



Ashington Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd September 2010 at 7.30 p.m. in the Methodist Church, London Road, Ashington

**Present: Councillors N. Clark (Vice Chairman), B. Norton, R. Brennan, J. Stillwell, R. Lancaster, T. Kearney, D. Harbour, K. Wood, R. Strudwick
Parish Clerk Karen Dare
District Councillor Roger Arthur
County Councillor Frank Wilkinson
7 members of the public**

Cllr Clark took the Chair for the meeting.

270/10 APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE

Cllr M. Woolley (business), N. Carver (holiday) & Neighbourhood Warden Paul Conroy

271/10 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None

272/10 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 5th August 2010 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman. Proposed by Councillor Brennan and seconded by Councillor Norton, and agreed.

273/10 REPORT FROM THE NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDENS

It is proposed that the Clerk write to thank Sussex Police for their attendance at this year's Festival. Agreed by all.

KD D

Crime

Crime Serial numbers were created for the following incidents:

Theft from shed in Church Lane and Billingshurst Rd

Cannabis seizure Recreation Ground.

Assault on Female by Female on Ashington Recreation Ground.

Anti – Social Behaviour

The continuation of good weather saw further sporadic alcohol consumption on the Recreation Ground and associated littering by large groups of youths. Groups were again cautioned and moved on when drinking alcohol.

Small groups of teenage youths have been causing nuisance in Covert Mead and Turnpike Way by banging on doors and verbally abusing residents. We have stepped up patrols in those areas accordingly and have identified and cautioned two young males.

We had two reports of the same vehicle being driven erratically at the top end of London Rd. Residents were able to supply details of the vehicle and we issued a report on the Operation Crackdown website.

The Ashington Carnival and Village day saw a number of minor incidents of disorder.

Thanks to effective team work involving Police officers, P.C.S.O's and Wardens and the use of C.C.T.V. Cameras large amounts of alcohol were confiscated from young people under the legal age.

Community

The Ashington Fun run is scheduled for Sunday 19th September. Although we have received only a few applications at present but we are hoping that residents and previous runners will be submitting more forms once the school holidays are over.

We are planning to run a bus service to Horsham using the community bus for young people once a month as a pilot scheme. Youngsters will be dropped off at 7.00pm and picked up at 10.00pm. Written permission from Parents will be required .

A variety show for the Elderly and vulnerable is being planned for a weekend in October.

S.I.D.

S.I.D. will make the first of many appearances on Sat 4th September.

274/10 YOUNG PERSONS ADJOURNEMENT

The Clerk is working on gathering information about new skatepark ramps as suggested by the young people at the July Council meeting.

275/10 REPORT FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

District Councillor Roger Arthur reported that:

1. HDC had sent a strong objection to WSCC regarding the proposed open composting site at Broadbridge Farm. Roger Arthur had sent a covering letter to WSCC detailing all of the concerns.
2. Proposed permanent gypsy/traveller site at Penn Retreat (DC/10/1288) – he is monitoring residents complaints via the HDC website. He has serious concerns over the application. He stressed that it is important for residents to voice their concerns and it is difficult to address issues if residents feel afraid to express their objections to the site. HDC Councillors have a legal obligation to make correspondence available to view in the public domain. There was some discussion about the main issues and these have already been communicated to HDC by the Parish Council. If any residents have written evidence of the effect the site would have on their property then

they should submit it to HDC (increased insurance premiums and devalued homes were mentioned at the last Parish Council meeting).

County Councillor Frank Wilkinson reported that:

1. WSCC was not always consulted by HDC on small planning applications but he had made officers aware of the proposed gypsy/traveller site (DC/10/1288) and a Development Control Officer would be visiting the site and studying residents responses to the application. Education Officers would be studying the application in light of the issues surrounding the school being at full capacity.
2. It is likely that the planning application for the open composting site at Broadbridge Farm will be heard by WSCC on 2nd or 30th November. The Planning Officer has asked Olus to supply more information. There may be a further public consultation period depending on what further information is supplied by the applicant.

Cllr Strudwick reported that he had contacted WSCC Highways about the drains on the newly resurfaced section of the A24 being 'dipped down' and causing a hazard. He had been assured that the problem had been identified and would be addressed.

Cllr Lancaster asked when the next section of the A24 around Ashington would be resurfaced. County Councillor Wilkinson confirmed that other sections would be done when the surface was no longer in a safe condition. Resurfacing is hugely expensive, particularly because of the traffic management measures that must be put in place and WSCC could no longer afford to resurface until the work was essential rather than 'nice to have'. He will continue to push for the work to be done as soon as possible.

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

276/10 Item 193 RASP Programme

Cllr Clark and the Clerk are in the process of buying the equipment. **KD C/F**

277/10 Item 215 Hanging baskets

The Clerk is in the process of finding out where the baskets in Horsham, Worthing and Upper Beeding came from as these are considered to be excellent examples of hanging baskets. **KD C/F**

CORRESPONDENCE

278/10 For action:

1. HDCCP – would like a Councillor to attend their Strengthening Links working group. The group is working on strengthening links between district and local community planning bodies. There are likely to be 3 meetings before the end of the year and the end of the project. Cllr Harbour volunteered. **KD D**



2. SLCC Newsletter – detailing the Governments proposal that any 'excessive' council tax increases must be supported by a majority public vote in a referendum. SLCC has responded to this on behalf of small parish councils. Councillors were asked whether they also wish to respond and agreed that the Clerk should re-iterate the comments from SLCC.

KD D

3. Request from HALC for items to discuss at the annual meeting between HDC and HALC. Cllr Clark has already sent some personal issues. No further items.
4. Invitation to SALC/SRCC AGM 3rd November. Clerk to forward details to Cllrs Strudwick & Lancaster.
5. No Need for Nuclear – does the Parish Council wish to support this campaign? No response.
6. Probation Service – can anyone think of any projects for the Community Payback Scheme? It was agreed that suggestions be sent to the Clerk.

KD D

279/10 For information:

1. WSCC Education dept – forecasts for Ashington School numbers in coming years show a peak in 2010/11 and fall until 2013/14. This current year is considered to be a 'blip'. WSCC is holding s106 Education funds and quote 'should the Meiros Farm development go ahead, our current view is that monies received should be used to provide further places locally and in particular Ashington CofE First School'. The Developer of Meiros Farm is being asked to pay @£150,000 for education, the Developer of Linfield Lane has paid £30,000 for education.
2. Notes of HDCCP meeting to discuss WSCC LTP3 Transport Consultation. The Parish Council has responded to this consultation.
3. Info on Community Right to Build Scheme

280/10 General: None

281/10 PUBLIC ADJOURNMENT

Several members of the public expressed concerns about planning application DC/10/1288 Proposed permanent gypsy/traveller site at Penn Retreat. Many issues had been raised at the August Parish Council meeting. One new issue was raised – Penn Gardens has very limited parking spaces for residents and visitors. Many visitors are forced to park along the entrance road to Penn Gardens. It is unlikely that this space will be available if the planning application is approved as the entrance to the site would remove some parking space and travellers vehicles would spill over from the site into Penn Gardens. In addition, visitors to Penn Gardens would be unlikely to want to drive past the gypsy/traveller site nor leave their vehicles in close proximity to the site for any length of time. Penn Gardens would effectively become a no-go zone for visitors. This would affect the amenity of the residents of Penn Gardens.

Concern was expressed that if permission is granted the site will simply be sold on to another family as the applicant's family did not need the land because they are currently housed in Storrington and they have not used the existing planning

permission that the site has. It would be impossible for HDC to enforce any occupancy/ownership/management restrictions.

Cllr Norton reported that he and Cllr Woolley had attended a meeting at HDC with District Councillor David Jenkins, the Council's solicitor and planning officer to discuss the application. Cllrs Norton and Woolley had expressed the Council and resident's concerns. HDC had indicated that 10 caravans may be too many for the size of site, restrictions could be imposed so that occupancy was restricted to the applicant's family only. The family have had a connection to Ashington since 1938. HDC are obliged to provide a number of sites in the District for local travellers and this site currently has permission for 3 mobile homes (although this expires in 2011). HDC only need to create sites for local travellers. Cllrs Norton and Woolley had visited a traveller site at Barns Green and reported that it was well run and managed but this all depends on the management of the site. HDC have asked the applicant to provide more information to support their application. Until this is forthcoming the application will not be determined by HDC.

282/10 PLANNING.

The Planning Committee met on 18th August and Councillors have been provided with a copy of the minutes. The minutes were agreed by all and signed by the Chairman.

283/10 Proposed Open Composting Facility at Broadbridge Farm

HDC discussed the application on 17th August and agreed to send an objection to WSCC. WSCC will not discuss the application until the Planning Committee meeting in November as the planning applicant has been asked to supply more information.

284/10 Correspondence

Flowerpots, London Road – HDC has secured the following s106 contributions:

Community Facilities - £1811

Transport Infrastructure - £280

Fire & Rescue Services contribution - £85

The planning application can now be progressed to approval.

New Enforcement Complaints:

EN/10/0447 Yoga classes being run from residential address without planning permission (The Yoga Garden) - Lambs Barn, Rock Road

EN/10/0455 Development not in accordance with approved plans DC/10/0336 - 10 Posthorses

EN/10/0457 Alleged unauthorised erection of outbuilding without planning permission - 17 Linfield Lane

285/10 Amendments

None

286/10 Applications

DC/10/1288 Proposed stationing of 10 traveller/gypsy pitches plus associated play area. Formation of new access and hardstanding - Penn Retreat, Rectory Lane

At the last count over 60 letters of objection had been sent to HDC by residents. Councillors were asked to consider whether the Council should employ a Planning Consultant to look at the application and advise the Council as to whether there would be any benefit in a professional response being submitted to HDC. The likely cost for an opinion would be up to £500, professional response add £200, representation at HDC Committee meeting £500.

Councillors agreed unanimously that this is an important issue to a great many people in the village and therefore the advice of a planning consultant should be sought. Clerk to contact Parker Dann for advice. **KD C/F**

Washington Parish Council has pointed out for clarification that the gypsy site at Lamorna, Washington is unauthorised.

DC/10/1314; 1316; 1457 Chesswood Mushroom site, Thakeham - together these applications could give rise to a further 250 homes in the area. Councillors were asked if they wish to submit a response to HDC – no response was felt necessary.

DC/10/1489 Surgery to Beech Hedge (T1) - 13 Rectory Close. The Council had no objections subject to the usual conditions that the Council has requested for other applications of this nature in Rectory Close (height, permission from owner, qualified arboriculturalist)

DC/10/1648 Variation of Condition 1 of planning permission AS/26/97 (21 seasonal caravans stationed on the site shall only be occupied from 1st March to 31st October inclusive) to allow for unrestricted occupancy of the holiday caravans with no restrictions on length of stay or letting period - Luckista Caravan Site Billingshurst Road. The Council had no objections, however, asks that HDC check the drainage plans and facilities at the site to make sure they are adequate.

Horsham District Council

287/10 Approvals

DC/10/1551 Retrospective application for a single storey rear extension - 2 Posthorses

DC/10/1520 Demolition of existing single storey rear structure and conservatory and erection of single storey rear play room and family room - 4 Posthorses

DC/10/1395 First floor side extension over existing garage, enlargement of kitchen into garage and replacement of timber weatherboard cladding with tile hanging to front elevation - 3 Cricketers Close

DC/10/1322 Erection of single storey rear extension (Listed Building Consent) -

DC/10/1159 Retrospective planning for a glass garden room to the rear of the property - The Springs Malthouse Lane

288/10 Refusals

DC/10/1374 Removal of existing horse sand school and erection of 3-bed bungalow/chalet dwelling and garage - Woods Cottage Muttons Lane

289/10 Withdrawals

22 Church Lane, Ashington - DC/09/0764 & 0767

290/10 Appeal decision

DC/09/1762 Formation of 3m wide track for horses - Triggles House, Hole Street. The development has been APPROVED following appeal.

The next Planning Committee meetings are scheduled for 15th & 29th September 2010 at 7.00pm in the new Parish Office.

FINANCE

291/10 Correspondence

None

292/10 Income

Donation to First Responders £30

293/10 Expenditure

			Cheque no.
Donation to Ashington Methodist Church (meeting 2 nd September £20)		£20	1097
Mark Adsett	Gardeners contract payment	£446.25	
	Hanging basket watering	£240.00	1098
Mrs. K. Dare	Clerks expenses (home & telephone)	£17	
	Total	£17	1099
WSCC	Salary and oncosts (August)	£738.51	1100
T. Kearney	travelling expenses	£24.80	1101
M. Woolley	travelling expenses	£14.40	1102
Ashington Parish Council (from S&F)	transfer to National Savings	£10,914.15	1103
Parker Dann LLP	Planning consultant	£669.62	1104
AiRS	subscription	£50	1105

Land & Water (as agreed 1 st April 2010)	land drains	£3428.65	1106
E. Greenfield	responder expenses	£41.60	1107
ACCT	quarterly office rent	£189	1108

The Clerk requests a bank transfer of £6,000 from deposit to current accounts to cover the above payments. Agreed by all.

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

294/10 MEETINGS

Cllr Clark had attended the monthly Wardens meeting (notes circulated separately).

Cllrs Woolley & Norton had attended a meeting with HDC to discuss planning application DC/10/1288.

295/10 MINOR MATTERS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS

Cllr Norton asked the Clerk to check Parish Council land at the bottom of Turnpike Way as it appears that a resident may have planted plants on Parish Council land. Clerk to check and deal with if necessary. **KD D**

Cllr Harbour reported overgrowing hedges in Hillcrest Drive and Rectory Lane/Close. Clerk to check and report to WSCC. **KD D**

Cllr Wood reported that the 'no parking' sign beside Aladdins Cave was missing. The Clerk had the sign as it had fallen off the fence. Cllr Wood agreed to repair and re-install the sign. **KW D**

Cllr Wood provided the Council with quotes for decorative glass/ironwork signs. Clerk to put on agenda for next meeting. **KD C/F**

Cllr Lancaster asked the Clerk if she had heard back from WSCC Highways about re-instating the sign at the local shops that had been knocked down. Clerk to chase. **KD D**

Cllr Lancaster asked the Clerk to circulate the list of New Councillor Training dates when they become available. **KD D**

296/10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held at **7.30pm** on **Thursday 7th October 2010** at the Methodist Church, London Road. The Vice Chairman would be Chairing the meeting in the absence of the Chairman.

The meeting finished at 8.40pm

Signed.....

Date.....

297/10 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)
202	Parish Office	Waiting for ACCT to amend lease.
	Village seats/noticeboards need repainting	Clerk to organise
213	Annual Inspection of Council Land	Clerk obtaining quotes
215	New hanging baskets	Clerk to buy 10 more baskets. Agreed July 2010

298/10 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		
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
Overgrowing vegetation to north of Greenacres	WSCC written to landowner		August 2010