



Ashington Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on 7th March 2013 at 8.00 p.m. in Ashington School, Foster Lane, Ashington

Present: Councillors M. Woolley, K. Wood, R. Brennan, T. Kearney, B. Norton, D. Harbour, N. Carver, N. Clark & R. Strudwick
Parish Clerk Karen Dare
County Councillor Frank Wilkinson
Neighbourhood Warden Peter Newell
2 member of the public
Invited Guests – 3 representatives from ACCT

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

063/13 APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs R. Lancaster (business) & J. Gichovi-Elias (holiday), Neighbourhood Warden Jayne Jeffrey (illness), District Councillor Roger Arthur (holiday)

064/13 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

The Chairman reminded Councillors that previous declarations still stand.

065/13 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 7th February 2013 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman. Proposed by Councillor Strudwick and seconded by Councillor Brennan, and agreed.

066/13 REPORT FROM THE NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDENS & PCSO

PCSO report (see Appendix 2).

Wardens report (See Appendix 1). The Chairman thanked the Wardens for their report.

Review of Jayne Jeffrey absence: HDC has agreed a reduction in Warden costs for the time that Jayne is absent. Do we need additional cover? It was agreed that no additional cover was required.

KD C/F

Questions for the Wardens from Councillors & Members of the public:

1. Fire engines, ambulance & police had attended a recent incident at Cricketers Close – this was a small domestic incident involving smoke in a residential property.
2. Vehicle parking at the Co-op – very strong smell of cannabis. The Police/Wardens will investigate/monitor.
3. A resident had followed a Police Land Rover that travelled at 40mph in the 30mph limit along Billingshurst Road – PCSO Sparks to speak to colleagues.

067/13 INVITED GUESTS – ASHINGTON COMMUNITY CENTRE TRUST

Trevor Pratt (ACCT Treasurer) spoke about plans for 'Phase 2' of the Community Centre:

Due to the increasing costs and time required in maintaining the old, dilapidated buildings along Church Lane (old hall, sports pavilion, scout hall) and the fact that the buildings are not fit for purpose it is ACCT's intention to replace these facilities by way of extension(s) to the Community Centre. Users of the existing old facilities have been consulted and produced their 'wish list' and future plans would reflect what facilities are needed, as much as funds available allow.

The only way ACCT can see to raise funds for the project is to sell some land for housing. Two sites have been considered by ACCT and their advisors – Church Lane (old hall to scout hall, @0.7 acre) or the One Acre (north of Foster Lane). Preference would be for the One Acre as this is the larger of the 2 sites, would enable continued use of the old buildings until the new facilities were built, would allow extension of the Recreation Ground for needed sports use/car parking.

In order to maximise the value generated by the sale of community land ACCT would seek planning permission for 100% market value homes to be built on the site. Under normal circumstances HDC would require up to 40% affordable homes to be built for the benefit of the community, however, this is a unique project in that ALL money generated from the sale would be used to pay for new community facilities therefore there is a very measureable benefit to the community. It is important that the Parish Council supports the plans for 100% market value homes otherwise HDC may refuse planning permission.

ACCT had asked several architects to produce conceptual designs (to match funding likely to be generated from the sale of land) and these were shown to the Council. It was stressed that they were not final plans but simply a starting point. In order to develop plans further ACCT would need to formally engage the architect but did not want to commit funds to this until they had in principle support from the Parish Council. Councillors were reminded that the existing Community Centre has planning permission for 2 additional 'wings' and much of the plumbing/electrics are in place ready for the extensions. More detailed costings, business plans, financial viability etc would be made available in time, if the Parish Council supported the project. ACCT had not wanted to invest time and money in preparing these until this initial agreement with the Parish Council had been reached.

Questions/comments:

1. ACCT would need to find a new home for the play equipment (possibly on the Church Lane site) if the One Acre was developed. For discussion at a later date.

2. The Public Works Loan taken out by the Council in 2002 to part-fund the new Community Centre should be re-paid by ACCT if the One Acre is sold (Councillors recalled that this was stipulated by the Parish Council as part of the agreement for the PWL, Clerk to check the minutes of the meeting and provide balance outstanding figure to ACCT for info). This is a decision for a later date when more information about the financial viability of the project is known.

KD D

3. What type of homes would be built? The architect/planning consultant would advise on this and would bear in mind the results of the recent HNS in the village. The houses would be designed to maximise the financial return on the sale of the land.
4. Better parking and more space for football pitches is needed for the Recreation Ground therefore the One Acre could be the best option.
5. If houses are built on the Church Lane site then a high fence would be needed to prevent balls from getting into gardens, otherwise ACCT could find the Recreation Ground closed to ball games on Health & Safety grounds.
6. Grants may be available to help fund the project – s106 money, possible Church funding (as the Church use the Scout Hall and Youth Club on Sundays)
7. Has ACCT consulted AiRS? Not yet, but their architect is experienced in designing village halls.
8. How do ACCT plan to publicise/seek feedback from residents on this project? A feedback facility would be available on ACCT website, at the right time Newsletter articles could be considered. ACCT welcome input from residents.
9. ACCT would need to consult with the Charities Commission on the correct procedures for selling land.

It was agreed that, in principle, that the Parish Council support 100% market homes on either the Church Lane or One Acre site solely for the purposes of funding Phase 2 of the Community Centre. Councillors favour development on the One Acre rather than Church Lane, would like to be kept informed of the project and be involved during the planning stage and reserved the right to support or oppose specific proposals once more detail was available. Councillors would need to decide on the PWL situation at the appropriate time in the project, and ask that ACCT bear in mind the play equipment situation if the One Acre is taken forward for development and that any new buildings be sympathetic to their environment.

ACCT thanked the Council for their decision and stressed that this was just the start of a long term project, there are no guarantees that planning permission will be secured, or that permission to sell the land will be agreed but they were now in a position to take the project forward and are comfortable in incurring costs to do this.

068/13 YOUNG PERSONS ADJOURNMENT

None present.

069/13 REPORT FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

County Councillor Frank Wilkinson reported:

1. At the recent speed bump meeting (minute 071/13) WSCC has agreed to replace the worst speed bump with tarmac to see if this reduces noise, vibrations and maintenance issues. WSCC has agreed to remove some speed bumps in Bramber High Street due to vibration damage to nearby properties.
2. WSCC will be sending a road sweeper to remove the large amount of loose chippings along Church Lane.
3. WSCC has agreed to seek a quote to repair the first speed bump along Church Lane as vehicles 'ground' even at very low speeds.

Questions: None

The Chairman thanked County Councillor Wilkinson for his report.

ACTIONS OUTSTANDING:

D = Minuted but deleted from next agenda.

C/F = Minuted and carried forward to 'Actions Outstanding' on the next agenda.

To list = moved to the list at the end of the minutes until some progress is made

070/13 Community Action Plan

Updated list on the PC website.

KD C/F

071/13 Speed bumps in London Road

A meeting took place between County Councillor Wilkinson, Ed Dickinson (Rural Highways Manager WSCC), the Chairman & Clerk on 27th February to have a look at the construction of the speed bumps in London Road. WSCC recognised that granite speed bumps are not usually installed outside of conservation areas and there are issues with frequency of maintenance, noise and vibration. WSCC agreed to seek quotes from a contractor to replace the worst bump (needing the highest maintenance, having loose setts, cracked grouting etc) with tarmac (possibly patterned or coloured) as an experiment to see if a different surface proved more durable and less of a nuisance. The Parish Council would then need to seek community support (via Newsletter, letters to residents) to support further replacements if the trial proved successful. It was made clear that the PC is not seeking to remove the bumps but to replace with a more suitable material.

WSCC also agreed to seek quotes for repair of the Church Lane speed bump (near the bollards) as vehicles are regularly scraping the tarmac, even at low speed.

072/13 Nature Trail fence and repairs to path

The Clerk is seeking quotes. The post at Aladdins Cave end of the path also needs replacing.

KD C/F

073/13 Hanging baskets

Basket costs:

Ferring Nurseries £12.60 per basket + £25 delivery charge

Ferring Country Centre £10 per basket

Councillors agreed two thirds of baskets to Ferring Nurseries and one third to Ferring Country Centre. Ferring Country Centre would be asked to plant with larger flowers than last year. Clerk to decide a colour scheme. **KD D**

074/13 Assets of Community Value (Community Right to bid)

A building or piece of land is deemed to have community value if:

- The use of the land or building currently, or in the recent past, furthers the social well-being or social interests (which includes cultural, recreational or sporting interests) of the local community.
- The use (as described above) of the building or land will continue to further the social well-being or interests of the local community.
- The use of the land or building that meets the social wellbeing or interests of the community must be its principle rather than secondary or 'ancillary' purpose. Residential properties, their gardens, outbuildings and other associated land cannot be listed as a community asset.

Before nominating an asset Councillors should ask themselves 'if the property/land comes onto the open market would we seriously consider buying it'.

Councillors agreed that the following assets should be investigated: Parish Church, allotments, Village shop (Co-op), Methodist Hall, Red Lion, Community Centre, School, Social Club. Clerk to progress. **KD C/F**

CORRESPONDENCE

075/13 For action:

1. Does any Councillor wish to volunteer to help at Junior Citizen Scheme events in March? No volunteers
2. Letter from Ashington resident asking the Council to write to WSCC in support of Public Footpath surface improvements needed on FP2605, 2505 & 2611. Clerk to write. **KD D**
3. Application to vary Premises Licence at Ashington Co-op. The proposal is to extend the hours when licensable activities can take place from 8am-11pm Monday-Saturday and 10am-10.30pm Sunday to 6am-11pm every day. This letter is for information only as the Parish Council is not an 'interested party' as defined in the Licensing Act. Nearby residents can respond to the application.

076/13 For information:

1. HDC – Green Space Strategy. A high-level strategy for the management of HDC owned green spaces.
2. WSCC – update on faster broadband
3. HDC – Bus Partnership meeting 21st March at 11am
4. AIRS – free Neighbourhood Planning workshops
5. WSCC – CLC minutes from December 2012.
6. NALC – retirement of Chief Executive.

7. Opus International have now started work for WSCC. One of the sites to be investigated and taken forward for design is Mill Lane, Ashington. Opus are currently working on 4 schemes, identified following the June flooding or as part of the 'Community Flood Prevention Fund' work. WSCC is hopeful that they will be able to start work on Mill Lane within the next 4 to 6 weeks and will be in touch soon to arrange and meeting with all interested parties.
8. SPAG Agenda & Minutes.

077/13 General:

1. Nominations are invited for Sussex Heritage Trust Awards
2. Clerks & Councils Direct magazine
3. SALC Newsletter
4. The Clerk magazine

078/13 PUBLIC ADJOURNMENT

Members of the public reported:

1. Speed bumps in The Sands are falling apart – Clerk to investigate and report to WSCC. **KD D**
2. A member of the public asked for an update on Penn Retreat (see minute 080/13)
3. The footpath from Rectory Lane to Penn Gardens was in a poor state of repair. This has already been reported to WSCC.
4. Ashington has very few articles in the local newspapers. The Clerk explained that Parish Clerks & members of the public were encouraged to submit articles, reporters rarely attended Council meetings.
5. Vehicles driving over verges owned by HDC in The Sands. Clerk to report to HDC. **KD D**
6. The Clerk was asked if she could arrange permission from WSCC for the Festival bunting again this year. Agreed. **KD D**
7. Did the HNS reveal a need for 'retirement homes' in the village as there are a number of elderly residents in large houses who could downsize? The Chairman responded that there was some evidence that homes for the elderly are needed and this information had been conveyed to the agent acting on behalf of the owner of Hoots House in December 2012.

The Chairman thanked members of the public for their comments.

079/13 PLANNING.

The Planning Committee did not meet on 20th February as there were no applications to discuss.

080/13 Correspondence

1. ERHA – have not been able to find local residents to take two of the shared ownership flats at Meiros Farm. They intend to let the two flats on the open market on short term assured shorthold tenancies. Their aim is to sell them (shared ownership) in the future but rather than have them empty they will let them for a period of a year with a view to reviewing the situation near the end

- of the tenancies/year.
2. Copy of letter from resident sent to HDC complaining about a nearby roof extension.
 3. Penn Retreat – subject to confirmation of the s106 agreement for outline application DC/12/1975 (erection of 15 homes) HDC will then formally approve the application. The owner will then withdraw planning application DC/10/1288 (6 gypsy pitches)
 4. DC/12/1686 New dwelling at 1 Hillcrest Close – Clerk to ask District Councillor Roger Arthur to request that this application is decided by HDC Development Control Committee South, rather than Officer delegation. **KD D**

081/13 New Enforcement Allegations/Information

None

082/13 Amendments

DC/12/1276 Demolition of existing buildings, provision of second access and formation of an equine hospital and associated facilities – Westlands Farm, Billingshurst Road
The Parish Council support the application. There are a number of issues that the Parish Council would like addressed:

1. Lighting – there appears to be a large amount of lighting, some of which appears to be obstructing the path of vehicles. There are no details of operational hours for the @58 proposed external lights. The Council is concerned about light pollution in this rural location and would like to see time restrictions on the use of the majority of external lights.
2. Highways – the Council is still concerned about highways safety, particularly with use of the existing access by staff and service vehicles but would be guided by WSCC who will advise on this aspect.
3. Given that the roof height is higher because the main building is now not proposed to be dug into the ground it is suggested that the colour of the roof be in sympathy with the environment otherwise it will be highly visible.
4. No details of proposed drainage have been supplied.

083/13 Applications

None

Horsham District Council

084/13 Approvals

DC/12/2351 Installation of a solar array of 250hW and associated switchgear shed in 0.5 hectares of land adjacent to sewage works London Road, Ashington - Broadbridge Farm Hole Street Ashington

085/13 Refusals

None

086/13 Withdrawals

None

087/13 Appeals made/ decisions

None

The next Planning Committee meeting is scheduled for 20th March 2013 at 7.00pm.

FINANCE

088/13 Parish Office

The Clerk moved out of the office on 17th February. There is a small amount of rent owed to ACCT for the period 1st January -17th February = £101.77

The County Records Office will store the Council's Minute books – Cllr Norton to deliver to Chichester.

Other records will be stored at the Clerk's house.

Phone & broadband – it was proposed to:

1. Cancel the broadband – the Chiropractor & Youth Club are the only users and the Chiropractor will install his own broadband and has agreed that the Youth Club can use this. Clerk to cancel contract, saving £14.99 per month = £179.88pa. Agreed
2. Cancel the phone and replace with PAYG mobile, saving @£200pa. The Clerk would be able to answer the mobile phone whilst working at home and the phone could be monitored by a Councillor when the Clerk is away. It is proposed that a new ansaphone message be put on the office phone alerting callers of the Council's new mobile number and the BT contract is cancelled at the end of March. Agreed
3. Share the Wardens landline number – the Wardens can pass messages to the Clerk on a regular basis. Agreed

These recent actions will result in @£1000 savings pa in office costs. **KD C/F**

089/13 Photocopier

The Council pays £175pa for a maintenance contract on the photocopier. The contract period has now expired and the Council is free to decide whether to carry on or not. The Clerk copies @35 sheets per month (agendas for the public).

If the Clerk used her own inkjet printer the equivalent ink cost would be maximum £20pa.

It was proposed to cancel the maintenance contract, keep the photocopier and continue to use it while it still works. Agreed by all. **KD D**

090/13 Correspondence

1. Consider a request for a donation to West Sussex Mediation Service. Not agreed.

091/13 Appointment of Internal Auditor

The Council needs to agree on the appointment of this years' Internal Auditor. Last years' auditor is available for the same cost (£200 fixed fee). The Auditor would be asked about the appropriateness of the Council's bank accounts. Agreed. **KD D**

092/13 Income

NS&I annual interest £886.02

Donation to First Responders £100

093/13 Expenditure

		Cheque no.	
Mark Adsett	Gardeners contract payment	£483.33	1377
Mrs K. Dare	Clerks expenses (home & telephone)	£17	
	Equipment for Bingo Club	£236.70	
	Travel	£15.60	
	Fenceposts	£18.12	
	Total	£287.42	1378
WSSC	Salary and on costs (February)	£844.93	1379
Plusnet	Broadband	£17.99	DD
M. Woolley	travel expenses	£14.50	1380
P. Newell	lunch club equipment	£122.94	1381
HDC	litter & dog bin emptying	£299.00	1382

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

094/13 MEETINGS

The Clerk & Chairman met with Ed Dickinson & Frank Wilkinson (WSSC, minute 070/13). Other issues discussed were:

1. The surfacing of Church Lane. WSSC would be arranging the road sweeper to visit again.
2. Re-surfacing of the A24 with quieter running tarmac – WSSC re-iterated that it is simply not economical to replace the surface when it is in good condition. The new surface would be installed just as soon as the old surface required replacement.
3. The inadequacy of WSSC highway inspections, repairs and communication. WSSC are aware of these issues and are seeking to address them.

The Chairman attended the HDC Development Control South meeting of 19th February.

095/13 MINOR MATTERS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS

1. A resident of Church Lane has asked about trimming of trees on Council land. The Council had previously decided that the trees did not need work, however, if residents wished to have them cut at their own expense then 10% crown reduction would be acceptable and the work should be done by Mark Adsett. Clerk to write to the resident. **KD D**
2. Cllr Norton informed the Council that he understood that there is a petition being circulated about Luckista Caravan Park. He had no details of the wording of the petition.
3. Cllr Harbour informed the Council that the EIB in the Co-op had out of date messages. The Clerk responded that it appears that the board is not working properly as she has been updating the messages on a regular basis. She had asked the supplier to check that there were no problems at their end but they reported that it appeared to be working. Cllr Harbour to ask the Co-op Manager to switch the Board off and on to see if this solved the problem. **DH D**
4. Cllr Kearney informed the Council that following a power cut that affected a large portion of the village UK Power Networks had found a cable fault outside Hoots House. They would need to repair and this could involve further power cuts and trench work outside Hoots House.
5. Councillors asked the Clerk to see if she could find out the latest position on construction of the petrol station at the northern end of the village. **KD D**
6. The gas works at The Close were causing a highway safety hazard as the barriers had no lights at night. Clerk to report to WSCC Highways. **KD D**
7. A Councillor asked what to do in the event of being bitten by a dog. The Clerk reminded all present that dog bites should be reported to the Police as they maintain records of such incidents and will take appropriate action.

The next meeting will be held at **7.45pm on Thursday 4th April 2013 at Ashington School, Foster Lane.**

The meeting finished at 10.05pm

Signed.....

Date.....

APPENDIX 1: REPORT FROM NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDENS

Jayne

Some good news on the Jayne front she has been recently back to the specialist and he is pleased that her knee is healing well. She is now moving onto physiotherapy and is hoping that as soon as she is confident enough to get back to “light” duties here in Ashington. This hopefully will be only a few weeks from now.

Lunch Club

We have just had our second lunch club of the year which is proving to be successful already. We had more turn up to this club than last month which is great news. We continue to advertise the club locally and in neighbouring areas and welcome anyone to attend. In February we raised enough funds from our first lunch club to pay for the food and just about the hall costs. So hopefully moving forward we will be fine. We are in the process of putting together a club constitution and will shortly be going through the process of getting our own bank account etc.

Saxon Weald Grant

A big thank you must be extended to Saxon Weald for a very generous grant of £500 towards the Lunch club and bingo club. This funding will secure the future of both clubs most certainly for the year and quite likely further. We hope that we continue to get the current support for the months to come.

Bingo Club

Our first bingo session isn't until 29th of March, yes good Friday, and we hope to get a similar support for that as we did our lunch club. We are aiming to have an evening of 10 games split into two halves. First half for prizes the second for cash prizes, with an interval of light refreshments.

White Van

There has been a large white van parked outside the flooring shop / pharmacy for a good number of weeks. The van appeared all in order but unfortunately was making access to the shops and houses / flats behind awkward at best. Finally thanks to some persuasive support from Sussex Police the van has now moved. It appears to have belonged to someone in Sompting or nearby.

Co-op

The co-op was recently part of Sussex Police's Operation Teepee, which is their operation to carry out test purchasing along with their licencing team. They send in a volunteer / cadet who are under 18 or younger to try and purchase age related goods. I am pleased to inform everyone that the CO-OP passed this test. This certainly bolsters our opinion that a tighter ship is being run there. Also for everyone's information the CO-OP is now closing at 10pm not 11pm. This was as of the 1st of March.

Problems with Elderly / Vulnerable Resident

I have been working with one of our Elderly and Vulnerable residents to deal with a problem that has occurred whilst getting some help with her gardening. It appears there was a disagreement between two people who were working on her garden and as a result has led to a falling out with the resident stuck in the middle. In the end I had to attend one daytime to tell one of the “workers” to not go back on her property. This led to some significant confrontation and has resulted in me reporting the person to the Police. There are other issues along with this that I have referred to the Police and I continue to work with them to try and resolve the situation. This has unfortunately left

the resident feeling vulnerable and a little worried about going out at all. I am with the help of Bryony our PCSO trying to reassure the resident and see what more can be done to resolve the whole thing.

Elderly Vulnerable Visits

I have been working with one household in the village offering to help resolve some concerning fuel related overheads that appear to be excessive. They were extremely concerned about receiving a large bill for gas and electric and were worrying about how they would pay for it. Thankfully after contacting their supplier (spending several hours on the phone through their lovely call centre) we have managed to resolve the issue and found out that they were on completely the wrong sort of tariff for their usage. This serves as a good highlighting point for anyone paying large gas / electric bills. Are you on the right tariff? IF you know anyone that is struggling with the rising fuel costs please let us know as there is support for anyone out there who finds themselves in "fuel poverty".

The Government defines fuel poverty as the need to spend more than 10% of household income to achieve adequate levels of warmth in the home and meet their other energy needs. Adequate warmth is defined as 21°C/23°C in the main living areas and 18°C in other areas.

In addition I have been providing extra support to one family in the village who have received a lot of support from us in the past but who are going through a particular rough patch at the moment. I have been attending a few multi agency meetings ensuring the best possible care is put in place and championing the issues at hand.

Intelligence

I have had cause to call the police on a number of occasions this month. I have reported a big Yellow Van / Truck that was seen driving around the village and the occupants inspecting peoples driveways probably looking for metal. I have reported a van for speeding and dangerous driving on the A24 that didn't seem to care when it undertook drivers and even set off the speed camera near to the old barn. I have passed on details to operation crackdown of two drivers both driving on their mobiles one driving a large skip lorry. I have also had some recent intelligence passed to me that has also been passed onto the Police.

Suspicious Vehicles

Following on from the above I have had a number of reports from residents that they have seen suspicious vehicles in and around Ashington. Particularly a white van driving around looking in driveways. I am keen to get residents to report this to the Police or at the very least to report the vehicle to the wardens. What would be most helpful is the Registration of the vehicle and times / locations seen. In addition the make / model of the vehicle and a description of the occupants / driver would also be great.

Short Mat Bowls

I have recently joined one of the largest clubs in Ashington, the short mat bowls club. This has proven great fun and a perfect opportunity to meet and to get involved with some of the residents of Ashington and surrounding area. I continue to support the club and who knows one day might even represent Ashington in a match! I was surprised at how a game stereotyped for the elderly is actually both challenging and fun.

Youth

It seems like the youth club has found a youth worker to cover their Wednesday night sessions at least as a short term solution. This gives a chance for a more permanent solution. I am continuing to work with the steering group on the issue of youth and am currently awaiting feedback from a meeting that was held between the different churches in the area to see what came of that. They were discussing the provision of youth workers in the district and it would seem to have been a successful meeting. I just need to find out the details before moving forward with anything as it would seem sensible to be on the same page rather than working cross purposes.

Steering Group

We have been working to look at the Wardens role and reaffirm some clear cut priorities for 2013 and beyond. This is to reflect changes in “need” with the village of Ashington and to reflect certain issues that we find ourselves more involved with week to week.

The Wardens are now on Twitter and Facebook.

Ashington Parish Council Meeting Update
February to March 2013

Good Evening.

Vehicle Crime:

A commercial van parked down at The Sands was damaged, it had the tyres deflated, the wing mirror broken off, a windscreen wiper blade broken off and writing scratched into a door. The van was damaged between Friday 8th February at 6pm and Sunday 10th February at 11am. If you saw anything or heard anything suspicious in that area in that time frame please call in on 101 quoting ref 0227 of 11/02/13.

Suspicious activities:

There have been a couple of calls about a suspicious van seen in Ashington, stopping at the end of drive ways and looking up peoples drive ways. One was reported in Rectory Lane and the second in Hillcrest Drive. The vehicle had scrap metal on the back. Myself and the Wardens are working hard to keep an eye out for any more suspicious vehicles. If you see anything suspicious please call it in on 101 in a non emergency and 999 in an emergency.

Golden Plaice:

Unfortunately Golden Plaice was broken into overnight on 3rd February. They have been victims in the past of previous break ins; 6/7 months ago and previously a year ago. The only item stolen was the CCTV camera. Unfortunately there was no evidence at the scene. The owners are following advice from Sussex Police, and we continue to patrol there especially on late shifts. If anyone saw or heard anything that could assist in this investigation please call 101 quoting ref 0506 of 04/02/13

Speeding through Ashington- Billingshurst Road and London Road-

I have parked up along Billingshurst Road several times since my last report to act as a visual deterrent to any people speeding in the 30mph zone.

PCSO Sparks