



Ashington Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on 6th September 2012 at 7.45 p.m. in Ashington School, Foster Lane, Ashington

Present: Councillors K. Wood, R. Brennan, B. Norton, D. Harbour, J. Stillwell, R. Strudwick, R. Lancaster, N. Clark, T. Kearney
Parish Clerk Karen Dare
District Councillor Roger Arthur
Neighbourhood Wardens Peter Newell & Jayne Jeffrey
Three members of the public
Invited Guests – District Councillor Adam Breacher & Clare Ebelewicz

233/12 APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE

N. Carver (personal), M. Woolley (business) & County Councillor Frank Wilkinson (holiday).

In the Chairman's absence the Vice Chairman took the Chair for the meeting.

234/12 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

The Chairman reminded Councillors that previous declarations still stand.

235/12 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 2nd August 2012 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman. Proposed by Councillor Brennan and seconded by Councillor Harbour, and agreed.

236/12 INVITED GUESTS Adam Breacher & Clare Ebelewicz

District Councillor for Billingshurst & Shipley Adam Breacher (Cabinet member for a Safer & Healthier District) & Clare Ebelewicz gave a presentation on Community Youth Work proposals:

These had come about because of the withdrawal of funding for youth provision by WSCC. HDC had become aware that many villages were independently looking at providing for the youth in their area and there was potential for pooling of resources to achieve a better outcome. HDC were facilitating these discussions.

Some statistics of the numbers of young people in the Chanctonbury area were presented - 23.2% of people in Chanctonbury are young people, 11.8% are living in poverty, 8.6% are not in good health, 3.2% have a long term limiting illness or disability.

The community youth work group comprised district & parish councillors, churches, parents, youth clubs, schools and any other interested parties and all were keen to bring youth work back to their areas.

Possible costs are £50-60k for a full time youth worker (full cost recovery - salary, pension, tax, NI, training, equipment, communications, expenses). HDC were exploring grant & funding options for the scheme which would help to reduce costs to Parish Councils.

Parish Councils would be asked to commit to any scheme for 3 years as 1 year would not be long enough to secure a good youth worker who could make a difference in the year, 5 years was seen as difficult to commit to in the current economic climate.

It was anticipated that the youth workers would not simply run youth club sessions but would reflect what the young people of the area want eg youth club, trips, out and about sessions, truancy support, help for individuals & carers, awareness sessions etc. Volunteers would still be needed to help with the provision.

Ashington Church was a member of the youth work group and was very active in promoting activities for young people in the village.

Likely timetable for the project - expect to have youth workers in post in April 2013 as this fits with the financial year. Parish Councils would need to be making decisions about funding in time for their precept setting in January 2013 as it is expected that some funding would have to come from precepts.

Some clustering of villages was being discussed eg Steyning, Upper Beeding, Bramber were looking to employ one full time youth worker. Other clusters may start to form as Parish Councils consider options. Horsham & BBH were looking at employing one full time youth worker for their area alone. Southwater runs its own very successful youth service with its own youth worker and has advised the Community Youth Work group. A full time youth worker would be a 'constant' in the lives of our young people and would enable good relationships to develop.

The Community Youth Group is going to run some community engagement events aimed at getting feedback from youngsters. These were currently being advertised across the District.

The purpose of tonight's meeting was to ask the Parish Council to think about youth provision in the village and to highlight work that was ongoing across the District. Ashington may decide to 'go it alone' separately from the Community Youth Work group and Peter Newell (Warden) was currently investigating options on behalf of the Parish Council and would present these at the next meeting. This would then enable the Parish Council to make some decisions about youth provision in time for budget setting in December/January.

C/F

237/12 REPORT FROM THE NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDENS Festival

This year we both felt the Festival had a much better feel and atmosphere with a lot more people centred on the stage area. The weather was glorious and the new carnival route worked well with road closures in place and stopping traffic for only a very limited amount of time. Also with the road management company in place it meant parking around the village was a lot better and didn't cause us any problems. The night passed off with only a few minor incidents. One person was arrested however this was a separate issue from the festival.

Stolen Vehicle

After being tipped off by a resident about a car that had been parked up in rectory lane and hadn't moved for several days we were able to, with help from Sussex police, identify that the vehicle was in fact one that had been stolen earlier in the month from the Barns Green area. This was then recovered by the police pending further investigations.

Environmental Audit

This month we started the process carrying out an audit of each street in the village identifying areas that are in disrepair or in need of tlc. This has included cutting back overgrowth so signs can be seen and noting where signs need to be replaced etc.

Street Representatives

We are looking to get together a group of volunteers to act as street representatives who can work with us to help tackle local issues / problems to them. Ideally we are looking for 1 or 2 people per street dependant on size etc. We are hoping that this group could enable us to get important messages out to residents within the village as well as have an important means of communicating problems back to us. Ultimately we want to work together with residents to help improve their quality of life, to reduce crime and the fear of crime.

Phone Box

After having tried numerous times to get BT to fix the phone box at the junction of Rectory Close and Rectory Lane we have finally managed to get them to do it. The phone works and they have even replaced the missing glass window.

Skate Park

This month we have had a good number of complaints from youngsters using the skate park who have noticed that it is in need of repair. They have themselves said that they feel unsafe on some of the ramps etc. We have told them that we would again raise it as an issue that needs attention but also said that if it does become too dangerous that the skate park would have to be closed for everyone's safety. We have also suggested to some of the older people using the skate park that they might like to form a skate park committee and have a voice that can be heard. Especially by themselves attending the parish council meetings.

Cold Calling

Again this month we have noticed a rise in cold calling and doorstep selling with numerous reports of some unsavoury characters around and about the village. We are working on raising the profile of these issues within the village and are working with trading standards to explore methods of tackling these problems. We are in the process of obtaining some cold calling packs that include stickers that can be placed on front doors deterring people from cold calling. In addition to people on doorsteps there are often phone calls and unsolicited mail that can cause concerns. Trading standards were keen to push the website – www.stayprivate.org where people can put a stop to junk mail and unwanted phone calls. Alternatively residents can call trading standard help desk on 08454 040506.

Graffiti

Further to a recent spate of graffiti we have had a couple of other occurrences. One noticeable one is in the bus stop near the Indian restaurant on London road. We are working to get them cleaned up as soon as possible. However some are too stubborn even for our graffiti kits.

Anti Social Behaviour

Dare we say it but the summer holidays have been a relatively quiet period for Anti Social Behaviour. There have been a few instances but we have been able to act quickly enough to nip them in the bud.

Anti Social Driving

We continue to have reports of anti social driving. Once again we would urge anyone who sees anti social driving to do the same by reporting the vehicles to operation crackdown via www.operationcrackdown.org or by calling them on 01243 642222 or the Police non emergency on 101.

Elderly and vulnerable visits

Yet again this month we have spent a large amount of time working closely with a vulnerable family in the village. We have been helping them to deal with some long term problems that have needed extra support every step of the way. We have been working hard to get them the support from other services that they need and finally we seem to have made a good amount of ground with some support put in place where needed. It hasn't been easy and have proven that there does seem to be a need for someone to champion problems like this and get individuals the support they need. With a lot of services cutting back and front line services being reduced it has only helped to highlight the importance of our home visits.

We had our trip down to Bognor to the boathouse restaurant where we were able to take a group to enjoy fish and chips and have a little stroll along the prom. Also on the way we made a stop at Roundstone garden centre. Our next planned event is our "Christmas" party which will be on 25th November. We are putting the details together and will advertise this when complete.

We have been talking to the elderly and vulnerable residents and have identified the desire to have a regular monthly club. We are exploring the idea of resurrecting the monthly lunch club as well as other ideas.

Reporting Incidents to the Police

The Police can be contacted in a number of ways from the **999** call in an emergency to **101** in a non emergency situation. There too are other ways to get in touch via their website and even text message. They can be emailed via contactcentre@sussex.pnn.police.uk where you can report non emergency problems. If you are a victim of criminal damage for instance this can be emailed through with as much detail and information as possible. You can even send the police a text message on **65999** to alert them of a drunk driver or similar issues.

Without your support in contacting the Police to report instances of crime we can't build up a picture of what is going on in the village and in addition we can't get the support from the Police that we too need.

The Chairman thanked the Wardens for their report.

A meeting took place between the Parish Council Steering Group, Wardens & Neil Worth (HDC) to review the Wardens roles and responsibilities and the Clerk has circulated review documents.

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

1. Somewhere along Malthouse Lane there is an individual with a trails bike who likes to practice (noisily) on private land. This was always daytime (not unsocial hours). It was felt that the best course of action was to speak to the landowner about reducing the noise.
2. Request for PCSO Hannah Venus to attend the next PC meeting.
3. Margaret Alford from Ashington Festival thanked the Wardens for their help at the Festival.

238/12 YOUNG PERSONS ADJOURNMENT

None present.

239/12 REPORT FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

District Councillor Roger Arthur apologised for missing a number of PC meetings because of his commitments at HDC. He reported:

1. HDC is under further financial pressure due to reductions in their government grant. There are some questions about the New Homes Bonus and how it can be used but more information would be provided in due course.
2. Crime Commissioner – elections are soon and residents should be asking whether Police resources will be diverted away from affluent Horsham. ASB is under control in the District but a lack of resources could reverse this.

The Chairman thanked District Councillor Roger Arthur for his report.

Questions:

1. Is HDC going to start charging for brown top bins? District Councillor Arthur confirmed that HDC was scrutinising all of its functions as it did need to save money. At present ALL options were under consideration and residents will be consulted.

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

240/12 Community Action Plan

Updated list on the PC website.

KD C/F

241/12 Housing Needs Survey

The Chairman, Clerk and any other Councillors will be meeting with HDC in September to look at the results of the Survey and possibly start to develop a 'Housing Strategy' such that the needs identified can be delivered whilst avoiding inappropriate development in the village. It is expected that more information will be presented to Council in October 2012.

C/F

242/12 Business Paper

The Clerk had prepared a paper on Ashington Business and circulated to Councillors. Comments were incorporated into the paper and it was approved to be sent to HDC for their Scrutiny & Overview Business Working Group.

CORRESPONDENCE

243/12 For action:

1. HDC – Community Engagement. The PC is asked to identify its priorities. **C/F**
2. WSCC – consultation on Future of WSCC owned Gypsy & Traveller sites. WSCC is looking to sell their sites to an organisation that can run the site. The sites will continue to be used as Gypsy/Traveller sites. No comments.
3. Horsham Football Club – does Ashington want to have an 'Ashington Village Day' at Horsham Football Club on match day? No comments.
4. Proposal for Vodafone to re-locate from Hole Street sub-station to the mast at Spring Gardens. This would maintain coverage in the area but allow for the mast at Hole Street to be decommissioned. Councillors were concerned that this could affect coverage in the Ashington area. Other mobile phone providers have poor coverage in the village and Vodafone is used by most residents. **KD D**
5. Gatwick Airport – proposal to refine existing aircraft departure routes and change to improved navigational capabilities (P-RNAV). The Clerk has studied the proposals and can find no impact on Ashington Parish. No comments.

244/12 For information:

1. HDC Housing Strategy Annual Progress Review 2011-12

2. Email from resident concerned at speeding on London Road. The Clerk has responded with details of Operation Crackdown
3. WSCC Bus timetable changes
4. Horsham District Wellbeing service
5. Minutes of HALC meeting 23rd July
6. Letter from resident asking to purchase part of the 'western tree boundary'. The Clerk has already responded stating that legal agreements prevent the Parish Council from selling this land.
7. Letter from resident complaining about overgrown vegetation & muddy surface of Public Footpath from Ashington to Malthouse Lane. Passed to landowner & WSCC.
8. SLCC – notice of AGM

245/12 General:

1. AiRS Annual Review
2. WSCC Approved Traders Directory

246/12 PUBLIC ADJOURNMENT

Members of the public reported:

1. Missing manhole cover along Rectory Lane still hasn't been replaced after 8 weeks. Clerk to chase WSCC. **KD D**
2. Rectory Lane hasn't been repaired or vegetation cleared even after the recent accidents in the area.
3. A resident had had 2 split tyres after driving along the private road part of Fairfield Road. The Wardens agreed to try to speak to the owners of the road to see if anything could be done.

The Chairman thanked members of the public for their comments.

247/12 PLANNING.

The Planning Committee met on 15th August and Councillors have been provided with a copy of the Minutes. Agreed by all.

248/12 Correspondence

1. Letters of support from 2 residents for the proposed Equine Hospital
2. HDC – Amended TPO no 1426, Meiros Farm
3. WSCC draft Sustainability Appraisal of the West Sussex Waste Local Plan – consultation. No comment.

HDC Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Site Allocations Preferred Options Consultation Document –The Chairman met with Sally Stallan & Lisa Da Silva at HDC to discuss this issue:

1. The Policy work has several stages still to complete:
 - 31st August 2012 ends consultation
 - Then analysis of representations; several of which are going directly to Members rather than being submitted to the planning department.

- Then to SPAG pre-Christmas
- If issues raised more work; if not then out for further public consultation, known as Pre-Submission stage. The document can still change at this time. The next stage is Submission; it is at this stage that changes cannot be made.
- Possible adoption in 2013

2. In addition HDC is working on the Horsham District Planning Framework, which is likely to be adopted in 2014 and will include a strategic planning policy for gypsy sites. ACTION: whilst Penn is not included in the current Policy proposal it is in Ashington's interests to support the adoption of the Policy as a matter of urgency. A formal note to HDC indicating that we have studied the document and support its recommendations in terms of sites would be helpful. Already done.

Penn Retreat is not in the Policy primarily because there was an existing application in and it was considered that it would have been determined prior to Policy or alternative use agreed. There are two sites in DC North in a similar situation: 2010 applications still to be decided: probably coming to DC meetings shortly. Baker Associates did not consider the sites as it was considered the applications would have been determined before or during the life of the study and the study may have had implications in the pre-determining of the applications.

ACTION: watch the outcome of these applications

If Penn Retreat were to be the subject of a planning application, it is likely it would be dealt with outside of the current Policy work (unless Members insisted it be included in the Policy). Ashington PC's objections, especially on the grounds of proximity to residences (more than any other site in the Policy) were touched on but agreed that a detailed response was not needed until an application was made.

ACTION: watch for the application and prepare a response.

There continues to be sensitivity at HDC to rejecting any application in the light of Kingfisher Farm planning Inspector's decision and the new Government guidance, 'Planning policy for traveller sites', therefore, objections to any application must address the Kingfisher Farm decision and show how we are not in a similar situation, as well as taking into account Government guidance.

249/12 New Enforcement Allegations/Information

None

250/12 Amendments

None

251/12 Applications

DC/12/1276 Demolition of existing buildings, provision of second access and formation of an equine hospital and associated facilities - Westlands Farm, Billingshurst Road WSCC Highways Planner reported on 6th August – 'I have objected to this proposal on highway safety grounds. I've not yet had any response from the Applicants in response to the concerns I have raised, although they will need to submit some quite robust information in order to overcome these. As noted in my response to the application,

there are a number of recorded personal injury accidents in very close location to the development (although these are unrelated to the current use of the site) and this section of the B2133 is consequently being investigated by colleagues in the Engineering Improvements Team as a location for a possible safety scheme. They will evidently need to consider what is suitable for this location and the proposed development could, if the three CIL Reg tests, are met contribute towards this. Notwithstanding any potential WSCC safety scheme, the access arrangements will need to be considered independently of this to ensure that no further detriment results to road safety as a consequence of the proposed equine hospital.' **C/F**

DC/12/1527 Change of use of building to 1 No. 2-bed dwelling with associated car parking – Post Horses, London Road (Re-submission of DC/12/0880)
It was agreed that the Council's comments for DC/12/0880 remain valid.

DC/12/1057 Surgery to 1 x Oak (T1) and 1 x Ash (T2) trees – 10 Warminghurst Close
It was agreed that a crown lift and reduction by 10% would be appropriate, no objections.

DC/12/1564 Surgery to 1 x Horse Chestnut and Leylandii trees - Land East Side of The Willows London Road
No objections.

Horsham District Council

252/12 Approvals

DC/12/0857 Fell 1 x Pine tree – 16 Linfield Lane

253/12 Refusals

None

254/12 Withdrawals

DC/11/1038 Subdivision of dwelling into 2 separate dwellings - The Well House, London Road. Withdrawn as the owner did not complete the s106 agreement.

255/12 Appeals made/ decisions

None

The next Planning Committee meeting is scheduled for 19th September 2012 at 7.00pm.

FINANCE

256/12 Correspondence

1. Proposed Office move

The Clerk had been investigating a possible office move from the Sports Pavilion to the old Wardens office in the Community Centre. There were 2 main reasons for the investigation:

- a. It would allow the PC some long term cost saving as phone/broadband could be shared with the Wardens, although there would be initial costs to move.

- b. It would allow ACCT to generate additional income by renting the current PC office to the Chiropractor.

ACCT responded to the enquiry thus – ‘ACCT would be very supportive if you still wish to move, and would seek to keep the rent to a minimum. However in recognition of the significantly larger office, the commensurate increase in utility consumption, and considering that there has not been an annual rent increase for 2012, we would suggest a modest rent increase of ca 11%, taking your quarterly rent from £189 to £210. This would then be reviewed annually, and subsequent rental adjustments would be likely to be based on general price inflation and movement in electricity input prices.’

It was proposed that as this would not achieve any significant PC cost savings the PC would be best to remain where it is. The current office is perfectly adequate for the Council. Agreed by all. **KD D**

2. HDC – the Parish Environmental Cleansing Grant for 2012/13 has increased from £3117 to £3294.67. It will be paid annually, rather than quarterly thus cutting down on admin time.
3. Audit Commission – appointment of External Auditor for 12/13 (Littlejohn LLP)

257/12 Income

None

258/12 Expenditure

		Cheque no.	
Mark Adsett	Gardeners contract payment	£483.33	
	Hanging basket watering (4 weeks)	£260.00	1332
Mrs K. Dare	Clerks expenses (home & telephone)	£17	
	Total	£17	1333
WSSC	Salary and on costs (August)	£844.93	1334
Plusnet	Broadband	£17.99	DD
M. Woolley	travel expenses	£12.20	1335
R. Brennan	travel expenses	£13.00	1336
E. Greenfield	Responder expenses	£624.14	1337
S. Fenn	Responder expenses	£17.25	
		£25.60	1338
HDC	Litter & dog bin emptying	£286.00	1339

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

259/12 MEETINGS

Cllrs Woolley had attended a meeting at HDC to discuss Gypsy & Traveller Preferred Options document.

Cllrs Stillwell, Clark & the Clerk had attended the Wardens Steering Group meeting on 4th September.

Cllr Carver had attended an NHS Hospitals Trust meeting, notes had been circulated to Councillors.

260/12 MINOR MATTERS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS

1. Tree belonging to 6 Meiros Way was touching a nearby lamppost. KD D
2. WSCC Highways were due to make repairs to the southern flyover following a crash. Clerk to find out when these would take place. KD D
3. Carbank, East Wolves Farm – 3 separate businesses appeared to be run from the property (car repairs, storage & leather cleaning) and only the storage business has planning permission. Clerk to report to HDC. KD D
4. There are 9 safety bollards missing along London Road (had been knocked down over the years and not replaced by WSCC). KD D
5. The bridleway to Brownhill House is very overgrown. The Clerk reported that WSCC are due to cut back all PF and BW in the very near future.
6. Church Lane hedge is growing over the footpath causing narrowing. The hedge is owned by ACCT but is on the Parish Council maintenance contract. The Clerk would speak to ACCT and Mark Adsett about a good cut-back this winter.
7. The Clerk was thanked for reporting the damage to road haunchings along Hole Street and potholes in Timberlea Close to WSCC. These had been repaired very recently.

The next meeting will be held at **7.45pm on Thursday 4th October 2012 at Ashington School, Foster Lane.**

The meeting finished at 9.55pm

Signed.....

Date.....