



# 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 7<sup>th</sup> March 2013

## **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 7<sup>th</sup> February 2013.
4. Report from the Neighbourhood Wardens.  
Opportunity for members of the public to ask questions of the wardens.
5. Invited Guests – ACCT.  
Update on Community Centre business.
6. Young Persons Adjournment  
Opportunity for young people to speak to the Parish Council.
7. Report from District and County Councillors
8. Actions Outstanding:
  - a. Community Action Plan – update
  - b. Speed bumps in London Road – update
  - c. Nature trail fencing/repairs - update
  - d. Hanging baskets – proposal to place this years orders
  - e. Assets of Community Value – Councillors to consider which assets to nominate
9. Correspondence (for action)
  1. Does any Councillor wish to volunteer to help at Junior Citizen Scheme events in March?
  2. Letter from Ashington resident asking the Council to write to WSCC in support of Public Footpath surface improvements needed on FP2605, 2505 & 2611
  3. Application to vary Premises Licence at Ashington Co-op (for info only)
10. **Public Adjournment**  
Opportunity for members of the public to raise matters of concern
11. Planning  
Correspondence:
  1. ERHA – have not been able to find local residents to take two of the shared ownership flats at Meiros Farm. They propose to rent.

2. Letter from resident to HDC complaining about roof extension.

New enforcement allegations: None.

Amendments:

DC/12/1276 Demolition of existing buildings, provision of second access and formation of an equine hospital and associated facilities – Westlands Farm, Billingshurst Road

Applications: None

Horsham District Council

Penn Retreat – subject to confirmation of the s106 agreement for outline application DC/12/1975 (erection of 15 homes) HDC will then formally approve the application. The owner will then withdraw planning application DC/10/1288 (6 gypsy pitches)

Approvals:

DC/12/2351 Installation of a solar array of 250hW and associated switchgear shed in 0.5 hectares of land adjacent to sewage works London Road, Ashington - Broadbridge Farm Hole Street Ashington

Refusals: None

Withdrawals: None

Appeal decision: None

Appeals: None

12. Finance

Correspondence:

1. Parish Office – proposal to cancel phone & broadband
2. Photocopier – proposal to cancel maintenance contract
3. Consider a request for a donation to West Sussex Mediation Service.
4. Appointment of Internal Auditor

Income:

NS&I annual interest £886.02

Donation to First Responders £100

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

13. Meetings attended and reports by Councillors

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

15. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Parish Council - Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2013, 7.45 pm at Ashington School, Foster Lane, Ashington.

Planning Committee – Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2013, 7pm at the Sports Pavilion, Church Lane

**PUBLIC AND PRESS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND**

Karen Dare, Clerk to Ashington Parish Council 27<sup>th</sup> February 2013.



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### Schedule of payments March 2013

Mark Adsett	Gardeners contract payment	£483.33	
Mrs K. Dare	Clerks expenses (home & telephone)	£17	
	Equipment for Bingo Club	£236.70	
	Travel	£15.60	
	Fenceposts	£18.12	
	Total	£287.42	
WSCC	Salary and on costs (February)	£844.93	
Plusnet	Broadband	£17.99	DD
M. Woolley	travel expenses	£14.50	
P. Newell	lunch club equipment	£122.94	

## **REPORT FROM NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDENS MARCH 2013**

### **Jayne**

Some good news on the Jayne front she has been recently back to the specialist and he is pleased that her knee is healing well. She is now moving onto physiotherapy and is hoping that as soon as she is confident enough to get back to "light" duties here in Ashington. This hopefully will be only a few weeks from now.

### **Lunch Club**

We have just had our second lunch club of the year which is proving to be successful already. We had more turn up to this club than last month which is great news. We continue to advertise the club locally and in neighbouring areas and welcome anyone to attend. In February we raised enough funds from our first lunch club to pay for the food and just about the hall costs. So hopefully moving forward we will be fine. We are in the process of putting together a club constitution and will shortly be going through the process of getting our own bank account etc.

### **Saxon Weald Grant**

A big thank you must be extended to Saxon Weald for a very generous grant of £500 towards the Lunch club and bingo club. This funding will secure the future of both clubs most certainly for the year and quite likely further. We hope that we continue to get the current support for the months to come.

### **Bingo Club**

Our first bingo session isn't until 29<sup>th</sup> of March, yes good Friday, and we hope to get a similar support for that as we did our lunch club. We are aiming to have an evening of 10 games split into two halves. First half for prizes the second for cash prizes, with an interval of light refreshments.

### **White Van**

There has been a large white van parked outside the flooring shop / pharmacy for a good number of weeks. The van appeared all in order but unfortunately was making access to the shops and houses / flats behind awkward at best. Finally thanks to some persuasive support from Sussex Police the van has now moved. It appears to have belonged to someone in Sompting or nearby.

### **Co-op**

The co-op was recently part of Sussex Police's Operation Teepee, which is their operation to carry out test purchasing along with their licencing team. They send in a volunteer / cadet who are under 18 or younger to try and purchase age related goods. I am pleased to inform everyone that the CO-OP passed this test. This certainly bolsters our opinion that a tighter ship is being run there. Also for everyone's information the CO-OP is now closing at 10pm not 11pm. This was as of the 1<sup>st</sup> of March.

### **Problems with Elderly / Vulnerable Resident**

I have been working with one of our Elderly and Vulnerable residents to deal with a problem that has occurred whilst getting some help with her gardening. It appears there was a disagreement between two people who were working on her garden and as a result has led to a falling out with the resident stuck in the middle. In the end I had to attend one daytime to tell one of the "workers" to not go back on her property. This led to some significant confrontation and has resulted in me reporting the person to the Police. There are other issues along with this that I have referred to the Police and I continue to work with them to try and resolve the situation. This has unfortunately left the resident feeling vulnerable and a little worried about going out at all. I am with the help of Bryony our PCSO trying to reassure the resident and see what more can be done to resolve the whole thing.

### **Elderly Vulnerable Visits**

I have been working with one household in the village offering to help resolve some concerning fuel related overheads that appear to be excessive. They were extremely concerned about receiving a large bill for gas and electric and were worrying about how they would pay for it. Thankfully after contacting their supplier (spending several hours on the phone through their lovely call centre) we have managed to resolve the issue and found out that they were on completely the wrong sort of tariff for their usage. This serves as a good highlighting point for anyone paying large gas / electric bills. Are you on the right tariff? IF you know anyone that is struggling with the rising fuel costs please let us know as there is support for anyone out there who finds themselves in "fuel poverty".

*The Government defines fuel poverty as the need to spend more than 10% of household income to achieve adequate levels of warmth in the home and meet their other energy needs. Adequate warmth is defined as 21°C/23°C in the main living areas and 18°C in other areas.*

In addition I have been providing extra support to one family in the village who have received a lot of support from us in the past but who are going through a particular rough patch at the moment. I have been attending a few multi agency meetings ensuring the best possible care is put in place and championing the issues at hand.

### **Intelligence**

I have had cause to call the police on a number of occasions this month. I have reported a big Yellow Van / Truck that was seen driving around the village and the occupants inspecting peoples driveways probably looking for metal. I have reported a van for speeding and dangerous driving on the A24 that didn't seem to care when it undertook drivers and even set off the speed camera near to the old barn. I have passed on details to operation crackdown of two drivers both driving on their mobiles one driving a large skip lorry. I have also had some recent intelligence passed to me that has also been passed onto the Police.

### **Suspicious Vehicles**

Following on from the above I have had a number of reports from residents that they have seen suspicious vehicles in and around Ashington. Particularly a white van driving around looking in driveways. I am keen to get residents to report this to the Police or at the very least to report the vehicle to the wardens. What would be most helpful is the Registration of the vehicle and times / locations seen. In addition the make / model of the vehicle and a description of the occupants / driver would also be great.

### **Short Mat Bowls**

I have recently joined one of the largest clubs in Ashington, the short mat bowls club. This has proven great fun and a perfect opportunity to meet and to get involved with some of the residents of Ashington and surrounding area. I continue to support the club and who knows one day might even represent Ashington in a match! I was surprised at how a game stereotyped for the elderly is actually both challenging and fun.

### **Youth**

It seems like the youth club has found a youth worker to cover their Wednesday night sessions at least as a short term solution. This gives a chance for a more permanent solution. I am continuing to work with the steering group on the issue of youth and am currently awaiting feedback from a meeting that was held between the different churches in the area to see what came of that. They were discussing the provision of youth workers in the district and it would seem to have been a successful meeting. I just need to find out the details before moving forward with anything as it would seem sensible to be on the same page rather than working cross purposes.

### **Steering Group**

We have been working to look at the Wardens Roll and reaffirm some clear cut priorities for 2013 and beyond. This is to reflect changes in “need” with the village of Ashington and to reflect certain issues that we find ourselves more involved with week to week.