



Ashington Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on 6th March 2014 at 8.00 p.m. in Ashington School, Foster Lane, Ashington

Present: Councillors M. Woolley, R. Brennan, J. Gichovi-Elias, B. Norton, K. Wood, N. Clark & D. Harbour
Parish Clerk Karen Dare
District Councillors David Jenkins & Roger Arthur
Neighbourhood Warden Jayne Jeffrey
2 x PCSO's
10 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. If Members of the Public have questions for Police/Wardens & District/County Councillors then the Clerk will pass these on if these individuals have left the meeting. Members of the Public are reminded that Standing Orders allow for 5 minutes maximum participation.

061/14 APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE

Cllr R. Lancaster (business), T. Kearney, R. Strudwick & N. Carver (all personal), County Councillor Philip Circus (illness), PCSO Bryony Sparks (personal)

062/14 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 as she is a member of the Festival Committee.

063/14 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 6th February 2014 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman. Proposed by Councillor Gichovi-Elias and seconded by Councillor Brennan, and agreed.

064/14 REPORT FROM THE NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDENS & PCSO

PCSO report (see Appendix 2).
Questions: None

Wardens report (See Appendix 1).
Questions for the Wardens from Councillors: None

Youth Worker

Reports from the temporary Youth Worker will be issued termly. The Clerk has received copies of the Youth Workers time sheets but it is not possible to report time spent by activity.

Update on the joint PC/Church Youth project: The Chairman, Cllr Clark & Clerk met with the Rector on 27th Feb to finalise details of the project. New documents had been prepared. The Chairman, Clerk & Cllr Clark needed to check the documents before wider circulation to other Councillors. It was expected that Councillors would receive the documents 10/3 and Councillors would be asked to approve by 15/3. Once approved the documents could be formally signed. **KD C/F**

Youth Shelter – the Scouts expressed concerns about the positioning of the youth shelter behind their building. The Parish Council had originally suggested it be located at the skatepark but this was rejected by ACCT. It seems that no location can be agreed upon. It was suggested that this project be given to the new Youth Worker to consider. Agreed. **D**

Warden recruitment

The Council has formally asked HDC to recruit a part-time Warden for 20 hours per week. A job advert is imminent. The Council should agree a Councillor to be involved in the selection process. **KD C/F**

Jayne Jeffrey's Warden contract with HDC expires March 2016.

065/14 YOUNG PERSONS ADJOURNMENT

There were a number of young people and their parents present. Parents spoke on behalf of the youngsters:

Why was the Youth Shelter taking so long to organise? The youngsters have nowhere to go in the village. They meet at the Community Centre (in the porch) but get moved on, they go to the Co-op and get moved on. They have nowhere that they can meet without being moved on. They have been threatened with being reported to the Police if they are found at the Community Centre. The Community Centre has sprayed Jeyes fluid and put ant powder in the porch area and this could be harmful to the youths. The Community Centre is owned by all villagers so why can't the youngsters meet there?

The Clerk responded that discussions over a location on ACCT land had stalled as the Council's suggestions (skatepark, Recreation Ground or behind the Scout Hall) had all been rejected by ACCT. The Parish Council does not own any land in the centre of the village. Without an agreed location the project had to be put on hold (see above, Minute 064/14).

The Chairman responded that the Parish Council was not sure whether money would better be spent on opening the Youth Club for more hours each week so that youths

could meet in the club rather than in a shelter. The existing temporary youth worker cannot open the club more evenings each week due to personal commitments but the Church Youth Worker project would ensure at least 2 Youth Club nights per week, if not more. He also explained that, whilst Ashington youngsters were generally home by 10-11pm each night, some problems were occurring later at night when others were coming into the village. A youth shelter would not address these issues.

Parents/youths responded: they need an area for themselves either at the skatepark or at the back of the old village hall, opening the youth club more often would still not be enough as youths could be around every evening and during the holidays and it would be impossible to open the youth club 24/7. A shelter could be used for years to come. The youth don't need sound systems in a shelter, just somewhere dry, with 3 sides. One parent told the Council that he could make a wooden structure with roof for minimal cost and the youths could be involved in fundraising, design and construction and he gave the Clerk his contact details. By being involved in the project the youngsters were less likely to abuse the shelter. One parent identified herself as a lapsed volunteer at the Youth Club and she was encouraged to contact the Club to offer her services. Cllr Clark suggested he speak to the Rector to see if the Church would agree to a corner of the new churchyard could be made available.

It was agreed that a meeting be arranged between some Councillors, Warden, parents, ACCT to take this project forwards. **KD D**

066/14 REPORT FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

District Councillor Roger Arthur reported:

1. Does the Parish Council ever request the Purple Bus or Snack Wagon come to Ashington? The Clerk responded that she had submitted requests but priority was being given to areas with no youth services. Cllr Arthur gave his support to the Council for future requests for these services to visit Ashington.
2. There was some discussion at HDC about the proposed petrol station at the northern end of Ashington needing extended opening hours. Nothing formal had been submitted to HDC or the PC but Neil Northover (landowner) had attended a Residents Association meeting in February and suggested that the petrol station and an associated food outlet (M&S) wanted to open 24/7. The Clerk reminded those present that the HDC Environmental Health Officer had imposed restrictions to the opening hours on the grounds of loss of amenity (noise nuisance) to nearby residents and it was important to bear this in mind. Councillors would not make comment until a planning application is made to HDC.

The Chairman thanked District Councillor Roger Arthur for his report.

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

067/14 Trees at Northern Edge of Recreation Ground

Will Jones (HDC) has provided a health report on the trees. WSCC have been asked to trim those lower branches that are interfering with bin lorries. Otherwise the trees are good healthy specimens and no work is needed. Will Jones commented that he would consider putting a TPO on the trees if they were under threat. The question of ownership is being discussed by Saxon Weald & WSCC.

C/F

CORRESPONDENCE

068/14 For action:

1. HDC – any suggestions for projects for the Scrutiny & Overview Committee?
None.
2. HDC – does the Council want any floral meadow seed in commemoration of WW1? Where to sow it? Volunteers? No.
3. Storrington, Sullington & Washington Neighbourhood Plan – invitation to nominate a representative to be involved in the preparation of the Plan. Clerk to find out dates of meetings.

KD D

069/14 For information:

1. Sussex Heritage Trust awards
2. Agenda Chanctonbury CLC meeting
3. HDC – report on the health of the trees on the northern edge of the Recreation Ground
4. Resident reporting litter problems from Kate's Cakes – passed to HDC for action.
5. SSALC advice on membership of campaigning groups

070/14 General:

1. Clerks & Councils Direct magazine
2. The Clerk magazine
3. WSCC – better Broadband update

071/14 PUBLIC ADJOURNMENT

The Chairman explained that, in order that residents got the most benefit from their 5 mins maximum participation time, Councillors would listen to residents questions without debate or comment but would follow up on the items either by reporting back at the next meeting or directly to the individual outside of the meeting.

Members of the public reported:

1. A member of ACCT Committee made comment that ACCT have always given permission for parish projects to use their land in the past. ACCT will support youth initiatives. ACCT had not formally rejected the proposal to put the youth shelter behind the skatepark. The Parish Council should get the Youth Club open more often. The Clerk responded that she had received an email from ACCT stating that the Scouts were not happy with the proposal to site the youth shelter behind their building.
2. How much money does the PC have in Icelandic Banks and what is it used for and why can't the Council pay for a youth shelter from this money? The Clerk responded that the Parish Council had £109,026.51 deposited and that the money was given to the Parish Council by housing Developers many years ago

and was only to be used for the upkeep of Parish Council land that had been given to the Parish Council by Developers. Legally it could not be used for any other purpose. It is normal practice to invest the capital and use the interest to fund maintenance but, with interest rates being so low at present, the Council was having to use the capital to pay maintenance costs. In the event that the capital is used up then the Parish Council will likely need to raise the Precept to pay for maintenance of land.

3. A member of the public reported that the French drains at the shopping centre need clearing and some are broken. Clerk to report to Clokes Management.
KD D
4. Has the Clerk had any joy in persuading Moat Housing to cut the hedge at Viney Close. The Clerk had contacted Moat numerous times in the past but with no response. The nearby homeowner could contact them. District Councillors Arthur and Jenkins would try to make contact with Moat.

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

072/14 PLANNING.

The Planning Committee met on 19th February and Councillors have been provided with a copy of the minutes. Agreed by all.

073/14 Correspondence

Neighbourhood Plan –update. There are 2 steps that need to be taken at this stage:

- a. Apply for a first phase grant from HDC of £3000. It was proposed that the Clerk complete the paperwork. Agreed
- b. Establish a Steering Committee of Parish Councillors. The following Focus Groups were agreed:
Economy/Business – Cllr Brennan (lead) & Cllr Lancaster
Planning/Infrastructure – Cllr Woolley (lead) & Cllr Kearney
Transport/Access – Cllr Carver (lead) & Cllr Strudwick
Community Facilities – Cllr Gichovi-Elias (lead) & Cllr Clark
Environment/Heritage/Local issues – Cllr Norton (lead) & Cllrs Harbour & Wood
Councillors would need to agree Terms of Reference, agree meeting dates & recruit members of the public to join the groups (to be done at a Public Meeting).

KD C/F

074/14 New Enforcement Allegations/Information

None

075/14 Amendments

DC/14/0011 Single storey extension to southern aspect of dwelling to create new open plan kitchen, dining and living room – 20 Hillcrest Drive

The Parish Council has no objections to the amended plans. The Council did note that the plans seem to propose a flue pipe/chimney in the extension roof from what appears to be a fire/stove and asks that HDC look at the proposed pipe/chimney and ensure that it matches into the street scene (other chimneys in the area are brick built).

076/14 Applications

DC/14/0162 Outline planning application for the construction of up to four dwellings on undeveloped land to the north of Ashington and immediately adjacent to the eastern edge of the defined built up area boundary – Yew Tree Cottage, Billingshurst Road
The PC object to any development on this site on the basis that:

- a. Ashington is a Category 2 settlement, and development is allowed only in exceptional circumstances; which this application does not meet
- b. it is outside the BUAB
- c. technically it does not even abut the BUAB (the boundary being on the west side of Billingshurst Road)
- d. it is a greenfield site, and the PC believes significant development is available within the BUAB and/or on brownfield sites
- e. the site has high ecological value close to the village
- f. it is adjacent to the site of an approved petrol station, fuel yard and country store, with associated noise, light pollution, traffic etc, which makes this site unsuitable for residential development
- g. HDC's Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) Report has identified other sites more suitable for development
- h. its proximity to a number of Listed buildings
- i. its proximity to the A24, with associated noise and pollution makes the site unsuited to residential development
- j. the potential for this site to be the catalyst for further development north of the village is seen as undesirable whilst alternative areas that better retain the shape of the village, and avoiding ribbon development, are available

In the event that Officers are minded to approve this application the PC requests that it be determined by Councillors at a Development Control South Committee meeting.

DC/14/0219 Redevelopment of existing house and site to provide 3 new homes and a replacement Dwelling – Four Acres, Rectory Lane

Whilst supporting some development of this brownfield site within the BUAB, the PC objects to the current application on the following grounds:

- a. 4 houses on the site of 1 bungalow represents overdevelopment
- b. the loss of a bungalow goes against the Housing Needs Survey which identified the need for more bungalows not less
- c. the proposed designs are not sympathetic to the street scene (oast houses are associated with Kent not Sussex)
- d. given the houses do not front Rectory Lane, the existing open frontage is replaced by high close boarded fences; adversely affecting the street scene
- e. gardens are very small for what are meant to be family homes (Oast House has no private garden)
- f. many trees are planned to be removed; reducing local amenity value
- g. fencing of the front courtyard does not seem practical
- h. concerns about adverse impact of a 2 storey house only 14m from 2 Rectory Close bungalow

- i. current on street parking levels make the area very congested and dangerous, overdevelopment of the site will make the situation worse.
 - j. no provision for affordable homes or homes needed in Housing Needs Survey
- The PC would support the renovation of the existing bungalow and the erection of a second bungalow on this site, on the basis both of the need for more bungalows and the fact that the site is surrounded primarily by other bungalows, and thus bungalows are more in keeping with the existing street scene and environment.
- A provision for homes to be offered to Ashington connected buyers in the first instance would be requested.
- In the event that Officers are minded to approve this application the PC requests that it be determined by Councillors at a Development Control South Committee meeting.

DC/14/0286 Demolition of existing conservatory to rear of property and erection of replacement single storey orangery – 11 Posthorses
The Parish Council has no objections.

Horsham District Council

077/14 Approvals

DC/13/2384 Construction of a two storey side extension and front porch – 20 Fairfield Road

DC/13/2377 Single storey side extension with brick built garden walls – 7 Chanctonbury
The Clerk has sent the architect the minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 6th February at which Councillors made comments about the party wall situation between the Parish Council and homeowner.

078/14 Refusals None

079/14 Withdrawals None

080/14 Appeals made/ decisions

DC/13/1759 Erection of sign – Well Adjusted Health, Sports Pavilion, Church Lane – appeal dismissed.

The next Planning Committee meeting is scheduled for 19th March at **7.30pm** in Ashington Sports Pavilion.

FINANCE

Cllr Gichovi-Elias took no part in discussions on the very next item.

081/14 Correspondence

1. Consider a request from Ashington Festival – that the Parish Council pay for the security guards at the Ashington Festival 2014. The cost is the same as 2013 = £745.80 exc VAT. This would be met from the grants budget (£1000 set). Agreed by all.
2. Consider a quote for the hanging baskets – Councillors had previously agreed to have them all planted by Ferring Nurseries this year because of the superior

quality. Cost is £827.84 exc VAT which is within the agreed budget. Agreed by all. Colour to be multi-coloured.

082/14 Appointment of Internal Auditor

The Council needs to agree on the appointment of this years' Internal Auditor. Last years' auditor is available for the same cost (£200 fixed fee). Agreed by all.

083/14 Income None

084/14 Expenditure

		Cheque no.	
Mark Adsett	Gardeners contract payment	£491.66	1491
Mrs K. Dare	Clerks expenses (home & telephone)	£17	
	Stationery	£62.47	
	Wooden posts (nature trail)	£28.32	
	Total	£107.79	1492
WSSC	Salary and on costs (February)	£879.11	1493
ACCT	Planning committee 19/02/14	£7.40	1494
	Bingo Club (January)	£37.00	1495
	Bingo club (February)	£37.00	1496
	Lunch Club (February)	£59.20	1497
	Planning Committee 21/8/13 (cancelled previous cheque 1430 for £8.84)	£7.40	1498
	Play area lease	£12	1499
HDC	Litter & dog bin emptying	£299.00	1500
SSALC	Local Council Review magazine	£17.00	1501

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

085/14 MEETINGS

The Clerk, Cllrs Gichovi-Elias & Clark had attended the Wardens Steering Group meeting.

Cllr Gichovi-Elias had attended an ACCT meeting.

The Clerk, Cllr Clark & Chairman had attended the Youth Project meeting

Cllr Norton had attended the February Ashington Residents Association meeting and reported:

1. The village website had been upgraded and users could now add their own content rather than one person having to enter all content. He gave the Clerk a document that had been prepared by the website administrator.

- Neil Northover (owner of land for the proposed petrol filling station (PFS)) had made a presentation. He had not been able to get HDC's permission to extend the opening hours of the proposed PFS. He would need local/parish support for an extension. He can't find an operator for the PFS if it must close by 6pm. He has been approached by a company representing BP/M&S who would require 24/7 opening of the PFS. At a later date a café might be added eg KFC/Subway. He commented that the site was costing him money while it was empty and he can't move his fuel distribution yard to the site until he finds an operator for the PFS. Councillors declined to comment until the Parish Council is approached formally by Neil Northover or a planning application is received.

086/14 MINOR MATTERS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS

- There are some trees down on the footpath alongside Chanctonbury Nurseries. Clerk to contact the landowner (Cllr Carver). **KD D**
- Potholes to be reported – Hillcrest Drive, Timberlea Close, slip road to A24 southbound carriageway at Hole Street, Park Lane. **KD D**
- The 30mph sign outside Westlands Farm, Billingshurst Road was knocked down recently and has now been removed but not replaced. **KD D**
- There is a fallen tree on Billingshurst Road by West Wolves Farm. Clerk to have a look at and report. **KD D**

The next meeting will be held at **7.45pm on Thursday 3rd April 2014 at Ashington School, Foster Lane.**

The meeting finished at 9.25pm

Signed.....

Date.....

087/14 APPENDIX 1: REPORT FROM NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDENS

CRIMINAL DAMAGE

There have been reports across the village of bottles being smashed in resident's gardens and driveways. I am aware of offenders and have spoken with them regarding this issue.

A report of a large amount of glass bottles smashed in the ball court area of community centre has also been reported to me. Offenders have been identified and this intelligence has been passed to the police.

All residents that were affected by this were told to phone 101 non-emergency police number if any damage had occurred to their property.

The community centre continues to be a problem with the youth gathering until the early hours of the morning. I have been monitoring the CCTV on a regular basis to try and identify the youth concerned. Letters have been sent to several youth from the Anti-Social behaviour team highlighting their anti-social behaviour and explaining what could happen if this kind of behaviour continues. Several home visits are planned over the next few weeks to discuss the issues with the parents of the youth causing the anti-social behaviour.

I continue to work closely with PCSO Sparks in dealing with these youth issues.

ANTI SOCIAL DRIVING

No reports of any anti-social driving this month.

YOUTH WORKER

I am trying to attend the youth club on a Thursday evening when my shift pattern allows. The youth worker and I are in conversation as regards some outreach work and more open evenings of the youth club.

Once again the main issue with the youth around the village is that we have nowhere to direct them to that they can identify as some where they can meet their friends. The proposed youth shelter would give us this facility to direct them to when causing a nuisance for residents of the village when they are gathering in areas that they are causing noise and litter issues for residents.

The problem at the moment I am just moving the youths on from one area to another there is nowhere for them to congregate. The group of youths at the moment in the village is between ten and fifteen, weekends this figure can reach twenty plus.

LITTER

I have been litter picking hot spot areas. The litter this month has been quite bad but I think a lot of this is due to the wind blowing rubbish from bins etc.

I have been monitoring all the bins as I have noticed signage saying if this bin is full phone this number. A couple of the bins were full so I phoned and they were emptied the next day.

LOST AND FOUND DOGS

This month I have received a large amount of calls regarding lost or found dogs. Most of these dogs that have gone missing or have been found have had no identity collars. I feel that I need to organise a campaign within the village to just remind dog owners of their responsibilities regarding letting their dog stray. I would also like to say if a dog is taken to the kennels it is very expensive to reclaim your dog.

DOG FOUL

I have been doing high viz patrols across the hot spot areas for dog foul. Several dog owners have been reminded that it is their responsibility to pick up their dog foul. All dog walkers that I spoke with picked up their dog foul. I did stress that if they didn't they would receive an on the spot fine of £50.00. It is an offence to not pick up your dog foul.

CO OP

There have been several calls this month regarding youth being anti-social outside the Co-op I am aware that a new manager has now been appointed for the store. Over the next few weeks I will try and arrange a meeting with the resident's local to the Co-op and the new manager to discuss ongoing problems and issues.

Once again I must remind residents to call 101 if any of these issues are affecting them. It is not the job of the shop assistants to go out and tell the youth to move on. If they are causing issues for the co-op and then in which case they will also need to call 101 to report any anti-social behaviour. For resident's calling 101 they have to witness for themselves the anti-social behaviour.

ELDERLY/VULNERABLE

My elderly/vulnerable list is still growing. I have welcomed two new residents this month. I have been reminding all the elderly/vulnerable to be prepared in case of power cuts. I have also been checking they all have torches that work, if not I have been giving them new rechargeable ones. Most of the elderly/vulnerable are now prepared for any bad weather we may experience. Their food cupboards are well stocked, their torches all working and their cold weather kits at the ready.

I have also been reminding them of home security, making sure they keep their doors locked and to use the door chain if opening door. Most are aware not to talk to people they do not know. They all will not get involved with any door knocker salesman or builders touting for business.

Due to a very sad event for one of my elderly/vulnerable persons I was so pleased to see the community come together and help out. Some of my elderly/vulnerable made cakes donated food and made a financial contribution to help out a vulnerable person in need. I can't thank them enough for all their kind support and help.

I have also noticed the long winter months many of the residents I visit are lonely and are very pleased to know that I will be calling on them on a regular basis. They say it makes them feel safe in their own homes. They know that they can call on me if they have a problem.

Due to confidentiality I cannot list all work carried out within this group but it is taking a lot of my working hours to deal with them. I am continually signposting to relevant agencies for the help they may need.

There is a still lots of family intervention work going on across the village.

I have organised an elderly/vulnerable trip on the 31st March 2014. We will hopefully be going on a shopping trip to Barnham followed by Bognor then onto Felpham for a fish and chip lunch. This trip has been organised as a request from the elderly/vulnerable as they so enjoyed the last outing that we visited these places.

ASHINGTON LUNCH CLUB

I have been organising the afternoon following the lunch club on the 1st Wednesday of each month. The first Afternoon tea club will be the 2nd April 2014.

There will hopefully be an afternoon of armchair exercises organised by Horsham District Council. Once they have been exhausted by all that exercise they will be given a

light afternoon tea. There will also be a raffle. The members have given me lots of ideas for future meetings. The club will start at two and finish at four. Transport will be provided for those unable to get to community centre on their own steam.

088/14 APPENDIX 2 – PCSO Report February
No report this month

PCSO Bryony Sparks.

089/14 March 2014 Report on Ashington Youth Centre - Spring Term 2014 - Kris Page (youth leader)

Ashington Youth centre is still increasing its numbers of young people attending and welcomed 7 new young people over the last half term, allowing us to have made contact with 38 juniors and 22 senior young people since the club opened back in September, each week the club welcomes on average 24+ juniors and 16 + seniors on a regular basis.

We are still pursuing new volunteers and at present we still do not have anyone new to help out, and are currently still running the Thursday evenings with either two or three of us. I will be putting out flyers requesting help around the village and will be issuing a copy to be sent through the Ashington village newsletter, in a hope to attract volunteers from the village.

Following on from January 2014's report this half term we delivered activities that have allowed young people to explore their views and opinions round, Red hand Day, Knife and gun crime, Valentine's Day and National STI day, every week we engage with young people at club and discuss the issues that are affecting them currently, areas that are frequently discussed are around school, exams, home life, friendships and healthy life styles. Together the staff and young people are continuing to build good trust and confidentiality boundaries allowing both parties to be able to voice, challenge, engage and communicate affectively, thus allowing us all to respect each other's opinions and make informed choices.