with the CO-OP regarding the issues of Alcohol and other age related products. One of the biggest issues that we are having is when someone over 18 is purchasing alcohol and then selling or giving it to those underage. This is often difficult to prove once it has been sold but we are working with the CO-OP to try and stop these sales being made. One individual in fact has already been banned from the store.

On an enforcement side we have also had a meeting with our local neighbourhood policing team along with the police licencing team with regards to raising the Co-op as a bit of a hotspot. This will increase our support from local police at hotspot times as well as put a little pressure on the Co-op to tighten up on their end too.

### **Bullying**

We have had a number of incidents of bullying reported to us this month. We have spent a lot of time with the victims and their friends / family trying to get to the heart of the issues at hand. This has often been quite a lengthy process as some of the incidents have been long term. We have been keen to ensure that the more serious incidents have been reported to the Police and to 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**

Ashington is lucky to be a village without too many parking restrictions officially. However we would like to ask 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 wheelchair or a mother with a pushchair who then has to go out into the road to get past. In addition parking opposite someone’s driveway can equally prove awkward.

We have dealt with a number of such issues this month where although we have not had an official leg to stand on we have had a quiet word with neighbours concerned and this has often led to the problem being sorted quickly. So if you do have a problem why not try having a quiet word yourself as sometimes our involvement can ruffle feather unnecessarily.

### **Dog Noise**

Dog noise is still an ongoing 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.

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

We keep encountering incidents where residents are not reporting things to the Police and instead are only reporting them to us. We would again 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. 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. 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.

### **Farm Watch**

We have now got a new radio system installed in our car. This will allow us to access the farm watch / country watch network. 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.