



Ashington Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting to be held on 7th October 2010 at 7.30 p.m. in the Methodist Church, London Road, Ashington

Present: Councillors N. Clark (Vice Chairman), B. Norton, N. Carver, R. Brennan, J. Stillwell, R. Lancaster, T. Kearney, D. Harbour, R. Strudwick
Parish Clerk Karen Dare
District Councillors Roger Arthur & David Jenkins
One member of the public

Cllr Clark took the Chair for the meeting.

299/10 APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs M. Woolley (business) & K. Wood (holiday), County Councillor Frank Wilkinson (personal), Neighbourhood Warden Paul Conroy (Junior Gym)

300/10 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None

301/10 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 2nd September 2010 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman. Proposed by Councillor Harbour and seconded by Councillor Stillwell, and agreed.

302/10 REPORT FROM THE NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDENS

Sgt Bob Trevis was in attendance and introduced himself as the new Neighbourhood Policing Team Sgt and has been in post since August 2010. He is working at the Steyning Police Station and this area covers Ashington. Ashington has two PCSO's – Neville Warner & Hannah Venus and Sgt Trevis can be contacted via them or via the Police non-emergency number (0845 6070999). Sgt Trevis was aware that Police personnel covering Ashington had changed frequently over recent years but it was his wish to introduce some stability to the team for consistency & continuity.

Cllr Lancaster asked how often the Police drove through Ashington. Sgt Trevis assured him that Ashington is on the Patrol route for the Police and the PCSO's routinely patrol around the village.

Cllr Norton reminded Sgt Trevis of the Neighbourhood Warden scheme in Ashington and the importance of a good working relationship between the Wardens and the Police. Sgt Trevis commented that it is his personal view that

the Warden Scheme was very effective in reducing crime and anti-social behaviour levels and that he fully supports Warden Schemes. Cllr Carver asked Sgt Trevis how he divides his time across the District. Sgt Trevis splits his time 50/50 between Steyning and Pulborough police stations. He reminded those present that crime in Horsham District is one of the lowest in the County and the crime rate in the local area is very low. Cllr Clark asked if the Neighbourhood Wardens would be given Police radios. Sgt Trevis reported that this was unlikely due to cost and security issues.

It was agreed that the Clerk would invite the PCSO's to attend Parish Council meetings (every second meeting if possible). **KD D**

Wardens Report:

Anti – Social Behaviour

Police were called when a group of 15 Youths, some drinking alcohol were asked to leave the Skate Park Area. A public order charge is being investigated concerning the abusive behaviour of one young Male.

Sporadic Nuisance by teenage youths in Covert Mead. Three young males and a female have been reported banging on doors and behaving in a rowdy fashion. After speaking to Residents involved they are using Video cameras to identify the perpetrators and we have carried out two covert observations in the area. To date we have had not had any further reports of repeat behaviour. On the 24th and 28th of September Youths committed criminal damage to the fencing in the Foster Lane Skate Park. C.C.TV has identified the perpetrators and footage is now with the Police who will take action against them.

Community

The Ashington Fun Run Took place on 19th September. Thirty five residents took part and races included a toddler's fancy dress trot and a one and a half miler and four mile run across Country.

The variety show planned for October has had to be put forward to November due to the unavailability of acts during October

The new Term has seen a renewed interest in the Willard Gym with very good numbers for both Tuesday and Thursday sessions.

Continuity is a concern as it relies heavily on the support of our two local volunteers and I now that Paul Buckman is no longer in post.

S.I.D.

S.I.D. made a brief appearance covering Hole St and the bottom end of the Billingshurst Road at the junction of Spear Hill. Junior Wardens assisted. More observation is planned for the end of October. SID was now securely stored and would not be 'misaid' again.

Update on Wardens recruitment – Paul Conroy had applied for the vacant Warden position in Steyning and had been successful at interview. HDC had started the external recruitment process for the Ashington vacancies and to date 9 candidates had come forward. Closing date for the positions are 15th October. The Clerk had spoken to HDC and asked that Paul Conroy could remain in post

until new wardens were recruited and could assist with training of the new Wardens.

The Clerk has received a copy of the Operation Crackdown monthly report for August & September 2010 if Councillors wish to read it.

303/10 YOUNG PERSONS ADJOURNEMENT

The Clerk met with a Skatepark design company and is waiting for drawings and a quote for new skatepark ramps as suggested by the young people at the July Council meeting.

304/10 REPORT FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

District Councillor Roger Arthur reported that:

1. HDC were in the process of reducing costs. They are looking for income opportunities as well as significant cost reductions and would be aiming to choose the cost savings options that would have the minimum impact. Their aim is to save £1.6million in the first year and then further cost savings for 3 more years.
2. There had been no further news about the future of the Laybrook site and he would be monitoring the situation for any updates.
3. WSCC were recommending refusal of the open composting site at Broadbridge Farm but the application could be modified and re-submitted. He would monitor the situation.

District Councillor David Jenkins gave an update on the gypsy/traveller site planning application at Penn Retreat:

1. There was some confusion about the number of gypsy/traveller pitches required in the District due to Government abolishing the South East Plan. Updated legislation is expected in the autumn.
2. HDC had done some work on the numbers required in the District and do have a Policy for the determination of planning applications for permanent sites in the District. HDC do perform an Annual Gypsy/Traveller Count and have good data on the number of pitches occupied legally and illegally across the District.
3. HDC has no Policy for illegal sites but will always work to evict travellers trespassing on land they do not own.
4. A difficulty arises when travellers set up an illegal site on land that they do own.
5. HDC will only consider approving the planning application for the site at Penn Retreat if it complies with their Policies. At the moment, as it stands, the application would be refused as it fails to comply with these Policies.
6. If the applicant amends the application then the Parish Council will be invited to a meeting at HDC to discuss the amendments. Cllrs Norton & Woolley attended a previous meeting on this matter at HDC.
7. HDC are the determining authority for planning applications for gypsy/traveller sites.

District Councillor Roger Arthur was pleased that the application in its current form would likely be refused as there were many issues – parking, congestion,

risk of accident, foul drainage, school places, no benefit to the village, outside the BUAB etc.

Cllr Carver questioned the applicant's local connections. Contrary to what Cllrs Norton & Woolley had been told at their meeting with HDC (reported at the September Council meeting, Minute 281/10) the family had not had a continuous connection to Ashington since 1938. The family had no presence in the village for the last few years as the site at Penn Retreat has lain unused for many years.

Councillors all agreed that Penn Gardens was much improved of late and had a good community spirit. Residents were no longer considered 'outcasts' and were well integrated into the village. The problems of the past in this area had gone and the residents should be congratulated on turning this area around. Fears were expressed that this would all be undone if the planning application was approved.

District Councillor Jenkins reported that he was pleased to hear about the improvements to Penn Gardens and would do his best to secure an alternative design for the planning application that does conform to HDC Planning Policy. The large volume of objections would be summarised and dealt with by HDC on an impartial basis. The application would need to address issues where it fails to comply with Planning Policies. Identifying suitable sites for this use is very difficult as is balancing the local need.

The Chairman thanked District Councillor Jenkins and he left the meeting.

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

305/10 Item 193 RASP Programme

Most of the equipment has been bought. We are waiting for Broadband activation on the Parish Council telephone line. The Clerk has organised for the Broadband costs to be paid monthly by Direct Debit from the Council's bank account. It was proposed that the BT Telephone Bill also be paid in this way as there are cost savings to be made if paying by Direct Debit – agreed by all. The Clerk will publicise the facility in the Newsletter and weekly email. **KD C/F**

306/10 Item 213 Inspection of Council land

The Clerk walked around Parish Council owned land with Mark Adsett, following the Council's own inspection in May 2010. The Council has received a number of complaints from residents of Church Close about the height of hedges to the rear of their properties (backing onto the pond area). Inspection revealed that the height of the hedges has remained unchecked for a number of years. In addition, some of the trees are planted too close to fences and will start to cause damage and are getting too high and will cause problems in the future. Councillors will be aware that over the years the Parish Council has systematically reduced the height of hedges on its land to 6ft and added an annual height trim to the

Landscape Gardeners contract in order that heights never become unmanageable again. This needs to happen at Church Close, to one hedge in Willard Way and two shrubberies in Covert Mead. Mark Adsett has provided quotes totalling £2025 for this and other essential work. The cost would need to be met from Developers Capital. It was proposed that the work is done this winter as an extension to the existing contract and added to the Landscape Gardeners annual contract for 2011. Agreed by all.

The Clerk met with the WSCC Pond Warden on 7th October for the annual Pond Inspection. He was very impressed with the Posthorses and Willard Way ponds and they require no work at present. The dry 'pond' at the back of Aladdins Cave also needs no work as little can be done with this area. The Church Close pond has become overgrown with reeds this year and this is possibly because water levels are low. The Parish Council should investigate whether it is possible to allow the water level to become deeper by adjusting the outflow valve. Cllrs Carver, Wood & Norton and the Parish Clerk to investigate. If this cannot be done then it may be necessary to dredge the pond in order to increase the depth. In addition some routine coppicing needs to be done and he will ask his volunteers to spend a day at the pond sometime after Xmas. **KD C/F**

307/10 Item 215 Hanging baskets

Upper Beeding baskets are supplied by Ferring Nurseries. The Clerk has obtained a quote of £11.88 per basket (compared to £9.50 currently, would be an additional £119pa) and the Nursery provides full care instructions for the Council's watering contractor. The Nursery would expect the baskets to be clean and sterilized before planting and can store the baskets over the winter but they would not be insured whilst stored. Councillors to consider the following:

1. Where to dispose of this year's soil/plants
2. How to clean/sterilize the baskets
3. Where to store the baskets
4. Does the Council wish to change Nursery and incur additional expenditure?

After much discussion it was agreed that the Clerk speak to the current Nursery to find out why the baskets may have been disappointing e.g. compost, feeding etc. and to report back to the Council. It was also agreed that the baskets remain in place until the Nursery is agreed for next year.

It was reported that HDC subsidies Horsham in Bloom and agreed that the Clerk investigate whether grants are available from HDC for this type of project.

KD C/F

308/10 Item 216 Decorative signs

Cllr Wood presented information about the likely cost of signs:

Stained glass design £750

Metalwork frame surround £800-1000

Therefore likely total cost per sign £1750 plus mounting and possibly new posts.

There is only £1672.97 left in the Calor Village of the Year funds.

It was agreed that Cllr Wood be asked to provide some examples of the type of signs that can be produced. **KW C/F**

309/10 Item 217 Emergency Plan

The Clerk has updated the Council's Emergency Plan to be in line with HDC's newly produced generic Emergency Plan. Cllr Lancaster has volunteered to join the Emergency Plan team. Councillors were asked to approve the Plan and the Clerk would send official copies to HDC & WSCC.

Cllr Carver produced Emergency Plans dating back as far as 1992 and commented that much of the current format was not relevant and some items had been omitted e.g. terrorism, nuclear incident and there were no details of important persons living in the village e.g. Police, doctors, nurses etc. Cllr Carver agreed to join the Emergency Plan team.

It was agreed that the Plan be adopted in its current format and reviewed after one year.

KD D

CORRESPONDENCE

310/10 For action:

1. SALC Health&Safety, Risk Assessments & Appraisals and Legal & Finance training dates
2. Letter from Church Close residents (see Item 213)
3. WSCC – proposal to reduce the speed limit on Billingshurst Road to 30mph as far as Thistledown. Agreed.

311/10 For information:

1. WSCC Pension Fund update
2. SPAG Agenda & Notes
3. Public Rights of Way routine maintenance
4. Being a Good Employer Guide
5. SLCC – AGM 16th October
6. Information about the Census 2011
7. HDC – Housing bulletin

312/10 General:

1. Age Concern AGM 19th October- Cllr Harbour to attend.
2. LCR magazine
3. The Clerk magazine
4. Rights & Responsibilities of living by a watercourse
5. ERHA Bulletin
6. Clerks & Councils Direct magazine

313/10 PUBLIC ADJOURNMENT

A member of the public reported that:

1. He was disappointed to hear that the Warden was leaving, he asked if the Warden could stay in Ashington but it was explained that the Warden was at liberty to apply for the job and nothing could have been done. It was explained that the Council were doing all possible to ensure continuity of cover and handing over of projects/information.
2. He was concerned about the recent overflow of sewage outside the Scout Hall during heavy rain. Sewage overflows in this area are common during periods of heavy rain and the Parish Council has been working with

- Southern Water to alleviate the problem. It is concerning that the Meiros Farm development needs a new sewer pipe installing across the Recreation Ground but nothing has been suggested by Southern Water in light of the gypsy/traveller site planning application. It was agreed that the Clerk contact Southern Water to arrange a meeting. **KD C/F**
3. It was reported that the sale of a house in Penn Gardens had fallen through because of the gypsy/traveller site planning application. Several people in the village are questioning District Councillor David Jenkins role in the planning application as it is well known that he is personal friends with the applicant's family. The member of the public had been made aware that a resident of Penn Gardens had received a threatening phone call from the applicant or a member of his family. The Police have a history of this family and have given a view on the planning application.
 4. The member of the public asked if the CB Radio at the Community Centre is still used. The Clerk reported that it was not and that HDC were looking into an alternative emergency communication system.
 5. He asked whether the Parish Council had found an alternative meeting place as the Methodist Church would be closing in March 2011. The Clerk reported that she is looking into alternative venues in the village.

314/10 PLANNING.

The Planning Committee did not meet in September as there were no applications to discuss.

315/10 Proposed Open Composting Facility at Broadbridge Farm

WSCC Planning Officers had a meeting with the agent and applicant at the end of July to discuss WSCC's concerns with the application. Subsequently WSCC requested that they investigate certain issues WSCC feel are key to proceeding with the application. Such matters included, but not limited to:

- The size of the development
- Access to the site
- Sensitive receptors
- Wood chipping area

WSCC has recently written to and given Olus until the 15th October requesting a statement as to their present intentions (i.e. how they wish to proceed with the application). If additional information is forthcoming, it will be further publicised and consulted upon, providing a further opportunity for interested parties to comment.

WSCC Planning Officer has recently advised Olus that in its current format the application is recommended by officers for Refusal.

316/10 Proposed Gypsy/traveller site at Penn Retreat

The Planning Officer at HDC met with the Agent and various HDC Officers recently to discuss both the Penn Retreat application and the Washington site planning application. HDC have linked the two applications as they are made by

the same gypsy/traveller family. HDC has asked the Agent to convey to the applicant that:

1. The number of proposed pitches should be reduced to a more reasonable number; each pitch should have more space and at least 2 parking spaces if not more.
2. HDC wants to know who, exactly, will be living on the site - which Smith family members. If HDC know exactly who it is proposed will move to the Ashington site then they will know how many vehicles each pitch needs, what the impact on the schools will be.
3. The application has failed to show how it addresses local needs and more information needs to be submitted by the applicant (linked to info on which family members would be occupying the pitches at Penn Retreat)
4. Drainage issues need to be addressed and the Agent will be speaking to Southern Water
5. HDC has asked for a larger buffer/planting zone to separate pitches from the rear gardens of Penn Gardens i.e. pitches moved further away from the back fences. The applicant needs to take on board the comments from Southern Water about 15metre exclusion zone around the sewage pumping station and take advice from electricity companies about the sub-station on site and take into account Police comments and those made by residents.

HDC made it clear that if the site is to be approved it must be demonstrated that it is for the Smith family only and not for travellers/gypsy from out of the area. They are seeking more information about the proposed management of the site.

All this information will be relayed to the applicant by his Agent and HDC will await the next move. They have not given the applicant any timescales.

The Clerk discussed the matter with the Council's Planning Consultant and agreed that it would be premature to prepare a response at this time.

317/10 Correspondence

WSSC has formally decided to suspend work on the Minerals and Waste Core Strategy. The Documents, as they stand, will remain in force but no new work will be carried out until there is further guidance from Central Government.

318/10 New Enforcement Allegations

EN/10/0526 Untidy Site - 12 Alicia Avenue

EN/10/0537 Untidy Site – Hillview, Mill Lane

319/10 Amendments

None

320/10 Applications

DC/10/1910 Surgery to 1 Oak (T1) and 3 Field Maple (G1) and Ivy - 19 Turnpike Way. The Council have no objections.

DC/10/1973 Proposed carport and tool store - Mill Lodge Mill Lane. The Council object as the new building is too close to the boundary of the adjoining property and there is a risk of gutters overhanging the boundary and there is no space for maintenance purposes. This would be to the detriment of the adjoining landowner.

Horsham District Council

321/10 Approvals

DC/09/2298 Demolition of existing building construction of 2-storey building with ground floor veterinary surgery and a first floor 1 x 3 bed flat - Former Flower Pots London Road

322/10 Refusals

DC/10/1419 First Floor rear extension - East View London Road
Applicant has now Appealed this decision.

323/10 Withdrawals

None

324/10 Appeal decision

None

The next Planning Committee meeting is scheduled for 20th October 2010 at 7.00pm **in the new Parish Office.**

FINANCE

325/10 Correspondence

None

326/10 Income

Profit from Ashington Fun Run £55 (to Ashington Carnival)
HDC Environmental Cleansing Grant Q1 & Q2 £1481.60
Kite & Thomas rent & roundabout sponsorship £2027.50
HDC Precept £45,900

327/10 Expenditure

			Cheque no.
Donation to Ashington Methodist Church (meeting 7 th October £20)		£20	1109
Mark Adsett	Gardeners contract payment	£446.25	
	Hanging basket watering	£240.00	1110
Mrs K. Dare	Clerks expenses (home & telephone)	£17	
	Car parking (meeting at HDC)	£2.10	
	Stationery	£32.86	
	Stamps	£28.80	
	Total	£80.76	1111
WSSC	Salary and on costs (September)	£738.51	1112

Powered by Vision Ltd	RASP grant equipment	£2085.53	1113
BT	phone bill	£59.93	1114
HDC	dog bin emptying	£98.28	1115
S. Fenn	Responder expenses	£26.00	1116
E. Greenfield	Responder expenses	£148.00	1117
Ashington Carnival	Proceeds from Ashington Fun Run	£55	1118

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

328/10 MEETINGS

Cllr Harbour had attended the recent ACCT meeting and reported that:

1. ACCT need funding assistance for maintenance of the Recreation Ground. They would supply financial information at the next Council meeting. **C/F**
2. It is alleged that the Scout Hall are sub-letting their building and are taking business away from ACCT.
3. ACCT wished to thank all those people who had recently volunteered to help with running the facilities.
4. The Monthly Lunch Club has stopped.
5. She would be attending the Help the Aged AGM.
6. She was unable to attend the HDCCP meeting but provided some ethnic monitoring survey information to the Clerk.
7. The new shop at Posthorses was working well and had already let two out of the three upstairs units. The shop is selling some locally made goods.
8. ACCT had received a complaint about a football hitting a resident's car. She asked if Councillors knew whether there was ever a fence at the northern end of the Recreation Ground. Cllr Norton informed her that many years ago WSCC did have a fence in that location.

Cllrs Lancaster, Clark & Harbour had attended a recent Community Action Plan Steering Group meeting where they had reviewed the purpose of the group, reviewed items on the action plan, progress and plans for the future. The minutes would be circulated in due course. The next meeting would take place before Xmas.

329/10 MINOR MATTERS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS

It had been reported to Cllr Norton that a resident was concerned about the visibility from Linfield Lane to the South (towards Ashington). Clerk to report to WSCC Highways. **KD D**

Clerk to report to HDC that there are 3 dead trees at the entrance to Linfield Lane – these were planted by Developers and have very quickly died. **KD D**

Cllr Norton reported that the Parish Council could consider using the Old School or the Parish Church for future Council meetings. Councillors felt that the Small Hall at ACCT was not suitable (having tried it in the past). The Clerk had already been in contact with the Vicar about these venues. **C/F**

330/10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held at **7.30pm** on **Thursday 4th November 2010** at the Methodist Church, London Road.

The meeting finished at 9.45pm

Signed.....

Date.....

331/10 Items awaiting action:

Item No	Description	Last Action & Date
32b	Spur road of The Sands & Viney Close – streetlights & laybys	WSSC & HDC dealing with. Persimmon are not co-operating and HDC/WSSC continue to pursue the matter (Nov 09)
202	Parish Office	Waiting for ACCT to amend lease.
	Village seats/noticeboards need repainting	Clerk to organise
215	New hanging baskets	Clerk to buy 10 more baskets. Agreed July 2010

332/10 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	Clerk to write to WSCC Written to WSCC	August 2009 Sept 09
Overgrowing vegetation to north of Greenacres	WSCC written to landowner		August 2010