



Ashington Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on 7th February 2013 at 7.45 p.m. in Ashington School, Foster Lane, Ashington

Present: Councillors M. Woolley, K. Wood, R. Brennan, T. Kearney, B. Norton, D. Harbour, R. Lancaster, N. Clark & R. Strudwick
Parish Clerk Karen Dare
County Councillor Frank Wilkinson
Neighbourhood Warden Peter Newell
1 member 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.

031/13 APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs N. Carver & J. Gichovi-Elias (holiday), Neighbourhood Warden Jayne Jeffrey (illness) & District Councillor Roger Arthur (business)

032/13 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

The Chairman reminded Councillors that previous declarations still stand.

Councillors are asked to award a Dispensation to Cllr Carver to allow him to discuss the Council budget/precept at future meetings.

033/13 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 3rd January 2013 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman. Proposed by Councillor Brennan and seconded by Councillor Strudwick, and agreed.

034/13 REPORT FROM THE NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDENS & PCSO

PCSO report (see Appendix 3)

Wardens report (See Appendix 1). The Chairman thanked the Wardens for their report.

It is likely that Jayne Jeffrey would not return to full operational Warden duties for some months. Councillors discussed whether to ask HDC to provide a 'contract' Warden to cover her duties or ask for a reduction in Warden costs for the time that Jayne is absent.

The Clerk had discussed the issue with Peter Newell and Neil Worth and it was proposed that the Council not ask HDC for another Warden. Peter Newell would manage day to day tasks, long term projects would be put on hold until Jayne's return. This situation would be reviewed monthly. Agreed by all. Clerk to confirm with HDC.

KD C/F

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

1. Following the recent incident of a vehicle driving along the nature trail and several contractors vehicles parking on the nature trail to access rear gardens it was agreed that the Clerk get some quotes for fencing/gating the access to prevent unauthorised vehicles. **KD C/F**
2. Turnpike Way litter issues – some is coming from the rear area of the Co-op and others from the youths who congregate outside the shop. Peter Newell to speak to the Co-op Manager.
3. The Parish Council sends its best wishes to Jayne Jeffrey.

035/13 YOUNG PERSONS ADJOURNMENT

None present.

036/13 REPORT FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

County Councillor Frank Wilkinson reported:

1. WSCC was into its second year of cost reductions and had achieved £58 million in savings over the 2 years. Next year they were targeting £21million in further savings.
2. WSCC had frozen Council Tax for the third year.
3. £7.4million was being spent on flooding issues across the County. Schemes were being prioritised.
4. The Govt. Grant to WSCC is the same as last year.
5. WSCC are plugging 500 potholes per day and have set aside an additional £1.5million for the repair of potholes.
6. Streetlights at Meiros Farm – this new development is to be a private estate, WSCC will not be adopting the road. The Clerk is trying to find out whether the Developer will be installing streetlights.

Questions: None

The Chairman thanked County Councillor Wilkinson 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

037/13 Community Action Plan

Updated list on the PC website.

KD C/F

038/13 Housing Needs Survey

The Clerk & Chairman met with Andrew Smith at HDC. The HNS Conclusions had been discussed and after a couple of minor amendments were agreed. The Clerk would circulate and put a copy on the website. Andrew Smith had clarified that any 'affordable/social' homes in Ashington would be for local people only. The local criteria was the most important, followed by an assessment of need, not the other way round. This would ensure that the homes were satisfying a local need. The possibility of a Neighbourhood Plan had also been discussed and Andrew Smith had agreed that the Parish Council's approach of waiting until the pilot schemes had been completed before assessing the value of a Plan was a good idea. In addition, by working with HDC and Developers to bring sites forward eg Penn Retreat allowed for a managed development process that would go some way to satisfying the local need. There was some discussion about the shared ownership units at Meiros Farm not being sold and it had been suggested that the proposed 6 'social/affordable' units at Penn Retreat may be better as rented units. At least one Housing Association had expressed an interest in the Penn Retreat site. **D**

039/13 Speed bumps in London Road

County Councillor Wilkinson has arranged for the Rural Highways Manager to visit Ashington on 27th February at 10.30am to have a look at the speed bumps in Ashington.

040/13 General Power of Competence

The Clerk has provided Councillors with a summary of the new General Power of Competence (Appendix 2).

Ashington Parish Council satisfies all of the eligibility criteria:

1. It has 11 out of 11 Councillors Elected
2. The Clerk holds CiLCA
3. The Clerk has passed section 7 'General Power of Competence' of CiLCA 2012

The Council agreed that it is eligible to use the General Power of Competence and passed a resolution to adopt this new Power.

041/13 Assets of Community Value (Community Right to bid)

Recent legislation now allows certain organisations the chance to nominate public and privately owned buildings or land as 'Assets of Community Value'. The Assets will be held on a list by Horsham District Council.

If a listed asset is placed on the market, the landowner must tell the Council. If a local community group wishes to buy the asset they can trigger a 6 month 'moratorium.' During this period the owner cannot sell the Asset of Community Value on the open market. In this time, local community groups are given the chance to prepare a bid, giving them an increased chance to save local shops, pubs or other facilities by developing a proposal and raising the required capital. At the end of the 6-month period, the owner of the asset is however free to sell the asset to whoever they wish and at any price.

What is an Asset of Community Value?

Examples of community assets may include village shops, pubs, community centres, children's centres, allotments and libraries. To be listed as an asset of Community Value, a piece of land or building must however meet certain legal criteria.

A building or piece of land is deemed to have community value if:

- The use of the land or building currently, or in the recent past, furthers the social well-being or social interests (which includes cultural, recreational or sporting interests) of the local community.
- The use (as described above) of the building or land will continue to further the social well-being or interests of the local community.
- The use of the land or building that meets the social wellbeing or interests of the community must be its principle rather than secondary or 'ancillary' purpose. Residential properties, their gardens, outbuildings and other associated land cannot be listed as a community asset.

Before nominating an asset Councillors should ask themselves 'if the property/land comes onto the open market would we seriously consider buying it'.

It was proposed that Councillors communicate their list to the Clerk prior to the next meeting and that the list is approved at that meeting. Agreed by all.

CORRESPONDENCE

042/13 For action:

1. WSCC Highways & transport Draft Works Programme – the only Ashington project for 2013/14 is the Billingshurst Road VAS, there are no projects for 2014/15 and the A24 is not scheduled for resurfacing in either 2013/14 or 14/15. It was agreed that the Clerk write to WSCC expressing the Council's disappointment that the number 1 priority from the Parish Community Action Plan was not being addressed by WSCC. **KD D**
2. Sussex Police – draft Police & Crime plan. This is a very 'high level' strategy document.
3. Invitation to HDC Community Safety Conference 7th March 10am-1pm. Clerk to email details to Peter Newell. **KD D**

043/13 For information:

1. HALC Agenda & minutes
2. HDC – SPAG agenda
3. HDC – Community Engagement. High level strategy.
4. WSCC – 'Healthy & Well in West Sussex' and 'Promoting Action on Health Inequalities' publications.

044/13 General:

1. Clerks & Councils Direct magazine
2. The Clerk magazine

045/13 PUBLIC ADJOURNMENT

Members of the public reported:

1. A member of the public reported that she had seen streetlights in the builders compound at Meiros Farm.

2. A member of the public asked if the Parish Council could publicise Xmas bin collection dates in its Newsletter. The Clerk responded that this may be possible but would depend on when HDC published the dates, how much space is available in the newsletter etc.

The Chairman thanked members of the public for their comments.

046/13 PLANNING.

The Planning Committee met on 30th January and Councillors have been provided with a copy of the Minutes. Agreed by all.

047/13 Correspondence

1. HDC – the consultation period for applications has been extended to 21 days, amended plans now have 14 days. However, it will not be possible to extend this unless applications are major or controversial
2. It has been reported to the Clerk that building work has started at 1 Hillcrest Close despite application DC/12/1686 not yet being decided. The Clerk had seen an s106 agreement associated with this application that implied that it could be approved. The PC had objected to the application for a number of reasons. This application had been discussed at the meeting with Andrew Smith (minute 038/13) who had not been consulted on the application and would be speaking to the case officer. The Clerk had also written to the case officer. If this application is approved it could open the door for other 'back garden development' that does not satisfy the local need identified in the HNS.

048/13 New Enforcement Allegations/Information

None

049/13 Amendments

None

050/13 Applications

DC/13/0138 Loft conversion with first floor extension over existing flat roof extension – Cleavers, Church Lane. The Parish Council have no objections.

Horsham District Council

051/13 Approvals

DC/12/1994 Single storey extension following demolition of garden store/shed and surrounding. Removal of partition between kitchen and cloakroom to create new kitchen area, removal of modern store cupboard, re- positioned sitting room door, adaption of stack pipe route (Listed Building Consent) - The Willows London Road

DC/12/2324 Surgery to 1 x oak tree on land south west of 4 Covert Mead – land north west of Ashington School.

DC/12/2265 Replace existing double garage with new triple bay garage – Church Farmhouse, Church Lane

052/13 Refusals

DC/12/2009 Construction of a detached double garage - 7 Warminghurst Close

053/13 Withdrawals

None

054/13 Appeals made/ decisions

None

The next Planning Committee meeting is scheduled for 20th February 2013 at 7.00pm.

FINANCE

055/13 Review of Kite & Thomas Rent

The Clerk presented Kite & Thomas with a supplementary lease agreement (prepared by Cllr Norton). The document proposed:

1. The lease extends until March 2025
2. The rent is £7200pa
3. Rent is reviewed every 3 years
4. All other conditions remain the same

Kite & Thomas have signed the agreement. It was proposed that the Council counter-sign. Agreed by all.

KD D

056/13 Parish Office

ACCT have proposed an annual rent of £800 for the Wardens old office (current rent was £756 for the sports pavilion office). The lease for the current office ran out on 31st January 2013.

The Parish Council has operated an office for 3 years and it has received very little usage. Apart from occasional Committee meetings the office is simply used for document storage. Only two residents visited the office for meetings with the Clerk. It would be more economic for the Council:

1. to book a meeting room at ACCT for Committee meetings (£7 per hour, 1 hour per month = £84pa)
2. arrange alternative storage for the documents. The Clerk has space in her loft for archived material (if archive boxes are purchased @£100) and active files can be moved back to the Clerk's house
3. leave the telephone where it is as messages can be accessed remotely
4. leave the broadband where it is as it is used by the Youth Club and Chiropractor

Therefore potential cost savings are in the region of £700pa. It was suggested that the Clerk investigate whether old Minutes books could be stored at the County Records Office.

Councillors agreed not to rent an office from ACCT. Clerk to write to ACCT. **KD C/F**

057/13 Correspondence

1. Consider a request for a donation towards Steyning Community Minibus to help cover the cost of running the Scheme. Not agreed. **KD D**

2. HDC – Neighbourhood Warden Costs. The Council has saved £4744 in 2012/13 and the projected cost in 2013/14 is £61,206

058/13 The Clerk reports that the quarterly bank reconciliation has been checked and signed by the Chairman.

Quarterly budget report – the Clerk reports that there are two new areas of budgetary overspend at present :

1. Litter– budget set £520, actual expenditure £630. This is due to HDC increasing the cost of emptying and the purchase of picking equipment for volunteers.
2. Dog bin emptying – budget set £435, actual expenditure £457.60. This is due to HDC increasing the cost of emptying.

Both can be met from the contingency budget.

059/13 Income

Kite & Thomas – rent & roundabout sponsorship £2077.50

060/13 Expenditure

		Cheque no.	
Mark Adsett	Gardeners contract payment	£483.33	1368
Mrs K. Dare	Clerks expenses (home & telephone)	£17	
	Equipment for Lunch Club	£34.00	
	Stationery	£8.58	
	Total	£59.58	1369
WSSC	Salary and on costs (January)	£844.93	1370
Plusnet	Broadband	£17.99	DD
DS Newland (as agreed on 3/1/13)	Play area repairs	£580	1371
HDC	Warden costs to March 2013	£21,869.00	1372
Ashington PC	transfer to NS&I	£3,274.25	1373
SOS Systems	photocopier	£52.22	1374
SALC	LCR subscription	£16.00	1375
M. Adsett	elm tree removal	£275	1376

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

061/13 MEETINGS

The Chairman & Clerk met with Andrew Smith (HDC, minute 038/13)

062/13 MINOR MATTERS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS

1. There had been an accident on the slip road outside Bridge Garage – a car had failed to stop at the Give Way lines due to ice and had crashed into the fence opposite. Clerk to report to WSCC. **KD D**
2. Church Lane needs sweeping again. **KD D**
3. A bonfire had been lit on land to the rear of Timberlea Close. This area is the subject of an ‘untidy site’ enforcement complaint and the owner has been asked by HDC to remove the rubbish. Clerk to contact HDC **KD D**
4. Why did we not receive grit from WSCC during the icy weather? The Clerk has already complained to WSCC about this issue.
5. Monza Garage – cars are being advertised for sale on the highway and vehicles are being washed on the forecourt. Clerk to report to HDC. **KD D**

The next meeting will be held at **8.00pm on Thursday 7th March 2013** at **Ashington School, Foster Lane** to be preceded by the Annual Parish Meeting.

The meeting finished at 9.05pm

Signed.....

Date.....

APPENDIX 1: REPORT FROM NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDENS

Jayne Jeffrey

You will most likely be aware but if not Jayne has been off work since early January after sustaining a broken knee cap after falling from a chair at work. She is currently at home recuperating but is likely to be off for some time and unlikely to be back to full strength for a number of months. Due to this it has had some impact on my shifts and level of involvement within certain activities. However I have tried my best to keep business as usual and have been relying on other agencies and colleagues to help support me to keep disruption to a minimum.

Youth

Unfortunately the Youth club has seen their Friday night sessions come to an end as the youth leader who was running them has moved on. Equally we haven't been running our Friday sessions for the older group owing to the fact that I have been working on my own. This is something that will continue as soon as further support is found. I am working alongside the youth club committee to try and get the youth club up and running again.

We continue to look towards a more long term solution and will be approaching this on two fronts. Asking Ashington if it is willing to pay for a full time youth worker along with getting different interested parties together to work out what support we can get from them towards providing a youth worker in Ashington. I am attending a meeting on 18th Feb between local Churches and Horsham Matters to discuss Youth Workers.

Bad weather / Snow

With the recent impact of snow in Ashington and across the district with our 4x4 I was able to provide a valuable presence within the village. I was able to get to our vulnerable residents and ensure that they had adequate warmth and supplies. I would have liked to have helped clear the snow / ice more quickly but unfortunately due to a failure of having no grit within the village the best I could offer was to shovel clear some pathways for those most in need.

We had several instances of snow balls being thrown at cars and at people, but thankfully nothing too serious and after some strong words many of the young people out and about continued to have fun in a safe and sensible way. Having said that there was a report of a "home made" motorbike or pit bike being used on the rec.

In addition to covering Ashington as part of the emergency planning effort led by Horsham District Councils Community Link Alarm Team I was able to get much needed supplies, medication and support to various residents throughout the district. Something that was done extra to normal working arrangements within Ashington.

We are currently looking into the idea of getting an emergency supply of grit to store in the village and Horsham District council are looking at getting a grit spreader that can be towed by our 4x4 allowing smaller local roads to be gritted.

Anti Social / Dangerous Driver

There was an incident involving a 4x4 Land Rover driving down Turnpike way at speed and then driving onto the pathway that leads down the back of the house behind the play area also down Turnpike Way. This was reported to us via local residents and thanks to their good memory and attention to detail the correct vehicle details were passed to Sussex Police. In addition through local knowledge I am 99% sure I know

who the driver is and will be passing on words of advice as soon as I can track the individual down.

We have received a number of other reports this month about poor driving, speeding etc. We too have had cause to report a number of vehicles / drivers through to Operation Crackdown for using their mobile phone while driving or speeding etc. As a result we will be working closely with our Police colleagues and will be carrying out regular high visibility patrols within the main routes of the village and will report all offences recorded through to the Police.

Luckista

There seems to have been some recent developments regarding Luckista park and after having spoken to some of the residents there it would seem that they are expecting to be served eviction notices soon. The landlord is apparently looking at selling the park and is rumoured to be selling it to the same travellers who owned / ran the Dale Farm site. We are not sure if there is any truth to the rumours or if they are simply meant to cause alarm. Either way we continue to work with the residents of Luckista Caravan Park and are trying to keep aware of issues there.

Litter

This month there has been a noticeable amount of litter around some of the main areas of the village. Not helped by the mixed around rubbish bin collections and some local bins not being emptied on time. We are continuing to monitor those hot spot areas and are keen to clear the rubbish up when spotted. Play areas in particular seem to be suffering.

Elderly / Vulnerable Visits

Obviously with the wintery weather we have been carrying out a good number of regular visits to our elderly and vulnerable residents. We have been keen to ensure that everyone has been warm and cosy and that they had enough provisions to last a few days especially if the weather had continued to stay cold. In addition we have been given a number of aptly titled winter warm packs to give out to those suffering from being cold and worried about heating etc. The winter packs contain a large blanket with arm holes, a woolly hat, woolly socks, gloves, a hot water bottle, some soup, a wind up torch / radio and a thermos style mug. These have all been given away by Horsham District Council. If you think you know someone who might benefit from such a pack please get in touch.

Burglary Billingshurst Road

Between the hours of 11am and 1pm a home in Billingshurst Road was burgled. Many personal items were taken including jewellery watches and a number of electrical items too. If you saw anything suspicious around this time please do get in touch with the police on 101 or report it anonymously via crime stoppers on 0800 555 111

New PCSO – Bryony

We have a brand new shiny PCSO started with us to cover Ashington. Bryony will be taking over from Hannah whom I am sure you all remember. Bryony is a great addition to the local Neighbourhood Policing team and I am sure will become a valuable asset to the village and certainly to us working to keep Ashington Safe.

Travellers Old London Road

Have arrived from Steyning. The Police are aware of this group and have had no problems with them. It is expected that they will move on in 1-2 weeks and the Police

are monitoring the area. They have been reported to WSCC as they are camped on a public highway.

Monthly Lunch Club

The first lunch of this new club was very successful with 15 people attending. Residents from the wider Storrington area would be invited to the next lunch.

APPENDIX 2: GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE

Local Councils in England were given a 'general power of competence (GPC)' in the Localism Act (LA) 2011, sections 1-8, s1(1) gives local authorities, including eligible local councils, 'the power to do anything that individuals may generally do' as long as they don't break other laws.

There are two criteria for eligibility (LA 2011 s8). A local Council must decide, at a full meeting, that it meets the criteria and a resolution clearly minuted. The Council must review the decision and make a new resolution at every annual meeting of the Council after the ordinary election (normally every 4 years).

Criteria:

1. the number of Councillors elected at the last ordinary election (whether contested or not) , or at a subsequent by-election, must equal or exceed two thirds of its total number of Councillors. Co-opted Councillors do not count as they are not elected, vacant seats count as un-elected.

2. The Clerk must hold either CiLCA (including Section 7 of CiLCA 2012) or a Level Four qualification from the University of Gloucestershire.

If the Council loses its qualified Clerk or has insufficient elected Councillors then it must record its 'ineligibility' at the next annual meeting of the Council (after the ordinary election). If the Council becomes 'ineligible' between elections then it can continue to use GPC only on projects that it started when it was eligible. It cannot begin new projects under GPC and must revert back to using specific powers or s137.

Restrictions:

1. If a Council is already subject to a statutory duty,
2. procedural and financial duties
3. employment law, Health & Safety & equality legislation, data protection & FOI duties
4. If another authority has a statutory duty it remains their duty, however, if an individual can contribute then so can a local Council.

Activities:

1. Provision of Youth Services (a statutory duty of the County Council but recently removed).
2. Lend money to support a local project, earn interest on the loan. Financial Risk?
3. Providing a grant to an individual , not necessarily living in the Parish (s1(4a)). Benefit to Parish?

Ashington Parish Council Meeting Update

January 2013 Meeting to February 2013

Good Evening.

My name is PCSO Bryony Sparks. I have just taken over the areas of Wiston, Ashington and Thakeham from PCSO Venus who has now moved to Worthing.

Vehicle Crime:

In January a Motorbike was stolen from Rectory Lane Ashington and found the following day in a ditch in the Penn Garden Estate. Unfortunately there was no forensics.

Burglary:

On Thursday 31st January, a property was broken into in Ashington, entry was gained through a side door; Electrical goods, Jewellery and Passport were stolen. This is currently being investigated by CID. Local residents are asked if they saw or heard anything or have any information that they think might help to call 101 quoting reference...

Suspicious activities:

There were a few calls during the last month that regarding suspicious people and vehicles seen around the village. All were checked and found to be all in order. But to remind you that if you see anything suspicious that you are not sure about then to call 101 and report it.

Youths:

There have been some reports over the last week of youths in vehicles playing loud music and driving around anti socially around Ashington, on London Road and Mill Road. We don't know who is involved in these incidents. If anyone sees or hears anything they are advised to call it in on 101.

The neighbourhood Wardens and I are increasing our patrols to find out who is involved, but residents can also report anti-social driving via Operation Crackdown on the internet.

Speeding through Ashington- Billingshurst Road and London Road-

Local residents have informed me about the speeding through the village, Since the speed limit has been reduced, West Sussex County Council has to monitor it for a period of time to assess the effectiveness of the decrease in the speed limit. The SID site also needs to be re-evaluated. When I am on duty and have access to a vehicle I will be parking up at various points along the road as a visual deterrent to the speeding.

PCSO Sparks