



Ashington Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd October 2013 at 7.45 p.m. in Ashington School, Foster Lane, Ashington

Present: Councillors M. Woolley, N. Clark, R. Brennan, T. Kearney, J. Gichovi-Elias, B. Norton, R. Strudwick, D. Harbour, K. Wood & N. Carver
Parish Clerk Karen Dare
District Councillor Roger Arthur
4 members of the public

The Chairman reminded members of the public the requirement that they limit their participation to the Public Adjournment sections of the meeting.

267/13 APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE

R. Lancaster (business), Neighbourhood Warden Jayne Jeffrey (illness), PCSO Bryony Sparks

268/13 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

The Chairman reminded Councillors that previous declarations still stand.

269/13 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 5th September 2013 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman. Proposed by Councillor Brennan and seconded by Councillor Harbour, and agreed.

270/13 REPORT FROM THE NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDENS & PCSO

PCSO report (see Appendix 2).

Questions: None

Wardens report (See Appendix 1).

Questions for the Wardens from Councillors & Members of the public:

A member of the public questioned whether Kate's Cakes is in Ashington Parish. The Clerk confirmed that it is.

Long term plans: The Clerk met with Inspector Clare McKnight to discuss PCSO's and had provided Councillors with a summary of the meeting. It would seem that, out of the

3 available options (PCSO, HDC Warden and contract Warden) the HDC Warden is the better option. It was proposed that the Clerk open dialogue with HDC about recruiting a part-time Warden and arrange a meeting of the Steering Group with HDC. **KD C/F**

271/13 YOUNG PERSONS ADJOURNMENT

None present.

272/13 REPORT FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

District Councillor Roger Arthur reported:

1. The compost site planning application had now been withdrawn. If it is re-submitted he will ask Planning Officers for it to be determined at a Development Committee meeting rather than delegated to Officers.
2. He had written to Planning Minister Nick Boles MP to report that housing targets, set by Govt., are impossible to meet and that unelected Planning Inspectors are overturning local decisions.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Arthur for his report.

The new County Councillor for Storrington Ward is Philip Circus. The Clerk had invited him to attend the meeting but he had not responded.

Questions:

1. A member of the public asked about resurfacing of Water Lane/Hole Street. The Clerk confirmed that WSCC have no plans to resurface this road in the near future.
2. A member of the public reported that road signs along the A24 are filthy and becoming impossible to read. Clerk to report to WSCC Highways. **KD D**

ACTIONS OUTSTANDING:

D = Minuted but deleted from next agenda.

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

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

273/13 Kite & Thomas

The Clerk has spoken to Tom Kite and has asked him to prepare a proposal for the Council to consider.

274/13 Posthorses Play Area

Councillors to consider installation of notices stating that this area is for U12s only. Likely cost £50 exc installation, notices are unenforceable. It was agreed that a sign be erected and that the Clerk speak to the PCSO to ask that teenagers are 'moved on' from this area. **KD D**

275/13 Highways Priorities

WSCC have Ashington down as having the following Highways Priorities (in no particular order):

1. Noise – resurface A24 with noise reducing tarmac

2. Speed Management – A24 south of Ashington
3. School safety – Ashington ‘school safety zone’
4. Pedestrian improvements – Ashington to Spring Gardens new or improved footpath/cyclepath
5. Parking management – Church Lane/Foster Lane review issues and improve if poss.
6. Speed management – A24 slip road/Hole Street Accident Improvement Programme
7. Pedestrian improvement – Hole Street and London Road new or improved footpath
8. Safety Engineering – Meiros Way/Rectory Lane junction review junction priorities
9. Safety Engineering – Church Lane, Rectory Lane & The Sands excessive ramping on speed humps and poor drainage
10. PROW – new bridleway from Ashington village to bridleway
11. PROW – improvements to bridleway route to Storrington
12. Environmental improvements – Spring Gardens

Missing from the list are: Rectory Lane/Park Lane improvements to passing places and London Road improvements to speed bump construction. Any others?

It was agreed that Councillors contact the Clerk with their priorities, specify what they think each project involves and the Clerk will collate the information ready for a decision at the next meeting.

All C/F

CORRESPONDENCE

276/13 For action:

1. Invitation to Age UK Horsham District Annual Review meeting to be held from 5.00 pm – 6.15 pm on Tuesday 15th October followed by an informal reception. No volunteers.
2. Would the Council object if a resident wished to place their own commemorative plaque for Alma Dickinson on the bench at the junction of Rectory Close/Rectory Lane? There were several options for commemorating an individual – plaque on a Parish Council bench, individual bench on the Recreation Ground or street name in a new housing development. The Parish Council was not comfortable with decisions about whether an individual deserved a plaque on one of its own benches and preferred either of the other options. Clerk to communicate to resident.

KD D

277/13 For information:

1. Minutes of HALC meeting 16/9
2. WSCC Better Connected – Ashington will be in the First phase to be surveyed. No dates for actual speed improvements yet.

278/13 General:

1. AiRS newsletter
2. WSCC Rights of Way routine maintenance
3. Thank You letter from Ashington Festival
4. SLCC & Airs AGM 7th November at the Amex Stadium
5. Local Council Review magazine

6. Clerks & Councils Direct magazine
7. The Clerk magazine
8. Letter from resident about lack of highways weedkilling & overgrown hedges – the Clerk has passed to WSCC.

279/13 PUBLIC ADJOURNMENT

Members of the public reported:

1. Who owns the trees at the northern edge of the Recreation Ground as they need trimming? This had been raised many times over the years and the Clerk confirmed that they were not owned by ACCT, PC, HDC nor WSCC. It was suggested that they may be owned by Saxon Weald. Clerk to write. **KD D**
2. Some teenagers had been occasionally hanging around at the benches on the Recreation Ground. The Clerk would speak to the PCSO. **KD D**
3. When would the brown tourist signs for the Mill House Hotel be removed? WSCC normally remove them 6 months after a business has ceased trading. In addition, GM Tools has put up a new sign on the A24 where the Mill House sign used to be. Clerk to write to WSCC. **KD D**
4. The Festival Committee are holding a public meeting on 23rd October at 7.30pm in the Community Centre as they are concerned about the future of the Carnival Procession (NOT the Festival itself). They are getting very few floats/walking groups taking part and the procession costs >£2000 to stage. The money could be better spent. Parish Councillors are invited to attend.
5. The Residents Association is holding its normal quarterly meeting in October and the compost site is on the agenda (even though the application has been withdrawn). There were so many residents objecting to the application that the RA want to keep everyone informed of what is going on with the application. An alternative site was suggested by a member of the public but the Chairman clarified that it was not the Council's role to bring sites forward.

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

280/13 PLANNING.

The Planning Committee met on 18th September and Councillors have been provided with a copy of the minutes. Agreed by all.

281/13 Correspondence

Horsham District Council Planning Framework – Preferred Strategy. This proposes that HDC should build 575 homes per year and allocates sites at Horsham, Billingshurst & Southwater plus @500 homes in small villages as identified by Neighbourhood Plans and to meet identified needs. The Parish Council has already responded to the HDC SHLAA document putting forwards Hoots House and ACCT land for possible development and has indicated to HDC that any other development should be identified through a Parish Plan. It was agreed that the Clerk confirm this position with HDC.

KD D

282/13 New Enforcement Allegations/Information

None

283/13 Amendments

None

284/13 Applications

DC/13/1796 Ground and first floor extension to create new attached garage and accommodation above, and minor alterations internally to ground floor – 37 Meiros Way
The Council has some concerns about this application:

1. Loss of hedgerow, trees and shrubs will result in the proposed extension dominating the street scene. There is little space to provide any new screening.
2. The new access onto Rectory Lane will result in loss of hedgerow, trees and shrubs and will affect the street scene. In addition it could result in a reduction in parking spaces at the property.
3. It is not clear whether neighbours will be able to use the new access onto Rectory Lane or whether it will be private to no. 37. The application makes no reference to a gate or other access control.

The Council would not normally object to an application unless it affected the village as a whole, therefore the decision is 'no objection' but asks that HDC consider the effect of this application on the street scene in this area.

DC/13/1808 Surgery to 3 x Beech trees and sectional fell of 1 x Beech tree – 33 Rectory Close

The Council is happy for this to be determined by HDC's Tree Officer.

DC/13/1857 Reduce 6 beech trees – 29 Rectory Close

The Council is happy for this to be determined by HDC's Tree Officer.

Horsham District Council

285/13 Approvals

DC/12/1276 Demolition of existing buildings, provision of second access and formation of an equine hospital and associated facilities – Westlands Farm, Billingshurst Road
The Clerk has asked the applicant for an update on likely timescales for the development.

286/13 Refusals None

287/13 Withdrawals

DC/13/1602 and WSCC/074/13/AS Construction of a green waste composting facility, incorporating a Gore-covered windrow system, site office, staff car park, tipping shed, compost storage area, access road and landscaping on land east of Sewage Works
It is understood that this has been withdrawn for 'contractual reasons'.

288/13 Appeals made/ decisions

None

The next Planning Committee meetings are scheduled for 16th & 30th October at 7.30pm in Ashington Sports Pavilion.

FINANCE

289/13 Correspondence

1. Consider a quote from D. Newland to repair one broken board on the climbing frame in the PostHorses play area £150 (needs to buy a new sheet of board and will store the spare for us to use at a later date). Agreed.
2. Consider a request from Central & South Sussex CAB for a donation. Not agreed.
3. The Clerk has arranged for an annual maintenance visit to the skatepark in October. The cost is £250 + VAT and includes any fixings needed plus a layer of wood preserver throughout. Excluded is the cost of any new boards that may be needed (unlikely). The Clerk will discuss halfpipe options at the same time. Agreed.
4. The Administrators of S&F Bank will be making another payment to creditors shortly.

290/13 Income

First Responders donation £200
 Lunch Club takings £165
 HDC Environmental Cleansing Grant £1701.70
 HDC Precept £49,979.50

291/13 Expenditure

		Cheque no.	
Mark Adsett	Gardeners contract payment	£491.66	
	Hanging basket watering (4 weeks)	£260.00	1437
Mrs K. Dare	Clerks expenses (home & telephone)	£17	
	Anti-virus software renewal 2 years	£54.99	
	Total	£71.99	1438
WSSC	Salary and on costs (September)	£	1439
ACCT	Lunch club hall hire	£59.20	1440
J. Gichovi-Elias	Travel (HDC Dev Con meeting 16/7)	£11.00	1441
HDC	Litter & dog bin emptying	£299.00	1442
AiRS	subscription	£50	1443

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

292/13 MEETINGS

Cllr Clark represented the Council at the inauguration of the new Rector.

293/13 MINOR MATTERS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS

1. Youth Shelter – the Council had previously written to ACCT to ask if a Youth Shelter could be positioned at the skatepark. This had not been agreed by ACCT. The Clerk had recently attended an informal meeting between ACCT/Police/ASB Co-ordinator and the Youth Worker to discuss problems that ACCT had been having with youths hanging about at the Community Centre and disturbing hall users. Following discussions she had written to ACCT to see if a youth shelter could be positioned behind the Youth Club. If ACCT were agreeable then this would be brought to the next PC meeting for discussion.
C/F
2. Lamppost no. 8 in Foster Lane is flickering. Clerk to report. **KD D**
3. The Parish Council can advertise its meetings/events in the window at the Co-op.
4. The Youth Worker had some ideas for projects but would require funding. It was suggested that these be brought to a Parish Council meeting.
5. Clerk to forward the minutes of the Blakiston Close residents meeting to Cllr Gichovi-Elias. **KD D**

At the August PC meeting the Chairman had presented Cllr Norton with a small gift to thank him for 40 years' service on the Parish Council. The Chairman proposed a vote of thanks and presented small gifts to Cllrs Carver (34 years), Gichovi-Elias & Wood (30 years) for serving in excess of 30 years.

The next meeting will be held at **7.45pm on Thursday 7th November 2013** at **Ashington School, Foster Lane.**

The meeting finished at 8.55pm

Signed.....

Date.....

294/13 APPENDIX 1: REPORT FROM NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDENS

No report this month due to sickness absence.

295/13 APPENDIX 2 – PCSO Report September-October

There have been several calls this month about suspicious callers. If you receive any cold callers at your door, please call in on 101 to report the incidents along with any descriptions of persons and any vehicle registrations that you obtain.

Between 08:30 on 06/09/13 and 15:15 on 07/09/13 a property in Rectory Close was subject of a Burglary. Entry was gained through a back window at the rear of the property. Did you see or hear anything? Did you notice a vehicle around the area that was acting suspiciously? If you can add anymore to this then please call 101 quoting serial 0896 of 07/09/13.

On the evening of the 11/09/13 there was a report of a group of youths that had congregated outside the Community Centre. Upon cleaning up the rubbish that was left they found a burnt timetable with a students name on it still. The Community Centre were concerned about the group trying to start fires. I have visited the student along with his parents and given strong words of advice at this time. If you saw the group there and can offer anymore information to the incident then please call in on 101 quoting serial 1387 of 12/09/13.

There was a vehicle damaged at Kates Cakes, on 17/09/13. It was discovered by the owner at 23:50, in which rear glass was smashed on both sides. If you can add anything to this please call in on 101 quoting serial 1582 of 17/09/13.

We received a call of two suspicious males hanging around Rectory Close, upon a response units attendance there was no one found.