



Ashington Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on 8th January 2015 at 7.45 p.m. in Ashington School, Foster Lane, Ashington

Present: Councillors M. Woolley, R. Strudwick, B. Norton, K. Wood, D. Harbour, R. Brennan, T. Kearney, N. Carver, R. Lancaster, N. Clark, J. Gichovi-Elias
Parish Clerk Karen Dare
District Councillor Roger Arthur
District Councillor David Jenkins
6 members of the public

The Chairman began by congratulating Margaret Alford on the recent award of a BEM for services to Ashington.

The Chairman reminded members of the public the requirement that they limit their participation to the Public Adjournment sections of the meeting. If Members of the Public have questions for Police/Wardens & District/County Councillors then the Clerk will pass these on if these individuals have left the meeting. Members of the Public are reminded that Standing Orders allow for 5 minutes maximum participation.

001/15 APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE

Neighbourhood Warden Jayne Jeffrey (illness), PCSO Tina Dunning (off-shift), County Councillor Philip Circus (business).

002/15 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

The Chairman reminded Councillors that previous declarations still stand.

003/15 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 4th December 2014 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman. Proposed by Councillor Lancaster and seconded by Councillor Carver, and agreed.

004/15 REPORT FROM THE NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDENS & PCSO

PCSO report (see Appendix 2).
Questions: None

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

Youth Worker

Report (see Appendix 3).
Questions: None

A meeting of the Community Partnership group took place on 6th January and Councillors will be provided with a copy of the minutes in due course.

Warden recruitment

Interviews will take place on 15th January and both Cllrs Clark & Gichovi-Elias will be involved. There are 4 candidates. **C/F**

005/15 YOUNG PERSONS ADJOURNMENT

None present.

006/15 REPORT FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

District Councillor Roger Arthur reported:

1. The Planning Framework had been reviewed by the Inspector and an interim statement issued. In summary: HDC need to increase the number of homes built per annum from 650 to 750-800; growth should be centred around Horsham, Southwater & Billingshurst with small amounts of growth around villages according to Neighbourhood Plans; there should be no Mayfield Market Town nor greater dispersal of housing numbers around the District.
It was concerning that this does not necessarily stop Developers building outside the BUAB if higher housing numbers are needed in the District. HDC Officers have been tasked with putting a plan together in the next 6 months for the right numbers of homes so that inappropriate, ad hoc, developments are stopped.

The Chairman thanked District Councillor Roger Arthur for his report.

Questions: None

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

007/15 Ashington Multi Sports Court

The grant has been approved and the lights have been installed. Thanks to Bill Whittaker and Andy Phillips for their installation. **D**

008/15 VAS Sign Billingshurst Road

WSSC will produce a project plan.

KD C/F

009/15 ACCT Security review

ACCT are reviewing the condition of their cameras and general building security. Some information had been brought to the meeting and would be presented in the Public Adjournment session.

CORRESPONDENCE

010/15 For action:

1. WSSC annual Consultation on Highways and Transport Draft Works Programmes for 2015/16 and 2016/17. There are very few Ashington projects on the list. The Clerk & Chairman are meeting the Highways Officer on 14/1 to discuss various Ashington issues.
2. Gatwick Airport – community engagement events. Councillors to monitor developments at Gatwick to understand potential impacts on the village.
3. YMCA Social Enterprise Manager – wants to speak to the Council about offering young people work experience & apprenticeships. Agreed. **KD D**
4. WSSC – consultation on changes in adult social care. Cllr Gichovi-Elias to study the documents.

011/15 For information:

1. Horsham Police – Local Council support eg how often they will attend meetings, send reports etc
2. Future of Rock Common quarry – Dudmans have employed a consultant to organise public consultations on the future of the quarry. The Clerk has registered the Council as an ‘interested party’ in order to be kept informed of community meeting dates/events etc.
3. Rural affordable housing information.
4. Planning Inspectors initial report on HDC’s Local Plan – the Local Plan is suspended for 6 months while HDC revise their housing numbers up.
5. Consultation on NHS Patient transport services – series of public meetings. Cllr Carver to attend.

012/15 General:

1. Local Council Review magazine

013/15 PUBLIC ADJOURNMENT

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

Andy Phillips from ACCT explained their plans to upgrade the cctv system (current system is 11 years old), install a security gate to prevent public access to the rear porch (as there had been problems over the years with youths hanging round in the porch causing a nuisance to hall users) and reprogramming of security system to allow moving of the MSC lock/linking of gate to fire alarm etc. The cameras were poor

resolution and don't give clear pictures in low light conditions. ACCT would be looking to apply for s106 funds to cover the cost as they had little or no money of their own for the project. S106 rules state that 20% must come from 'own funds' and ACCT are looking to the PC to help with the project. He explained that they had received a number of quotes and the lowest was @£15k inc VAT.

Councillors were surprised at the high cost and asked many questions about the details of the project. It became clear that more information was needed before any decisions could be taken and it was agreed that Andy would send the Clerk information about the scope of the project and detailed information about the quotes so that Councillors could get a fuller picture of the project. For discussion at the next meeting. **C/F**

Members of the public reported:

1. Flooding along Billingshurst Road at the Spear Hill bend would cause problems in icy conditions. Cllr Norton reported that Highways Engineers had visited the area to inspect the problem that day and are aware of the issue.
2. The surface water gullies in the car park at the Co-op are not working and the water is causing the paving slabs to lift. Clerk to report to Clokes Management.
3. Any progress on repairs to the roof seals of the Youth Shelter? Cllr Clark will replace these. It was reported that the Youth Worker hadn't received any complaints about the Youth Shelter – the youths had decided on the design and the PC could not undertake any modifications or incur additional cost at this stage. If youths wanted modifications then they should raise funds themselves.
4. The access code number for the MSC has worn off the sign. Clerk to replace. **KD D**
5. There is litter around the skatepark & Youth Shelter. Clerk to report to the Warden & Youth Worker. **KD D**

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

014/15 PLANNING.

The Planning Committee met on 17th December and Councillors have been provided with a copy of the minutes. Agreed by all.

015/15 Correspondence

Neighbourhood Plan update:

1. Public meetings – in the Community Centre on 23/24 January. Letters are being sent to all residents, businesses, community groups and other interested parties. Banners have been erected and press releases sent to local newspapers/magazines and put on the Council's website. The Chairman explained that these are information gathering sessions where Councillors listen to residents and gather their thoughts. The Clerk will greet residents in the Foyer of the Community Centre and show them the Neighbourhood Plan presentation that she has prepared. They will then move into the main hall where Focus Groups will each have an 'area' where they will have a flip chart with prompts and post-it notes that residents can write their comments on and stick to flip charts. The Clerk has prepared contact sheets so that all attendees can 'sign in'

and Focus Groups can sign up members. Councillors were asked to arrive at 6pm on Friday 23rd so that they have one hour to set-up their Focus Group areas before the public arrive 7-9pm.

2. The Clerk has circulated draft information for each of the Focus Groups.

KD C/F

Sale of land adjacent to Post Horses House – the Clerk reports that the legal paperwork is complete and that payment for the land has been received and banked.

016/15 New Enforcement Allegations/Information

None

017/15 Amendments

None

018/15 Applications

DC/14/2472 Timber garage – 6 Broadbridge Cottages, London Road. The Council has no objections.

Horsham District Council

019/15 Approvals

DC/14/2323 Surgery to 1 x Oak Tree (Tree Preservation Order) - The New House Mill Lane

DC/14/2339 Surgery to 1 x Oak tree (T1) - Linfield Lane

DC/14/2484 Enlargement of first floor above garage utility rooms to provide 2 bedrooms, and single storey extension - 15 Turnpike Way

020/15 Refusals

None

021/15 Withdrawals

DC/14/2325 Two storey extension with rooms in roof to provide relatives annexe, integral garage and provision of two car parking spaces to forecourt - 13 Linfield Lane

022/15 Appeals made/ decisions

None

The next Planning Committee meeting is scheduled for 21st January at 7.30pm in Ashington Sports Pavilion.

FINANCE

023/15 Budget & Precept 15/16

HDC has confirmed the Tax Base figures as presented at the Council meeting of 4th December 2014. Therefore, the Clerk will be asking for £91,155 Precept and the

Council will receive an additional Council Tax Support Grant from HDC of £2,734 (a 30% reduction from 2014/15). The budget and Precept request were agreed by all.

024/15 Correspondence

1. Mark Adsett asked the Clerk to purchase more fence posts & wire to create waste/nature areas near the back of Aladdins Cave to put debris from the nature trail into. Total cost £124.27. This will save him transporting the waste along to the rear of Church Close or the east side nature trail. Agreed by all.
2. NALC/SLCC have finalised Clerks pay scales for 2014-16 and agreed two non-consolidated payments during the financial year 2014-15. According to the agreement the Clerk is due an additional £37.84 in December 2014 and a further £10.97 in April 2015. Agreed by all.

025/15 Income

Payment from Singer & Friedlander £1,091.42. This takes the total amount recovered to 82.6% but, more importantly, means the Council has received back the full amount of capital invested and remaining funds to be recovered are accumulated interest in the account.

Sale of land adjacent to Post Horses House £2000

Kite & Thomas rent & roundabout sponsorship £2077.50

026/15 Expenditure

		Cheque no.	
Mark Adsett	Gardeners contract payment	£500.00	1608
Mrs K. Dare	Clerks expenses (home & telephone)	£17	
	Travel to HDC for training	£9.00	
	Parking in Horsham	£3.60	
	Stationery	£40.46	
	Fencing	£124.27	
	MSC LED lights	£2004.00	
	Total	£2198.33	1609
WSSC	Salary and on costs (November)	£1078.30	1610
	Payroll costs	£43.20	1611
ACCT	Planning committee 18/11/14	£7.60	1612
	Bingo Club (November)	£37.75	1613
Ashington PCC	Youth Worker Dec 2014	£1083.33	1614
Kenads Ltd	Neighbourhood Plan letter (Aug 2014)	£192.00	1615
	Neighbourhood Plan letter (Jan 2015)	£144.00	1616

Letterbox Logistics	delivery of Neighbourhood Plan letter (Aug)	£96.10	1617
SP Services	responder equipment	£218.16	1618
PWL	loan payment	£3110.12	BACS

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

027/15 MEETINGS

The Clerk, Chairman & Cllr Clark had attended a Chanctonbury Youth Project Community Partnership meeting (minutes circulated separately to Councillors).

028/15 MINOR MATTERS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS

1. Cllr Wood asked if the 'Community Spirit' village group would be organising a Litter Pick. The Clerk confirmed that she thought this to be the case.
2. Cllr Harbour reported a parked van near Turnpike Way that was causing a bit of a nuisance. The Clerk reported that the van was not parked illegally and therefore there was nothing that could be done.
3. Cllr Carver reported flooding near Penn Retreat during the heavy storm recently but it has subsequently cleared.
4. Councillors expressed concerned at the churned up grass verge opposite the Co-op. Clerk & Chairman to raise during their Highways meeting.
5. Southern Water had demolished one of the Council's 'no vehicles' posts at the bottom of Turnpike Way. Clerk to report to Southern Water.
6. Flooding had occurred under the northern underpass during the recent storm but had cleared.
7. Cllr Clark reminded the Clerk that the Council had previously agreed to ask Mark Adsett to reduce the width of the hedge along Church Lane to allow the full width of the footpath to be used by pedestrians.

KD D

The next meeting will be held at **7.45pm on Thursday 5th February 2015 at Ashington School, Foster Lane.**

The meeting finished at 9.00pm

Signed.....

Date.....

029/15 APPENDIX 1: REPORT FROM NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDENS
CRIMINAL DAMAGE AND THEFT

No reports to me of criminal damage or theft this month across the village.

DRUGS AND ALCOHOL

I have concerns for underage drinking across the village this month. There have been several reports made to me of offenders. I will be discussing these issues with those concerned and their parents.

YOUTH

I am still helping several youth in the village with issues they find themselves having to deal with. Very personal to the individuals concerned.

I am looking forward to working with the youth worker on a regular basis in the New Year. I have been working closely with the anti-social behaviour team and one youth within the village has agreed to sign up to an ABC contract. This is good news and I feel it will help the youth concerned by offering them support and guidance they may need.

FLY POSTING

I have been removing signage across the village this month that has been illegally posted.

DOGS

This month I have received five phone calls from people who have found straying dogs. Every dog that has been found has had no identification tag or collar. They have not even been micro chipped.

Due to the fact that the owners can't be traced they have had to be taken to the local dog kennel. I do know that this costs a large amount of money to claim the lost dog back from them.

In the New Year I will be trying to educate on the responsible ownership of dogs and just reminding those with dogs to have id tags so if lost they can be identified and returned to the owner straight away.

ELDERLY/VULNERABLE

We have had a very busy schedule this month for the elderly/vulnerable.

The Christmas Lunch club was a complete success with 50 + people attending.

Thanks to Pat and her helpers a full Christmas dinner was served with all the trimmings.

A very big thank you to the rotary club, for their financial support for the event. It meant that every elderly/vulnerable that attended, the Christmas meal was free of charge.

A raffle was also organised by members of the rotary club. The prize was a hamper which was kindly donated by Waitrose.

This is the second year that the lunch club has been running and it is good news that I can report we are now financially viable to continue this event for another year. We are closing the accounts for the year with enough to pay the rent and transport for the club for next year.

£200.00 has been given toward payment for the use of mini bus throughout the year to provide the transport for the elderly/vulnerable groups to attend the lunch club and vintage tea.

This money was paid out from the proceeds of the raffle held at the Warden Christmas Party.

We had a lovely day out when we went for the elderly/vulnerable Christmas lunch trip.

We visited local garden centre for last minute Christmas shopping followed by a lovely Christmas meal at the local carvery.

Some of the elderly/vulnerable have had issues with health this month and some being admitted to hospital. I have tried to support those and family through this difficult time.

Some of the elderly/vulnerable have had life changing news regarding their health issues. This has been distressing for some. I have signposted to relevant agencies and just been there if they wish to talk to someone.

Several referrals have been made to check that they are receiving the correct benefits and allowances. Others have been referred for care in their own home.

I would like to end this very brief report by wishing everyone a **HAPPY NEW YEAR**.

030/15 APPENDIX 2 – PCSO Report December

I apologise that I am unable to attend the Meeting of the Parish Council this evening.

E-mail received from Petroleum Officer at Trading Standards. They have been notified by an Ashington resident that he wishes to keep petrol at home. Trading Standards must be notified under the Petroleum Consolidation Act 2014 if persons wish to store up to 275 litres. More information has been requested from the resident with regard to exactly what he intends to store, where, how and the quantity. Details will be disseminated to the relevant departments within Sussex Police as a precaution.

On 20/12/14 a turkey was stolen from the Cooperative Welcome Store by two females and a young male. There was CCTV footage of the incident and enquiries are ongoing.

A further shoplifting was reported from the Cooperative on 27/12/14 where a known 17 year old male stole a can of Red Bull. There is CCTV footage of the incident and the male will be dealt with accordingly.

In the early hours of 01/01/15 a 15 year old youth was punched in the face by an older male at the Church Lane Recreation Ground. It transpired to be a misunderstanding and no further action was taken by Police.

PCSO Tina Dunning

031/15 APPENDIX 3 Report on Ashington Youth Centre

attendance range:

younger group: 16-27

Older group: 5 - 12

Last session before Christmas (December 18th)

39 total - 27 younger / 12 older

We have also had a number of new members join and engage with the Thursday youth club for the latter few sessions.

Themes / topics covered / activities

I have not tried to engage any overt themes with the young people leading up to christmas besides trying to emphasise the idea of their ownership of the youth centre.

That the direction the youth centre takes will be influenced by their input and vision. As well as this, I have persistently emphasised the necessity for respect before improvements can be made. In particular, respecting the equipment.

It has been noticed that these themes I have discussed with young people are problems which they have identified themselves.

Baking - With the younger group, we have done some hands on baking activities. This was limited by our 'oven'.

As well as this, before christmas, a member of the community donated brownies, biscuits and cake decorating resources which the youth enjoyed.

Finances

currently, income is generated from membership fees (£1 per person, per night) and selling drinks & confectionary (50p per item).

Drinks & confectionary are bought at a unit price of under 50p.

Since beginning, I have logged the finances of these Thursday evenings and after expenditure of buying resources, the club has taken over £160.

Development plans

Ceiling tiles - £252 capitol cost

032/15 APPENDIX 4 Funds held on behalf of others

First Responders Funds: £3002.98

Bingo Club: £173.39