



Ashington Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on 1st July 2010 at 7.30 p.m. in the Methodist Church, London Road, Ashington

Present: Councillors M. Woolley (Chairman), B. Norton, R. Brennan, J. Stillwell, R. Lancaster, N. Carver, T. Kearney, N. Clark

Parish Clerk Karen Dare

District Councillor Roger Arthur

Three member of the public and four young people

Invited Guests Andrew Smith & Stuart Fullwood

209/10 APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from Cllr D. Harbour (personal), K. Wood (illness), County Councillor Frank Wilkinson (holiday) & Neighbourhood Wardens Paul Conroy & Paul Buckman.

210/10 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None

211/10 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 3rd June 2010 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman. Proposed by Councillor Brennan and seconded by Councillor Norton, and agreed.

212/10 REPORT FROM THE NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDENS

Crime

Crime Serial nos generated for the following,

Break-ins to sheds - Billingshurst rd.

Car Break in and theft – Billingshurst rd.

Assault – Alicia Avenue

Anti – Social Behaviour

There have been incidents of rowdy youths gathering in Turnpike Way and Turnpike Play park. The area has been subject to extensive littering and some criminal damage. Suspect groups are known to us and we have dispersed them on numerous situations. We have increased Patrols and surveillance of the area. The period of fine weather has meant that large numbers of youths are enjoying the recreation areas in the village and littering has been a problem on the Recreation ground play parks and Skate Park.

We have also had reports of Dog fouling along the country path at the Cricketers close entrance and we are targeting the area with early morning patrols. There is evidence of drug use in the balancing pond area and we have liaised with Police to programme joint interventions. There has also been an incident of harassment to a resident living in Church Lane in the early hours of the morning.

Operation Crackdown

A copy of the monthly report for May 2010 can be forwarded to Councillors on request. Contact Karen Dare Parish Clerk.

Community

Ashington Wardens now have their own page on the Horsham and District Community Safety Website and we are charged with updating it regularly. Junior Wardens will be involved in Village tidy-ups in the coming month of July and a school visit targeting littering will take place at Ashington School prior to the school holidays.

Neighbourhood Wardens and local P.C.S.O's were on hand to give information and advice to residents on June 30th as part of a Police initiative targeting Rogue Traders. (Elderly and vulnerable were targeted in particular)

School Bus Initiative

A new initiative has been started by Ashington Wardens in partnership with local P.C.S.O,s and the Deputy Head of Rydon School. Wardens Paul Conroy, Paul Buckman and P.C.S.O. Hannah Venus will act as escorts on the School Buses from Rydon to Ashington. This enables Wardens and P.C.S.O.s to engage with young people from the school who are Ashington residents. It helps build relationships with young people and ensures additional security and reassurance to pupils, to parents to the School and Bus Drivers.

213/10 YOUNG PERSONS ADJOURNEMENT

An opportunity for young people to speak to the Parish Council. Four youngsters asked the Parish Council to consider:

1. New ramps for the skatepark eg 'Spine' as installed in Southwater, West Chiltington. May need the skatepark to be enlarged.
2. Many older children sit on the ramps and prevent use by the younger children
3. Need a new sign stating which equipment can be used on the ramps as some people are damaging the ramps by using go-karts, mini-mopeds
4. Some of the ramps need repair.

It was agreed that the Clerk would:

1. speak to the Wardens and ask them to be vigilant for mini-mopeds/go-karts and to discourage youngsters from sitting on the ramps
2. Investigate the provision of a new sign
3. Investigate the condition of the ramps as they had very recently been repaired
4. Speak to Southwater PC about the ramps in their skatepark.

The Chairman thanked the young people for attending and they left the meeting.

214/10 INVITED GUEST – ANDREW SMITH (HDCP) & STUART FULLWOOD (SAXON WEALD) – AFFORDABLE HOMES

Andrew Smith is visiting all Parishes to talk about affordable homes as part of HDC's Sustainable Communities Strategy objective of Better Places to Live.

Meiros Farm was currently at the planning application stage and includes provision for 13 affordable homes. A Developer (David Wilson Homes) would be building all of the houses but a Housing Association was currently being sought to manage the affordable homes on the development. Saxon Weald is one of the local Housing Associations currently bidding for the contract.

The majority of the affordable homes on the development would be offered for rent although some would be available for shared ownership. A Housing Association will own, manage and maintain the properties using reactive maintenance teams for immediate issues and planned maintenance teams for the more longer term issues. Housing Associations look after the properties well, to a good standard and remain landlords in perpetuity. There would be a dedicated Manager for this area whose responsibility it is to manage the tenants, lettings, maintenance etc.

HDCP has the responsibility of selecting the Housing Association. The Developer can invite bids from any number of Housing Associations. Affordable Homes development needs subsidy from Government, however, in the current economic climate, these subsidies may not be available. HDC does have some funds set aside for affordable homes in Ashington from other housing schemes (Linfield Lane development). HDC is keen to see the Meiros Farm development delivered asap.

All of the affordable homes on the Meiros Farm development will be for local people. Ashington is a Category 2 settlement (with limited facilities) and affordable homes must be offered to people with a local link. The Parish Council will be asked to nominate a ring of reserve parishes where people can be selected from, only if there are not enough people with Ashington connections to fill the houses. It is highly unlikely that this will happen.

There are a number of selection criteria for allocating people to the affordable homes:

1. Must have been living in the Parish for ? years – Parish Council to discuss
2. Must have lived in the Parish in the past for a significant period of time
3. Must have close family in the Parish – parents/children/brother/sister, NOT distant relative
4. Must be working full time in the parish

These selection criteria apply equally to older and younger people – there may be cases where older people wish to move into the Parish to be close to a son/daughter for care reasons.

The Parish Council would be involved in the Housing Association processes that make sure that these criteria are being applied correctly. These criteria remain the same forever and not just for the first occupants of the homes.

Anyone wanting to move into one of these homes MUST be on the Housing Register with HDC. Clerk to put an article in the next Newsletter. **KD D**

Shared ownership homes are not available for outright purchase – maximum 80% owned, 20% Housing Association. This is to stop them being bought outright and lost as affordable homes. Experience shows that tenants rarely buy the 80% because if they have this much money they usually move out of the Housing Association home into a market home. If a part owner wishes to move then the Housing Association will try to find a local buyer – the home cannot be sold to someone not on the housing register, with no local connection or not in need. These homes are often advertised for sale locally in village magazines, newsletters etc to try to find a local purchaser. The Housing Association still retains its % share of the house.

A member of the public asked if the homes could be adapted for a disabled person. If the Developer is aware that an affordable home is for a particular disabled person then the home can be modified at the construction phase. The vast majority of new homes are wheelchair accessible and the accommodation is flexible enough to be adapted for future needs.

Cllr Clark asked about the cost of home ownership. All of the homes will be built to current standards (Code for Sustainable Homes Level 3) with maximum insulation etc, therefore the running costs will be lower than if the homes were not built to this standard. It is difficult for a Housing Association to influence the development when it is not the actual developer of the site.

How affordable is affordable? The shared ownership homes are for people who earn too much to qualify for the rented homes but not enough to be able to afford a market home. Rent levels are set locally based on local housing association rental information. Recently opened new affordable homes in Amberley cost £89 per week for a one bedroom flat, £100 per week for a 2 bedroom flat.

If occupants of an affordable home see their salaries increase experience shows that they tend not to remain in the affordable home for too long and they want to buy their own homes.

The Housing Association will encourage under-occupiers to move to smaller properties and will not allow any sub-letting.

If, in the very long term, the affordable homes need to be knocked down and replaced then the new homes will remain affordable – they cannot be replaced by market homes. If the Housing Association goes into liquidation then the affordable homes will be re-allocated to another Housing Association.

All of the rules governing the running of the homes, selection of tenants/owners etc is written into s106 legal agreements.

HDC will be reviewing the planning application at the July or August Development Control South Committee meeting. It is hoped that work may start

in 2010 and the project will last 18 months. It is highly likely that the Developer will not build the affordable homes until the end of the development. It is highly unlikely that the Developer will start the project and not complete it although this is for the Developer to decide.

The Chairman re-iterated the Parish Council's support for the project and welcomed further input into the process when the time is right. The Chairman thanked the invited guests and they left the meeting.

215/10 REPORT FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Frank Wilkinson is on holiday but reports that Chanctonbury CLC approved the speed limit reduction along Billingshurst Road to 30mph. There is a formal notification procedure to go through. The Chairman thanked County Councillor Wilkinson for his efforts on this matter.

District Councillor Roger Arthur reported that:

1. He was still chasing WSCC to have Laybrook Brickworks removed from their list of possible landfill sites. Given the Corby ruling whereby atmospheric pollutants were clearly linked to an increase in birth defects he argues that a landfill site with 4000 homes within 3km is potentially dangerous and that WSCC should be re-assessing the risk.
2. The Government Grant to HDC is reducing by 25% and HDC is having to reduce their costs and find ways of increasing their income. There are NO plans to reduce the bin emptying frequency to fortnightly as some other Councils have done. The contents of the weekly non-recyclables bin can include nappies, food etc and this would stink if left un-emptied for 2 weeks during summer months. The new Acorn Plus collection scheme had increased recycling rates to 60% and was seen as highly successful.

Cllr Brennan asked why there were still 3 operatives on the new Acorn Plus collection vehicles as the service should only need 2 operatives. District Councillor Arthur reported that there would be a reduction in staffing numbers in the long term but, while the scheme was still being rolled out, the three operatives were needed.

Cllr Stillwell commented that she was staggered at how full her blue bin is every fortnight. District Councillor Arthur reported that it is possible to purchase an additional blue bin.

Bottle banks were used much less at present as glass can now be disposed of in the blue bins and it is possible that in the long term the bottle banks could be removed from the village. Clerk to speak to ACCT about this. **KD D**

ACTIONS OUTSTANDING:

D = Minuted but deleted from next agenda.

C/F = Minuted and carried forward to 'Actions Outstanding' on the next agenda.

To list = moved to the list at the end of the minutes until some progress is made

216/10 Item 193 RASP Programme



Cllr Clark and the Clerk are finalising a list of equipment to confirm that expenditure matches the RASP grant. **KD C/F**

217/10 Item 209 Resignation of Councillor Karen Hayler

No candidates have yet come forward. The Clerk has extended the deadline for the vacancy to 31st July. Cllr Norton reminded those present that anyone with a business in the village could apply to be a Parish Councillor even if they were not resident in the village. **KD C/F**

218/10 Item 213 Annual Inspection of Council Land

The Clerk is following up on the suggested actions and obtaining the necessary quotes. She had received one quote of £350 to remove the dead wood from the trees around the Posthorses play area. Agreed by all. **KD To list**

219/10 Item 215 Hanging baskets

From last meeting – the Council would need to buy 10 more hanging baskets (they are sold in half containers) to fill the remaining 5 empty lampposts.

Capital costs:

Cost of baskets & brackets = £397

Installation of brackets = £100 (estimate for someone like Mark Adsett to buy jubilee clips and put the brackets up ready for next year)

Total capital cost = £497

This could be met from Calor funds, recent Quality Council grant, s106 funds

Ongoing additional costs:

Cost to plant up basket = £9.50each = £95

Watering = £100 (based on current price of £60 per week to water 50 baskets for 16 weeks)

Installation of baskets = £50 (we will have to pay Mark Adsett to put the baskets up each year as we cannot always expect Councillors to do it)

Total additional annual cost = £245

The Council already budgets £1600per annum for the baskets and would be adding an additional £245 to this for the extra baskets.

Concerns were expressed about incurring additional costs at a time when Councils are having to find cost-savings. The Clerk confirmed that whilst the Government had prohibited increases in District and County Council's Council Tax, this rule does not apply to Parish Councils. Councillors discussed the amenity value of the baskets, distribution of baskets along London Road and considered the various options. The Chairman called for a vote by show of hands:

For = 6

Against = 2

It was agreed to purchase the baskets from Calor Village of the Year Funds.

KD To list

In addition, Councillors discussed the hanging and removing of the baskets – traditionally Nick Carver & Brian Norton plus others have done this but it was

agreed to employ a contractor with the correct public liability insurance and equipment etc to undertake this as part of the hanging basket contract in future years. The Chairman thanked Cllrs Norton & Carver for their contribution over the years. Clerk to add to the hanging basket watering contract. **KD D**

CORRESPONDENCE

220/10 For action:

1. West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service public consultation. Clerk to respond. **KD D**

2. ACCT – asking if the Parish Council will act as independent adjudicator in the case of any disputes over hall hire. Parish Councillors agreed in principle but need ACCT to write a process. It was suggested that:

- a. The PC is only involved if ACCT fail to resolve the matter to the satisfaction of either party
- b. Three Councillors hear the evidence and make a recommendation to full Council
- c. Press and Public are excluded from deliberations
- d. Clerk to report decisions to ACCT
- e. Councillors to declare any Interests in the matter in the normal way.
- f. No appeals – the Parish Council is the final stage in the process.

Clerk to communicate to ACCT. **KD C/F**

3. Managing West Sussex Rights of Way questionnaire & meeting. Clerk to respond. **KD D**

4. Gypsy Awareness Seminar 19th July. No volunteers.

5. Future of Ashington Methodist Church. Councillors expressed concern at the possible loss of this valuable village asset and asked the Clerk to communicate with the Rector the Parish Council's interest in the fate of the building. **KD D**

6. HDC – review of licensing policy. Clerk to respond. **KD D**

221/10 For information:

1. Agenda & minutes – HALC
2. Sussex Police messages
3. HDC – new standard for responding to correspondence
4. WSCC – collaborative working opportunities. The Clerk attended a meeting where the principle of collaborative working was explained. More details will follow in due course.
5. Improving Mental Health in West Sussex – update
6. Sussex Badger Trust – visit to Broadbridge Farm
7. Lifestyles of 14 to 15 year olds in West Sussex 2010.

222/10 General:

1. Play Day – 4th August 2010
2. West Sussex LINK website
3. Southern Water newsletter
4. Clerks & Councils Direct

223/10 PUBLIC ADJOURNMENT

A member of the public asked:

1. Why the replacement lamppost on London Road did not match the other lampposts. The Clerk was writing to WSCC to express the Council's dissatisfaction with this replacement light. **KD C/F**
2. Why trees have been removed from the highway verge outside Dongara. The Clerk was aware that the owner of Dongara had spoken to WSCC but would ask WSCC if they had given permission for the trees to be removed. **KD D**
3. If it was possible for the village to have a flagpole. Councillors felt that this was a good idea but not the right time to be considering additional expenditure. **D**

224/10 PLANNING.

The Planning Committee met on 16th June and Councillors have been provided with a copy of the minutes. The minutes were agreed by all and signed by the Chairman.

225/10 Proposed Open Composting Facility at Broadbridge Farm

The Parish Council's response to the application was submitted to both WSCC and HDC on 23rd June. Councillors agreed to ask the Planning Consultant to speak at both District and County Committee hearings on the Council's behalf. The hourly rate is £110ph and speaking at committee or following up the objection would be charged at that rate, again with VAT and disbursements. Disbursements cover travel, copying, communication etc. Councillors felt that this was such an important issue that proper representation was required.

The Council has been informed that the Residents Association response was submitted on 1st July.

The Chairman updated Councillors on various activities that had taken place since the last Council meeting and all agreed to ask the Clerk to organise an article for the village email to thank those that had responded and encourage further responses before the deadline of 2nd July. **KD D**

Cllr Brennan asked why no-one had organised any banners for the village. The Chairman responded that time had been limited and this sort of activity is normally a Residents Association matter. The Parish Council would not normally become involved in this way as this was a function of the Residents Association. It was likely that there would be further opportunity for lobbying before the HDC/WSCC Committee meetings and banners/protests/marches may be organised at this stage.

226/10 Correspondence

New Enforcement Complaints:

EN/10/0353 Breach of condition 3 of DC/07/0872 (No work on site until existing close boarded fence separating the approved parking area from remainder of curtilage of 10 Timberlea Close is removed) - 10 Timberlea Close

227/10 Amendments

None

228/10 Applications

DC/10/1159 Retrospective planning for a glass garden room to the rear of the property - The Springs Malthouse Lane. The Council had no objections.

Horsham District Council

229/10 Approvals

DC/10/0731 Alterations to second floor to facilitate change the use from hotel accommodation to residential staff accommodation (Listed Building Consent) - Mill House Hotel Mill Lane

DC/10/0764 Single-storey glazed extension to rear of property - 9 Church Close

DC/10/0669 Single storey extension - Rosha House Billingshurst Road

230/10 Refusals

DC/10/0908 Demolition of rear part of existing building and erection of 2 x 2-bed self contained flats - Post Horses London Road

DC/10/0810 Demolition of flat roofed garage and rebuild with pitch roof garage with dormer windows, storage and studio above - Mill Lodge Mill Lane

DC/10/0530 Fell 1 x Horse Chestnut Tree - 6 Woelfs Close

231/10 Withdrawals

None

The next Planning Committee meetings are scheduled for 14th & 28th July 2010 at 7.00pm in the new Parish Office.

FINANCE

232/10 Correspondence

ACCT – copy of annual accounts

HDC – Environmental cleansing grant for 10/11 is £2979.50

233/10 Income

Donation to First Responders £550

234/10 Expenditure

			Cheque no.
Donation to Ashington Methodist Church (meeting 1 st July £20)		£20	1071
Mark Adsett	Gardeners contract payment	£446.25	
	Hanging basket watering	£240.00	1072
	Covert Mead ditch & Hedge (as Agreed 4 th March 2010)	£365.00	1082

Mrs. K. Dare	Clerks expenses (home & telephone)	£17	
	Stationery	£97.29	
	Total	£114.29	1073
WSCC	Salary and oncosts (May)	£738.51	1074
Mayfield Nursery	Hanging baskets	£475	1075
BT	Phone bill inc. installation (from RASP grant)	£183.75	1076
SLCC	subscription	£106	1077
Zurich Insurance	cctv camera	£62.10	1078
3B Ramps	skatepark repairs	£596.90	1079
HDC	dog bin emptying	£98.28	1080
PWL	public works loan	£3110.12	BACS
Parker Dann Ltd	planning consultant	£1088.61	1081

The Clerk requests a bank transfer of £5000 from Deposit to Current accounts to cover the above payments.

It was resolved that the schedule of payments shown above be approved for payment. Agreed by all.

235/10 MEETINGS

Cllrs Stillwell & Clark attended the monthly Wardens meeting (notes circulated separately). The meetings are designed to co-ordinate Parish Council/HDC/Wardens and Police issues and activities.

Cllrs Lancaster, Woolley, Harbour & Clark attended the recent Community Action Plan Steering Group meeting. Cllr Lancaster had been elected as the new Chairman of the Group. The Group is currently trying to make sure it has links with the whole community on an ongoing basis by establishing contact with the leaders of all of the organised groups in the village. The AiRS database has the Action Plan loaded but it needs updating and groups are asked to provide their own group plans to the Steering Group so that these can be added to the database.

Cllr Woolley attended the Chanctonbury CLC meeting.

236/10 MINOR MATTERS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS

Cllr Kearney asked when the silt from the pond dredging would be moved and the new drainage ditches created at the rear of Chanctonbury. Clerk to chase the contractor.

KD C/F



Cllr Kearney had been informed by CMG Area Manager that they have no intention of re-opening the Care Homes on Hillcrest Drive either now or in the future. They would like to see the houses revert back to residential use.

Cllr Brennan asked if there was any news about redevelopment of Hoots House. No-one present knew anything. The Clerk was asked to try to find the owner of the property as the Parish Council would like to see the property put to some use.

KD C/F

Cllr Lancaster re-iterated the problems with the newly installed lamppost on London Road. Clerk to speak to WSCC.

KD C/F

Cllr Lancaster reported that he had recently enjoyed a very pleasant meal at the Yokebourne – the newly re-opened restaurant at the Mill House Hotel.

Cllr Carver reported that a large Developers sign had been installed at Meiros Farm but, for some reason, had been quickly removed by the Developer.

237/10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held at **7.30pm** on **Thursday 5th August 2010** at the Methodist Church, London Road.

The meeting finished at 9.45pm

Signed.....

Date.....

238/10 Items awaiting action:

Item No	Description	Last Action & Date
32b	Spur road of The Sands & Viney Close – streetlights & laybys	WSSC & HDC dealing with. Persimmon are not co-operating and HDC/WSSC continue to pursue the matter (Nov 09)
85	Community Action Plan	Steering Group dealing with. D
202	Parish Office	Waiting for ACCT to amend lease.
207	Drainage of the land to the rear of Chanctonbury	To be done at the same time as the pond silt is moved.
	Add cctv camera to insurance schedule	Clerk wrote in March 09 and December 09 D

239/10 WSCC Highways Issues

Fault	Date reported	Reference no	Comments
Trees on north side of recreation ground need cutting back	24 th July 2007	Email to Highway Rangers	County Councillor to ask WSCC to cut as ownership unclear
tree on London Road opposite the Methodist Church is dead	3 rd August 2007	WSEK-75QDJG	Has been felled, April 08. Awaiting replacement
Sign beside A24 at Mill Lane junction discouraging crossing at that point	WSCC are designing a sign and will pass to the PC for approval	July 08	
large white concrete blocks on the highway verge opposite the entrance to Holmbush House, Old London Road	Reported to Highways Sept 08 Reported again Dec 08		
Flooding at The Willows, Mill Lane	WSCC arranging for additional trash screen and will enlarge & vent the manhole cover to allow better flow of water & easier clearance	June 2009	The Environment Agency have inspected and see no reason not to install a second trash screen. Subject to written confirmation.
Reduce speed limit on Hole Street to 40mph	WSCC to add to TRO priority list	Clerk to write to WSCC Written to WSCC	August 2009 Sept 09
Hole Street road name plate at Kensetts corner is broken.	Clerk reported to HDC	HDC to replace at a slightly different location. WSCC informed that road signs in the area are damaged	December 09 D