



Ashington Parish Council

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

Present: Councillors M. Woolley, T. Kearney, R. Lancaster, R. Brennan, K. Wood, J. Gichovi-Elias, B. Norton, N. Carver, N. Clark
Parish Clerk Karen Dare
District Councillor Roger Arthur
PCSO Neville Warner
3 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.

189/13 APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE

Neighbourhood Warden Jayne Jeffrey (illness), Cllrs R. Strudwick (business) & D. Harbour (personal), County Councillor Frank Wilkinson (illness).

190/13 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

The Chairman reminded Councillors that previous declarations still stand. Cllr Gichovi-Elias declared a personal prejudicial interest in the grant application from Ashington Festival (Minute 210/13).

191/13 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 6th June 2013 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman. Proposed by Councillor Norton and seconded by Councillor Carver, and agreed.

192/13 REPORT FROM THE NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDENS & PCSO

PCSO report (see Appendix 2).

Questions:

1. A member of the public had spotted 3 men at the rear of the churchyard in a condition that suggested there were drugs involved. He had reported this to the Wardens but no action had been taken.
He was advised that he should call this type of incident to the Police who would give him a serial number for the incident and he could follow up on action taken

by quoting this number. He was reminded that the Wardens are not a 24/7 service.

2. There had been a Press report indicating that a young girl had been raped and assaulted near Blakiston Close.

The Police were aware of this incident and it was not a rape/assault but a domestic issue and was being dealt with.

The Chairman thanked PCSO Warner for his report and attendance.

Wardens report (See Appendix 1).

Questions for the Wardens from Councillors & Members of the public: None

Long term plans: The Clerk has contacted HDC regarding recruitment of the part-time Warden and HDC has agreed to employ the Warden on the understanding that the Parish Council will take more of an active role in the day to day management of both Wardens. More details to follow. The Clerk & Cllr Clark are meeting with an agency who could provide permanent or temporary Wardens (more details will follow). In addition, the Clerk has enquired of Sussex Police whether the Council could 'buy' some PCSO time and this may be possible. It was agreed that the Clerk set up a meeting with Sussex Police to discuss this further as the Council has many questions about how this would work.

KD C/F

Short term plans: HDC has advised that temporary Warden cover is very time consuming to organise and they would prefer to devote resources to recruitment of a permanent Warden. PCSO Bryony Sparks has been re-assigned to Ashington for 3 months to help cover during Warden absence.

KD C/F

The Clerk met with Liz Burt (Horsham Matters) on 27th June to discuss a temporary Youth Worker. Cllr Clark (ex-Youth Club Chairman) will meet Liz to show her the Youth Club facilities and explain the running of the Club so she has more idea of what is available in the village.

KD C/F

193/13 YOUNG PERSONS ADJOURNMENT

None present.

194/13 REPORT FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

District Councillor Roger Arthur reported:

1. He is campaigning for a 12 month moratorium in the 'presumption in favour of sustainable development' and asking Govt. Ministers to allow time for local Councils to prepare their Neighbourhood/Local Plans for appropriate development rather than have an unelected Planning Inspector approve developments at appeal hearings in locations where Neighbourhood/Local Plans are not yet complete. He has started a petition and would send details to the Clerk. It was agreed that the Clerk sign the petition on the Council's behalf.
2. HDC Planning Dept. has been put in 'special measures' as its performance is the worst in the country and well below target. This needs to be put right by the Chief

Executive and form part of his performance targets and HDC's Leader should manage the performance of the Chief Executive.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Arthur for his report.

Questions:

1. The local newspaper had reported that HDC has the worst performing planning dept. in the country and it has been placed in 'special measures' and that HDC intends to withdraw public participation at planning committee meetings because its members don't feel that they can speak openly about applications. It was agreed that the Clerk write to Claire Vickers to protest at the possible removal of public participation. **KD D**
2. HDC are approving lots of planning applications for houses but where is the infrastructure eg schools, hospitals? The Govt. are responsible for new hospitals but there is no money for a new one, therefore, existing facilities are being better utilised. WSCC are responsible for schools and do comment on planning applications with school capacity issues. The Parish Council does comment on all planning applications in the village.

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

195/13 Community Action Plan

Updated list on the PC website.

KD C/F

196/13 Kite & Thomas

The owners of Ashington Autos have asked the Council if it would consider selling Council owned land on London Road (green shed land) to them. They wish to replace the dilapidated green shed and are reluctant to make the investment as tenants. Councillors expressed reluctance to sell this asset and recognised that they have a duty of care not to dispose of community assets inappropriately. It was agreed that if Ashington Autos wished to invest in a new building then the lease could be amended to reflect their investment eg extend the notice period, offer a 'sliding scale' of compensation if the lease is terminated by the Council after a number of years. It was agreed that the Clerk speak to Ashington Autos. **KD C/F**

CORRESPONDENCE

197/13 For action:

1. Community Speedwatch – the Clerk has received information from Sussex Police about how to set up a local group. This initiative could be used in various locations eg London Road, Billingshurst Road. In order to establish a group a number of volunteers would be needed and it was proposed that the Clerk place an article in the next Newsletter to see what interest she can get. If there are

sufficient volunteers then the next step would be to talk to the Police about suitable locations. Agreed by all. **KD D**

2. Sussex Police – Operation Crackdown re-launch. It was agreed to invite an officer to attend a PC meeting. **KD D**
3. West Sussex Local Flood Risk Management Strategy – a consultation document. It was agreed that the Clerk respond. **KD D**
4. HDC Licensing Policy – a consultation document. It was agreed that the Clerk respond asking HDC to add Parish Councils to their list of consultees on licensing applications. **KD D**
5. Letter from Ashington resident – Clerk to respond.

198/13 For information:

1. Horsham Police – monthly updates
2. Saxon Weald Environmental Improvement information – pass to Margaret Alford.
3. HALC minutes
4. Sussex Police – operation Magpie

199/13 General:

1. Southern Water – metering update
2. Southern Water – five year business plan
3. CPRE Sussex – Review
4. Local Council Review magazine

200/13 PUBLIC ADJOURNMENT

Members of the public reported:

1. Could the Clerk put an article in the next Newsletter asking residents to cut back hedges? **KD D**
2. Church Lane hedge needs cutting back. The Clerk & Gardener had been monitoring bird activity for a number of months and had agreed a few days ago that nesting birds had now left, therefore the hedge would be cut back on Friday 5th July. The Clerk was aware that the hedge had grown over the footpath resulting in a ‘public safety issue’ as walkers had to cross the road and use the opposite path or walk in the road. Cutting the hedge was a balance between preserving the hedge for nesting birds and public safety and was to be cut when it was considered reasonable to do so. ACCT did indicate that they may be willing to remove this hedge as it did mean that the footpath was very narrow on occasions. It was agreed to discuss this issue in the winter.
3. The hedge, belonging to ACCT, on the corner of Foster Lane near the school crossing had grown high so that visibility for safe crossing of the road was reduced. ACCT agreed to cut the hedge lower but this is an autumn/ winter job.
4. The hedge along Rectory Lane to Penn Gardens was overgrowing the pavement again. Clerk to report to WSCC Highways. **KD D**
5. Old streetlights in Penn Gardens have not been replaced yet. Clerk to find out why. **KD D**
6. Saxon Weald may have grants available for Parish Councils who wish to set up their own Youth Workers. Clerk to contact Sue Tew. **KD D**
7. A member of the public asked what had happened to the £50 donation he had made to Ashington Youth Club since the Club was now closed. The Vice

Chairman responded that he was aware of a £50 donation but that it had been made anonymously, therefore no acknowledgement letter could be sent. The money had been added to club funds and would be used when a Youth Worker had been recruited. The Parish Council is putting significant time and resource into finding a Youth Worker and setting up a long term youth project for the village.

8. The same member of the public reported that a local resident had filled in some potholes in the private part of Mill Lane using builders rubble and asked why the Parish Council couldn't do the job properly. The Chairman reminded him, again, that this section of road is private and is the responsibility of the local residents not the Parish Council nor WSCC Highways. This matter will not be discussed again.
9. He then asked how he would go about becoming a Parish Councillor as he is not happy with the current Councillors. The Clerk reported that the next elections are May 2015 and he should contact HDC for details.
10. He then went on to start making personal criticisms of individual Councillors and the meeting became quite heated. The Chairman & Clerk asked for order and asked the member of the public to restrict his comments to Parish Council matters. The member of the public was asked to stop speaking as he had taken more than his permitted time under Standing Order 1f.

The Chairman thanked members of the public for their comments.

201/13 PLANNING.

The Planning Committee did not meet on 19th June as there were no applications to discuss.

202/13 Correspondence

1. Map of land owned by Wiston Estate showing Public Rights of Way – for information
2. Copy of Shipley Parish Design Statement
3. Letter from Brett Inc. asking HDC to determine the planning application for the Equine Hospital without any further delay. The Parish Council's original concerns have been addressed by various amendments and Councillors agreed to re-confirm the Parish Council's support for this application as the benefits outweigh the drawbacks. Chairman to write to HDC. **MW D**
4. The Clerk had been informed that at a public inquiry into the Waste Local Plan DMH Stallard (representing Olus) had confirmed that they would be submitting another planning application for an open windrow compost site at Broadbridge Farm (40,000 tonnes per year). Councillors agreed that as the application information is likely to be substantial the Clerk should brief the Council's Planning Consultant and the Chairman & Clerk engage their services in responding (either for or against) when the application is available. **KD D**

203/13 New Enforcement Allegations/Information

None

204/13 Amendments

None

205/13 Applications

DC/13/1146 Single storey extension to east elevation (Listed Building Consent) – The Willows, London Road

The Parish Council has no objections.

Horsham District Council

206/13 Approvals

DC/13/0768 Single storey, pitched roof, side extension – 12 Alicia Avenue

DC/12/1975 Erection of 15 dwellings comprising 6 x 3-bed, 3 x 2-bed, 5 x 2-bed flats (social), 1 x 1-bed flat (social) and improvement of existing access (Outline Planning) – Penn Retreat, Rectory Lane

DC/12/1686 Erection of 2 bedroom dwelling – land east of 1 Hillcrest Close
The Parish Council had objected to this application and was not happy at HDC's approval. In the future the PC would ask to speak at HDC meetings every time it objects to an application.

DC/13/0731 Erection of 1 x fascia sign externally illuminated by overhead trough light to front elevation, 1 x non-illuminated 'Post Office' projecting sign to front elevation, 1 x 'Post Office' services panel to front elevation – Co-op Welcome

DC/13/0578 Replace rear kitchen window with timber door and install porch canopy for weatherproofing (Listed Building Consent)- Robin Cottage, 23 Church Lane

207/13 Refusals

None

208/13 Withdrawals

DC/10/1288 Proposed stationing of 6 traveller/gypsy pitches plus outbuildings & storage area. Formation of new access and hardstanding – Penn Retreat, Rectory Lane

209/13 Appeals made/ decisions

None

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

FINANCE

210/13 Correspondence

1. Letter from ACCT – the Community Centre needs a new boiler as theirs has been declared unsafe. The cost is likely to be @£2000 and they wish to submit a

s106 application for the funds. Does the PC support this? It was agreed by all to support this application. **KD D**

2. Consider a quote to repair gates/fence in both the Posthorses and Warminghurst Close play areas. Total £190 (excludes new gate spring, approx. cost £50, Clerk to source and purchase). Agreed by all. **KD D**

Cllr Gichovi-Elias withdrew from the meeting.

3. Festival – the quote for security is £745.80 + VAT. It was agreed by all to contract directly with the Security Company and this would be the Parish Council's contribution to this year's Festival. **KD D**

Cllr Gichovi-Elias returned to the meeting.

211/13 Income

HDC – 6 months Environmental Cleansing Grant £1,701.70

Cheque from K. Dare £17.99 (PlusNet broadband refunded payment of £17.99 by way of personal cheque to K. Dare)

Kite & Thomas rent & roundabout sponsorship £2077.50

Recovered from Singer & Friedlander £3274.25 (total 79% recovered)

212/13 Expenditure

		Cheque no.	
Mark Adsett	Gardeners contract payment	£491.66	1410
	Hanging basket watering (4 weeks)	£260.00	
Mrs K. Dare	Clerks expenses (home & telephone)	£17	
	New signs	£112.50	
	Total	£129.50	1411
WSSC	Salary and on costs (June)	£	1412
	Payroll services	£42.12	1413
ACCT	Hall hire 15 th May	£8.84	1414
Ashington School	Hall hire 2013/14	£216.00	1415
Public Works Loan	For Community Centre	£3110.12	BACS

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

213/13 MEETINGS

The Clerk met with Cali Sparks (WSSC Community Development Officer) on 20th June and has circulated a summary of the meeting.

Cllr Gichovi-Elias had attended an ACCT meeting.

214/13 MINOR MATTERS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS

1. Cllr Carver reported that he had recently had a very positive experience of GP 'Out of Hours' surgery and NHS 111 telephone system. Both had received bad press recently but his experience was contrary to this.
2. Cllr Wood reported that the 'no parking in front of electricity substation' was missing from the corner of Ivy Lane. Clerk to contact electricity company. **KD D**
3. Cllr Kearney reported that residents of Linfield Lane are parking on Billingshurst Road outside the 3 bungalows to the south of Ivy Lane. This is giving the residents of the bungalows some difficulty in accessing their driveways. Clerk to report to Highways to see if this is a designated turning area or not. The Wardens could have a polite word with vehicle owners. **KD D**
4. The public footpaths behind Sparrows Lane & Luckista Caravan Park are very overgrown. Clerk to report to WSCC. **KD D**

The next meeting will be held at **7.45pm on Thursday 1st August 2013 at Ashington School, Foster Lane.**

The meeting finished at 9.15pm

Signed.....

Date.....

APPENDIX 1: REPORT FROM NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDENS

No report this month due to sickness absence.

APPENDIX 2 -

Ashington Parish Council Meeting Update
June to July 2013

There have been no major issues in Ashington this month. We have conducted regular patrols of the Recreation Ground and surrounding area and have come across groups of youths but no alcohol was involved. The youths were amiable and not causing a disturbance. They were advised to dispose of their litter in the proper manner. We will continue to patrol on a regular basis.

There had been some noise/disturbance at @4-5am one day in the Turnpike Way play area. Officers had attended but no alcohol was evident.

A resident reported that a vehicle deliberately drove straight at her. The Police know the youth concerned and will be speaking to them.

PCSO Bryony Sparks has been seconded back to Ashington while there is no Warden cover and both PCSO's will cover the area. It is likely that PCSO Sparks will be redeployed to Horsham once the Warden situation has been resolved.

PCSO Neville Warner