



Ashington Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on 5th January 2012 at 7.45 p.m. in Ashington School, Foster Lane, Ashington

Present: Councillors M. Woolley (Chairman), K. Wood, R. Brennan, B. Norton, N. Clark, R. Strudwick, J. Stillwell, R. Lancaster, N. Carver, T. Kearney, D. Harbour.
Parish Clerk Karen Dare
Neighbourhood Wardens Peter Newell & Jayne Jeffrey
2 members of the public

001/12 APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE

County Councillor Frank Wilkinson (personal) & District Councillor Roger Arthur (business)

002/12 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

The Chairman reminded Councillors that previous declarations still stand. Cllr Clark declared an interest in the Youth Club grant application as he is Chairman of the Youth Club.

003/12 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 1st December 2012 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman. Proposed by Councillor Brennan and seconded by Councillor Stillwell, and agreed.

004/12 REPORT FROM THE NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDENS

Problems with Drugs / Alcohol

This month has been relatively quiet in comparison to previous months with regards to Alcohol and Drug intervention. We continue to work with individuals identified on previous occasions and names have been forwarded to the Anti Social Behaviour team in Horsham. This has generated several future meetings that will take place in the New Year. Although this month has been quiet we have noticed a recent rise in the number of youths from outside of the village coming into Ashington. We are continuing to monitor the usual hot spot areas and are still working with the Police.

CO – OP

We have been working closely with the co-op and have forged a good working relationship with the manager. We have added our support to him and his staff and are

encouraging the CO-OP to be firm on their think 25 policy, where anyone lucky enough to look under 25 is asked to provide ID when purchasing alcohol and cigarettes. In addition to the CO-OP in Ashington we too have forged a link with the CO-OP at the Bucks Barn petrol station as we believe this has been the source of some of the alcohol consumed in the village.

Criminal Damage

We have spoken to the group of youths we feel are responsible for the recent damage in the village and have tried to get them to put themselves in the position of the victim of the damage. We have tried to get the youths to empathise with the feelings that the victims have been put through and we feel most of the group have realised that it goes beyond just the physical damage. We are aware this month there have still been some instances of damage but feel these are less than last month and hopefully by working closely with the youths we will bring this to a stop completely.

Youth Club

This month with the cold and rain we have been harshly reminded that there are a good few young people with “nothing to do” and “nowhere to go” of an evening. With the youth club being an ideal location and facility we have realised that this needs to become a priority for the new year. We hope that we can work together with the community and create a safe warm environment where we can help work with the youth of Ashington towards a positive future. We have come across groups on several occasions of influential age groups that before long without appropriate diversionary activities could easily follow the wrong path. Hopefully by this time next year this will be a problem or concern of the past.

Dog foul Signage

Is still ongoing. We have made a conscious effort to try and place signage in the worst areas affected. We too have been updating the signs that are already in place and hopefully have managed to almost get them all renewed by now. We are aiming to add some extra signs to the entrances for the recreation field and intend to try our best, through high vis patrols, to crack down in this area in particular. Not an easy task but none the less we want to try. We would value any support from volunteers to help by clearing the dog foul that is found on the rec before it is mowed. In addition to dog fouling we want to try and promote responsibility for dog owners in the village. We have had numerous complaints about noisy constant barking dogs as well as the odd report of aggressive dogs and equally aggressive owners. Hopefully by working together we can help reduce these problems.

Elderly and vulnerable visits

With Christmas and winter upon us we have been keen to carry out as many home visits as we can. We have been visiting homes on a regular basis and ensuring that residents are set for the winter break. We have been conscious that a number of residents have been home alone this Christmas and have tried our best to get round to them all ensuring all is well and trying to spread some festive cheer.

We have started to do a safety check of each house that we visit beginning with smoke alarms ensuring that those that are installed are tested and working properly. Several batteries have been replaced where possible and whole smoke alarms replaced where not. In addition to the internal safety precautions we have become concerned at how quickly some residents have been answering their doors to us without identifying who is outside. We are going to start in the New Year an awareness campaign to try and instil a degree of caution in every resident before they open their door. We are also going to help install extra safety devices such as door chains to add an extra layer of security to those most in need.

Christmas Lunch / Day Out

On the 6th of December we took a minibus trip out with our elderly and vulnerable residents. We headed south and visited a few of the garden centres outside of Worthing. Soon after we headed to a farm shop and then onto Arundel for a Christmas Lunch. This was a good fun day and a great opportunity to get out to do some Christmas shopping for some of the more vulnerable residents. We were able to provide a safe door to door service for them ensuring that their welfare was looked after every step of the way. After a busy morning shopping we went for a rather scrummy Christmas lunch in Arundel which was generously paid for by HDC.

Drink Driving

We have noticed that there has been an evident rise in Drink driving in Ashington. Through overhearing conversations and through intelligence reported to us by residents it would appear Ashington has a drink problem. We want to raise awareness of the consequences relating to drink driving and actually how severe the end result could be. Can we just remind anybody that if they suspect anyone of drink driving can they call it through to the police or report it to operation Crackdown (or anonymously text the Police on 65999).

Anti Social Driving

Operation crackdown reports have been made regarding anti social driving. Stern words have also been given to moped drivers in village who have been driving anti socially. Hopefully these issues have now been dealt with. We are still waiting for a response from WSCC re driving safety awareness courses. We have had a group identified for a good while now and so will chase them up to arrange this. We already have eight names to put forward for this course.

ASB Known offender

This has recently gone very quiet and hopefully will stay that way for now. The associated offender was recently given a suspended custody sentence along with 240hours unpaid work and a supervision order. He was also ordered to attend several thinking skills programs. We continue to offer support to the victims in relation to this offender.

Adverse Weather

We are working closely with the emergency planning officer at HDC to ensure that we are best equipped for any adverse weather that may hit us in the New Year. We have our 4x4 which will give us a head start and this has been loaded ready with essential equipment in case of such weather. We are going to work closely with the parish council to enable a quick response with appropriate equipment for volunteers should the weather set in. Hopefully these precautions won't be needed but it's better to be prepared than not.

Happy New Year

Finally to say a Happy New Year to everyone and to say that we hope together that we can make 2012 a positive community spirited year.

The Chairman thanked the Wardens for their report.

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

1. Could the Neighbourhood Watch network be used to disseminate information around the village? Neighbourhood Watch does exist in Ashington but it is undergoing a period of change. It doesn't currently cover the whole village. It has been successful in the past in helping to trace stolen/suspicious vehicles. The Wardens would be trying to forge links to Neighbourhood Watch.
2. Broken dog bin at the north end of London Road – the Wardens have already reported this to HDC.
3. The Wardens/Police/ASB team do keep track of where known offenders/troublemakers live or hang out. Intelligence is passed between agencies.
4. Thanks to the Wardens for organising the Festive Tea event and all their hard work in 2011.

005/12 YOUNG PERSONS ADJOURNEMENT

None present.

006/12 REPORT FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

The Chairman had received a summary of the Broadbridge Heath Leisure Centre situation from District Councillor Roger Arthur and he would circulate it to Councillors.

MW 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

007/12 Item 85 Community Action Plan

The Clerk has produced a summary sheet of projects and had colour-coded projects according to whether they were inactive, ongoing or active. It was proposed that inactive projects be removed from the list unless any progress is made. Agreed by all. **KD C/F**

CORRESPONDENCE

008/12 For action:

1. Plans for possible offshore wind farm in Sussex – does the Council wish to comment? It was agreed that the Clerk write in response stating that: why should taxpayers pay for wind farms that are not necessary, uneconomic and ineffective.

KD D

2. 20's Plenty – campaign for 20mph speed limit in the area. Does the Council wish to support the campaign, identify areas of the village that should be subject to 20mph? It was agreed that the Clerk write in response stating that: Ashington has speed bumps which keep speeds down within the village, enforcement of new speed limits would be non-existent, people who don't currently respect the speed limits will be unlikely to respect lower limits, it could lead to more dangerous overtaking as impatient people try to pass slow moving vehicles.

KD D

009/12 For information:

1. HDC – equipment for Parish emergency volunteers – HDC has available 5 'kits' per parish. The Clerk has already indicated that equipment would be useful in Ashington.
2. Letter from resident about criminal damage to vehicles. Passed to Wardens & Police
3. HDC Annual Equality & Diversity Report , Annual Report
4. HDC – Youth Support Team. To discuss at next Wardens meeting?
5. CPRE – 'Planning Explained' booklet

010/12 General:

1. LCR magazine
2. AiRS – new structure for 2012
3. ERHA Newsletter

011/12 PUBLIC ADJOURNMENT

Nothing.

012/12 PLANNING.

The Planning Committee did not meet in December as there were no applications to discuss.

013/12 Correspondence

ERHA will assess applications for the affordable homes at Meiros Farm in January. The Parish Council will be asked to verify applicant's local connections as part of the allocation process.

014/12 New Enforcement Allegations/Information

None

015/12 Amendments

None

016/12 Applications

DC/11/2648 Change of use to sui generis and construction of a petrol filling station including canopy (roadside facilities), with a retail store, ATM and ancillary offices, distribution yard, underground fuel storage tanks, secure fencing plus hard and soft landscaping - Land South East of Martins Farm London Road

As the paper application had not been received by the Clerk it was agreed to defer this application to the Planning Committee meeting of 18th January. All Councillors would be welcome to attend. As soon as the application is received the Clerk will prepare a summary and then invite Councillors to inspect the application.

County Councillor Wilkinson advised the Clerk that the following planning application had been submitted recently and traffic movements from the proposed development could have an impact on Ashington:

DC/11/2460 Refurbishment of one existing building (Block A), redevelopment of an existing building (Block B), demolition of remaining former poultry rearing buildings and the erection of 5 new buildings all for B1 (Business) and/or B8 (Storage or Distribution) uses (Blocks C to G) with associated parking and landscaping (Outline Planning) - Castle Farm Estate The Hollow

The development could result in significant traffic movements being generated, including HGV's. Northbound traffic could only access the site from the A283 (if permitted) or by exiting the A24 at the Hole Street junction, under the flyover (if they can fit, or through the village if they can't) and back onto the A24 at Hole Street. This has the potential to cause significant hazards due to the short slip roads.

Councillors agreed that the Clerk should prepare an objection on the grounds of: possibility of HGV's using Ashington to turn around on the A24 (poor slip roads on/off, low flyover, may come through the village); A24/The Hollow junction is sub-standard – short slip roads on/off, HGV's need 2 lanes of A24 to exit The Hollow, danger to themselves & other road users; flooding risk – discharge of surface water from the site into the Honeybridge Stream will increase the risk of the Mill Lane culvert at Ashington flooding; additional HGV's on the A24 will increase the noise levels for Ashington residents – need the quieter surface installed asap.

KD D

Horsham District Council

017/12 Approvals

DC/11/2056 Proposed redevelopment of the site replacing the existing commercial unit with a purpose built health and beauty spa - Nail and Tan London Road

DC/11/2280 Two storey side extension with a single storey extension to the rear and porch to front elevation – 22 Fairfield Road

DC/11/2319 First floor roof extension with 2 bedrooms and bathroom – 17 Willow Way

018/12 Refusals

None

019/12 Withdrawals

DC/11/2130 Fell 2 x Ash trees (T1 and T2 to the rear of 23 Willard Way) - Covert Mead.
Planning Permission not required.

020/12 Appeals made/ decisions

DC/11/1296 Appeal allowed – two storey side extension, 21 Penn Gardens.

The next Planning Committee meeting is scheduled for 18th January 2012 at 7.00pm.

FINANCE

021/12 Correspondence

Consider a request for a grant of £600 from Ashington Youth Club – ‘Please consider covering the cost of insurance plus a balance to be put towards professional Youth Leader staff costs. The exact cost of insurance is being negotiated, but to enable the gym to run again in the Spring insurance will be over £250 and less than £650’. The Youth Club has had its funding from WSCC removed and is having to find alternate sources of funding. The Club is seeking advice from other youth clubs, HDC, WSCC on how to keep the club going. The Parish Council has only £305 left in its grants budget for 2010/11 and any additional funds could be met from Calor Village of the Year funds (£800 remaining) or the QPC grant (£925 remaining).

It was agreed that the grant be made to enable the gym to re-open as long as it is made available to all ages and not just youths (£305 grants budget, £295 Calor funds). The Parish Council are keen to support youth initiatives in the village and are taking an active role in assessing the future of youth provision in the village.

022/12 Income

Kite & Thomas – rent & roundabout sponsorship £2027.50

023/12 Expenditure

			Cheque no.
Mark Adsett	Gardeners contract payment	£475.00	1256
Mrs K. Dare	Clerks expenses (home & telephone)	£17	
	Total	£17	1257
WSCC	Salary and on costs (December)	£820.05	
	Payroll Costs	£39.10	1258
Plusnet	Broadband	£17.99	DD
Ashington School	Meeting cost	£20	1259
ACCT	distribution of Diamond Jubilee Survey	£25	1260
Broker Network Ltd	Annual Insurance	£2103.11	1261
PWL	repayment	£3110.12	BACS

LanGuard Ltd	Weedkilling	£384.00	1262
HDC	Litter bin & dog bin emptying	£260.00	1263
BT	Phone bill	£57.01	DD
ACCT	Parish office rent (2 quarters)	£378	1264

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

024/12 MEETINGS

None

025/12 MINOR MATTERS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS

1. A post & rail fence had been erected on highways land outside Rectory Cottage. It was difficult to see in the dark. Clerk to contact the owner to discuss why it has been put there. **KD D**
2. Surface water from Meiros Farm flows to Glebe Farm. A sump has been installed adjacent to the road. Clerk to check who is responsible for maintenance of the sump. Also to check the same for the Linfield Lane development. **KD D**
3. Slip road beside Bridge Garage – overgrowing vegetation, blocked ditch, looks a mess. The Clerk confirmed that this is already on the list of Highways Priorities for Ashington but that WSCC seemed to be doing no highways remedial work any more.
4. Surface water drains in Fairfield Road & Hillcrest Drive need clearing. Clerk to add to Highways Priorities list.
5. Flooding on Rectory Lane, west of Penn Gardens. The Clerk had taken photos and had reported to WSCC and HDC as this is caused by the works that took place during the summer of 2011 and that led to an enforcement complaint. No progress had been made on this issue since it was first reported to HDC.
6. Re-instatement of footpath at the corner of Meiros Way/Rectory Lane following utility company works has not been completed. Clerk to report to Meiros Farm developer. **KD D**
7. The bridleway at the top of Malthouse Lane has re-opened and is excellent.

The next meeting will be held at **7.45pm on Thursday 2nd February 2012** at **Ashington School, Foster Lane.**

The meeting finished at 8.50pm

Signed.....

Date.....

026/12 Items awaiting action:

Item No	Description	Last Action & Date
1	Mill Lane flooding	EA to organise meeting with WSCC/HDC/PC July 2011
32b	Spur road of The Sands & Viney Close – streetlights & laybys	No progress August 2011
218	East Side nature trail handrail	Re-assess in December 2011 when budget setting
	No information has been received from WSCC Pension Fund about the likely cost of Ill Health retirement.	