



Ashington Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 11th January 2018 at 7:45p.m. in Ashington School, Foster Lane, Ashington

Present: Councillors: N. Spiers (Chairman), J. Stillwell (Vice-Chairman) S. Ball, S. Cox, T. Currell, L. di Castiglione, T. Kearney, G. McPherson, M. Woolley, K. Wood.

Also present: Clerk - Celia Price, District Councillor - D. Jenkins, 14 Members of the Public

The Chairman reminded members of the public the requirement that they limit their participation to the Public Adjournment sections of the meeting. 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.

001/18 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received and approved from Richard Strudwick (Councillor), Paul Marshall (County Councillor), Philip Circus and John Blackall (District Councillors), Bryony Sparks (Neighbourhood Warden)

002/18 Declaration of Interests and notification of change of interests

The Chairman reminded councillors that previous declarations still stand (as defined under the Localism Act 2011). Cllr Woolley declared an interest in correspondence for action, Church Close tree surgery request and Malthouse Lane planning application DC/17/2861

003/18 Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 7th December 2017

The minutes of the meeting dated 7th December 2017 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman. Proposed by Cllr Woolley, seconded by Cllr Kearney and agreed by all.

004/18 Neighbourhood Wardens Report (Appendix 1)

Cllr Stillwell gave an overview of the report.

005/18 Youth Worker Report (Appendix 2)

The Chair gave an overview of the report

006/18 Report from District and County Councillors

Cllr Jenkins reiterated apologies from his District and County Councillor colleagues. Unfortunately, the meeting clashed with discussions in preparation for the changes in refuse collections.

Cllr Marshall had emailed the clerk earlier in the day asking that a reminder be issued regarding the deadline for the CLC grants. It is important any grant requested are received as soon as possible for consideration in this quarter as after this time the mechanism will change.

It was resolved that the information be noted and communicated to the Youth Worker.

007/18 Public Adjournment

The Chairman invited questions and comments from the public and the following was raised.

- The fencing round the pond near the Turnpike Way / Posthorses play area needs replacing.
The Chairman responded advising that the council is aware and has approached the WSCC Ranger service for assistance.

- Has the question regarding land ownership at the rear of Crickets Close been resolved?
The Chairman reported that it has.

- We were promised parking enforcement following the implementation of car park charges. When will this happen?
The Chairman responded advising that at the HALC meeting prior to Christmas attendees had been advised that to date there have not been any additional parking enforcement officers recruited. However, the wardens are working with the existing enforcement officers who have agreed to attend and visit known problem areas.

- 8 members of the public present were representing Malthouse Lane residents in objection to planning application DC/17/2861. The following points were raised
 - This is a green field site and is surrounded by agricultural fields.
 - The site is outside the BUAB
 - Access will be a problem requiring large vehicles to move along a single-track road. Major roadworks will be required.
 - There will be considerable noise and light pollution
 - Concerns were raised about the destruction of historic hedging which is contrary to the local plan.
 - The application states that lighting will be needed but there are no details and there are concerns regarding neon and/or inappropriate lighting.
 - The lane is of historical interest with two listed buildings, one of which overlooks the proposed site.
 - There are other locations available eg Rock Industrial Estate and Chanctonbury Nurseries site.
 - There is clear separation of the existing Wiston Industrial Estate from agricultural land by an existing public footpath. The proposed development will breach that existing barrier.
 - There is an active badger set on the site.
 - There are concerns about increased flooding. Disruption of water drainage has already been adversely affected by the Wiston Industrial Estate having Malthouse Lane and the A24 prone to flooding. The application makes no mention of water drainage assessment or plan.
 - Increased surface water and flooding causing dangerous conditions on the busy A24
 - Access to Ashington village by footpath is poor with the path along the A24 in poor repair and dangerous.

- Residents have requested the reinstatement of the village coach trips and this is being investigated by volunteers.
The chairman thanked the resident and noted the comment.
- The Christmas Fair was wonderful but can the school be involved?
The Chairman advised this is not a Parish Council matter.
- Comment was made on the planning application for Ashington Autos DC/17/2756
It is scandalous that the planning application has been made retrospectively by an applicant that knows the system having recently obtained planning consent. There is a reduction of screening from the A24, there is an impact on surface water on the old London Road. Increased traffic and parking in this area are already causing problems. The applicant's existing space is under used. There has been no review of the impact on wildlife since the building of Ashington Autos, the BP garage and the Barge on this site.
It was resolved that the comments be noted.
- Lorries parking on the pavement near M&S are causing hazards for pedestrians and motorists alike.
The Chairman advised that the Parish Council continue to work with WSCC Highways on this issue.

008/18 Young Persons Adjournment

None present

The Chairman closed the public adjournments and thanked everyone for their comments

009/18 Action List Update

The action list has been reviewed and the following was noted

- a) London Road (verge outside the White Cottage)
The Rangers have successfully completed this project.
- b) Mill Lane Culvert
The Clerk has contacted Operation Watershed and is awaiting feedback. WSCC and Opus are looking at a new trash screen design.
- c) Warmingshurst and Posthorses play areas
The S106 application was successful and the orders for both play areas have been placed. It is anticipated that the work will be carried out and completed between February half term and the Easter Holidays to minimise disruption to users.
- d) ACCT working together
Meeting scheduled for Thursday 18th January
- e) Data Protection
The Clerk is working with the consultants

010/18 Correspondence received for action

The following correspondence was received and discussed

- a) Resident request for tree surgery in Church Close
 Cllr Woolley left the meeting
 Councillors discussed the request at length concluding that in accordance with Parish Council regular practice, the resident should be allowed to remove the tree at their cost. The chairman conducted a vote with the majority agreeing.
 It was therefore resolved that the resident be allowed to remove the tree and make good the land at their own cost. It was also agreed that a replacement tree be planted in a location to be decided by the Parish Council again at the resident's cost.
 Cllr Woolley returned
- b) Consideration of the possibility of a new War Memorial
 The Chairman, Cllr McPherson and the clerk have been investigating the possibility of a village war memorial. Cllr McPherson reported his findings regarding casualties of both World Wars and advised of possible funding through the War Memorials Trust or the Armed Forces Covenant Fund. Cllr Currell expressed an interest in assisting with this project.
 It was resolved that Cllr Spiers, Cllr McPherson, Cllr Currell and the clerk be given delegated responsibility to investigate further.
- c) Request for a new footpath from the village to Big Plant Nursery
 The clerk has approached WSCC Highways who have agreed to assess feasibility

 It was resolved that the clerk should continue investigations.
- d) WSCC School admissions consultation
 Circulated to councillors prior to the meeting.

 It was agreed to note the information.
- e) Consultation regarding draft Public Rights of Way Management Plan
 Circulated to councillors prior to the meeting.

 It was agreed to note the information.

011/18 Correspondence received for information

The following were distributed to councillors

- a) NALC briefing – GDPR
- b) WSCC – members information newsletters
- c) SALC – Chief Executive bulletin
- d) HDC – New CE announcement
- e) HALC – minutes from meeting held on 13th November
- f) The Clerk Magazine

It was agreed to note the information

012/18 Meetings attended by Councillors

The following meetings were attended by councillors

Date	Meeting	Attendees
19 th December	HDC Planning Update	Cllr Spiers and the clerk

8 th January	Warden Steering Group	Cllr Ball, Cllr Stillwell and the clerk
9 th January	Youth Partnership Group	Cllr Spiers
9 th January	HALC	Cllr Ball and the clerk

013/18 Matters raised by Councillors

None

014/18 Chairman's announcements

The Chairman noted that there had been fly posting regarding objections to DC/17/2861. Residents were reminded about the laws regarding fly posting.

Planning

015/18 Minutes of the planning meeting held on 20th December 2017

The minutes of the planning meeting held on 20th December were distributed to councillors prior to the meeting. The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting, proposed by Cllr Kearney, seconded by Cllr Wood and agreed by all.

016/18 Planning correspondence

The following was distributed to councillors prior to the meeting

- a) HDC Brownfield Land Register (Part 1)

It was resolved that the information be noted.

017/18 Neighbourhood Plan update

The draft Site Assessments were prepared by the Planning Consultant and NHPlan Clerk in early December. These were sent out to all individual Site Promoters for correction of any factual errors and asking them for an indication of whether they would be willing to provide some community benefit on their site. The deadline for these responses is 12th January. The responses will be checked carefully and updates made before progressing on to the next stage of Site Assessment/Selection work. In the meantime the Planning Consultant has begun preparation of the SEA Scoping Report.

It was resolved that the information be noted.

018/18 New Enforcement Allegations

None

019/18 Planning applications

The following applications were reviewed and discussed

**DC/17/2130 Robin Cottage, Church Lane
Retrospective application for exterior rendering works (listed building consent)**

It was resolved that there are no objections.

DC/17/2756 Ashington Autos

Erection of a single storey portal frame building for storage purposes and additional hard standing

This application was discussed and objections raised on the grounds of overdevelopment, light and noise pollution, loss of amenity including screening from the A24 and damage to wildlife. It was also requested that this application be determined by committee and if permission is granted a condition of B8 use be agreed.

It was resolved that the council object on these grounds. The planning committee has already requested this application be determined by committee rather than delegated officer and the Chair will attend to represent the Parish Council

DC/17/2861 Land adjacent to Malthouse Lane

Construction of a single storey commercial unit and associated vehicle parking

Cllr Woolley left the meeting

The application was reviewed and discussed at length with consideration of all comments made it was resolved the Parish Council object to this planning application on the following grounds. It was also resolved that the Parish Council request this application to be determined by committee.

Landscape

a. This is a greenfield site providing a 'separation gap' between the busy Wiston Business Park and the residential area of Malthouse Lane. Development of this site would reduce the gap and potentially have an adverse impact on the residents of Malthouse Lane.

b. it is not clear whether new vegetation screening is to be provided on the application site or whether screening is reliant upon existing vegetation on adjoining land. This is a countryside location and it would be essential to provide adequate screening.

Noise and lighting

a. the proposed new workshop is located on the part of the site closest to Malthouse Lane residential properties. There is a concern about increased noise levels that would affect the amenities of these residents.

b. lighting is proposed for the site but no details are provided. Again this could affect the amenity of nearby residents.

Economic Development

a. Rock Business Park is very close to the application site, has recently been redeveloped and it is understood that there are empty units available. It is known locally that CSM Bakery (Kate's Cakes Units 1,2 and 3) are moving away from Wiston Business Park and this will leave Wiston Business Park with a large area of empty commercial space. Is it really justified to turn greenfield site into commercial space when so much other space is available locally? In addition, Chanctonbury Nurseries Caravan Site is available within Ashington itself (1km away).

Transport

a. Transport links to nearby settlements are very poor: There is no safe cycle/walk route to Ashington village. The Transport statement refers to the footpath that runs directly beside the A24 dual carriageway - this is extremely dangerous to use and there is no barrier separating pedestrians/cyclists from the fast moving traffic. The Transport statement also refers to local PROW - these are impractical to use due to their poor surfacing, the fact that the route into Ashington village is a Public Footpath (not Bridleway) and is not available to cyclists. The bus option is extremely limited in terms of timetable.

b. The only access and egress from the site is on to the northbound A24 dual carriageway. The Transport statement 2.2.2 states that the 'off slip and on slip depart from DMRB standards'. Whilst the accident data may not identify problems at this location Ashington PC has been in many discussions with WSCC about this junction regarding poor signage, short slip roads generating a large number of 'near-miss' incidents. In addition, any vehicles wishing to travel

south from the site will need to head northbound on the A24 and turn at Ashington - the turn point at Hole Street is again a sub-standard slip road which will result in large vehicles travelling through the village.

Neighbourhood Plan

Whilst the Neighbourhood Plan may be 'at an early stage' this planning application site forms part of a much larger piece of land that has been submitted to the Ashington Neighbourhood Plan for development consideration (called Site 2). The Neighbourhood Plan will very shortly (January-March) be assessing all 17 short-listed sites for their potential to accommodate both residential and business uses. The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group would like to be able to complete its work objectively and fairly considering all of the available 17 sites on their own merits.

Cllr Woolley returned to the meeting

020/18 Horsham District Council Decisions

Approvals

DC/17/2339 Wiston Business Park
Proposed extension for separate storage unit

DC/17/2403 33 The Sands
Erection of single storey rear extension

DC/17/2431 26 Cricketers Close
Erection of two storey side extension

Refusals

None

Withdrawals

None

Appeals Lodged

DC/17/1616 27 Merios Way
Retrospective change of use to incorporate additional land into residential curtilage and erection of boundary fence.

DC/17/1600 26 Cricketers Close
Appeal against conditions

It was resolved that the information be noted.

Finance

021/18 Budget / Precept 18/19

The chairman advised of the proposed budget recommendation from the Finance committee (meeting dated 29th November).

It was resolved that the precept for 2018/19 be set at £ 99,852 being an increase of 2%

022/18 Income

There was no income reported

023/18 Expenditure (Appendix 3)

It was resolved that the schedule of invoices for payment totalling £47,124.01 be approved.

Date of Next meetings

The next Planning Committee meeting is at **7:30pm on Wednesday 24th January 2018** at the Sports Pavilion, Church Lane.

The next Parish Council will be held at **7:45pm on Thursday 1st February 2018** at Ashington School, Foster Lane.

There be no other business the meeting concluded at 9:05pm

Signed.....

Dated.....

Appendix 1 – Warden Report

Appendix 2 – Youth Worker Report

Appendix 3 – Expenditure

Appendix 4

Funds held by the Parish Council on behalf of others:

Ashington Rangers	£ 1024.00
First Responders	£ 2779.85

Bingo Club

£ 264.19