



Ashington Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd July 2015 at 7.45 p.m. in Ashington School, Foster Lane, Ashington

Present: Councillors K. Wood, T. Kearney, N. Clark, S. Cox, G. MacPherson, S. Ball

Parish Clerk Karen Dare

County Councillor Philip Circus

6 members of the public

Louise Di Castiglione – Councillor candidate

The Vice-Chairman reminded members of the public the requirement that they limit their participation to the Public Adjournment sections of the meeting. If Members of the Public have questions for Police/Wardens & District/County Councillors then the Clerk will pass these on if these individuals have left the meeting.

Members of the Public are reminded that Standing Orders allow for 5 minutes maximum participation.

206/15 APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE

M. Woolley & R. Strudwick (business), N. Spiers & J. Stillwell (personal),
Neighbourhood Wardens Jayne Jeffrey & Andy Webster (off-shift)

207/15 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

The Chairman reminded Councillors that previous declarations still stand. Cllr Wood declared a personal, prejudicial interest in planning application DC/15/1312 as he is a near neighbour.

208/15 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 4th June 2015 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman. Proposed by Councillor Wood and seconded by Councillor Cox, and agreed.

209/15 CO-OPTION TO FILL THE VACANCY ON THE PARISH COUNCIL

Louise Di Castiglione has been nominated and the Clerk had circulated a brief summary of her credentials.

She briefly introduced herself to the Council. Councillors agreed the co-option and she took her space at the Council table.

210/15 REPORT FROM THE NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDENS & YOUTH WORKER

Wardens report (See Appendix 1).

Questions for the Wardens from Councillors: None

Youth Worker

Report (see Appendix 3).

Questions: None

A meeting of the Community Partnership group took place on 2nd July and Councillors will be provided with a copy of the minutes in due course.

211/15 YOUNG PERSONS ADJOURNMENT

None present.

212/15 REPORT FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

District & County Councillor Philip Circus reported:

1. Could the Clerk copy District Councillor John Blackall in on agendas, minutes etc.
2. Several new HDC Councillors had tried to overturn the Horsham District Planning Framework as they were not happy with major developments being allocated north of Horsham. Had this gone through then it would have been disastrous for Horsham District as Developers would have been able to put homes anywhere and Neighbourhood Plans would have been worthless. Fortunately their motion was narrowly defeated and the Planning Framework is now expected to be approved by the Planning Inspector and formally adopted by HDC in October 2015. Essentially the Planning Framework allocates sites for development north of Horsham and in Southwater with other sites coming forward through the Neighbourhood Planning process or as 'windfall' sites.
3. He had spoken to Highways Officers about the lack of a Give Way sign at the exit slip road from Kate's Cakes and they confirmed that the exit is a 'merge' and not a 'give way' and therefore does not require a sign. He is not satisfied with this response and will pursue this with officers.
4. WSCC are not cleaning any road signs at present due to lack of money.
5. Both HDC and WSCC are pleased that the Airports Commission has recommended a new runway at Heathrow and not Gatwick. A new runway at Gatwick would have urbanised the area north of Horsham even further and the rail network could not have coped with additional passenger volumes.

Questions:

1. Cllr Cox asked why HDC Councillors were trying to scupper the Planning Framework – political infighting, some members had stated in their election manifesto that they would try to overturn the Plan. Philip Circus hoped that all Councillors could now work together with the communities to get the best out of

the new developments for the local communities. Govt. policy is forcing house building in the District and HDC is trying to put them in the least worst locations. Villages in the south of the District don't have the infrastructure and are not suitable for anything other than minor development.

The Chairman thanked County Councillor Philip Circus for his report.

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

213/15 VAS Sign Billingshurst Road

It would appear that all s106 projects have been put 'on hold' by WSCC without informing parishes. County Councillor Philip Circus will raise this at the CLC meeting next week. He assured those present that Ashington s106 transport funds must be spent for the benefit of Ashington and could not be used by WSCC to support other projects.

KD C/F

214/15 Annual inspection of Council land

The inspection took place 1st July and a report has been issued. There are a few minor bits of work that need doing and the Clerk will sort these out.

KD D

CORRESPONDENCE

215/15 For action:

1. English Rural Housing Association – asking the PC to support its campaign against the 'right to buy' affordable homes in rural areas. Agreed by all.

216/15 For information:

1. Horsham District crime statistics May 2015
2. Boundary Review of WSCC

217/15 General:

1. Local Council Review magazine

Cllr Ken Wood left the meeting table and sat in the public gallery.

218/15 PUBLIC ADJOURNMENT

The Chairman explained that, in order that residents got the most benefit from their 5 mins maximum participation time, Councillors would listen to residents questions without debate or comment but would follow up on the items either by reporting back at the next meeting or directly to the individual outside of the meeting.

Members of the public reported:

Gerry Asprey reported that the footpath north of Sparrows Lane was overgrown. The Clerk agreed to send him a link to the WSCC iMap and details of how to report this issue.

KD D

Margaret Alford asked:

1. Philip Circus where all the children from the proposed new developments would go to school as Ashington School is full. He responded that this issue should be raised at the CLC meeting. Clerk to circulate details of the CLC meeting to Parish Councillors. **KD D**
2. What is happening with the Neighbourhood Plan as volunteers haven't heard anything in a while? The Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council is not rushing ahead with the Plan as there is still some uncertainty on the validity of Neighbourhood Plans (see Minute 212/15) and until HDC's Planning Framework is formally adopted it may be unwise to spend time and money. The Clerk is preparing formal documents so that the Steering Committee and Focus Groups can be started.

Brian Norton asked about the recent publicity surrounding planning application DC/14/1695. The Clerk confirmed that the Council had discussed this application many months ago and she had checked the recent posters and confirmed that they were simply re-advertising the same application. The Council's previous objection still stands and is available for all to see on HDC's website.

Ray Farrell asked:

1. What did the Parish Council think about the recent exhibition by Linden Homes for houses at Chanctonbury Nurseries. The Clerk responded by clarifying that the Parish Council did not currently have an opinion as it had not yet been presented with or discussed the plans. Some Councillors had attended the exhibition as residents, not Councillors. Until the Council meets with the Developer it does not have an opinion. The Developer will attend the Planning Committee meeting on 15th July at 7.30pm in the sports pavilion.
2. Why have none of the highways repairs been done yet? County Councillor Philip Circus responded that he was equally as frustrated with the lack of highways action. He did suggest that WSCC may look to devolve work to District or Parish levels. The Clerk responded that WSCC had tried this before but had been unwilling to hand over the correct finances and Parish budgets would be required to pay for the repairs. Parishes have neither the resource (money or people) nor expertise to take on this kind of work.
3. Several large oak trees had been cut down on land to the west of Penn Retreat. Cllr Wood would investigate. **KW C/F**

Ken Wood commented on planning application DC/15/1312 – he considered that the extension should be tile hung and not rendered as this would be more in keeping with the street scene. He had no other comments.

The Chairman thanked residents for their comments and closed the public adjournment.

219/15 PLANNING.

The Planning Committee met on 17th June and Councillors have been provided with a copy of the minutes. Agreed by all.

220/15 Correspondence None

221/15 Neighbourhood Plan update:

The Clerk is beginning to get documents ready so that Focus and Steering Groups can be started. Following some research it was suggested that Focus Groups are re-named – economy, infrastructure, transport, housing and environment. The groups are consistent with HDC's Local Plan. The Council had previously agreed economy, infrastructure, transport, environment and community facilities focus groups but had no 'housing' group. Community facilities can be incorporated into the infrastructure group. Agreed by all. KD C/F

222/15 New Enforcement Allegations/Information

None

223/15 Amendments

None

224/15 Applications

DC/15/1034 Two storey extension – 18 Turnpike Way

The Council has no objections but has two concerns:

1. the garage is very close to the pavement and its guttering/fascias may overhang the pavement.
2. there is a culvert pipe under the proposed garage and this must not be damaged as it is an important piece of infrastructure, taking surface water from north to south in the village.

Cllr Wood left the room.

DC/15/1312 Two storey side extension – 5 Fairfield Road. The Council has no objections but suggests that tile hanging may fit the street scene better than a rendered finish.

Cllr Wood returned to the meeting.

DC/15/1375 Surgery to 1 x horse chestnut tree – 6 Woelfs Close

The Council objects due to a lack of information submitted with the application. There is no tree surgeon's report. The tree is of significance in the street scene and should not be touched until a full tree surgeons report is submitted.

DC/15/1239 Extension to existing house – Batts Farm, Billingshurst Road

The Council has no objections and would only comment that the extension must not be sold off as separate accommodation.

Horsham District Council

225/15 Approvals

DC/15/0842 Detached garage – 4 Greenacres

DC/15/1127 Notice of intention to remove 1no. existing equipment cabinet and the installation of 2no. new cabinets on a proposed new concrete plinth extension. In addition, the replacement of 3no. existing telecommunications antenna with 3no new telecommunications antenna at a height of 17m on the existing 18m high radio tower, together with development ancillary thereto - Hutchinson 3G UK Limited Aerial Mast Sewage Works London Road

226/15 Refusals

None

227/15 Withdrawals

None

228/15 Appeals made/ decisions

APP/Z3825/W/15/3035788 - DC/14/1944 Outline planning application (inc Access and Scale) for the construction of up to four dwellings on undeveloped land to the north of Ashington and immediately adjacent to the eastern edge of the defined build up area boundary – Yew Tree Cottage, Billingshurst Road

The next Planning Committee meetings are scheduled for 15th & 29th July at 7.30pm in Ashington Sports Pavilion.

FINANCE

229/15 Correspondence

1. The Chairman reported to Councillors that after 10 years of service the Clerk had decided to resign with effect from 31st August. It was agreed that the Clerk & Chairman would meet asap to put together a job specification etc as the Council could not start the recruitment process until hours of work, salary scale etc had been agreed. **KD C/F**
2. Both Councillors MacPherson & Ball have confirmed that they wish to waive their claim to the annual Councillors allowance but retain the right to claim out of pocket expenses.

230/15 Income

Kite & Thomas – rent & roundabout sponsorship £2077.50

HDC – S106 grant for electrical boxes for MSC lights (exc VAT) £41.28

231/15 Expenditure

		Cheque no.	
Mark Adsett	Gardeners contract payment	£508.33	1665
	Hanging basket watering (4 weeks x £65, for 16 weeks)	£260.00	
Mrs K. Dare	Clerks expenses (home & telephone)	£17	
	Parking	£1.60	
	Travel to Horsham	£9.00	

	Total	£27.60	1666
WSSC	Salary and on costs (June)	£1087.35	1667
ACCT	Planning committee 17/06/15	£3.80	1668
Ashington PCC	Youth Worker June 2015	£1083.33	1669
Bill Whittaker	Electrical boxes for MSC lights	£49.53	1670
Ferring Nurseries	Hanging baskets	£1038.55	1671
Public Works Loan	repayment of building loan for community centre	£3110.12	BACS

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

232/15 MEETINGS

The Clerk, Cllr Clark & Cllr Stillwell had attended a Chanctonbury Youth Project Community Partnership meeting on 2nd July (minutes circulated separately to Councillors).

The Clerk, Cllr Clark & Cllr Stillwell had attended a Wardens Steering Group meeting on 2nd July.

The Clerk attended a meeting in Horsham on 11th June.

233/15 MINOR MATTERS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS

1. Councillors agreed that this years' hanging baskets are excellent.

The next meeting will be held at **7.45pm on Thursday 6th August 2015 at Ashington School, Foster Lane.**

The meeting finished at 8.50pm

Signed.....

Date.....

234/15 APPENDIX 1: REPORT FROM NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDENS

Criminal Damage

Turnpike play area minor damage (Graffiti) has been made to the wooden frame of the tyre swing. Also fence posts have been broken, all has since been repaired.

Anti-Social Behaviour

Turnpike area has been particularly bad this month, with youth gathering in this spot. There have been numerous reports made to us about youths regarding behaviour, being loud, shouting, underage drinking and driving cars in an anti-social manner in this area. We are fully aware of the offenders and have had words with those involved, we are also upping our patrols of this area when we are on duty. When seeing youth we are moving them on from this area.

Litter picks have been made in the area on a regular basis and we have been liaising with residents in this area, we have reminded the residents also that they need to phone any anti-social behaviour through to the police as and when it is occurring, giving as much detail as possible of offenders and vehicles involved in the anti-social behaviour. There have also been reports of anti-social behaviour outside the co-op, police were called and this was dealt with. Due to this incident we have been having regular weekly meetings with the manager of co-op to work together to reduce anti-social behaviour in this area.

Lots of reports of anti-social behaviour on the Rec involving a large group of youth. Involving underage drinking, substance misuse, urinating in public spaces and generally inappropriate behaviour. All intelligence gathered and passed to the police. When we spoke to them they were just in high spirits due to it being leaver's day at Steyning grammar. On a plus note we asked them to collect all their litter when finished to which they did. When asked to be a bit more respectful to the residents around them they were compliant. With it being a large group we believe it was quite intimidating to residents.

The Youth

Still working with several youth across the village offering our support, guidance and when needed directing them to the relevant agencies that can help with their ongoing issues. Thanks to several of the youth who are regularly getting involved with lunch club and vintage tea, their help makes it easier to facilitate these events.

We are currently planning an afternoon where the youth will be available to help educate older residents with operating mobile phones and other forms of technology; we are currently trying to work out a date for when this can take place.

The youth worker has purchased some portable lights that can be used in the youth shelter, we are currently letting the youth use them for a five pound deposit. We also need to sit down and discuss with the youth worker some outreach work to place across the village in the summer holidays.

Anti-social Driving

There have been many complaints this month of anti-social driving across the village the main area being the roundabout at the top of the village. We have spoken to some of those concerned all other information regarding car information, make, model etc. All have been reported on operation crackdown.

Other reports have been made to operation crackdown regarding those driving under the influence of alcohol and/or Illicit substances.

If anybody witnesses any form of anti-social driving could they please phone it through on 101 to the police non-emergency or report online to operation crackdown.

Neighbourhood Watch.

We are looking to arrange a meeting with the Neighbourhood watch street co-ordinator to update with names that we have been given, by volunteers who wish to act as neighbourhood watch members.

Street Watch

We are currently in the planning stages of a new scheme to combat the limited services to the village by cutbacks to this end we are looking at starting a volunteer run street watch program. This in essence means that we would have volunteers from across the village working alongside us when we are working late shifts patrolling the streets as ears and eyes, reporting anything that is suspicious or suspect that they feel needs attention to us or to the police. It has to be stressed this is a non-confrontational role and is purely as an observer. Volunteers would walk in pairs and walk around areas in the village that have become known as hotspot areas. Obviously we need to look into and discuss with relevant agencies and the feasibility of going ahead with a project such as this.

Community Speed watch

We are still waiting for named volunteers to come forward to become speed watchers. Once we have enough volunteers we will sign post them to the relevant agency to co-ordinate them and start this scheme.

Street Briefings

We are looking at doing a street briefing at the Co-op on the 17th of July between 6pm and 8pm, this is a good opportunity for residents to approach us with any concerns that they may have with issues across the village.

Dogs

Several dog walkers have approached us with descriptions and names of people who aren't picking up their dogs foul. We will monitor this and if caught we will be delivering on the spot fines.

We have had several complaints regarding dogs continually barking throughout the day and night. We will be delivering letters to residents in the area that the complaints are coming from to remind them that if leaving their dogs be mindful of neighbours and others around them if their dogs are prone to barking.

We have stated to those that have complained about this issue that if they feel at any time the dog involved is suffering they need to call the RSPCA.

Elderly/Vulnerable

The gentleman's club is now fully booked and will take place on Monday the 30th of June. We will be going to Shoreham airport. It is with thanks to the continuous support of the church volunteers that this club is starting, we hope that this is the start of many more trips for the gentleman of Ashington.

Minibus trips have been arranged for the elderly vulnerable group, starting with a trip to Asda on the 31st of June followed by a trip to Eastbourne of the 6th of July. These trips have been brought about by personal requests from the elderly vulnerable group. A trip in the end of July will be to visit Littlehampton in the evening for a fish and chip supper by the river.

We have been talking with the elderly vulnerable groups to make them aware of scams on the telephone, informing them about what to do if they receive a suspicious call and giving them advice. We have also been speaking to these groups about cold callers and door to door sellers, once again giving them advice about what to do when confronted with these individuals.

We are still doing lots of one to one visits with members of these groups, luckily thanks to the church volunteers we have managed to arrange for some of the elderly vulnerable to be visited by them on a regular basis. This we feel is a valuable service as it helps to prevent isolation and loneliness within their community.

Thanks to the church volunteers we have had a donation of raffle prizes for our elderly vulnerable clubs, this will help us fundraise to keep the clubs going.

Once again another busy month with the fitting of community link alarms to those vulnerable individuals that need the service.

235/15 APPENDIX 2 – PCSO Report April

A copy of the Horsham District monthly update for May 2015 has been put on the Parish Council's website www.ashingtonpc.org.uk

236/15 APPENDIX 3 Report on Ashington Youth Centre

236/15 APPENDIX 4 Funds held on behalf of others

First Responders Funds: £3713.26

Bingo Club: £213.51