



# Ashington Parish Council

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## **Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2016 at 7.45 p.m. in Ashington School, Foster Lane, Ashington**

**Present: Councillors: J. Stillwell (Chairman) N. Spiers (Vice-Chairman), S.Ball, L. di Castiglione, R. Strudwick, K. Wood, M. Woolley,**

**Parish Clerk: Celia Price**

**District Councillors: D. Jenkins  
2 members of the public**

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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.

### **323/16 APOLOGIES**

Cllr Cox, Cllr Currell, Cllr Kearney, Cllr MacPherson, District Councillor J. Blackall, County Councillor P. Circus, Warden – Jayne Jeffrey

### **324/16 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

The Chairman reminded Councillors that previous declarations still stand.

### **325/16 APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting dated 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2016 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman. Proposed by Cllr di Castiglione, seconded by Cllr Woolley and agreed by all.

### **326/16 NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDENS**

#### **Neighbourhood Wardens Report (Appendix 1)**

The Chair gave an overview of the Warden's report.

### **327/16 Youth Worker Report (Appendix 3)**

The Chair gave an overview of the Youth Worker's report and invited questions and comments.

- Cllr Spiers commented that it was encouraging to see Youth Club attendees continue to increase and that in terms of ratio we reach more young people than other areas.
- Why was the professional wrestling event held at the Community Centre not attended and supported by the Youth?

Councillors responded by asking if the Youth were asked if this was something they would be interested in as it was felt that perhaps they would not be the target audience for wrestling. It was suggested that a suggestion box be available at the Christmas fair for residents to put forward ideas on what they would like to see in the future.

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## **328/16 YOUNG PERSONS ADJOURNMENT**

None present

## **329/16 REPORT FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS**

Cllr Jenkins advised he had nothing to report and wished everyone a Happy Christmas.

## **ACTIONS OUTSTANDING**

### **330/16 Highways**

The grit bins are in place and have been filled by WSCC.

The footpath along Rectory Lane between Blakiston Close and Penn Gardens has now been cleared. The PC has received confirmation that hedgerow is now on WSCC maintenance schedule. **D**

### **331/16 Youth Worker / Warden review**

The working party prioritised the Warden review following the resignation of one of the Wardens. Due to the urgency of the issue all Councillors were consulted and as a result recruitment is underway for an additional part time Warden as recommended by the Working Party. Warden coverage will remain at 55 hours. There will be two-part time roles, the first at 30 hours per week and the second at 25 hours per week. This will accommodate the existing Warden's request for her hours to be reduced to 30 per week. There is also a provision to increase to 60 hours per week if required (2 wardens at 30 hours per week each)

The working party are due to meet again to continue discussions regarding the Youth provision.

### **332/16 Mill Lane Culvert**

A meeting took place on Wednesday with Opus, WSCC, resident representative and Parish Council representatives to discuss the findings and way forward following the report from Opus. There were three actions agreed 1) an improved trash screen will be installed. 2) Mill Lane residents that have the stream going through their land will be contacted to advise of the problems (the £50,000 WSCC are holding is still available at the moment and there is a possibility this could be used to help residents with bank improvements, as could an 'Operation Watershed' grant, should this scheme continue). A residents group will be set up to facilitate this. 3) A further survey is required regarding any possible redirection of the stream and landowner permission is required to carry out this survey.

Opus have also agreed to work with the NP Clerk in preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

### **333/16 For action:**

- a) Old London Road

Councillors discussed issues raised including the overgrown hedgerow, fly tipping, dog fouling, drug dealing, lorry parking and signage.

Concerns were raised regarding cutting back the hedgerow including whether this would encourage further lorry parking or traveller visits as it would become more accessible. The Clerk advised that the BP garage are going to install a CCTV camera to cover this road which will help identify and hopefully deter offenders.

ACTION: The Clerk to speak to Highways to obtain their views and discuss ideas and potential solutions.

- b) WSCC Bus User Survey

Councillors were sent the survey prior to the meeting. The route that affects Ashington residents is the Compass 72/73 currently **Pulborough - Amberley – Storrington – Ashington**

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This service is being completely revised and extended to Horsham via West Chiltington Village, Shipley, Maplehurst and Nuthurst in mitigation for changes to services 74/75, 89 & 108. The 72/73 would no longer serve Thakeham and Ashington. All agreed to object to this proposal.

ACTION: The Clerk to complete the survey on behalf of the Parish Council objecting to the proposal.

### **334/16 For information:**

The following were distributed to Councillors prior to the meeting for information.

- a) The Clerk Magazine (November 2016)
- b) Southern Water Autumn Stakeholder Newsletter
- c) SLCC News Bulletin
- d) WSCC E-Newsletter (November 2016)
- e) Police and Crime Commissioners Newsletter
- f) Age UK Christmas Lunch
- g) SLCC Sussex magazine 'Watch out'
- h) CLC meeting notification
- i) Sussex Police Precept increase consultation
- j) West Sussex ALC Spring conference
- k) Minutes of the Annual Meeting of HDC and HALC
- l) Clerks and Councils Direct magazine (November 2016)

### **335/16 PUBLIC ADJOURNMENT**

The Chairman invited questions and comments from the public

- Please consider a reference to The Swan Pub when discussing the street naming for the Hoots House site.

The suggestion has already been put forward by members of the Parish Council for discussion later in the meeting.

- Please can the Rangers cut back the hedgerow owned by Moat Housing along the footpath from Foster Lane to Viney Close?

The Rangers cannot carry out any work without the landowner's permission and as Moat Housing have already inspected this path and advised that no action is required this would not be appropriate. If residents are concerned they are encouraged to contact Moat Housing direct.

- The trees along the north side of the recreational ground have been cut back but the ones by the garages at the bottom of The Sands remain untouched.

The Clerk will chase Saxonweald for an update.

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

### **336/16 PLANNING.**

There was no planning meeting in November.

### **337/16 Correspondence for action**

- a) Street Naming (formally Hoots House, London Road)

The developer has put forward the following road names 'Lions Place' or 'Ash Tree Close'. Councillors would like to retain some historical relevance to the name and suggest 'Swan Close' as the site was previously The Swan Inn.

ACTION: The Clerk will forward this suggestion to Horsham District Council as requested.

- b) HDC CIL Statement of Modifications Consultation

Modifications are minor and the Parish Council have no comment.

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c) Letter of complaint received

A complaint has been received, circulated and considered by Councillors. The 'complaint' falls under the exceptions provided by 2.2(d) and 2.2(f) of the complaints procedure, therefore it does not need to be treated as a 'formal complaint'.

ACTION: The Clerk will write to the Complainant as a matter of courtesy.

d) Parish Council Land (on London Road)

The Neighbourhood Plan team have agreed a two part 'Site Assessment' process for all those sites submitted for consideration in the plan. As previously agreed the site owned by the Parish Council in London Road has been put forward for consideration and the Part 1 Preliminary Assessment has been completed and submitted.

### **338/16 Correspondence for Information**

a) S278 agreement regarding road layout at Hoots House

### **339/16 Neighbourhood Plan update**

Part 1 site assessment work is well underway in the Neighbourhood Plan. All site owners were sent forms on 3rd November and the deadline for completion is 7th December. Some forms have been returned early and these have been checked thoroughly by the NHPlan Clerk. Some have been rejected as information has been incorrect or absent but these have been re-submitted once correct. The Clerk received a complimentary email from one agent regarding the site assessment process and rigorousness of the checks.

One new site was submitted to the NHPlan on 22nd November and, whilst it had missed the deadline of 30th September, the Clerk felt that there was no reason not to consider it alongside other sites. Part 1 site assessment ends on 7th December and absolutely no new sites will be considered after this date. There are now 26 sites in total. The Steering Group will meet on 12th December to agree which sites should progress to Part 2 assessment and which should be rejected at Part 1. The criteria will be published but they will follow the policies of the HDPF with regard to: greenfield or brownfield; within, abutting or isolated from the BUAB.

The detailed resident's questionnaire will be sent out for comments to the Steering and Focus Groups in the next few days. This has been a huge piece of work to draft and uses information gathered from open events, general survey, focus group meeting, feedback from community groups and businesses plus best practice from other NHPlan surveys to create one questionnaire covering all aspects of the Neighbourhood Plan. The NHPlan Publicity Officer has been tasked with putting together a publicity plan to ensure that residents are made well aware of the need to complete the survey. Timescales for delivery, return etc will be published soon.

A Business Survey is well underway and the results will be published shortly. A young people's survey is being planned.

Updates are regularly published on the Parish Council website.

### **340/16 Amendments**

None

### **341/16 Applications**

DC/16/2233 – Tree Tops, Mill Lane

Detached garage and a pitched roof to replace a flat roof in connection with a conversion of a garage into habitable accommodation.

Councillors reviewed the plans and discussed the application. There were no objections

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## **Horsham District Council**

### **342/16 Approvals**

DC/16/1922 - Park Cottage, Park Lane

Two storey extension to existing dwelling, new separate garage with garden office/recreation room over together with associated external works.

DC/16/2025 – 10 Posthorses

Replacement of existing conservatory with new single storey extension. Construction of new single storey side extension.

DC/16/1992 15 Linfield Lane

Fell x 1 Lime Tree

### **343/16 Refusals**

DC/16/1895 – Spear Hill House, Spear Hill

Outline planning permission for 1 x 2 Bedroom detached dwelling

DC/16/2049 - Land Between Shona and Camwood, Mill Lane

Proposed erection of a single dwelling

### **344/16 Withdrawals**

None

### **345/16 Appeals made/ decisions**

None

### **346/16 FINANCE**

The Finance Committee met on 16<sup>th</sup> November and Councillors have been provided with a copy of the draft minutes

### **347/16 Correspondence for action**

#### a) WSCC Pooling Agreement (Pensions)

Some years ago the PC agreed to the WSCC pension fund 'pooling' contributions from all small bodies so that all benefitted from being part of a larger fund. WSCC have requested that the PC confirm their agreement to continue with the agreement. All agreed and the Chair signed the forms.

#### b) Annual Review of Financial Controls and Internal Audit

Councillors are asked to review the Council's Financial Regulations and Risk Management procedures. The Clerk had provided Councillors with a copy of the Council's current Financial Regulations (also available on the website for members of the public) and confirmed that the procedures are followed as written.

By approving the Annual Return each year the Council is agreeing that these 2 statements are correct.

1. 'We have maintained throughout the year an adequate and effective system of Internal audit of the Council's accounting records and control systems **and carried out a review of its effectiveness**'
2. 'We have arranged for a competent person, independent of the financial controls and procedures, to give an objective view on whether these meet the needs of the council and **reviewed the impact of this work**'

In simple terms Councillors should ask themselves:

Are you 100% happy that the risk of financial impropriety is negligible – are the procedures for control and review effective? All agreed.

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The internal auditor has now retired. The Clerk requested permission to seek a new internal auditor with the assistance of SALC who have an approved list of Auditors for the area. All agreed

c) Annual Review of Assets and Insurance Cover

Insurance cover for the PC is due for renewal early January, this is also when the long term agreement expires. The renewal quote has not been received yet as Came and Company are preparing 3 quotes and a recommendation. The Clerk requests that, with a minimum of 3 Councillors approval this can be agreed and paid once it arrives to insure there is no loss of cover. All agreed.

ACTION: The Clerk to circulate quotes and recommendation to Councillors and act accordingly with regard to the renewal.

d) Budget Precept 17/18

The RFO has prepared a preliminary budget & precept forecast for 17/18 and a Finance Committee meeting took place on 16th November 2016. Councillors have been provided with a copy of the draft minutes and the supporting documentation, however there are not enough Councillors present at this meeting that attended the Finance Committee meeting, therefore the minutes cannot be approved until the January meeting.

Councillors reviewed the Finance Committee's proposals and their recommendation to defer precept setting to the January Council meeting.

e) Annual Playground Inspection

The annual ROSPA inspections of Parish Council play areas take place in June every year by Play Safety Limited. Councillors are asked to confirm they are happy for this to continue. The same company also do the inspections for the ACCT play areas.

**348/16 Income**

None

**349/16 Expenditure**

Month	Payee	Description	£	Chq No.
Dec-				
16	Mrs Celia Price	Home Office - November 2016	10.00	
		Telephone	7.00	
		Giff Gaff - Mobile Phone Top Up	10.00	
		Travel Expenses (Mileage)	10.40	
		Travel expenses (Parking)	1.00	
		Total	<u>38.40</u>	1820
	Mrs Karen Dare	Home Office - November 2016	5.00	1821
	Mark Adsett	Landscape Gardening (November 16)	508.33	1822
	Ashington PCC	Inv: YW-201611 Youthworker (November 16)	1083.33	1823
	WSCC	Payroll and Admin charges (October 16)	2005.62	1824
	SLCC	Invoice: 121452 ILCA training course	118.80	1825
	SSALC Limited	Chairmanship Training	132.00	1826
	Information Commissioner	Data Protection Registration Renewal	<u>35.00</u>	1827
		<b>December Total Expenditure</b>	<u>3926.48</u>	

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

**350/16 MEETINGS**

Cllr Ball and the Clerk attended the HALC meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> November.

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Cllr Stillwell, NP Clerk and the Clerk attended a meeting with WSCC, Opus and resident regarding the Mill Lane Culvert on 23<sup>rd</sup> November.

Cllr Stillwell, Cllr Ball and the Clerk attended the Warden Steering Group Meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> November.

Cllr Stillwell, Cllr Spiers and the Clerk attended the Youth Worker Partnership meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> November.

**351/16 MINOR MATTERS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS**

Cllr Ball reported that she was very impressed with the scaffolding and site safety at Post Horses House. All agreed and the Clerk was asked to write to the owners thanking them for their consideration.

Concerns were raised about the safety at Post Horses. HDC enforcement officer and the HSE are aware and investigating.

The next planning committee meeting will be held at **7:30pm on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2016** at the **Sports Pavilion, Church Lane**

The next Parish Council will be held at **7:45pm on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2017** at **Ashington School, Foster Lane**. (Please note: this meeting has been moved from 9<sup>th</sup> January)

The meeting closed at 9:00 pm

Signed.....

Dated.....

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**Appendix 1**  
**Warden Report – November 2016**

**CRIMINAL DAMAGE**

No reports this month of criminal damage have been made to us.

**SUBSTANCE MISUSE**

We continue to deal with gathering intelligence regarding drug issues and pass all information onto the police.

We have been advising all residents if seeing something suspicious to do with substance misuse to call through to the police on 101 and report. Any information no matter how small will help and it may build a bigger picture of the issues we have in Ashington.

I have noticed an increase in substance misuse within the younger group of youth across the village. Hopefully the youth worker can arrange a drug and alcohol awareness session in the near future for the younger group of youth across the village. I continue to mentor those at the moment that wish to engage. We are signposting to relevant agencies for the help they may require.

**.ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR**

Sadly there have been quite a few phone calls regarding ASB this month. I have been working closely with the youth/adults involved and telling them what the effect of their actions causes on residents of the village. I have had to take names of all youth/adults involved in the ASB to pass to the ASB Team at Horsham District council. They are based at Horsham Police Station. Phone calls have been made to the police regarding ASB across the village this month. I will liaise with the police to discuss the matters and come to some solutions of the incidents reported. I have been offering reassurance to residents dealing with ASB issues but some residents are quite angry as they feel nothing is being done. I do explain that the issues are being dealt with. I will issue incident diaries to residents who are experiencing ASB issues to fill in and keep a record of the incidents. They have all been told to call police when the incidents are happening.

I continue to work on a daily basis with those offenders who are causing issues across the village. We are trying to integrate some back into the community whilst others we are just offering advice and guidance to circumstances they find themselves in. By educating and offering support we are hoping to stop them re offending with ASB issues within the village.

There are still reports of groups of youth sitting at front of community centre main entrance. They are spitting on the glass doors and surrounding floored area. We will try to identify those concerned and have words. Hopefully the new CCTV will allow us to identify them.

Hot spot areas for ASB Skate Park, Community Centre and Church Lane (area by youth club). I will add these areas to my directed patrols

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We have been reminding all residents who are a victim of Anti-Social Behaviour to report to the Police non-emergency 101 number or 999 if it is an emergency. This needs to be done by all concerned as it will record data. This then forms a picture of what the offender/s are doing across the village with their anti-social behaviour.

### **FLY-TIPPING**

There have been five incidents of fly-tipping this month. Old London Road seems to be suffering the most. There have been 14 tyres dumped at side of road, numerous bags of rubbish and builders rubble. We have reported to Hop Oast cleansing department who will arrange for removal.

A hot spot area at the moment for fly-tipping is the car park by the scout's hall. Lots of bags of rubbish and other large household items have been dumped in this area. Bags of clothes shoes, glass bottles have all been left in this location. The removal of the re-cycling bins has not helped the situation as residents had become used to using this area for recycling. Perhaps signage needs to be placed in this area stating NO FLY-TIPPING.

### **FLY-POSTING**

It has been a very busy month with lots of fly posting across the village. I have removed several posters and cards from lamp posts and street furniture across the whole village. I will be contacting those concerned and explaining the fines should they be caught doing it again.

There is a zero tolerance on fly-posting across the village. Anyone wishing to advertise can drop their posters off to the warden's office (if warden not there drop in letterbox) and they will be placed in noticeboards across the village.

Please see Horsham District Councils website for more information on fly-posting protocols.

### **DOG FOUL**

Dog foul continues to be an issue across the village. I am doing regular dog foul patrols and if I witness dog owner not picking up their dog faeces I will issue an on the spot fine. I have been talking to dog walkers and some have given descriptions of owners who they have witnessed not picking up dog foul. I will be looking out for these offenders.

I have noticed whilst doing dog foul patrols on the recreation ground that dog owners are using the dog foul bag dispenser as their own private supply of dog bags. This dispenser is for emergency use only when dog owners have forgotten their bags. It is the dog owner's responsibility to provide bags for clearing up dog foul. Some have been leaving their dog foul in bags hanging from this dispenser. This is totally unacceptable it is the dog owner's responsibility to dispose of the dog foul. Take it home and place in their bin.

I plan to do a dog foul campaign across the village in the New Year. I will be spraying all dog foul with brightly coloured spray washable paint just to highlight how much dog foul is not being picked up by irresponsible dog owners. I must just stress that most dog walkers do pick up after their dog but sadly a few do not bother.

Hot spot areas for dog foul are Old London Road, Rectory Lane, Hillcrest Drive and recreation ground.

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I am waiting for new Dog Foul Signage. Once have received them will be replacing old signage across the village.

### **PARKING**

It has once again a busy month for parking issues. All those who have been spoken to regarding their parking obstructions have been compliant and moved their vehicles where necessary. I have been advising those with parking issues to go and talk directly with the owner of the offending vehicle/s to perhaps come to a solution which suits both parties.

### **OLD LONDON ROAD**

This area is being used for vehicles to park, Lorries etc. taking their break. There has been a time when it has been difficult to access the properties that are along the old London Road. I myself had to deal with an incident when the minibus was unable to gain access to an elderly/vulnerable property due to the road being totally blocked by a broken down vehicle. Luckily the vehicle was removed quite quickly and the elderly/vulnerable was able to get home. I have concerns for emergency access to the properties down Old London Road.

I think a sign stating ACCESS AT ALL TIMES is needed, this may help the situation. The parking along this road has definitely become worse over the last few months.

### **PARTNERSHIP WORKING**

I have been working very closely with the West Sussex Fire Service this month. I have had issues where I have needed to call upon their services in assisting a local resident. They have gone above and beyond their duties and have helped me to help the resident. Due to confidentiality I am unable to give full story of issues that I have faced but they have been very challenging. I am still working closely with the fire service and we are signposting resident to relevant agencies who can assist them further.

Whilst in the village they have fitted fire alarms to a resident's property.

I am still working closely with the environmental department Horsham District Council with issues across the village.

I have been having regular meetings with the police to discuss reports made to the police regarding issues within Ashington.

These are just a few agencies named. I am dealing with others on a regular daily basis to deal with issues in Ashington.

### **ELDERLY/VULNERABLE**

I would like to report that the New Board Game club has been a success. All that attend are enjoying the event. I will continue to run this club through the winter months. Thanks to new volunteers I have now

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arranged mini bus driver every Monday to collect the residents who attend this club. A big thank you to Pat who is providing all home cooked food for this event.

Lunch club Christmas lunch is planned for the 7<sup>th</sup> December. Pat will be once again providing a full Christmas dinner with all the trimmings. This will be followed by a good old sing a long in the afternoon provided by professional entertainer.

We have a busy schedule arranged for December, 1<sup>st</sup> December we will be doing a Christmas shopping bus to Bognor, Christmas lunch has been booked at the Round stone pub on the 14<sup>th</sup> December and the Pantomime is booked for the 21<sup>st</sup> December. We will also be having a Christmas Bingo Night where we will be having a party with all that attend Bingo bringing picky bits for all to share.

I am so pleased to report that all these clubs apart from Board games have now been running for four years and we have managed to be self-funding. This is largely due to the support from those that attend in supporting the clubs with donations for raffle, food produce etc. I must say that the raffles are very popular and this is where most of the money to keep the clubs going comes from. As a village I feel we are so lucky in having this service for all who live in the village to attend. In the New Year we will be looking at advertising all clubs and devising a leaflet to send to all residents. The more that attend these events the more we can keep the clubs going.

Although I am not organising a warden party this month thanks to the Community Centre Trust I have been able to provide a raffle at one of the events taking place in the community centre. This raffle will help me raise money towards the minibus usage to attend all the clubs. Hopefully I will make enough money to provide a free service throughout the year. Half the proceeds of the raffle will be going to the Alzheimer's help and the other half towards the minibus service. A very big thankyou needs to go to all the residents and volunteers across the village and some from outside the village who continue to donate and help with these clubs. Without the volunteers I would not be able to do the work I do within the elderly/vulnerable groups of the village.

I am very proud to state following November's lunch club all elderly/vulnerable that attended are now CPR trained. Our local first responder delivered training. We all had a go on the resuscitation dummies. Everyone received a certificate for the training they had received. We were even shown how to use the defibrillator. It was a good afternoon and everyone enjoyed the training. Following this training we celebrated one of the residents of the village 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday.

I have booked the community centre for all these clubs for next year. Thank you for the community centre trust in helping with this matter and providing the venue.

I continue to work with many in the elderly/vulnerable bracket with personal issues that they have to deal with. At the moment my priority is fuel poverty. This means that some residents are having difficulty in paying for heating etc. for their homes. I am signposting those to relevant agencies who may be able to assist. Others are having difficulty with finances which means they have limited food I am looking at food parcel schemes to help them through their rough patch. It is very sad and most of us do not realise that in this day and age there are still people struggling to deal with the basics financially and mentally of everyday life. I can hopefully offer some advice and support in what help is available to them from other agencies. Safeguarding referrals to social services regarding some of these residents have been made this month.

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I am also dealing with some residents who feel isolated and lonely. I have suggested they attend some of the clubs. This will get them out socialising with others and hopefully help their situation. I continue to do welfare checks on those concerned.

I continue to work within this group to prepare for winter. All cupboards are stocked up, torches at the ready etc. I am advising all those with community link alarms to check and do test calls on a regular basis. Fire alarms are also being tested. One went wrong at a resident's property this month but the fire service came and fixed ASAP.

There was an issue with a resident's security this month. I managed to contact the supplier of the door that would not lock and luckily they were out to repair the problem.

I have been reminding all elderly/vulnerable groups to leave lights on when going out at night, make sure all windows and doors are secure.

### **WARDEN**

I would just like to apologise for not being able to attend the Parish council meeting but my diary is so full with planned events that had been arranged when there were two wardens. I have to attend planned events luckily with the help of volunteers I have not had to cancel any. If anyone has questions or wishes to speak with me directly they can call me on 07764146367

May I take this opportunity to thank you all for the support throughout the year and a very merry Christmas to you all and a Happy New Year?

### **Appendix 2**

Horsham District Monthly update is on the Parish Council website [www.ashingtonpc.org.uk](http://www.ashingtonpc.org.uk)

### **Appendix 3**

#### **Youth Worker Report**

#### **November 2016 - Main Headlines & Highlights**

#### **Reflections on Autumn Term**

- = This term has been extremely positive engaging a large amount of new members including an increased proportion of girls compared to boys.
- = By simply communicating clearly a monthly plan using a readily visible calendar of Youth Club events, I have experienced young people excited and creating a 'buzz' about what is to come.
- = In particular, when I am around the community engaging with young people they know clearly know what is coming up and are able to create buzz through word of mouth amongst their peers.
- = This was particular evident during a recent session which necessitated young people bringing t-shirts to tie-dye. We had particularly high attendance (31) with nearly all young people engaging with that particular activity.
- = Similarly to what has been communicated in previous reports, we have moved away from formal, educational style approaches to sessions which both somewhat mirrored young peoples' school experiences and received poor feedback. We have found it particularly successful with positive feedback running sessions of

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- :- This past month in particular, we have been able to really begin **developing young leaders** who have grown up engaged with the youth club. Through setting out our clear expectations of them, it has been empowering to these young people/adults being given this new role.
- :- Within our older youth club session hosted on a Monday, this term we have subtly introduced the concept of the session being aimed directly at 13-16yr olds with any post-GCSE/16+ young people being there at our discretion. Although the aim wasn't to purposely exclude particularly troublesome young people, we have been able to cater our sessions towards the intended age group with the few post-GCSE/16+ both helping around the youth club and not working against the intended culture.
- :- This term we have struggled to maintain high levels of volunteer leaders

### **Looking ahead**

- :- Next term
- :- Carrying on from the above stated feedback from developing young leaders within the club, we would love to see this particular initiative developed further, with young people both attending and being able to serve in a young-leaders role.
- :- Following on from feedback from local youth workers. They have found it particularly fruitful to dedicate what would be the first session back in a new term to being purely a team evening. **Thursday 5th January** will therefore be set aside as a **team evening**, to get our team of volunteers together ahead of the new term.
- :- Christmas
- :- The youth Club will host it's final session on Monday December 19th before re-opening on Monday January 9th.
- :- Looking ahead to Summer 2017 & Ashington Carnival
- :- Over the previous few years it has proven to be particularly difficult to gather young people to participate in the annual carnival procession, we are looking ahead to alternative ways in which we can engage our young people with the carnival. In particular, feedback we have received already include young people hosting a Youth Club stall to raise money to cover refurbishment costs within the club.

### **Ongoing Training, Development & Networking**

- :- I have maintained my networking with a number of local youth workers from Horsham-Matters to discuss current issues, compare approaches and provide insight on challenges.
- :- This networking has also included in particular, engaging with Angie Choat from the Southwater Youth Project during a junior youth session.
- :- Following our team night, we intend to pursue training to further equip our team of volunteer leaders as best possible in the spring term.

### **Reflections from networking with Southwater Youth Project**

- :- Angie has been in her role, overseeing this youth project for 10 years and has been able to provide not only encouragement, but a great deal of insight concerning our similar youth projects from a perspective of being 8 years further ahead.
- :- Ashington Youth Club & Southwater Youth Club have shared a large number of the same challenges which has been particular encouraging to hear that we have explored the same approaches to tackle such problems.
- :- In particular, Angie was able to share her experience of developing young people into leaders within the club. This has been something that we have not explored fully until recently.
- :- My reflections on this while attending one of their sessions was that the main 'running' of the sessions was carried out by these young leaders while Angie and other leaders act more as a support

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structure to both enable these young leaders to succeed while also ensuring a safe and effective setting for youth work.

- ∴ The main premise of this would be that young people would not be leaders within a session they could attend. Therefore a 14yr old may be a young-leader at our 10-13yr old session and a 16+ young person may help at our Monday 13-16yr old session etc.
- ∴ Furthermore, while practically these young people help tremendously in the running of sessions, they are not included within any numbers surrounding safeguarding adult:child ratios.
- ∴ Another interesting concept Angie introduced was the effective use of one-to-one mentoring she does in local schools with young people from Southwater.
- ∴ Following on from this, I would like to pursue the options with local schools (Steyning Grammar / Rydon) of working with Ashington young people in schools on a one-to-one basis.
- ∴ My feedback from other local youth workers is that this can be extremely effective methods in working with individuals although it requires a large amount of time-resources poured into individuals.
- ∴ In particular, in the past a number of young people from Ashington have shared positive feedback from such mentoring schemes led by the Emma Edwards (Youth worker based out of the Cuthman Centre at Steyning Grammar School).
- ∴ I intend to follow up on this meeting by visiting Southwater Youth club during one of their sessions for older-youth in the coming weeks to gain a comprehensive experience of another local youth club.

#### **Further Youth services in Ashington**

- I am continuing to work with 3rd party services to provide additional evening of youth provisions within Ashington from January.

28.11.16 - Paddy Donovan, Senior Youth Worker

#### **Appendix 4**

##### **Funds held by the Parish Council on behalf of others**

First Responders	£ 2941.73
Bingo Club	£ 264.19

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