



Ashington Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on 6th June 2013 at 7.45 p.m. in Ashington School, Foster Lane, Ashington

Present: Councillors M. Woolley, T. Kearney, K. Wood, J. Gichovi-Elias, B. Norton, N. Carver, N. Clark, D. Harbour & R. Strudwick
Parish Clerk Karen Dare
County Councillor Frank Wilkinson
2 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.

162/13 APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs R. Lancaster (business) & R. Brennan (personal), Neighbourhood Warden Jayne Jeffrey (illness) & District Councillor Roger Arthur (holiday)

163/13 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 184/13).

164/13 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 2nd May 2013 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman. Proposed by Councillor Strudwick and seconded by Councillor Carver, and agreed.

165/13 REPORT FROM THE NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDENS & PCSO

PCSO report (see Appendix 2).

Questions:

1. Were the youths involved in the fight from Ashington? Yes.
2. Information from the Police & Crime Commissioner shows that more PCSO's and PC's are being recruited. Will Ashington get more of this resource? No details are available yet and it will take 12months or more for these new people to be fully trained and out on patrol alone.
3. ACCT Secretary had reported an incident of youths creating a nuisance (noise, rubbish, 'moonies') in the covered porch at the Community Centre to the Police

and she was assured that an Officer would contact her. However, no-one from the Police had been in touch. She had left a message on PCSO Warner's mobile and he had not responded. PCSO Warner apologised, explaining that his mobile phone isn't working so he had not received the message. He did not know which Police Officer this incident had been allocated to but would find out and let her know.

4. The group of youths hanging about on the Recreation Ground drinking etc is quite large and residents are finding them very intimidating. PCSO Warner explained that they could only move the group away if they are drinking/causing a nuisance etc. Residents should report this activity to the Police. It is possible to designate an area an 'alcohol free zone' but these are very hard to get and are only usually used where there is a problem of alcoholics hanging about drinking all day. It might be possible for the Parish Council to apply for a byelaw banning alcohol from the Recreation Ground but the youths would just take their gathering somewhere else in the village.

It was agreed that the Clerk look into the issue of byelaws.

KD C/F

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

The Chairman suggested that Councillors discuss the Wardens under 3 headings: Long term, short term and budget:

Long term:

The Steering Group met on 20th May to discuss the replacement of Peter Newell. The group had reviewed the role of the Wardens and looked at Parish Council priorities and would like to propose that we take the resource and budget of our current wardens and

1. Have one Warden (Jayne) who would focus on areas such as elderly/vulnerable, environmental, community development/engagement, partnership working. Still maintaining her ability to patrol, deal with ASB etc
2. Then in place of the second Warden have
 - a. Part-time Warden - @20 hrs pw, mainly evenings especially fri/sat/sun/mon (there is no cover for sun/mon at present), primarily focused on patrolling, crime prevention, ASB, drunkenness, drugs etc.
 - b. Youth Worker - @10-12 hrs pw including running Youth Club, outreach work, developing Youth Plan for the village. The Parish Church are working on a long term plan for a Youth Worker in Ashington and we expect to hear more details on this after the new rector takes up post in September, at which time this role could be merged in with their plans or remain standalone.

It is anticipated that the Wardens and Youth Worker would liaise with each other and form a team providing a service to the village, sometimes working the same shifts if circumstances needed this. The Steering Group would review the situation regularly.

The intention is not to save money but to spend the funds wisely and provide for the current needs of the village. Councillors agreed to this course of action and for the Clerk to contact HDC regarding recruitment of the part-time Warden. **KD C/F**

Short term:

Jayne Jeffrey has been signed off sick for another 3 months due to further problems with her knee. Therefore, there is no Warden cover. It was proposed that the Clerk ask HDC to provide temporary cover on a short term basis for no more than the cost of one Warden's salary. Agreed by all. **KD C/F**

It was also proposed to fund a temporary Youth Worker to cover the summer period out of the Neighbourhood Warden budget. Agreed by all. **KD C/F**

Budget:

The absence of Jayne Jeffrey due to injury has resulted in savings on the Wardens budget 2012/13 (£60,376 budgeted, £55815 actual = £4561 saved). Further savings may be made following Jayne's continued sick leave and Peter Newell's resignation. Some of these savings will be needed to fund a temporary Warden and the youth worker, but there should still be some net savings and the Council will need to decide what to do with these, in due course.

The PC had previously agreed in principle to fund a new half-pipe for the village. Councillors will remember that the half-pipe was deemed uneconomical to repair in 2012 and will need replacing by 2014. It was proposed that the Council make no decision on what to do with any savings until more details about the temporary Warden & Youth Worker are known but near the end of the current financial year the Council re-allocate the surplus to another use eg play area reserves, so that the half pipe can be commissioned early in 2014. Agreed by all.

The Steering Group are also looking into reducing the cost of providing the Wardens vehicle as HDC are expecting a cost of £8720 in 2013/14 (@12% of total Wardens budget). More details of options will follow.

166/13 YOUNG PERSONS ADJOURNMENT

None present.

167/13 REPORT FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

County Councillor Frank Wilkinson reported:

1. WSCC has 26 new members following recent elections so there is a period of time for training, getting up to speed etc.
2. WSCC are expecting further cuts in their Govt. grant this year and it seems likely that in 4 years' time there may not be any grant at all. This would mean that WSCC need to save £100million in the next 4 years. WSCC has already saved £79 million over the past 3 years. It may be that WSCC will need to shed all of its non-statutory duties in order to achieve the cost savings.
3. Chanctonbury area has a new Highway Officer – Cali Sparks and she will be in touch with the Clerk soon. The Highways Dept is undergoing another re-

organisation back to the way it was some years ago.

4. There are drainage works going on outside Roselands, London Road as there has been a flooding problem at this property for a number of years.
5. The consultant appointed to look into flooding at Mill Lane will be starting work shortly (an aerial survey of the catchment area).

The Chairman thanked County Councillor Wilkinson for his report.

Questions:

1. What has happened to the inspection of Rectory Lane to Warminghurst Church? FW to chase Cali Sparks.
2. WSCC would achieve better value for money if its contractors were to undertake all jobs in an area at the same time rather than piecemeal. FW explained that WSCC had negotiated a contract and it cost the same whether they were done individually or as a group. It was suggested that the contract could be cheaper for WSCC if integrated management was utilised and this would reduce inconvenience to road users.
3. Pothole filling – the quality is very poor. WSCC has filled 23,000 potholes this winter and has 12 gangs of contractors and they have been asked to report and fill in any potholes that they find rather than just ignoring them.
4. The Hole Street A24 on slip southbound is falling apart – Clerk to report, although she suspects the holes are not deep enough yet. **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

168/13 Community Action Plan

Updated list on the PC website.

KD C/F

169/13 Annual Inspection of Council Land

Councillors Woolley, Norton & Carver accompanied the Clerk around the village and a list of tasks would be circulated in due course.

KD D

170/13 Electronic Info Board

The Board is not working, despite several attempts to re-boot it. The supplier 'no longer supports this outdated technology', therefore there is no chance of getting the Board to work. It was proposed that the Clerk ask the Co-op Manager to switch it off permanently and have it removed as part of the shop re-fit later this year. The Board is over 10 years old and was provided free of charge via a grant from HDC, removal will save £200pa. Agreed by all.

CORRESPONDENCE

171/13 For action:

1. WSCC Winter Maintenance Plan – the Clerk is corresponding with WSCC to make sure that the PC's previously agreed winter maintenance arrangements are adopted by WSCC.
2. Southern Water – plan to undertake leakage reduction projects, re-structure the well-field at Pulborough, new pipeline to move water around, aquifer storage & recovery in the 'Central Area' (Horsham/Worthing) over the next 25 years. No details of exact works are known yet. It was agreed that the Clerk complete the consultation form.

KD D

172/13 For information:

1. HDC Community Safety Plan (e-copy)
2. WSCC – has signed a deal with BT to bring faster broadband to rural areas of West Sussex. It will reach Ashington.
3. AiRS Neighbourhood Planning service
4. HALC agenda
5. Letters from Ashington resident – the Clerk will respond.

173/13 General:

1. Clerks & Councils Direct magazine
2. The Clerk magazine
3. SECAmb – membership letter

174/13 PUBLIC ADJOURNMENT

Members of the public reported:

1. Will the existing Warden still be involved in dealing with crime/ASB? Yes – the Wardens job description is not changing therefore she will still be involved in this part of the job.
2. Lampposts 4 & 15 in The Sands are not working. Clerk to report to WSCC.
3. The churchyard is in need of some tidying as the grass is very long. Clerk to report to the Church Clerk.
4. Any progress on the houses at Penn Retreat? A reptile Survey needs to be done before planning permission can be decided.
5. Any progress on the petrol station at the northern end of the village? It was understood that Shell may be interested but are still negotiating over opening hours.

KD D

KD D

The Chairman thanked members of the public for their comments.

175/13 PLANNING.

The Planning Committee met on 15th May and Councillors have been provided with a copy of the Minutes. Agreed by all. The meeting on 29th May was cancelled as there were no applications to discuss.

176/13 Correspondence

1. S106 completion memo for Flowerpots – includes £1385 for extension to Community Centre in Ashington
2. S106 completion memo for new house at 1 Hillcrest Close – new house must be

offered for a period of 12 months to person with Ashington connection (failing that then Shipley/Thakeham/Washington connection), includes £324 for the provision/improvement of community facilities in Ashington, £1431 for provision/improvement of open spaces/recreation facilities in Ashington, £900 transport improvements between the site and local amenities.

The Parish Council had objected to this application and had not received a copy of the amended application in November 2012 nor was it available online. The PC had not been able to send this application to HDC's Development Control Committee as it had not asked to do this at the right time. The PC should consider adding a standard phrase to some consultation responses stating that should the case officer's proposed decision differ from that of the Parish Council then the matter should be determined by Committee. Councillors were not happy with the way HDC had handled this application and it was suggested that the Clerk investigate reporting the matter to the Local Govt. Regulator.

3. WSCC – asking for an ecological survey at Penn Retreat (reptile management) before planning permission is decided.
4. Amended draft s106 agreement for Penn Retreat – includes for 6 affordable rent homes to people with Ashington connection (failing that then Wiston/Washington/Thakeham, failing that then Horsham District), £25,679 for Community Centre Phase 2, £24,515 for transport improvements between the site and local amenities.
5. HDC – are holding a Neighbourhood Planning training event on the evening of 20th June – is anyone available to attend? No – the Clerk would try to arrange a one to one meeting with HDC.
6. HDC – Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment – review any sites already allocated for development and suggest any alternative sites which could be developed for housing. The Council should be careful about putting forward suggestions that are outside the BUAB as these have not been consulted upon and could leave the village open to higher amounts of development than wanted – a Neighbourhood Plan would be the best format for ensuring community support/consultation on suggested sites. It was agreed that two sites would be put forward at this stage because they are within the BUAB and would be of benefit to the village – Hoots House and the 'one acre' to enable Phase2 of Ashington Community Centre.

KD D

177/13 New Enforcement Allegations/Information

None

178/13 Amendments

None

179/13 Applications

DC/13/0968 Proposed rear extension and external alterations – 35 The Sands. The Council has no objections.

Horsham District Council

180/13 Approvals

DC/12/2356 Material amendments to approved application DC/11/1314 (Demolition of existing building, construction of two-storey building with ground floor veterinary surgery and first floor flat) comprising a reduction in first floor accommodation – Flowerpots, London Road

DC/13/0357 Trim back eastern edge of beech hedge to boundary line, reduce height of hedge to a point approximately 4 metres above ground level, in perpetuity – 27 Rectory Close

DC/13/0390 Fell 1 x Beech tree (T10), 1 x Scots Pine (T12) and 1 x Oak tree (T13) – 14 Linfield Lane

DC/13/0450 To have dropped curb vehicle access at the property to provide access to a new regular brick work styled driveway at the front of the property – 18 Fairfield Road

DC/13/0581 20metre extension to sand school – Triggles House, Hole Street.

181/13 Refusals

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 Site, Billingshurst Road

182/13 Withdrawals

DC/13/0465 Construction of detached double garage – 7 Warminghurst Close. Has been amended to a single detached garage.

183/13 Appeals made/ decisions

None

The next Planning Committee meeting is scheduled for 19th June 2013 at 7.00pm.

FINANCE

184/13 Correspondence

Cllr Gichovi-Elias moved to the public gallery.

1. Consider a request for a grant from Ashington Festival. Last month Councillors agreed that they would like to support the Festival and asked the Clerk to contact the Festival Committee to see if there is a specific item that the Council could sponsor rather than making just a general donation. The Clerk reported that a number of items required sponsorship and Councillors agreed to sponsor the hire of security guards for the event as it was likely that no Wardens would be on duty at the event. The Council would contract directly with the security company and a maximum budget of £900 was agreed, to be paid from the Wardens budget.

KD D

Cllr Gichovi-Elias returned to the meeting table.

2. Consider a request for a grant from AgeUK. Not agreed as the Council's investment in Wardens is a significant benefit to the elderly of Ashington.
3. Consider a request for a grant from Ashington Youth Club. It was agreed to defer a decision pending the success of the temporary youth worker and possible church youth project.

KD D

185/13 Income

None

186/13 Expenditure

		Cheque no.	
Mark Adsett	Gardeners contract payment	£483.33	1398
Mrs K. Dare	Clerks expenses (home & telephone)	£17	
	Newsletter envelopes to Pulborough	£7.04	
	Address labels for envelopes	£8.39	
	Postage of Annual return	£2.00	
	Print cartridges	£18.74	
	Playground spares	£11.76	
	Total	£64.93	1399
WSSC	Salary and on costs (May)	£840.85	1400
Community Minibus Assoc.	transport of hanging baskets to Nursery	£23	1401
ACCT	Lunch & Bingo clubs	£94.12	1402
ACCT	Planning Committee meetings	£8.84	1403
ACCT	final rent for office	£101.77	1404
SLCC	Subscriptions	£127.00	1405
HDC (final payment for 12/13)	Neighbourhood Wardens	£33,946.00	1406
Ferring Country Centre	Hanging baskets	£240.00	1407
Ferring Nurseries	Hanging baskets	£664.69	1408
HDC	Dog & litter bin emptying	£299.00	1409

The Chairman proposed a vote of thanks to Mark Adsett & Andy Wilson for putting up the hanging baskets and the Clerk & her husband for cleaning & storing the baskets each year. Agreed by all.

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

187/13 MEETINGS

Cllrs Gichovi-Elias & Clark and the Clerk had attended the Wardens Steering Group meeting on 4 & 20th May.

188/13 MINOR MATTERS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS

1. Is the Mill House Hotel still trading because the brown tourist signs are still on display? The Clerk explained that a business has to have ceased trading for quite some time before WSCC will take down the brown signs.
2. Has the damage to the road outside Warminghurst Church been reported to WSCC? The Clerk confirmed that she has done this via Love WSussex.
3. The hedge opposite the Pharmacy needs cutting back from the pavement. Clerk to write to the owner. **KD D**
4. Is it possible to move the bin further into the play area at Posthorses as dog owners are putting bags of dog poo into the bin. Clerk to investigate. **KD D**
5. Did the Council thank Peter Newell for his service as Warden. The Clerk had written a letter but had not seen Peter to pass it on.

The next meeting will be held at **7.45pm on Thursday 4th July 2013 at Ashington School, Foster Lane.**

The meeting finished at 9.45pm

Signed.....

Date.....

APPENDIX 1: REPORT FROM NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDENS

I would also just like to update you with what calls I have been dealing with, please see listed below. I have also passed this information onto our PCSO.

1. ASB outside Co-op - Have informed manager to tell all staff to call ASB issues through to the police. Also to get descriptions of offenders etc and to pass this also onto the police.
2. Dog Attack - I have passed the informants details over to PCSO to deal with. I will ask him to make a house visit to get more information regarding the incident. Once it is clear where this incident took place he can then deal with accordingly.
3. Methodist Hall Playgroup. I spoke with the manager and she had said that she had experienced a very angry resident confronting her staff as regards the parking problems in the morning and evening when parents are dropping off or collecting their children. I did speak further with her regarding this issue and it seems to me she is trying to work with all residents in the local area to her premises. She has asked all parents of children that attend the playgroup to be considerate of residents when parking. As you are aware there are no parking restrictions in this area. I will try and get PCSO to visit the playgroup and perhaps visit the upset resident.
4. Dog fouling. We once again are having continuous complaints of dog fouling especially on the rec and surrounding alleyways. I will pass onto the district wardens at HDC. There is signage in all areas but people just do not take any notice. This brings us to the subject again of perhaps in the summer months all dogs should be kept on lead on the rec. Perhaps we could talk to Margaret
5. I will keep contact with elderly/vulnerable by phone on a weekly basis.
6. Theft. I have also been dealing with a resident whose son was robbed of his personal belongings, phone, wallet etc. She has reported to police. I am just concerned that it happened in Storrington. Apparently a lot of our youths from the village are staying out in the woods behind Church Close, they are camping and having drinking parties. I have passed this intelligence onto Police. I will also try and get PCSO to visit informant.
7. Anti social driving. Lots of complaints of youths speeding all over the village, London Rd and Hillcrest Drive in particular. I asked all informants if they had reg details etc. Not one could identify offending cars. I have told them they need to get details and then to call police.
8. Have spoken with Margaret regarding Bingo Club. She seems quite happy to take charge. Would it be possible for you to ask Judith if she could call again at the next bingo meeting which will be the 21st June 2013 - done
9. Playground inspections need to be completed on a weekly basis and recorded. KD will do this.
10. Have given office keys to Neil to give to you if you need access to information. He will be at the Lunch club Wednesday 5th June. I think lunch club can run itself, they all seem very organized. I think Neil will be picking up the people who need a lift to attend lunch club. Peter will also be attending lunch club.
11. Have been trying to work with other agencies to try and get a family meeting for a young vulnerable in village. At last we have a date for the 6th June 2013. We will be having meeting in youth club, I have spoken with Neville and he has cleared it with

youth club committee.

12. I have had contact with Age UK and am trying to apply for another grant for Christmas party. I am also having regular discussions with Jan at Age UK about renting a room in pharmacy to get a chiropodist who would be available for all residents of Ashington to use. We are also looking at starting a befriending service in the village for our elderly/vulnerable.

We are in discussions about putting on a film afternoon in the community hall on a three monthly basis. I will also be talking to a lady about arranging a tea dance in the near future, this is something the elderly/vulnerable have asked for.

13. I will ask District Wardens if they can do litter patrols in hot spot areas, whilst they are in Ashington I will ask if they can do parking patrols

14. There is a group of youths regularly congregating in the village, drinking and being rowdy. The Police have been informed.

15. And lastly I am having problems with a resident and his aggressive behaviour. He is continually being rude to his neighbours and is now complaining about them parking cars on the pavement and grass verge opposite his house. The Police have been made aware of the situation.

APPENDIX 2 -

Ashington Parish Council Meeting Update
May to June 2013

PCSO Neville Warner introduced himself and explained that Bryony Sparks had been moved to Horsham and that he would be PCSO for Ashington. He had previously been PCSO for Ashington. He also covered Pulborough, West Chiltington, Thakeham, Coldwaltham.

The Police are aware that Ashington currently has no Warden cover and this is making life a little difficult. There has been an increase in youth activity (large groups, drinking, litter, rowdy behaviour, drugs) and, following a meeting with Sergeant Ian McNab the Police have agreed to add Ashington to 'directed patrol activity' meaning that a Police unit will visit Ashington regularly with the intention to deter unwanted activity.

A serious incident had occurred on Friday 31st May resulting in 2 arrests using Captor spray to disarm violent youths. A group of youths had been drinking in Church Lane, had moved to London Road where a fight had started between 6/7 youths. It is likely that drink & drugs were involved.

The Police are aware of possible drug dealing going on in the village and appeal to residents to report all suspicious activity/behaviour on either 101 or 999 if an incident is occurring.

Overall crime (including ASB) in Horsham South is declining. Ashington did have a problem some years ago (before Wardens) and we need to keep on top of this issue while there is a gap in Wardens.

PCSO Neville Warner.