



Ashington Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on 5th September 2013 at 7.45 p.m. in Ashington School, Foster Lane, Ashington

Present: Councillors N. Clark, R. Brennan, T. Kearney, R. Lancaster, J. Gichov-Elias, B. Norton, R. Strudwick, D. Harbour
Parish Clerk Karen Dare
District Councillor Roger Arthur
County Councillor Pat Arculus
34 members of the public & 2 members of the local Press

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

242/13 APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE

Neighbourhood Warden Jayne Jeffrey (illness), Cllrs M. Woolley (business), K. Wood & N. Carver (holiday). PCSO Bryony Sparks

In the absence of the Chairman the vice-Chairman (Cllr Clark) assumed the role.

243/13 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Cllrs Clark & Kearney declared personal, prejudicial interests in planning application WSCC/074/13/AS as they are both allotment holders at Broadbridge Farm.

The Chairman reminded Councillors that previous declarations still stand.

244/13 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 1st August 2013 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman. Proposed by Councillor Strudwick and seconded by Councillor Brennan, and agreed.

245/13 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: None

Long term plans: No progress since last meeting due to holidays. The Clerk is still trying to arrange a meeting with Inspector Clare McKnight to discuss PCSO's.

PCSO Bryony Sparks has been re-assigned to Ashington for the foreseeable future.

The temporary Youth Worker will start work in September. The Clerk is arranging a meeting with her to update the Parish Council. **KD C/F**

246/13 YOUNG PERSONS ADJOURNMENT

None present.

247/13 REPORT FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

District Councillor Roger Arthur reported:

1. He is still lobbying MPs to suspend the powers of the unelected Planning inspector to overturn planning decisions in order to give more time for Parishes to prepare Neighbourhood Plans.
2. He had studied the compost site application and was concerned that it was not much different to the 2010 application. He understood that there were other sites in West Sussex with spare capacity and there is no need for any new sites. WSCC landscape officer in 2010 had commented that this is not an appropriate location for this type of facility. There were concerns about risk to human/animal health from bioaerosols, noise, odour and dust. There would be lots of HGV movements on local roads including sub-standard A24 slip roads. Compost sites should be located further away from population centres as there is strong evidence to show that health can be affected within 500m of these sites.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Arthur for his report.

Questions:

1. A member of the public asked again about resurfacing of Hole Street. This is a County Council matter (not HDC) and the Clerk would speak to County Councillor Pat Arculus about this matter.

County Councillor Pat Arculus (representing Pulborough Division but attending because of the absence of a County Councillor for Storrington Division) reported:

1. She had the same concerns about the compost site as District Councillor Roger Arthur
2. WSCC has delayed decisions on its highways infrastructure priorities until a new County Councillor for Storrington is elected. The Parish Council would discuss the priorities list at next month's meeting.
3. She would speak to the Clerk about the issue with Hole Street.

The Chairman thanked County Councillor Pat Arculus for her attendance.

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

No progress on any items due to holidays.

CORRESPONDENCE

248/13 For action:

1. CPRE conference – A second runway for Gatwick? Friday, 25 October 2013 from 9.30 am – 1.00 pm, Stanhill Court Hotel, Stan Hill, Charlwood, Surrey
2. Suggestion from resident – that the Parish Council purchase a commemorative plaque in memory of Alma Dickinson and affix it to the bench at the junction of Rectory Lane/Rectory Close. Not agreed on the grounds that many residents who have made significant contributions to the village have passed away and no commemorative plaques were provided for them. A member of the public reported that Alma's family had donated a trophy to the Festival Dog Show.
3. Invitation to West Sussex Mediation Service AGM 26th September
4. West Sussex ALC and West Sussex County Council are holding an event for Town & Parish Councils on 31st October 2013
5. RSPB South Downs Futurescape - getting the message out about the importance of linking up conservation efforts within this landscape and raising awareness about the sort of work that is already being carried out. Do Councillors want an officer of the RSPB to attend a meeting? Defer to future meeting.
6. Letter from Ashington resident – could the Parish Council consider establishing a wild flower meadow and re-consider purchasing village signs. The Clerk would write a Newsletter article asking for volunteers to help establish a meadow. The Parish Council Survey results had not supported the purchase of village signs. Clerk to write to the resident. **KD D**
7. Letter from Ashington resident mainly regarding church issues. The Clerk would respond.

Councillors would contact the Clerk if they wished to attend any of the events above.

249/13 For information:

1. Blakiston Close residents association meeting minutes
2. Report from the recent visits of the Purple Bus to Ashington. The Clerk has requested that the Purple Bus visit Ashington in the autumn term.
3. Play area inspection reports – there are a couple of minor items to attend to and the Clerk will either complete them herself or ask David Newland to look at them.

250/13 General: None

251/13 PUBLIC ADJOURNMENT

The Chairman asked for comments to be restricted to non-compost site related matters to start with.

Members of the public reported:

1. Could the Clerk pursue Moat Housing to cut the hedge along The Sands path? The Clerk had written many times but would write again. **KD D**
2. What are the Parish Council doing for the Youth of the village? The Chairman responded that the Parish Council had agreed to employ a Youth Worker for 12 hours per week, starting in September.
3. Why are there so few Police covering Ashington and why do they come from so far away? Clerk to ask Sussex Police. **KD D**
4. The Police & Crime Commissioner had promised a Special Constable for all villages as part of her election manifesto. The Chair of the Residents Association had asked her where the Special Constable for Ashington was and was informed that the Parish Council should write to her to ask for one. **KD C/F**
5. There are older children using the Posthorses play area, leaving litter and are intimidating to younger children. Could the PC consider some notices saying Under 12s only? Council to consider at next meeting. **C/F**
6. How do residents report overgrowing hedges? These can be reported directly to WSCC via their website or to the Clerk who would then pass to WSCC.
7. The hedge to Penn Gardens needs cutting again. Clerk to report to WSCC. **KD D**
8. The speed bumps in Church Lane are damaging ordinary, slow-moving cars. Councillors to discuss highways infrastructure priorities at the next meeting.
9. What do we do about speeding/anti-social driving? Report to the Police on www.operationcrackdown.org If residents report issues then the Police will take action, no reports means that Ashington has no problems.

The Chairman thanked members of the public for their comments and explained that there would now be a session for residents to make comments on the compost site planning application. He explained that Parish Councillors would listen to the comments, the public adjournment would then be closed and Councillors would debate the matter without further public involvement.

1. A horse owner on adjoining land was concerned about her own health and that of her horses. She, and others, spend many hours each day within the 250m 'exclusion zone'. Her land will be unusable and her business will be ruined.
2. There is a lot of wildlife in the Honeybridge stream, including kingfishers, and all will be impacted by the development.
3. The A24 Hole Street junction is hazardous for large vehicles. Lorries will come through Ashington and will use Hole Street/Water Lane.
4. The owners of Big Plant Nursery reported that they have staff working outside for many hours at a time and their site will become unsafe. There will be smell, noise and this will impact their business.
5. Ashington village is just outside the 250m exclusion zone but most of it is within 500m of the site. There are childrens nurseries adjacent to the A24 and the village has many very young and very old people and they will be mainly at risk from the environmental emissions.
6. Routing agreements don't work, lorries will come through the village. Over the speed bumps causing noise and disturbance to residents.

7. No details are given about how effective the GORE cover membrane is. There will be uncovered compost on site and compost movements every day which will create environmental emissions.
8. In 2010 Cubitt & West reported that house prices could drop 20% if this application is approved.
9. Compost sites in the West Midlands create fly problems up to 3km away from the site.
10. WSCC Waste Local Plan states that there is no need for new compost sites in the County as there is sufficient existing capacity.
11. Olus is a little company trying to buy waste and make money out of it at the expense of Ashington residents.
12. The application goes against WSCC Policies.
13. There have been many reported problems associated with compost sites near populated areas and the application will result in health issues and a loss of amenities for Ashington residents.
14. It is concerning that the application reports that it is 'working with WSCC' as part of their pre-application preparation.
15. This application will turn a greenfield site into an industrial estate.
16. Wind direction cannot be relied upon to disperse environmental emissions away from Ashington. If the wind blows emissions away from Ashington then they will be sent in the direction of residents living in North Lane & Wiston.
17. The mobile home at Hole Street Fisheries is within the 250m exclusion zone and has been there for 25 years. There are still people living in this home.
18. People have worked hard on their allotments and cannot simply be moved. They would have to start from scratch again.
19. Flooding from Honeybridge stream could affect the site and potentially Ashington village.
20. There is no room for improvement of the A24 Hole Street junction. Large vehicles using this junction will be a hazard to other road users. There is not enough space to turn a lorry at this junction.
21. There will be conflicts between vehicles at the northern roundabouts now that the petrol station and equine hospital have been approved. Residents living in this area will suffer significant increases in volumes of traffic.
22. Many people in Ashington still didn't know about this application.
23. The Residents Association had emailed details to all of its contacts and posters had been put in village noticeboards. Everyone present agreed to 'spread the word'.
24. Official notices had not been put up by the applicant at good locations around the site. WSCC should publicise the application better.
25. Information from the 2010 application had highlighted that Ashington residents would not be able to open windows or hang out washing because of the smell from the site.
26. There had been problems at many other compost sites eg KPS at Pease Pottage was causing odour problems at Crawley, also fires in compost piles.
27. Someone should contact Nick Herbert MP for his support.

28. Anyone who objected in 2010 would need to do so again as objections would not be carried forward because this is an entirely new planning application.

29. Allotments are to close, where are they moving to?

30. Is there going to be a Residents Association meeting about this? The next meeting is scheduled for early October.

31. People must write to HDC and WSCC and take action.

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

252/13 PLANNING.

The Planning Committee met on 21st August and Councillors have been provided with a copy of the minutes. Agreed by all.

253/13 Correspondence

Horsham District Council Planning Framework – Preferred Strategy. To be discussed at the next meeting. **C/F**

254/13 New Enforcement Allegations/Information

None

255/13 Amendments

None

256/13 Applications

DC/13/1608 Erection of an oak framed double garage – The Flat, Mill House Hotel
The Council has no objections.

DC/13/1611 Removal of existing single external door to kitchen and replacement with double glazed doors (Listed Building Consent) – Mill House Hotel
The Council has no objections.

DC/13/1648 Fell 1 Horse chestnut tree – 6 Woelfs Close
The Council object to the felling of the tree as it has high amenity value and is prominent in the street scene. The tree has some dead wood in need of attention.

DC/13/1669 Single storey extension to east elevation (listed building consent) – The Willows, London Road
The Council has no objections.

Cllr Clark left the room, Cllr Kearney moved to the public gallery (taking no part in discussions or decision making) and Cllr Lancaster took the Chairman's role.

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

The Clerk had provided Councillors with a summary of the application and a list of concerns. It was proposed that the Council object to the application on the grounds of location, need, transport, health, loss of amenity and others.

The Council's planning consultant had been briefed and had indicated a number of reasons why an objection should be raised. The cost of a full objection is estimated at £650+VAT and disbursements and it was proposed that the Council approve this expenditure. The Clerk would work with the consultant to prepare a suitable objection. Given the seriousness of this application and its impact on the village as a whole it was agreed by all that the cost could be justified and was good value and that a strong objection is appropriate.

The Clerk would put a timetable for responses on the Parish Council website and details of who to write to at both HDC and WSCC.

Cllr Clark returned to the room and resumed the Chair. Cllr Kearney moved back to the Council table.

Horsham District Council

257/13 Approvals

DC/13/1228 Removal of external stair and commercial extract flue and installation of Juliette balconies (Listed Building Consent) – Mill House Hotel

DC/13/1211 Installation of new mechanical plant in the rear service yard – Co-op

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

258/13 Refusals

DC/13/0680 Infill extension between brick columns, colour variations to the shop front and entrance, install new palisade fence with gate to include polycarbonate roof covering over with timber supports – Co-op

259/13 Withdrawals

None

260/13 Appeals made/ decisions

None

The next Planning Committee is scheduled for 18th September at 7pm in Ashington Sports Pavilion.

FINANCE

261/13 Correspondence

1. The Annual Return has been signed by the external auditor with one minor comment (one box, that should have contained the words 'Ashington Parish Council', had not been completed)

262/13 Income

None

263/13 Expenditure

		Cheque no.	
Mark Adsett	Gardeners contract payment	£491.66	
	Hanging basket watering (4 weeks)	£260.00	1427
Mrs K. Dare	Clerks expenses (home & telephone)	£17	
	Playground repairs (surface pegs)	£25.80	
	Stationery	£16.00	
	Total	£58.80	1428
WSSC	Salary and on costs (August)	£916.24	1429
ACCT	Hall hire 21 st August	£8.84	1430
	Bingo Club hall hire	£37.00	1431
	Lunch club hall hire	£59.20	1432
S. Fenn	Responder expenses	£45.20	1433
PKF Littlejohn	External audit	£480.00	1434
SecureSite UK	security for Festival	£894.96	1435
M. Woolley	gift	£49.99	1436

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

264/13 MEETINGS

None

266/13 MINOR MATTERS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS

1. The electronic noticeboard in the Co-op has been removed as it is not working. There doesn't appear to be a new internal noticeboard. Clerk to investigate and, if not, then look into the possibility of an external A board. **KD**
2. The hanging baskets from Ferring Nurseries are looking fantastic whilst the others are not looking as good. It was agreed to stick with the one supplier in 2014 as the other baskets had failed to prosper for the past 2 years.
3. Cllr Strudwick proposed a vote of thanks to Margaret Alford and the Festival Committee for yet another fantastic Festival day. Agreed by all.

The next meeting will be held at **7.45pm on Thursday 3rd October 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 – PCSO Report August-September

Aggravated Burglary:

Two men broke into a house in Ashington on Thursday night (29 August) and assaulted the three occupants, leaving the two women victims needing stitches.

The victims were woken up at 9.10pm at their home on Cricketers Close by two men who broke through the front door and shouted "police". The suspects ran upstairs and were confronted by the mother and daughter who live at the property. Both were hit on the head with a weapon and the male victim was also hit in the stomach. He called the police and the suspects left in a dark coloured car.

Both women were taken to hospital to be treated for their head wounds which required stitches.

These men are both described as around 5' 8", white and of a stocky build wearing dark clothing and balaclavas. We are hoping someone might have seen the car the suspects used in the area and can give us some information. Both women have received deep wounds to their heads and were treated in hospital where one remains. Obviously this was a scary experience for the whole family.

If you have any information then please call 101 quoting serial 1601 of 29/8.

Sussex Caravan Centre was subject to a break in, a campervan was broken into, in which a sink, hob, grill and fridge were removed. This happened between 13/08 at 17:45 and 14/08 at 08:30. if you have any information then please call 101 quoting serial 0360 of 14/08.

Between 15/08 at 17:30 and 16/08 at 08:30, Bell Leisure Ltd, was subject of a break in, in which two hot tubs were stolen from the premises. If you have any information then please call in on 101 quoting serial 0320 of 16/08.