



Ashington Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd October 2014 at 7.45 p.m. in Ashington School, Foster Lane, Ashington

Present: Councillors M. Woolley, R. Strudwick, J. Gichovi-Elias, B. Norton, K. Wood, D. Harbour, R. Brennan, R. Lancaster, T. Kearney & N. Clark
Parish Clerk Karen Dare
District Councillor Roger Arthur
County Councillor Philip Circus
11 members of the public
Invited Guest Angus Farquhar (representing Chanctonbury Nurseries)
Invited Guests Hugh James & Jonny Lower (representing Church Farm)

The 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.

281/14 APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE

Cllr N. Carver (personal), Neighbourhood Warden Jayne Jeffrey (supporting Youth Club), PCSO Bryony Sparks (off-shift).

282/14 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

The Chairman reminded Councillors that previous declarations still stand. The Chairman declared that he potentially has a prejudicial interest in the planning applications on tonight's agenda. Therefore, he has decided that when our invited guests speak he will move to the public gallery and when the Council determines the applications listed on tonight's agenda he will leave the room.

283/14 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 4th September 2014 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman. Proposed by Councillor Lancaster and seconded by Councillor Brennan, and agreed.

284/14 REPORT FROM THE NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDENS & PCSO

PCSO report (see Appendix 2).

Questions: None

Wardens report (See Appendix 1).

Questions for the Wardens from Councillors:

1. Cllr Harbour commented that the Warden is extremely busy and suggested that the Parish Council could:
 - a. Write a note of Thanks to Jayne – agreed by all. **KD D**
 - b. take over litter picking duties around the village – the Clerk reminded everyone that the Council has a number of volunteers who help litter pick around the village. The Clerk thanked Tom Walter for litter picking the skatepark area on a daily basis without being asked by the Parish Council.
 - c. Speed up the recruitment of the second Warden – the Clerk reminded those present that HDC had recently undertaken a review of employees job grades and there are some problems to sort out before a second Warden can be recruited.
 - d. The Clerk reminded those present that the Council had previously agreed to Neil Worth assisting the Warden for 6 hours per week as a short term measure.

Youth Worker

Report (see Appendix 3). The Youth Worker is hoping to open the club for 2 nights per week in the future, one for the younger and one for the older age groups.

Update on the joint PC/Church Youth project – the second round of recruitment has closed and the 3 candidates are all deemed suitable for interview which will take place shortly. **C/F**

Youth Shelter project – the shelter has been installed and the ‘opening ceremony will take place soon. There are some snagging issues but the installation team is returning on 6/10/14 to sort these out. The Clerk will not send payment until these issues are resolved. **D**

Warden recruitment

HDC have begun the process of reviewing the Wardens job description and role profile to ensure recruitment is at the right job grade. **C/F**

285/14 YOUNG PERSONS ADJOURNMENT

Thanked the Parish Council for the new Youth Shelter. There had been a lot of initial excitement from the youth resulting in some issues (climbing on roof, litter etc) but this would calm down. Village youths were split into two groups – one well behaved group and another less well behaved. The less well behaved group now realise that the better behaved group have achieved a Youth Shelter through dialogue with stakeholders. The less well behaved group may improve their behaviour now that they realise that good

behaviour can achieve things. Youths are keen to raise additional funds to purchase solar lighting.

There was some discussion about the positioning of the shelter – in its current position the youths cannot be seen easily but can easily be contained within the area. The location was a compromise between all parties and would be reviewed in 6-12 months. ACCT would be asked to maintain the hedge height so that the shelter is more open to views. All agreed that the shelter blends well into its environment.

The Chairman thanked the young people for attending the meeting.

Cllr Woolley moved to the public gallery and Cllr Clark took over as Chairman.

286/14 INVITED GUEST ANGUS FARQUHAR (REPRESENTING CHANCTONBURY NURSERIES)

Angus attended the January Parish Council meeting when the Parish was just embarking on the Neighbourhood plan. The landowner of Chanctonbury Nurseries has had since discussions with a number of developers and is in the final stages of the completion of legal agreements.

Angus introduced the preferred developer – Linden Homes (Kevin MacKenzie Land Director and Robin Pearmain Planning Manager attending) who updated the meeting on the application:

1. Linden Homes are the 5th largest housebuilder in the UK and pride themselves in designing homes individually by site using local materials and they are looking to bring a scheme to Ashington that residents will embrace.
2. They build 300-500 homes pa and have 2 schemes in Horsham District (Novartis site and a joint venture with Stonegate in Henfield) that they are working with Planning officers and local residents to gain approval.
3. They are very keen on public engagement at an early stage in the planning process – having 1:1 meetings with adjacent residents (half an hour each) to take them through the plans and address any concerns plus meetings with the Parish Council and other stakeholders including District and County Councils. Then they will hold a public exhibition where they will have consultants available to answer technical questions and feedback questionnaires.
4. The Scheme will evolve at every stage of the consultation process.
5. They are expecting to be in a position to submit an application in March/April 2015. If the application is approved then they will take vacant possession of the land and start work some 12 months later.
6. At this stage they are proposing @80 homes with 40% (32 homes) being affordable and managed by a Housing Association.
7. They view this site as previously developed land, an extension to the village and an opportunity to tidy up ie remove the existing glass houses.
8. The Developer has undertaken technical investigations including topographical surveys, soil investigation reports, ecology surveys, Highways and drainage etc and will address the issues raised prior to submitting an application.

Questions/comments from Councillors:

1. Concerns were expressed about the additional volumes of traffic along Rectory Lane – the road is narrow and there are many parked vehicles along the highway. Response – the highways consultant will take this into consideration. However, there are many vehicle movements currently to/from the site, including larger vehicles so additional movements may not be many.
2. Does Ashington have adequate sewer capacity? Response – No, the existing foul sewer infrastructure will need upgrading to accommodate the new homes.

Questions/comments from Members of the Public:

1. The site is contaminated with lots of broken glass under the soil surface. Response – the Developer will need to clean the site prior to construction and this will not be an easy task.
2. The school is currently full, where will the new children go? Response – the Developer will make the necessary s106 contributions for Education and it will be up to WSCC to decide how to spend the money.
3. There is no Doctor in the village, no old people's bungalows, no employment for young people. Response – no bungalows are planned in the new development. S106 money towards healthcare services will be provided and this will be spent where appropriate.
4. More information about the affordable homes was requested. Response – these will be managed by a Housing Association and will be a mix of rented and shared ownership. HDC specify what sizes are to be built but it is anticipated that there will be a range of sizes.
5. The road coming out of the site is very narrow. Response – the road will be widened as part of the development in consultation with WSCC.
6. The Rectory Lane/Meiros Way junction is dangerous with a history of many 'near misses'. Response – the highways consultant will look at this.
7. A resident of Blakiston Close pointed out that in their new development there had been issues with streetlights being too bright, poor landscape management and a reptile hibernacula which was installed but is useless because the grass around it is close cut. She asked the Developer to think about these aspects of the Development and ensure that they put steps in place to get these issues right.
8. The Developer stated that the development roads would be built to highways adoptable standard but the development would be a private estate.

The Chairman thanked the guests for attending the meeting.

287/14 INVITED GUEST J. LOWER, CHURCH FARM

Hugh James from ECE Planning introduced himself as representing the owner of Church Farm. He is aware that the Parish Council is embarking upon its Neighbourhood Plan which is community led and will address the wishes and needs of Ashington residents.

He presented Councillors with a map showing the extent of the land that belongs to Church Farm and informed those present that some or all of the land could be made available for projects identified through the Neighbourhood Plan process eg Doctors Surgery, extension of the school, affordable homes, accommodation for the elderly,

open space etc. He stressed that the land was not being put forward for housing development and no application is imminent but the Council should be aware of this offer and include it in the Neighbourhood Planning process. The land is currently used for agriculture, open space (used by the school and Scouts) and informal dog walking. It has good biodiversity. Some of the land is the site of a Roman Villa. There is @75 acres in total.

Questions/comments from Councillors:

1. Are you looking to develop the whole of the land? Response – not necessarily, maybe a small part with other parts remaining as open space/recreation. It depends what the village needs.
2. Have you approached Developers? Response – no, the first stop is the Parish Council. As the Neighbourhood Plan takes shape it may be appropriate to consult with Developers.
3. Access is limited, how would you get in/out of the site? Response – there is one access at Rectory Lane and another at Church Lane.
4. District Councillor Roger Arthur commented: HDC's LDF will be approved soon and any Developer will need to demonstrate a need for new homes in Ashington and they will need to be sustainable. Response – HDC are looking to allocate 2500 homes north of Horsham, 500 in Southwater and 1500 elsewhere in the District through the Neighbourhood Plan process. No housing levels have been set for Category 2 settlements and new homes would depend on local infrastructure.

Questions/comments from Members of the Public:

1. A retirement scheme is needed. There are many older people in large family homes but cannot downsize as this would mean moving out of the village.

The Chairman thanked Hugh James and Jonny Lower for attending the meeting.

Cllr Woolley resumed the Chair.

288/14 REPORT FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

District Councillor Roger Arthur reported:

1. HDC's LDF has been submitted to the Planning Inspector and the Public Examination period will start soon.

The Chairman thanked District Councillor Roger Arthur for his report.

County Councillor Philip Circus reported:

1. Villages like Ashington & Thakeham rely on Storrington as their 'hub' for shopping, banking, doctors etc. However, air pollution in Storrington is a real issue. WSCC will be making a Low Emission Zone Order for Storrington in early 2015. How can new developments in Ashington be considered sustainable when they will increase the vehicle movements in Storrington.

2. Saxon Weald has admitted ownership of the land at the north of the Recreation Ground.
3. The issue of streetlights in Penn Gardens has been resolved (see below).

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

289/14 Trees at Northern Edge of Recreation Ground

Lionel Mendoza, Land Manager at Saxon Weald has written: I write to confirm that the covenants affecting the strip of land indicate that Saxon Weald is the responsible party in respect of its maintenance to a reasonable standard. **D**

290/14 Ashington Multi Sports Court

ACCT have looked at the cost to change the floodlights from normal to LED bulbs. This would greatly save on the electricity cost and could mean that the court could be opened to the public free of charge during winter months. Councillors to consider whether this is a worthwhile project and, if so, suggest ways to pay for the bulb changes (eg Council play area earmarked funds, s106 funds etc). Three quotes have been received:

1. WF Ltd - £1730 exc VAT
2. Kew Electrical - £2039.90 exc VAT
3. CEF Ltd - £3390.40 exc VAT

Issues: the existing bulbs consume 7.2kW and the LEDs will consume 1.5kW; sodium bulbs can't be used as these emit orange light which is not suitable for ball courts; the whole light unit needs to be replaced – you can't simply replace the bulb; bulbs can't be replaced gradually as a mix of normal and LED bulbs will not work; the normal bulbs can't be switched on/off easily as they need time to warm up and cool down and this makes intermittent use of the court difficult whereas LEDs can be switched on/off; a scissor lift is needed to change the bulbs and it is costly to replace bulbs every time one needs changing; most football grounds now use LED bulbs; LEDs have a longer life than normal bulbs.

It was agreed that opening of the court with lights would be a great facility for the village and that the Chairman & Clerk should speak to ACCT about the finer details of this project, particularly analysing the cost/benefit of changing the bulbs. **C/F**

291/14 PC trees

At the Parish Council inspection of land on 23rd June it was decided that one tree on land fronting 1 Church Close should be removed as it is too close to a residents property and it is causing a nuisance (excessive shading, leaf drop, roots close to house etc) and it would only be a long term maintenance burden to the Council for little amenity benefit. It was agreed at the inspection that a second, similar tree be trimmed

this year rather than be removed. However, the Clerk was approached by another resident of Church Lane to complain that the second tree is causing them a similar nuisance and they wish for it to be removed. The second tree is of little amenity value and it would save maintenance costs if it were to be removed at the same time as the other tree.

Mark Adsett had hired a chipper for another job in the village and, at short notice, asked the Clerk if the second tree could be removed. She agreed in order to save the Council additional cost of hiring a chipper specifically for the job. Councillors approved this course of action. **D**

292/14 WSCC Highways matters

The Chairman & Clerk met with Philip Circus & Cali Sparks:

Penn Gardens – WSCC has confirmed that only 4 streetlights are WSCC responsibility, the others are the responsibility of the social housing landlord. Part of the road is public highway, the other part is not. WSCC have sent maps to the Clerk. WSCC have replaced the 4 streetlights that they are responsible for, the social landlord should be approached about the other lights.

The Chairman explained that the PC and WSCC had now agreed a way forward with all of the issues, however, WSCC had done nothing with any of the issues since they were first sent to them in 2013. None of the issues had been progressed onto any WSCC work lists and this was extremely disappointing.

All had agreed that the A24 noise was the highest priority but WSCC informed the Chairman & Clerk that they had never used 'noise reducing tarmac' anywhere in the County, ever. This is contrary to information that the Parish Council has been told over many years and has in writing. It seems that newer surfacing is naturally quieter than aged surfaces.

Other priorities were discussed (WSCC comments in blue):

1. Noise – resurface A24 with noise reducing tarmac. This is the number one priority for residents identified in the Community Action Plan 2010. Noise levels in some parts of the village are approaching the World Health Organisation's 'community nuisance' level. If WSCC were to do one significant thing for Ashington it would be this. Do we have any idea on a date for this? [The Parish will contact the District Council Environmental Health team to discuss the issue relating to noise, highlighting the need for further evidence and a wider study to look at the impact of noise. Any study work will help to assess the extent of the issue and determine the County and District responsibilities. Ideally we would look for any work to identify a range of options along with a cost benefit analysis. This would be needed before the County Council would consider if the resurfacing using noise reducing tarmac would be the best option as costs are likely to be around £1 – 1.5M for a mile of resurfacing.](#)
2. Safety Engineering – Church Lane, Rectory Lane & The Sands excessive ramping on speed humps and poor drainage. These bumps are damaging

- cars. This may just need a survey to check the ramping is within guidelines? I will arrange for Roger Harding to set up a meeting with the Parish to discuss the maintenance issues with the speed humps, this will also include a review of the construction and an assessment of the setts
3. Speed management – A24 slip road/Hole Street Accident Improvement Programme. WSCC has undertaken some improvements in recent years. We're not sure what else can be done considering the short slip roads and road layout. I will ask for the signs and lines to be reviewed by the traffic engineer for the area, this should identify what options there are, if something can be done.
 4. School safety – Ashington 'school safety zone'. There are no known accidents to have occurred outside the school so we're not sure anything is actually needed. I will raise this with Travel Advisor for the area, Pene Mather, to see if there is anything specific that the school would like to see delivered. If nothing then I will remove this item.
 5. Safety Engineering – Meiros Way/Rectory Lane junction review junction priorities. Several near misses reported as vehicles turn across Meiros Way towards Warminghurst. The priority of the road was changed when Meiros Way was constructed. However, we are not aware of any accidents at this location. I will also raise this with the traffic engineer to get his advice on this item and consider the impact of changing the junction. This information will then be used by the Parish to assess local support
 6. Parking management – Church Lane/Foster Lane review issues and improve if poss. A local solution is more likely to succeed than a project requiring TRO. The Parish are taking a very local approach to this issue, I have suggested that they consider a 'name and shame' or provide more information to residents on why it is important to keep this area clear.
 7. Pedestrian improvements – Ashington to Spring Gardens new or improved footpath/cyclepath. There is an existing footpath which is well used by walkers, runners & cyclists but it is frequently overgrown and narrowing year on year. It just needs cutting back. Where the footpath is directly beside the A24 it is dangerous - is it possible to move the footpath away from edge of A24? Please send Philip any details of previous reports to highways so that Philip can chase this on behalf of the Parish
 8. London Road speed bump improvements - keep the bumps but investigate whether granite setts can be replaced with smooth tarmac to reduce noise/vibration for nearby residents see item 2
 9. Rectory Lane/Park Lane improvements – improve the passing places, improve drainage, repair road haunchings, stabilise bank sides. This will be picked up with Roger during his visit
 10. Pedestrian improvement – Hole Street and London Road new or improved footpath. We must assume that a resident has requested a footpath be created from the houses in Hole Street to join with the London Road footpath to allow these residents easier access into the village. This would be used by very few people. This will be removed from the list until there is further

- evidence of community support and it has been supported by the Parish Council
11. PROW – new bridleway from Ashington village to bridleway. Same as the project below. The idea was to link Bridleway 2612 into Ashington village somehow, but upgrading of FP2611 didn't get supported some years ago. This relates to private land and will only be taken forward if there is a change in position by the landowners
 12. PROW – improvements to bridleway route to Storrington (same project as 11) This will be deleted as a duplication
 13. Speed Management – A24 south of Ashington. Parish Council has no specific information about this but the A24 has a bad accident record in the vicinity of Ashington. This item will be removed as it relates to on-going work by the County Council
 14. Environmental improvements – Spring Gardens. Don't know what this project is. Philip is aware of a flooding issue that could be subject to an Operation Watershed bid by the Parish

Mill Lane – I will contact the Op Watershed team to find out about this report and be in touch if there is potential for work to be progressed by the Parish through Op Watershed.

I have asked Ross to look at the winter maintenance issues for you and I will take a look at the planning proposals for the equine hospital to assess the impact on the proposed sign on the Billingshurst Road.

CORRESPONDENCE

293/14 For action:

1. A27 Action campaign – pledge support for improvements to the A27. Clerk to respond as this will ease the pressure on Storrington. **KD D**

294/14 For information:

1. Complaint from resident about state of Turnpike Way play area. There have been several problems with youths recently (trying to set fire to picnic benches, littering etc). This has been reported to the Police and letters have been hand delivered to nearby residents stressing the need for them to call the Police. The Warden is aware and doing her best to deal with this. Cllr Kearney informed those present that the Police had visited the play area every night recently.
2. Western Sussex Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust – contracting out of musculoskeletal services to the private sector. Clerk to respond. **KD D**
3. Sussex Police – Oil & Gas exploration at Broadford Bridge
4. HDC – Planning Inspectors timetable for examination of LDF.
5. HALC – minutes of meeting.

295/14 General:

1. Thank You letter from Kent Surrey Sussex Air Ambulance
2. Thank You card from Ashington Festival
3. The Clerk magazine
4. LCR magazine

296/14 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:

1. Is it possible to move the public adjournment to a later point on the agenda as members of the public may wish to comment on planning applications after the Council has discussed/decided them? The Chairman responded that if the Public Adjournment was after Councillors decisions then the public could not influence the decision. Members of the public receive copies of the agenda and can speak about planning applications prior to Councillors discussions.
2. The barrier at the bottom of The Sands has still not been repaired by WSCC. The Clerk has reported it many times.
3. A rumour was circulating that the Wardens salary had been reduced. As the PC pays the Wardens salary would there be a cost reduction and why had the salary been reduced. The Clerk explained that the Wardens were employed by HDC who had conducted a job review recently which the Parish Council were not happy at the outcome. This review was being appealed but this matter is confidential and would not be discussed in public session.
4. Can the village have more Police support eg PCSO, Specials etc? The Clerk wrote to the PCC some time ago to ask for additional resources in the village.
5. The tree debris at the bottom of The Sands had still not been removed. The Clerk explained that Saxon Weald have now admitted ownership of this area and should be contacted.
6. Mr. T. Walter had fallen over on the unmade section of Fairfield Road. There was no 'private road' sign, therefore is it the responsibility of WSCC? He has asked County Councillor Philip Circus and District Councillor David Jenkins to look into this matter.
7. A resident complained about the Rectory Lane/Meiros Way junction. The Chairman responded that the Parish Council has asked WSCC to look into this matter.
8. A resident asked what could be done about tree branches overhanging gardens. Branches can be cut back to the boundary but should then be given back to the tree owner, unless the tree has a TPO in which case an application for tree works should be made.

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

297/14 PLANNING.

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

298/14 Correspondence

Neighbourhood Plan update:

1. The Clerk has asked for dates that the Community Centre may be available in October/November for public meetings.
2. The Chairman has suggested that Councillors record any contacts with residents, landowners, other interested parties so that the Clerk can keep track of information received/given. This will form part of the Council's 'evidence base' of consultation activities. It will also allow the Clerk to keep interested parties informed about the plan. Preferably these 'contacts' should be done with the Chairman or Clerk present to ensure the Council is giving out consistent information. Agreed. **KD C/F**

Proposed sale of land to Post Horses House – the Clerk is still waiting for some Councillors to respond to the offer which has been put forward. **KD C/F**

Luckista update – Comment from HDC Compliance team: Provided that the log cabins fall within the definition of a mobile home, he can change them over without any issues with his planning permission or his Caravan Site Licence. I understand from Environmental Health that there are other similar situations in the District. As far as we know, he will be implementing the 2010 DC/10/2265 planning permission. Details to discharge some of the conditions of this planning permission have been submitted.

HDC Planning applications – HDC are no longer going to send out paper applications as this costs them a huge amount of money each year. All documents are available electronically on the HDC website or on CD. It is suggested that the Parish Council could investigate use of a laptop projector to display documents on the Clerk's laptop. In addition, documents could be circulated by email prior to meetings. HDC would still be able to print large version paper plans, at the Parish Council's request, if these do not display very well on a laptop. HDC are proposing a £500 grant for any necessary equipment.

The new process would be: the Clerk would have to look at each application and save documents to her laptop, circulate by email, request paper plans and then arrange for display during each meeting.

It is proposed that the Parish Council trial this new system for a couple of meetings (possibly using the school projector if allowed) to iron out any problems.

299/14 New Enforcement Allegations/Information

None

300/14 Amendments

None

Cllr Woolley left the meeting.

301/14 Applications

DC/14/1695 Outline planning application for the erection of up to 43 no. dwellings (Class C3) and new access of London Road with all other matters reserved – Land south of Ashington House, London Road

The PC has supported a number of development proposals over recent years, resulting in nearly 60 new homes being progressed, including some 20 affordable homes; this represents an uplift of some 5% in the housing stock in the village. Further, HDC's SHLAA and the PC have already identified sites for at least a further 50 homes, using a mix of brownfield sites and land abutting the BUAB. In total this will provide an uplift of about 10%, which Councillors feel is a fair target for a Category 2 settlement. In this context the need for developments such as the one proposed (greenfield site outside, and not abutting, the BUAB) is felt to be extremely limited and undesirable.

The Council is aware of an imminent planning application for residential development (@70 homes) at Chanctonbury Nurseries (presented to the Parish Council at its meeting on 9th January 2014 and updated at its meeting of 2nd October) – a brownfield site, immediately adjacent to the BUAB which would serve to better link the outlying settlement of Penn Gardens/Penn Retreat to the wider village (a project identified in the Community Action Plan 2010). In addition, this development would serve to tidy up a derelict site and there are no Listed buildings impacted by development.

A planning application for the development of 6 homes at Hoots House (brownfield, within the BUAB, DC/14/0446) is currently the subject of a Planning Appeal.

An application to turn a retail unit into residential use has recently been submitted to HDC (DC/14/1725).

The Council is aware of other potential residential development sites within the BUAB or adjacent to the BUAB, which are not greenfield sites.

The Council had expected to address the relative merits of potential development sites through its Neighbourhood Plan process, however, the submission of the current application requires a more immediate response. The Council recognises the need for more homes within the District and accepts that Ashington must take its 'fair share' however the Council considers that the harmful effect of this development on the setting of Grade II Listed Holmbush/Ashington House and the other Listed and historic buildings surrounding the proposed development does not outweigh the benefit of the additional homes in the village or District. Particularly when there are other development sites available in the short term that have no Listed buildings nearby and do not have the same historic significance of Holmbush/Ashington House.

The Council has some specific comments:

1. The northern end of Ashington has remained free of modern development and is characterised by the dominant Grade II Listed Holmbush (Ashington) House associated parkland and rural Estate cottages. A modern development will completely ruin the settings of the 5 listed buildings surrounding the site as well as the other properties (which may not be Listed but are nonetheless old, rural traditional farm buildings associated with the Holmbush Estate). This area will completely change from one of a rural country estate & farm setting to dominant

modern red brick buildings. The Council does not support 'northern expansion' as described in the Planning Statement s6.19 and it would prefer to keep development around the centre of the village ie school/community centre thus keeping a circular/oval shape to the village.

2. Holmbush/Ashington House is meant to be surrounded by parkland including formal and informal gardens – these form part of its historic setting. Putting modern houses on the informal gardens will ruin the setting of this Grade II Listed building.
3. Foliage may have grown up separating the formal and informal gardens of Holmbush House but foliage can be managed whereas once modern houses are built the historic parkland is lost forever.
4. The proposed houses will be very prominent in views as the site slopes up towards Holmbush House. The proposed properties are 2.5 storeys high and will be very visible from all directions, including from other Listed buildings in the area.
5. Martins Farm is the closest property to the proposed development and whilst it may not be a Listed building it is an old traditional rural building which once served the Holmbush House estate. The cart shed at Martins Farm is over 200 years old and was an important feature of the Estate. Martins Farm will be badly impacted by the new development which is very close to its boundary. Improving boundary hedges will only serve to screen the new development from Martins Farm for some months of the year, not all year round. Martins Farm is a rural property, this will not be the case if this application is permitted.
6. The proposed homes are not set back from site boundaries as stated in the application – modern sized gardens are all that separates the proposed homes from the boundary.
7. The grounds of Holmbush House were used as an army camp & hospital field in the 1940's. The grounds and house have high historical value and should be preserved.
8. Noise – the noise assessment makes it clear that the site is extremely noisy due to its proximity to the A24. Mitigation measures are therefore necessary. It is concerning that future occupiers of the homes will inevitably suffer from noise issues. It is well documented over many years that Ashington has been pressuring WSCC to install 'noise reducing tarmac' on the A24 around Ashington because noise in the village is a community nuisance. New residential developments close to the A24 should not not be supported.
9. The applicant's own Planning Statement s5.5 and 5.6 states that pre-application advice from HDC indicates that as the boundary of the site does not adjoin the BUAB of Ashington the site is considered to be unsustainable and an inappropriate location for residential development. In addition, other more appropriate sites (previously developed, within built up areas, strategic sites) should be developed in preference to this site. The Parish Council would support this statement and re-iterates that other sites are available within the Parish which better fulfil HDC's planning policies and are less harmful.

10. The applicant sent a questionnaire to 989 residences in the village and received a 19% response rate: 60.1% of responses disagreed with the need for new housing in Ashington; 67.6% disagreed that new housing would help underpin local services and improve the sense of community in Ashington; 62.8% did not support the proposal. This is clear indication that the development is not supported locally.
11. The Council's initial concerns over surface and foul water drainage are being addressed by the applicant but the proposed foul water pumping station is still located too close to Martins Farm and could prove a nuisance.
12. The Council notes that infrastructure improvements for schools & healthcare will be provided, if necessary, however local schools and healthcare services are under extreme pressure locally and cash payments will not solve short term problems. There is currently only 1 spare space at Ashington CE school across all 6 year groups.
13. It is concerning that the only meaningful 'community benefit' is the provision of 0.54ha of public open space in the south east corner of the application site. It is highly unlikely that residents of Ashington will use this open space as it is separated from the main part of the village by the busy Billingshurst Road roundabout. Pedestrian crossings at the Billingshurst Road roundabout are extremely hazardous (and will be made worse if the Petrol Filling Station is built, DC/14/1420). In addition, the Noise Survey indicates that it will be an extremely noisy open space and therefore unattractive to use because of noise and the proximity of the A24. There's no benefit to providing open space if no-one will use it.
14. The applicant proposes 'up to' 40% affordable homes but gives no further details. The Council would like to see at least 40% affordable homes and a requirement that these are available to those with a strong local connection to Ashington as a priority.
15. The submitted transport statement s3.5 states that planning application DC/11/2648 for a Petrol Filling Station on land close to the application site proposes changes to the priorities on London Road with the main priority being into the PFS and the minor arm serving the new development. This is not true. No plans to change the road priorities along London Road are proposed (approved site layout plan can be viewed at <http://62.189.105.75/NorthgatePublicDocs/01014675.pdf>). A more recent planning application has been submitted for a PFS (DC/14/1420) and this also does not propose to change the road priorities in this area (<http://62.189.105.75/NorthgatePublicDocs/01256846.pdf>) Whilst this new planning application has not yet been determined by HDC it should be noted that the application is for a 24/7 PFS and the impact of this upon DC/14/1695 should

be considered.

Given the size of this proposed development and the Council's strong objection we would like to request that this application be determined by Committee.

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

Removed from the agenda as paperwork hadn't arrived in time for the meeting. Will be discussed at Planning Committee on 15th October.

DC/14/1999 Demolition of existing building and erection of 2no. detached and 4no. semi-detached 2 storey houses - Hoots House London Road

Councillors re-iterated their support in principle for re-development of this derelict site which is an eyesore in the village. Councillors supported the inclusion of smaller market homes and the Developers agreements on the use of covenants to restrict extensions and local marketing to promote the houses to local people as a priority. The Parish Council still require the Developer to investigate the possible discharge of surface water from the development into the Parish Council's pond before the Council will give its consent to this.

Cllr Woolley returned to the meeting.

Horsham District Council

302/14 Approvals

DC/14/1371 Demolition of existing garage and erection of replacement garage, alterations to existing stable block to form new glazed roof, new 2.1m high fence and entrance gates to front boundary with Billingshurst Road - Foxes Billingshurst Road

303/14 Refusals

None

304/14 Withdrawals

None

305/14 Appeals made/ decisions

None

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

FINANCE

306/14 Correspondence

None

307/14 Income

Sussex Police – grant for Youth Shelter £250
HDC - Precept £47,431.00
HDC – Environmental Cleansing Grant £1749.35
First Responders – donation £86.84

308/14 Expenditure

		Cheque no.	
Mark Adsett	Gardeners contract payment	£500.00	
	Hanging basket watering 4 weeks	£260.00	1576
Mrs K. Dare	Clerks expenses (home & telephone)	£17	
	Travel to Horsham (22 miles x £0.4)	£9	
	Stationery	£39.97	
	Postage (NHPlan letter)	£59.36	
	Land Registry	£3.00	
	Total	£118.33	1577
WSSC	Salary and on costs (September)	£1078.30	1578
ACCT	Planning committee 20/08/14	£3.80	1579
	Bingo Club (August)	£37.75	1580
Horsham Matters	youth worker (July)	£774.00	1581
K. Dare	Neighbourhood Plan letters	£20	1582
Fenland Leisure	play area spares	£12.20	1583
	Swing repair	£27.80	1584
Caloo Ltd	Youth Shelter	£8628.00	1585
D. Newland	Play area repairs	£775.00	1586

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

309/14 MEETINGS

The Clerk & Cllrs Clark & Gichovi-Elias had attended the Wardens Steering Group meeting.

Cllr Gichovi-Elias had attended an ACCT meeting.

Cllr Woolley & the Clerk met with a potential developer to discuss the Neighbourhood Plan and had met WSSC to discuss highways matters.

310/14 MINOR MATTERS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS

1. Monza Garage are advertising cars for sale on the highway – Clerk to report to HDC Planning
2. Can waiting restrictions be put in the layby by Monza/Vets. Councillors felt that this should have been done at the same time as the Co-op layby. The Clerk reported that this would require WSCC to issue a TPO and it is highly unlikely that this would be a priority for them.
3. The footpath outside 9 Hillcrest Drive had been the scene of an accident recently with a resident tripping on the uneven surface. Clerk to report to WSCC Highways. **KD D**
4. What was happening with the VAS sign for the Spear Hill junction. The Clerk referred Cllr Brennan to the notes of the highways meeting when WSCC had been asked what highways measures were to be installed as part of the Equine Hospital development. It made no sense to install a sign for >£10k until this matter has been assessed properly.
5. Cllr Strudwick reported that his neighbour's burglar alarm had gone off on Festival night and when he called the Police they refused to attend.

The next meeting will be held at **7.45pm on Thursday 6th November 2014** at **Ashington School, Foster Lane.**

The meeting finished at 9.55pm

Signed.....

Date.....

311/14 APPENDIX 1: REPORT FROM NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDENS

CRIMINAL DAMAGE

Reports of criminal damage this month are

Rectory Lane – Disturbance of loud noise from group of youths in early hours of the morning.

Play school chairs taken from playschool property and scattered about local area.

Residents who informed me have phoned the incident through to the police and also have returned the plastic chairs to the playgroup.

More damaged road signs across the village, I will report to highways.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SCHEME

This scheme is still looking to be updated but at the moment resources are limited.

NEIGHBOURHOOD DISPUTES

There are still ongoing issues with neighbourhood disputes this month. Some are really beginning to affect the resident's concerned health, involved with the disputes. I am trying my best to act as mediator and am signposting to relevant services and agencies that may be able to help with noise issues etc. I am still trying to get solutions to the issues that are causing the problems. Hopefully we will be able to resolve some of the disputes.

I am still working with housing associations closely on some of the disputes.

Some of the offenders have been referred to relevant agencies for help and advice.

DRUGS AND ALCOHOL

I am at present in contact with the Substance Misuse Manager who works with Horsham Matters. He has designed a six week intervention session to talk with the youth about the issues around drugs/alcohol. This I think will be a very valuable service for our youth.

One youth has interacted with the substance misuse manager and has had a meeting with them to try and discuss ways of stopping the illegal substance misuse.

Confiscation of alcohol this month from youth has been made by police.

Continuous reports of ASB have been made to police.

Several searches of vehicles and youth have been made this month by police.

LITTER

Litter really bad this month. I have been trying to litter pick the hot spot areas with the help of youth. The skate park and turnpike play area have been particularly bad.

I am still looking to arrange a litter pick day for the village but have been so busy this month dealing with other issues I haven't had time.

I am still delivering education regarding litter issues to the children/youth in the village.

A large amount of broken glass I managed to sweep up from skate park area. There was also evidence of vomit in this area. I did manage to wash down and remove.

FLY TIPPING

Large amounts of litter and fly tipping have been removed from Old London Road following the exit of travellers from this area. Horsham district council cleansing department were very prompt with the removal of rubbish following my request.

There is still an empty trailer that is waiting to be removed. I have reported it on operation crack down. All rubbish was taken from the trailer and disposed of. Hopefully the trailer will be removed in the next few days.

OLD LONDON ROAD

This area is becoming very unkempt and overgrown. I have concerns for vehicular access to properties down the road. It is also sending out messages for the road to be used for illegal

purposes. Cars and illegal substance misuse are here on a regular basis. Fly tipping is happening on a regular basis. I feel it is because the area is looking very uncared for.

I will be requesting that Highways do something about this area. Cut back the overgrowth and generally a good litter pick will resolve the issues.

YOUTH

The youth shelter has finally arrived and it has caused a lot of excitement in the village from the local youth.

I will arrange with the youth and youth worker a ceremonial opening of the youth shelter.

I will invite the local press. PCSO Sparks would like to also present the cheque from Sussex police at the opening of the youth shelter.

Over the last few days there have been concerns of the positioning of the youth shelter. I do believe this will be discussed further at parish council.

The youth have stated that they would like to invite the Parish council to attend the official opening of youth shelter.

I have been working with the new youth worker this month trying to sort out times and days for the youth club to run. It has been decided to open Tuesday evening for the older youth and Thursday evenings for the younger group.

There have been lots of personal issues with some of the youth that I have had to deal with.

Safeguarding referrals have been made. Some of these I would term priority issues have taken up a lot of my time

ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

There have been several incidents this month of anti-social behaviour within the youth groups of Ashington.

I have been trying to work with them closely but at the moment several of the youth do not wish to engage with me, the youth worker or anyone. This particular group I think can only be dealt with now with enforcement powers from the police. I as a lone worker am limited to how I interact with them.

The majority of the anti-social behaviour is happening after twelve at night. I have had several reports of disturbances across the village over the last month. All intelligence has been gathered and passed onto the police for their information. If the residents had called the police when they were experiencing the disturbance it would have been dealt with as it was happening. To report to me the next day is too late. The police need to be informed as the offence is taking place.

Turnpike play area is still a hot spot for anti-social behaviour and I am doing my best when I am on duty to patrol this area. I am telling youth if found in this area to leave. This play area is in a residential area overlooked by houses whose occupants if looking must see the anti-social behaviour, underage drinking, illegal drug taking and even arson attacks taking place. I must stress always call the police when it has been witnessed. This will help me and we will stop the anti-social behaviour from getting out of hand.

It has been very difficult this month for me taking calls from local residents regarding the youth's anti-social behaviour in the village. The complainants have been quite angry toward me expecting me to deal with the anti-social behaviour issues there and then. I do explain that I do not cover a twenty four hour period and that if they are watching anti-social behaviour taking place they should call the police 101 non-emergency or 999 if they are feeling threatened or they feel the ASB is serious.

I feel that local residents who feel that I am not doing my job to their satisfaction should contact me directly or stop me in the village when they see me. I am very approachable and am open to criticism, but also would like the opportunity to explain why I hadn't responded or answered my phone. I feel that when it goes around residents within the village the story escalates and gets out of all proportion so by the time it reaches me it sounds like I am not performing my job. I am open to any resident who wishes to do a voluntary patrol with me to see exactly what I do in a shift. Once again I must remind all residents that I am a lone worker contracted to work 37 hours a week, of which I am continually working over hours on a voluntary basis with no extra cost to the parish.

ELDERLY/VULNERABLE

I have received several phone calls from elderly residents in the village requesting me to visit them. I have been taking out winter warm packs, no cold caller signs for doors, rechargeable torches for them so as we are ready for the dark winter months. I have also been doing security checks to make sure their homes are secure and safe. I have been checking for fire alarms if they do not have them I have referred them to Horsham District Council community link advisor for advice in getting one installed. I have also been telling them of lunch club and other events that they may like to attend in the village, just to get them out for a short while.

Two more installations of the community link alarm have been made this month. This is such a valuable service and it gives the people who have had them installed a bit more independence and makes them feel safer in their own homes knowing they can call on someone twenty four seven if they need help.

There was an incident this month with an elderly/vulnerable where I needed to call the first responders. I would just like to say a big thank you to Liz for attending this person so promptly. It certainly put my mind at rest and the elderly/vulnerable was calmed down and felt better within minutes.

I am desperately looking for volunteers to perhaps fetch and deliver daily newspapers to some of the elderly residents who are unable to get to the shop. I will speak with members of the church and residents from the village to see if anyone may be able to help.

It has been a good month for the elderly/vulnerable who had hospital admissions last month. Most are on the mend and looking a lot brighter. Some have returned to mini bus and lunch club. This has been lovely to see as they have been missed.

At last we have finally managed to enjoy an elderly/vulnerable trip to Bognor for a morning of shopping followed by lunch at a lovely café on the sea front at Felpham. We were so lucky with the weather. We ate fish and chips followed by ice cream and fruit salad. Luckily I managed to find funding for the lunch for all the elderly/vulnerable that attended. This was a surprise for those that came on trip but very much appreciated. We finished off with a shopping trip to Morrison's on the way home

It was really nice as I was able to take some youth from the village on the trip. They helped the elderly/vulnerable on the day. With the success of the trip shopping to Bognor it has been requested that I arrange a trip early November for them to go again so they can do some Christmas shopping.

Plans are also in place for us all to go somewhere local for a Christmas lunch. Date time and location to be confirmed.

ASHINGTON AFTERNOON LUNCH/ TEA CLUB

Lunch club in September was another success. Lovely homemade food made by Pat followed by entertainment from a lady from Worthing. We had a good old sing song for an hour with many old songs.

It was also lovely to see more volunteers that helped on the day. It just makes the day run much smoother with more help. A big thank you to some local youth for their input on the day very much appreciated.

October lunch club we have a local lady who will be singing after lunch. This will be followed by an afternoon tea made up of homemade cakes and refreshments.

Following the success of the vintage tea theme it has been decided to make this a regular event in its self. We have managed to hire the hall on a monthly basis, (not after lunch club) to hold a vintage tea afternoon. This will run from two until four. Transport will be provided for those that need it. This will give another social event for the elderly/vulnerable and anyone else from the village who would like to attend. I am very pleased with this new event as it gives the elderly/vulnerable somewhere to go and have a chat and a nice afternoon tea in the winter months. It can be quite lonely for some in the winter months.

Christmas lunch club party plans are already being discussed. We have managed to arrange entertainment for the day.

BINGO

I couldn't let it go without reporting that Bingo this month was very entertaining.

Firstly I would like to say it was nice to see new members attending. I also like to see the interaction with young and old at this event.

Two of shall I say the more difficult and challenging youth from the village wanted to come and see what happens at bingo. I did ask the members if this was ok and they said yes.

The youth then decided that they would like to call the bingo numbers. I explained that they mustn't muck about and that they had to be serious. Well this lasted all of two minutes but I must say we all had a good laugh and it was quite a good evening. The youth could not believe how intense it was to call bingo numbers. The youth managed to behave themselves and quite enjoyed the evening.

A big thank you to the regular members of bingo for letting the youth join in.

LUCISTA CARAVAN PARK

Thursday evening was very eventful with lots of phone calls made to me of reports of a house on fire in the village. Luckily thanks to local knowledge I was able to trace the fire to Lucista Caravan Park. They are clearing the old caravans and building new log cabins. They were burning large amounts of rubbish which left a huge smoke trail across the village.

Fire service attended and inspected the site to see what was being burnt. Everything was checked and all ok. Words of advice were given not to burn so much rubbish at once.

A lot of local residents were extremely worried about the fire and thanks to their quick thinking and reporting we were able to identify the problem quickly. I reassured and updated all the concerned residents that everything was ok.

Warden Phone

It has been brought to my attention that my mobile answer machine was not working.

I can only apologise to those that tried to leave a message. It has now been rectified and I am now able to get your messages. Thank you to those who told me it was not working. It is very difficult for me to know I have a problem as I do not call myself.

I must just explain that when I am off duty I will not answer my phone. This has been causing issues as residents think I am ignoring them. I will return their call if they leave a message when I am next on duty.

WARDEN CHRISTMAS PARTY

This event will be held on the 29th November 2014 3 till 6. Invites will be delivered to all properties in the village the beginning of November.

312/14 APPENDIX 2 – PCSO Report September

Cad 0598 of 09/09/14- Relates to suspicious males in Hole Street, Ashington. Asking a resident if they can buy their vehicle.

Cad 1041 of 11/09/14- A bollard has been kicked over in Woelfs Close; this couldn't have been done by a vehicle as the bollard is down an alley way.

Cad 1551 of 11/09/14- Between 10:30pm on 09/09/14 and 9:30am on 10/09/14 a resident in Timberlea Close had suspicious activity, when their side gate had been unbolted and their garage had been entered and items moved around. This is a good time to remind residents to be extra vigilant, to make sure their outbuildings are secure.

Cad 0539 of 17/09/14- Between 15/09/14 and 17/09/14, there has been an attempted arson at Turnpike Way Play area, Turnpike Way. This is not the first report we have had regarding this, so would like to ask residents that if they see suspicious activity occurring in the play area, to call it through to the Police.

Cad 1687 of 20/09/14- Relates to a report of youths damaging items and throwing items around in Meiros Way. This happened at approx 9:00pm. Did you see or hear anything?

Cad 0184 of 21/09/14- At approx 2:00am there was a report of smashing glass and screaming coming from the direction of Ashington Recreational ground.

Cad 1412 of 25/09/14- A bonfire at Luckista Caravan Park caught a caravan on fire. This was controlled by the Fire Services, no one was hurt and the Caravan was empty.

Cad 1614 of 29/09/14- At approx 10:30pm there were reports of vehicles racing around the roundabouts at the top of London Road.

I have secured a cheque for Ashington Parish Council for the amount of £250. This has been granted by the Police Property Act Fund towards the Youth Shelter. I will present the cheque to the Parish Council in due course and this will be put out in the press and on social media.

If you have any information relating to any of the above, please call in on 101 quoting the reference numbers for each incident.

I am currently still looking for residents that would like to become Neighbourhood Watch Coordinators. If you are interested or would like anymore information then please contact myself at bryony.sparks@sussex.pnn.police.uk

PCSO Bryony Sparks

313/14 APPENDIX 3 Report on Ashington Youth Centre
None

314/14 APPENDIX 4 Funds held on behalf of others
First Responders Funds: £3286.54
Bingo Club: £286.64