



Ashington Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on 4th April 2013 at 7.45 p.m. in Ashington School, Foster Lane, Ashington

Present: Councillors M. Woolley, K. Wood, R. Brennan, J. Gichovi-Elias, T. Kearney, B. Norton, N. Carver, N. Clark & R. Strudwick
Parish Clerk Karen Dare
District Councillor Roger Arthur
County Councillor Frank Wilkinson
Neighbourhood Warden Peter Newell
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.

096/13 APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs R. Lancaster (business) & D. Harbour (personal), Neighbourhood Warden Jayne Jeffrey (illness)

097/13 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

The Chairman reminded Councillors that previous declarations still stand.

Councillors were asked to award a Dispensation to Cllr Gichovi-Elias to allow her to discuss the Council budget/precept at future meetings. Agreed by all.

098/13 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 7th March 2013 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman. Proposed by Councillor Strudwick and seconded by Councillor Brennan, and agreed.

099/13 REPORT FROM THE NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDENS & PCSO

PCSO report (see Appendix 2).

Wardens report (See Appendix 1). The Chairman thanked the Wardens for their report.

Review of Jayne Jeffrey absence: HDC has agreed a reduction in Warden costs for the time that Jayne is absent. Do we need additional cover? It was agreed that no additional cover was required.

KD C/F

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

1. A member of the public asked the Warden if he could monitor the area at the north eastern corner of the Recreation Ground as youths were congregating there regularly. The Warden agreed to keep an eye on the area but could only ask the youths to move if they were creating a nuisance/disturbance. If there were no problems then he can't ask them to move.

100/13 YOUNG PERSONS ADJOURNMENT

None present.

101/13 REPORT FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

District Councillor Roger Arthur reported:

1. HDC has received £2.5million less from the Govt. this year and faces some significant financial challenges. The New Homes Bonus is included within the Govt's financial settlement and is not new money, just a new name. HDC has developed a 3 year strategy to increase income and improve productivity/value for money.
2. He has resigned from the Tory party but will continue to work hard for his constituents as a District Councillor.

County Councillor Frank Wilkinson reported:

1. WSCC are still pursuing the adoption of Viney Close with both HDC and the Developers. It would appear that the Developers are keen to resolve this issue which has been ongoing for 10+ years.
2. WSCC previously could only pursue 3 x TRO's pa. Now, Officers advise that 5 x TRO's per annum can be undertaken. Therefore, the likely waiting time is 2 years if TRO projects get into the top 10 priorities.
3. Utility companies are not required to illuminate barriers if they are in an area covered by streetlights.
4. There will be a mini flood alleviation scheme outside Roselands, London Road as significant amounts of surface water affect the property during periods of heavy rain.
5. He has not heard back from Officers about the poor state of The Sands path.
6. WSCC has taken over Public Health services from the PCT. There is a large budget for this and Members are currently getting to grips with what is involved.

Questions:

1. Does District Councillor Arthur consider that outsourcing services rather than performing them in-house is preferable? HDC Business Transformation programme has a 'commissioning' function whereby different options are evaluated fully before being approved. HDC recognise that outsourcing needs to be managed well as there are risks that services may not be delivered as agreed.

2. Why has HDC introduced a charge of £29 pa to empty brown bins? HDC can no longer provide the service FOC as the money they receive from the Govt. has decreased by £2.5million. Other Districts charge much more for the service. HDC calculated its cost-effectiveness based on an assumed 20,000 homes uptake, to date over 10,000 homes have signed up. HDC were not looking to profit from the service, just to break-even. It was suggested that HDC could have provided the service FOC and saved money by suspending it over the winter period. Cllr Arthur would pass this comment to the Cabinet member responsible and ask for direct feedback.
3. Why is WSCC not filling potholes more quickly? County Councillor Wilkinson reported that WSCC is filling 2000-2500 potholes per week and has set aside an extra £8million for pothole repair this winter. The County has 2500 miles of roads and 5 teams filling holes. Potholes are prioritised based on depth and location (main roads are higher priority than rural roads). It was reported that there are some really bad potholes along West Chiltington road and County Councillor Wilkinson would report these to the County Councillor responsible for West Chiltington.
4. Why can we not have double yellow lines in the area of the Church to stop the dangerous parking? County Councillor Wilkinson suggested that the resident write to the Parish Council. If the PC considered double yellow lines a priority then they could ask WSCC to assess the situation and prioritise on the TRO list. This had been considered in the past but not pursued as it was felt unlikely that they would ever be enforced. The Chairman reported that Action point 1.7 on the Community Action Plan called for action to be taken to improve parking in the area around the Church and he had been in correspondence with the temporary vicar and our new PCSO. The Church had agreed to have a 'church warden' monitor parking on a Sunday morning and ask people to move their cars if they were felt to be parked in dangerous positions, blocking driveways or parked on grass verges (recently an underground water pipe was broken by a vehicle parking on a verge). The PCSO would patrol the area on a Sunday and put notices on offending vehicles. The Neighbourhood Warden suggested that the Church could borrow some cones and position them on a Sunday morning before church-goers arrived. It was suggested that 'Phase 2' of the Community Centre could involve additional parking space being made available at the Community Centre. It was agreed that the situation would be monitored before any consideration is given to double yellow lines.
5. Last month County Councillor Wilkinson had stated that he would arrange for a site visit of a Highways Officer to Rectory Lane to look at works needed. He had been unable to arrange a visit as WSCC do not have a Highways Officer currently covering Ashington and no-one else had come forward. He would ask again.

The Chairman thanked both Councillors for their reports.

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

102/13 Community Action Plan

Updated list on the PC website. The Church and PCSO are working together to try to highlight bad parking at this location and educate church-goers. **KD C/F**

103/13 Nature Trail fence and repairs to path

The Clerk has spoken to Mark Adsett about installing wooden posts along the nature trail (between the play area and nearest house) plus one 'drop bollard' on the path itself. This would be the cheapest solution.

The cost of a 'drop bollard' is @£120 plus @£50 for wooden posts. Agreed by all.

KD D

104/13 Assets of Community Value (Community Right to bid)

The Clerk has completed the paperwork for the allotments and Parish Church and submitted to HDC. Other nominations will follow.

Councillors may wish to consider whether to nominate the Old School and Warminghurst Church? Warminghurst Church is in Thakeham Parish, therefore can't be nominated but it was agreed that the Old School be nominated. **KD C/F**

CORRESPONDENCE

105/13 For action:

1. SALC survey of training needs – it was proposed that the Clerk complete this. Agreed by all. **KD D**
2. SALC – AGM 16th May 10.30am in Southwater. Does anyone want to attend? No volunteers.

106/13 For information:

1. Minutes of bus partnership meeting – nothing relating to Ashington
2. Horsham Police monthly update – circulated by email.
3. WSCC CLC minutes 6th March
4. Update on Southern Water's plans for the future
5. HDC – update on Community Youth Work
6. HDC – information on using New Homes Bonus to supplement revenue funds
7. WSCC – details on proposed improvements to public footpaths in the area
8. HALC minutes

107/13 General:

1. Parish Matters magazine
2. Local Council Review magazine

108/13 PUBLIC ADJOURNMENT

Members of the public reported:

1. Is there an update on Penn Retreat (see Minute 110/13 below)
2. The hedge at Viney Close is still overgrowing the public footpath, despite the Clerk reporting this to Moat Housing on many occasions. It was agreed that the Clerk pass information to WSCC and ask that they deal with this. **KD D**

3. The 'gardens' at the shopping area are in a very poor state of maintenance. Clerk to write to the Management Company and ask that they maintain. **KD D**
4. Any progress on the Vets Surgery? Clerk to write to the vet for an update. **KD D**
5. Any progress on plans for houses at Hoots House? Clerk to write to the agent and ask for an update. **KD D**

The Chairman thanked members of the public for their comments.

109/13 PLANNING.

The Planning Committee met on 20th March and Councillors have been provided with a copy of the Minutes. Agreed by all.

110/13 Correspondence

1. Draft s106 agreement for Penn Retreat – The Parish Council would not normally have the opportunity to comment on these but the agent for the application had sent a draft copy. It was proposed that the Chairman & Clerk scrutinise and give comments to the agent and HDC. Agreed by all. **KD D**
In the future s106 will be replaced by CIL but there is no date for this yet.

111/13 New Enforcement Allegations/Information

None

112/13 Amendments

None

113/13 Applications

DC/13/0465 Construction of a detached double garage – 7 Warminghurst Close
Previous comments (Planning Committee 14th November 2012):

“The Parish Council have no objections however it does have some concerns, as stated in the letters of representation by neighbours:

1. This is a very tight access driveway to numbers 7,9 & 11 Warminghurst Close. Residents need space to turn their vehicles so that they are not reversing long distances out onto the main road. Construction of this garage will result in a much reduced turning area. However, we do not know what permissions, if any, the owners of numbers 9&11 Warminghurst Close have to use the driveway in front of number 7 to turn their vehicles but the proposed garage will reduce this option. The ability of vehicles from number 7 to turn around will also be reduced. Highway safety implications should be considered.
2. It is not clear how surface water will be dealt with. A single water butt is not ideal.
3. The new garage may result in the necessary removal of shrub beds in this area. This will affect the appearance of the area and the amenity of neighbours.
4. Access into the garage for a vehicle appears inadequate/impossible because of the proximity of the shrub beds and access to the garage appears to require removal of shrubs that may possibly belong to a neighbour.

5. The front door of the garage is shown as being on the south side, directly facing the garden fence of number 5. Are the drawings correct?
6. The garage is to have cavity walls. This is an unusual garage construction and suggests that this structure may not be a garage at all in the long term.”

This new application has reduced the massing of the roof but not the overall height, proposes to deal with surface water by way of water butt overflowing into Southern Water sewer (surface water presumably should not be directed into sewers?) Other concerns have not been addressed.

It was agreed by all that the same comments as 14/11/12 be submitted to HDC.

DC/13/0475 Variation of Condition 1 of planning permission AS/26/97 (the 21 seasonal caravans stationed on the site shall only be occupied from 1st March to 31st October inclusive) to allow the residential occupancy of 10 mobile homes – Luckista Caravan Park, Billingshurst Road

The Parish Council strongly object to this application. The primary purpose of this site is to provide holiday accommodation to support Tourism in the area. Ashington lies on the edge of the SDNP and, as this becomes established, tourism infrastructure in the area will become even more important. The application site lies in a countryside location, well outside the BUAB of Ashington and tourist accommodation is preferable in this countryside location.

Ashington is a Category 2 settlement with limited facilities. The Housing Needs Survey of 2007 did identify a need for ‘affordable homes’ but this has now largely been met by the recently completed development at Meiros Farm, Ashington. The Parish Council has identified other locations in the village (within or very close to the BUAB) where any future housing needs could be met, indeed one such site has recently been approved by HDC. The Parish Council considers that Luckista Caravan site is too far out of the village (in the countryside) to be essential for residential accommodation. There are no satisfactory footpath links to the village (no footpath for much of the busy B2133 that links the site to the village and only a public footpath linking the rear of the site to parts of the village), therefore making it an unsustainable location where residents would be heavily reliant on private cars.

The Parish Council would wish to see this site used for its intended purpose – holiday caravans. The Council is aware that some residents appear to have been living in the holiday caravans on a permanent basis and has passed information to HDC’s Planning Compliance Dept. and asked that they take appropriate action. If caravans are occupied unlawfully this is no reason to remove planning conditions. In the event that anyone is made homeless as referred to by the applicant, the Parish Council would work with HDC to try to ensure that such people are considered for future affordable homes in the village.

The Parish Council believe that this application is not materially different from the application that was made in 2010 (DC/10/1648), which HDC refused, with the refusal being upheld by the Planning Inspector on appeal. All the issues considered by HDC in coming to their decision in 2010, and the arguments considered by the Planning Inspector on appeal still hold (indeed even more so with the development of the SDNP), and we would ask that all these arguments are considered once again by HDC when reviewing the current application.

The Parish Council feel sufficiently strongly on this application that if the Planning Officer is minded to approve for any reason then we request the decision go to committee where we can further expand on our objections.

Horsham District Council

114/13 Approvals

DC/13/0032 Change of use to residential occupation, erection of perimeter fencing/gates and re-instatement of gardens (Full Planning) – Mill House Hotel

DC/13/0033 Refurbishment of commercial kitchens to domestic kitchen, erection of perimeter fencing/gates and re-instatement of gardens (Listed Building Consent) – Mill House Hotel

DC/13/0138 Loft conversion with first floor extension over existing flat roof extension – Cleavers, Church Lane.

115/13 Refusals

None

116/13 Withdrawals

None

117/13 Appeals made/ decisions

None

The next Planning Committee meeting is scheduled for 17th April 2013 at 7.00pm.

FINANCE

118/13 Recent update from ACCT

It was proposed that the Clerk send ACCT a copy of the Minutes that explain the conditions attached to the Public Works Loan. Agreed by all. **KD D**

119/13 Correspondence

1. Weedkilling this year will cost £330 + VAT (£340 was included in the budget).
Councillors were asked to approve. Agreed by all. **KD D**

120/13 Income

Kite & Thomas – rent & roundabout sponsorship £2077.50
Donation to Lunch & Bingo Clubs £500
VAT reclaim £865.87

121/13 Expenditure

		Cheque no.	
Mark Adsett	Gardeners contract payment	£483.33	1383
Mrs K. Dare	Clerks expenses (home & telephone)	£17	
	Postage	£14.40	

	Mobile phone top-up	£10	
	Broadband cancellation fee	£15	
	Print cartridges	£12.00	
	Total	£68.40	1384
WSSC	Salary and on costs (March)	£844.93	1385
Plusnet (Has been cancelled but waiting for final invoice)	Broadband	£17.99	DD
ACCT	Lunch Club	£130.32	1386
	Bingo Club	£108.60	1387
HALC	Subscriptions	£15	1388
SALC	Subscriptions	£681.10	1389
BT	phone	£67.02	DD
S. Fenn	responder expenses	£185.84	1390

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

The next Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for 17th April 2013 at 7.30pm.

122/13 MEETINGS

Cllr Carver had attended a Western Hospitals NHS Trust meeting where a 'human simulator' had been demonstrated that allowed medical staff to practice procedures without harming patients. One would be installed at Worthing Hospital shortly (it was pioneered at St. Richards Hospital).

123/13 MINOR MATTERS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS

Cllr Gichovi-Elias reported that the streetlights at Blakiston Close were installed but not completed yet. The Clerk reported that this new development is a private estate (not adopted by WSSC) therefore all defects should be reported to the management company responsible for the development.

The next meeting will be held at **7.45pm on Thursday 2nd May 2013 at Ashington School, Foster Lane.**

The meeting finished at 8.55pm

Signed.....

Date.....

APPENDIX 1: REPORT FROM NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDENS

Bingo Club

After the success of the lunch club we were keen to set up another club with equal success. With the support of the Parish council, Community centre, Saxon Weald and the Co-op we have just had our first monthly session. After a wobbly start we have I hope now found our feet and look forward to holding bingo sessions on the last Friday of every month. It was great fun with some winnings going to a number of residents. Hopefully this will end up being self-sufficient in the end and pay for itself. We had over 20 people and hope the number will only grow.

Weather

As we all know this has been the coldest march for 50 years. Because of the weather we have been keen to offer extra support where needed and have ensured that we were ready should the need be to come in and deal with adverse conditions. Thankfully with the 4x4 it has been made easier with us able to attend and support those needing no matter the weather. During the coldest snowy parts we helped support Sussex police with an extra 4x4 presence too providing them assistance to get out to some rural areas.

RTC Goose Green Lane

Upon routine patrol of the area I came across a road traffic collision down near the brickworks on Goose Green Lane. A single car had turned on its side and ended in a ditch. Upon arrival only an ambulance was on scene along with one of our first responders. I quickly acted to support the scene by taking control of traffic approaching from the Ashington side. Thankfully the driver escaped the car with only minor injuries.

Broken Arm

Whilst on patrol of the village I was flagged down by several teenage lads who told me their friend had fallen and hurt his arm. Upon attendance I called the boys mother and it was only then when we tried to move the lad that the full extent of his injuries became apparent. He had broken his arm badly so we called an ambulance whilst keeping him warm and safe. The lads that were with him were superb keeping an eye out for the ambulance and fetching things when needed. It was great too to have the support of the Ashington First Responders who attended quickly and professionally dealt with the situation. I feel we are very lucky to have them in the village. The lad involved was very brave and I wish him a speedy recovery.

First Responders

Having had first aid training from one of our first responders and seen them in action most recently it has reaffirmed their importance in Ashington. It too made me realise that it would be really valuable if we as wardens could act as first responders when on duty. It would give the village greater coverage and enable the current responders to have valuable rest time. We are currently exploring what is needed to be done to qualify as a first responder and hope to undergo the appropriate training in the near future.

Lunch Club

By the time I am at the Parish council meeting we will have had our third lunch club meeting which I am certain will have gone wonderfully well. We continue to get great support and numbers of people coming. We hope to continue to grow throughout the year as we are already covering our costs.

Abandoned Red Van

I am certain most will have noticed the red ford escort van parked up just off the roundabout on the north end of the village. The van was immediately noted by us and reported to the Police as it was out of road tax. The Police carried out their checks and as it wasn't stolen or wanted by them it has now been passed to the council to deal with. Hopefully by now the van will have been removed. IF however it hasn't I am on the case and hope it will be removed shortly.

Travellers Old London Road

This month our "new age" travellers have moved on from the old London road area. They have left the road with no mess and as far as we are aware didn't cause any problems when there.

We did also seeming have a near miss with a group of Irish Travellers that had moved from Crawley. One morning they appeared to gather there with caravans but seemingly moved on after only a few hours. Hopefully the road will remain clear now.

Cannabis

Cannabis seems to have reared its head in Ashington again. This month I have confiscated drug related equipment from several young persons as well as we have had several reports regarding young people smoking / smelling of it. I have been working in Partnership with Bryony our PCSO to tackle and report the matters appropriately. We too are feeding information / intelligence back to Sussex Police about any drug related instances in the village.

Crime Stoppers Charity have been running a cannabis campaign to identify where it is being grown or where home grown factories are located. I am currently trying to get my hands on some of their promotional materials for the area.

Youth Provision

We continue to look at the long term solutions and by the time we meet at the Parish Council Meeting I will have had an interesting update about the progress on what is going on. April will hopefully be the start of some useful meetings of key / interested parties to put together a plan to get a youth worker in the area. At the moment it looks like a partnership could be formed between Ashington, Wiston and Thakeham. More to follow on this.

Recent Community Safety Partnership Meeting

On behalf of the Parish Council I attended a Community Safety Partnership meeting with the intention of setting the ongoing priorities for the group for the upcoming year. It was an interesting meeting and some good crime figures were presented. I am still trying to get my hands on them to present back to you but things like ASB were down by a 1/3 across the district. One of the most beneficial parts of the meeting was a chance to meet other representatives from different partner groups and agencies. One interesting person was Jan Leeming the head of Age UK Horsham who was very interested to discuss what we were doing in Ashington. Age UK are rolling out a "village agent" scheme which pilots in Billingshurst soon. With the idea of having someone to network and champion the needs etc of older people in their village. When I explained that we as wardens already did much of that in Ashington she was very keen to find out more. Hopefully this will lead to some support and training in the future and further our strong relationship with age uk.

APPENDIX 2 -

Ashington Parish Council Meeting Update
March to April 2013

Good Evening.

Hope you all had a lovely Easter.

Unfortunately on 02/04/13 The Red Lion Public House on London Road was subject to a break. It is currently being investigated. This happened in the early hours of Tuesday 2nd April at approximately just after 1am. There was a small dark vehicle, possibly a diesel seen in the vicinity around this time. If anyone saw or heard anything suspicious that could relate please call 101 quoting ref: 0078 of 02/04/13.

There were several calls during the month about anti-social and reckless driving through Ashington. I would like to take this opportunity to remind residents of Operation Crackdown. If you see any anti social driving or any persons driving whilst using their mobile phone or without a seatbelt. Please log onto Operation Crackdown to report any such offences.

On 22/03/13 there was a rowdy house party in Mill Lane, Ashington. A group of youths at the premises were given words of advice for being a bit too loud; and there were no further calls or issues.

There have been some issues with parking around the Church during service times etc. I have been liaising with the Malcolm; and I am due to work next Sunday (14th April) and will be making it part of my patrol. If any cars are seen to be causing an obstruction I will leave polite messages on windscreens to try and deter people from parking inappropriately again.

PCSO Sparks