



Ashington Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on 7th July 2011 at 7.45 p.m. in Ashington School, Foster Lane, Ashington

Present: Councillors M. Woolley (Chairman), K. Wood, R. Brennan, J. Stillwell, R. Strudwick, T. Kearney, N. Clark, B. Norton, R. Lancaster
Parish Clerk Karen Dare
District Councillor Roger Arthur
Neighbourhood Wardens Peter Newell & Jayne Jeffrey
3 members of the public

222/11 APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE

Cllr D. Harbour & County Councillor Frank Wilkinson (both personal)

223/11 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

The Chairman reminded Councillors that previous declarations still stand.

224/11 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 2nd June 2011 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman. Proposed by Councillor Brennan and seconded by Councillor Strudwick, and agreed.

225/11 REPORT FROM THE NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDENS

Problems with Drugs.

We have noticed a large amount of drugs use in Ashington. We have been working closely with youth services such as the snack wagon and the anti-social behaviour team in Horsham to try and tackle the problem. We have been looking at drugs use on an individual basis and are trying to work with the most vulnerable persons. Our aim is to get them to agree to an ABC contract or a behaviour contract that will stipulate conditions for the individuals to adhere to on a daily basis. We too have been working with the Police to try and target those that are supplying drugs. This is something we are trying to gather more and more intelligence on over time to build up sufficient evidence. In addition to this we have been out on high visibility patrols engaging with young people where possible. On two separate occasions we have confiscated drug paraphernalia.

Behaviour in skate park.

Having received a number of complaints regarding bad language, litter and even bullying we have been focusing on the skate park. We have identified a key group of young people that seem to be the root cause of the negative behaviour. We are liaising with other agencies and at the same time increasing our presence in the park. We are hoping to establish a core group of skate park users and are trying to instil a sense of pride among them. We want them to look after the skate park they use, including helping to keep it looking nice along with reporting negative behaviour to us. The youngsters that do use it have been very keen to voice their interest in getting new features in the park, or at the very least a refresh of the current apparatus. We have told them that until the skate park is taken better care of that it is unlikely things will be done. This has been met by some enthusiasm from a number of the youngsters who have already started helping us to clear the litter.

Problems with known offender.

Over the last 4 weeks or so we have been having consistent issues with a particular known offender. Said offender has been coming back to Ashington and causing alarm to several residents and their families. Intimidating them through threats and actually by being present throughout the night. The families involved came to us with their concerns and through closely working with other agencies especially the Police we were able to ensure that a relatively positive outcome was reached. At present the said individual has new bail conditions not to enter Ashington under any circumstances and as such if we do see him or have reports of him in Ashington then we can call the Police on 999 right away.

Elderly and Vulnerable Visits.

This month we have been very active with checking in on our elderly and vulnerable residents. To date we have visited at least 8 individuals this month some more than once as the first visit lead us to need to call again. We have established a new system that will keep us and the parish up to date with all their contact details and with any emergency contacts etc. We are aware however that there may be some residents in Ashington that are elderly / vulnerable that we are not aware of and are working on ways to reach out to those residents to establish a link with them in case there is an emergency or if we need to reach them etc.

Junior Wardens

Our first term with the school junior wardens is now over, and what a success it has been. I could spend some time explaining how we had fun learning about Ashington and litter and all sorts of other things however I felt it better to show you some of our work.

The Warden explained about the Environmental Audit and handed it, together with a letter to the Parish Council, to the Clerk. Clerk to respond. **KD D**

Litter Posters had been designed by the Junior Wardens and would be put up around the village.

Jayne

Yes another new warden in Ashington. However this one is far from new to Wardening. Having come from working as a Street Scene warden in Horsham for 5 years, Jayne brings a whole hoard of experience and expertise along with a fun and outgoing personality. I think you will soon agree she is an excellent addition to Ashington. What's more she won't be away training etc as she is fully fledged and has already been making an impact in the village.

New Vehicle

Along with a new warden has come a new warden car. Some of you will have seen our new 4x4 Land Rover. I'm sure some will immediately be concerned about the pros and cons about having such a vehicle. First thought for a lot of people in the current climate is "cost". I want to allay any concerns and say that simply the 4x4 isn't costing Ashington any more than the original vehicle and that overall having a 4x4 will enable a greater level of response in winter months and to remote locations.

The Wardens would be riding the school buses starting in September and are planning to hold weekly surgeries (see minutes of the Wardens meeting). The Wardens were preparing an article entitled 'What we do and what we don't do' explaining their role to members of the public. This will be delivered to all households shortly.

The Chairman thanked the Warden for his report.

Cllr Stillwell reported that the recent Wardens meetings were very positive and constructive and that the Wardens were working well together.

HDC has installed an emergency key box on the external wall of the Community Centre to allow access to emergency equipment located in the Wardens office. It was proposed to make a contribution of £20 to ACCT as a one-off payment for this. Agreed by all. ACCT have asked HDC to provide them with a list of keyholders and PIN number holders and asked HDC to change the PIN number regularly. The Clerk was asked to check with HDC whether this had been done, before writing to ACCT to offer payment.

KD D

The Chairman asked if Councillors or members of the public had any questions for the Wardens:

1. Cllr Wood asked if the Wardens knew anything about the recent garage fire in Fairfield Road. No, but they would ask the Police.
2. Cllr Lancaster asked if we could have new contact details for the Wardens – this is in hand at HDC and new posters will be available shortly
3. All households had recently received a fridge magnet with the Wardens contact details.

4. Cllr Carver asked the size of the grit spreader that was mentioned at the last Council meeting. The size was not yet known but it was likely to be the width of a normal car. It is also not known where the spreader would be stored.

The Chairman thanked the members of the public for their comments.

226/11 YOUNG PERSONS ADJOURNEMENT

None present.

227/11 REPORT FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

District Councillor Roger Arthur reported that:

1. His new Cabinet Portfolio at HDC is Health & Wellbeing and this includes Neighbourhood Wardens. He had been introduced to the ASB team at HDC and was impressed at how well they were working. In 90% of cases of ASB the parents of the youngsters were keen to help their child avoid becoming involved in ASB again. The Wardens were working well with the ASB team.
2. Police Commissioners were reviewing the role of the Police and it has been reported that the Police may focus on law enforcement only and no longer be involved in crime prevention. He would be meeting Nick Herbert MP (Minister of Policing) to stress that crime prevention is an important role for the Police.
3. HDC were reviewing their policies on Gypsies & travelling showpeople. He had spoken to HDC's consultant about the gypsy site at Penn Retreat.
4. There will be a reduction in bus services shortly as WSCC reduce their subsidies for bus services. Cllr Arthur is interested to know if there are any major problems following the reductions.

The Chairman thanked District Councillor Arthur for his report.

Cllr Carver reminded those present that the Storrington Area Help Scheme does serve Ashington and people needing transport to medical appointments can use this Scheme. The Scheme is always in need of additional volunteer drivers.

County Councillor Frank Wilkinson sent the following report to the Clerk:

I met with Jon Forster specifically to discuss the problems that have historically occurred at the A24 Hole Street junction but also to highlight the three accidents that have occurred within the last few weeks. He is to liaise with Joel Sykes at the area office to see what can be done.

Wiston PC are now meeting on a regular basis ie. every two months, I say this because a resident who helped me get the 40mph limit through Wiston a few years ago is now asking for something to be done about the speeding through the village. I have said I will be attending the August meeting and she should write to the clerk asking for a lower speed limit ie. 30mph and that it would help me in having the whole of Water Lane Hole Street looked at by the CLC in conjunction with your request (to have the speed limit on this road reduced).

The Clerk had reminded County Councillor Wilkinson that lorries using this road as a rat run is an ongoing problem and asked that this also be looked at by WSCC.

The Chairman asked the Clerk to thank 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

228/11 Item 1 Mill Lane flooding

No news of the meeting between WSCC/HDC/EA. The Clerk has reminded the EA.

KD To list

229/11 Item 2 Community Minibus

The Clerk has received information from the organiser. The Community Minibus Association is a registered charity that has been in existence for 35 years and is managed by a group of Trustees. Ashington would need to identify a co-ordinator who would be asked to become a Trustee of the Community Minibus Association. Volunteer drivers would be needed and anyone wanting to use the minibus would need to become a Member and pay a membership fee (a nominal amount). Users of the minibus would pay for each journey.

The Parish Council would have no responsibility (legal, financial or otherwise) for a minibus in Ashington.

It was proposed that Cllr Clark, the Parish Clerk and the Wardens take the necessary steps to set up a scheme in Ashington. Agreed by all. **D**

230/11 Item 85 Community Action Plan

An updated list of the projects has been added to the minutes. The Chairman reminded Councillors to read the list prior to meetings and to raise any questions at the meeting.

KD C/F

231/11 Item 216 Queens Diamond Jubilee (2-5 June 2012)

The Clerk is arranging the first meeting.

KD C/F

232/11 Item 218 East side nature trail

The Clerk has received 2 quotes (£2000 and £2900). The lower price is for a 22m long rail and the higher price is for 33m handrail – two companies measured the slope differently. Councillors were asked to decide whether to proceed and, if agreed, the Clerk will re-measure and speak to both companies again. There was some concern about the cost/benefit of this particular project. The Council had not allocated funds within the budget for this project and since the Council had frozen its precept it was difficult to find the funds for the project.

It was agreed that the Clerk explain the situation to the resident and discuss whether there are other ways to achieve the residents request. **KD C/F**

CORRESPONDENCE

233/11 For action:

1. HDC want a list of community projects for which s106 monies would be sought in the future. Future CIL or s106 monies can only be secured from developers if specific projects, which relate directly to the impact of the development, are identified. The Clerk can send HDC a list of identified projects from the Parish Plan. Councillors are asked if they are aware of any other projects that village organisations may need financial help with. **KD D**

234/11 For information:

1. Presentation from Baker Associates at the Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Sites Study District and Parish Councillors Event held on Thursday 23rd June 2011.
2. HACVS – invitation to AGM on 19th July
3. HALC – minutes of meeting & invitation to the next meeting when a speaker from HDC would be attending to talk about HDC's Gypsy & Travelling Showpeople's development plan works. Cllrs Clark & Stillwell to attend.

235/11 General:

1. Local Council Review magazine
2. Clerks & Councils Direct magazine
3. South East Water Resources update
4. WSCC Approved Traders directory

236/11 PUBLIC ADJOURNMENT

Members of the public asked the following questions or made the following comments:

1. Development at Meiros Farm had started and it was anticipated that showhomes would be constructed within 8 weeks. ACCT have a meeting with the Developer & Southern Water week commencing 11th July to discuss the new sewage pipe across the Recreation Ground. There were some comments about the colony of slow worms on the site and the Clerk was asked to check the planning approval to see if the developer was required to provide a new habitat or relocate the colony. **KD D**
2. The Councils hanging baskets are excellent this year.
3. An ACCT Committee member expressed concern that ACCT Committee were not viewed well in the village but he stressed that ACCT did try to accommodate schemes that would benefit the village.
4. The new gates had been removed from the land to the west of Penn Retreat and had been replaced by a barbed wire fence. The Clerk confirmed that the EA had not yet completed their investigations.
5. The Parish Council needs to get the Diamond Jubilee plans started asap. The Clerk confirmed that she was trying to set up the first meeting.

Cllr Wood had contacted HDC's arboricultural officer to discuss protection of trees on the Meiros Farm site before construction work starts. Cllr Wood had not seen a site plan of the TPO'd trees. HDC had made it clear that Cllr Wood has no responsibility or

authority to inspect the trees or monitor them. It is HDC's responsibility. Cllr Carver informed all present that the developer was currently putting up protective fences around a number of trees on site.

237/11 PLANNING.

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

238/11 Proposed Gypsy/traveller site at Penn Retreat – DC/10/1288 Proposed stationing of 6 traveller/gypsy pitches plus outbuildings and storage area. Formation of new access and hardstanding.

John Longhorn and Barratt David Wilson are in discussions.

MW C/F

239/11 Correspondence

Barratt David Wilson Homes are due to complete their purchase of Meiros Farm on 4th July and will be commencing their development of homes immediately after. The Clerk has been contacted by their liaison officer and they are planning a community drop-in session on 27th July 8-10pm at the Community Centre when members of the public can ask any questions of the developer.

240/11 New Enforcement Allegations/Information

EN/11/0295 Breach of condition 2 of DC/09/2281 working hours - New Highfield Works, Spring Gardens

241/11 Amendments

None

242/11 Applications

DC/11/1067 Repositioning of dwelling on plot 12, 500mm to the east along with a reduction in the adjacent footpath's width from 2m to 1.8m and replacement of single garage with garage / store to plot No. 34 - Meiros Farm Rectory Lane. The Parish Council had no objections.

DC/11/1038 Sub-division of single dwelling into 2 No. dwellings - The Well House Well House Road. Parish Councillors found it very difficult to understand the plans and the submitted photographs. It was hard to see if the plans included an extension to the property or not. In addition, Cllr Norton informed the Council that this is a listed building and a listed building planning application should have been submitted. Councillors could not make a decision based on the information submitted.

DC/11/1314 Demolition of existing building, construction of two-storey building with ground floor veterinary surgery and first floor flat - Former Flower Pots London Road. The Council had no objections to the application but were a little concerned that the

proposed colour scheme (green walls with grey window frames) is possibly not in keeping with the street scene.

Horsham District Council

243/11 Approvals

DC/11/0648 Proposed single storey extension – 23 Willow Way

DC/11/0658 Retrospective permission for erection of single storey garage - Oakwood House Billingshurst Road

DC/11/0756 Demolition of existing lean-to and erection of new conservatory to rear – 11 Penn Gardens

DC/11/0762 Single storey garage with a 30 degree pitch roof - 11 Cricketers Close

DC/11/0644 Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of one replacement four bedroom dwelling – Spinney Ruff, Ivy Lane

DC/11/0992 Surgery to oak tree – 14 Linfield Lane

244/11 Refusals

None

245/11 Withdrawals

None

246/11 Appeals made/ decisions

DC/10/1374 Erection of new dwelling – Woods Cottage, Muttons Lane. HDC refused this application and the Planning Inspector has dismissed the appeal.

The next Planning Committee meeting is scheduled for 20th July 2011 at 7.00pm.

FINANCE

247/11 Correspondence

The annual RoSPA Playground safety inspection has been undertaken and the Clerk will work out a list of repairs and bring quotes to the next meeting. Some works can be undertaken by herself/Mark Adsett/Wardens. The report has highlighted that the cradle swing seats in both the Warminghurst Close & Posthorses play areas are rusting and this 'could lead to sudden failure'. The rubberised parts of the seats are also perished in places. The seats have been deteriorating over a number of years. As this is a significant risk the Clerk has already ordered replacement seats at a cost of £492.80 + VAT. The new seats will arrive 26th July and the Clerk will organise fitting as soon as they arrive. The Chairman asked if the Clerk could look into removing the old seats asap to prevent any injuries. Agreed by all. **KD D**

248/11 Income

Payment from Administrators of Singer & Friedlander £5457.08 – this takes the total amount recovered to 58%

Refund for returned hanging basket fixings £177.12

Kite & Thomas – rent & roundabout sponsorship £2027.50

249/11 Expenditure

			Cheque no.
Mark Adsett	Gardeners contract payment	£475.00	1202
	Hanging basket watering (£65 x 4	£210	
	Less £50 for plant food)		
Mrs K. Dare	Clerks expenses (home & telephone)	£17	
	Postage (annual report)	£40.32	
	Postage	£1.48	
	Stationery	£22.86	
	Hanging basket fixings	£180.60	
	Total	£262.26	1203
WSSC	Salary and on costs (June)	£820.05	1204
Plusnet	Broadband	£17.99	DD
Ashington School	Meeting cost	£20	1205
Kenads	Annual Report printing	£230.40	1206
Letterbox Logistics	Annual report delivery	£135.36	1207
Bell Leisure	Pond net	£47.94	1208
DS Newland	skatepark repairs	£62.00	1209
HDC	dog bin emptying	£104.00	1210
SLCC	subscription	£118.00	1211
Public Works Loan	interest/capital payment	£3110.12	BACS
S. Fenn	Responder expenses	£81.99	1212
Playsafety Ltd.	Play Area inspections	£226.80	1213
BT	quarterly phone bill	£54.94	DD

Ashington PC	transfer to National Savings	£5457.08	1214
Playground Services Ltd	new cradle swing seats	£591.36	1215

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

250/11 MEETINGS

The Clerk, Cllr Clark & Cllr Stillwell had met with HDC and the Wardens on 5th July. Minutes will be circulated separately.

251/11 MINOR MATTERS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS

Cllr Norton commented that the recent spate of accidents at the A24 Hole Street junction showed how unsuitable this junction is for large vehicles associated with the compost site planning application. The Clerk had informed WSCC of the recent accidents.

Cllr Clark reported that there was a recent accident on the A24 slip road next to Bridge Garage. There is a constant stream of water across this slip road due to a blocked drain. Clerk to report to WSCC Highways. **KD D**

Cllr Stillwell reported that there had been a recent incident at Lynton Care Home. The Home currently is licensed for 4 residents. The situation would be monitored.

Cllr Kearney reported that the speed bump at the junction of Church Lane/Morleys was quite severe and there were gouges in the tarmac where vehicles were grounding as they passed over the bump. Clerk to report to WSCC Highways. **KD D**

Cllr Lancaster reported that the Co-op had removed the Salvation Army recycling bank as there is one already in the village (in the Sports Pavilion car park). The Co-op had installed a small shoe recycling bin near the store. Residents should be encouraged to use the existing recycling banks at the Sports Pavilion.

252/11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held at **7.45pm on Thursday 4th August 2011 at Ashington School, Foster Lane.**

The meeting finished at 9.05pm

Signed.....

Date.....



253/11 Items awaiting action:

Item No	Description	Last Action & Date
32b	Spur road of The Sands & Viney Close – streetlights & laybys	WSCC & HDC dealing with. Persimmon have made progress on the Covert Mead/Foster Lane adoption.
	Village seats/noticeboards need repainting	Clerk to organise 2011
	No information has been received from WSCC Pension Fund about the likely cost of Ill Health retirement.	

254/11 WSCC Highways Issues

Fault	Date reported	Reference no	Comments
Trees on north side of recreation ground need cutting back	24 th July 2007	Email to Highway Rangers	County Councillor to ask WSCC to cut as ownership unclear
tree on London Road opposite the Methodist Church is dead	3 rd August 2007	WSEK-75QDJG	Has been felled, April 08. Awaiting replacement
Sign beside A24 at Mill Lane junction discouraging crossing at that point	WSCC are designing a sign and will pass to the PC for approval	July 08	
large white concrete blocks on the highway verge opposite the entrance to Holmbush House, Old London Road	Reported to Highways Sept 08 Reported again Dec 08		
Reduce speed limit on Hole Street to 40mph	WSCC to add to TRO priority list	WSCC will undertake a review of the speed limit on Hole Street prior to it being placed on Chanctonbury CLC Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO) List. The review will investigate the current traffic speeds and compare the location against West Sussex County Council Speed Limit Policy (2010).	March 2011