

**BROADSTONE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH (BNW)**

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 22ND MAY, 2023 AT 7:30pm AT BAR LOUNGE, JUNCTION LEISURE CENTRE BROADSTONE**

<b>Committee Members Present</b>		<b>Apologies</b>
Vikki Slade (VS) Chairman	Chris Burt (CB) Secretary	Linda Kettley (UHP/Firewise)
Chris Walton (CW) Vice Chairman	David Williams(DW)	Mike Brooke
Colin Merrett (CM) Editor	John Lodge (JL)	Jeff Davies
Richard Hudson (RH) Treasurer	Alan Jeans(AJ)	Cindy Jones (Barclays)
Wendy Perry (WP) Membership Secretary	Louise Dalrymple(LD)	
<b>Guest</b> – David Sidwick(DS) PCC		
<b>Stall Holders Present</b>		
Chris Mitchell – Fire & Rescue		
Maria-Louise Attwood - Community Speedwatch		
Brian Austin – Dorset Roadsafte		
Danni Arnold – Community Safety Officer		
Linda Proudley – Tappers Funeral Service		

<b>1</b>	<b>Apologies</b>  See above. Apology also received from Councillor Peter Sidaway for late arrival.	
<b>2</b>	<b>Minutes of the 2022 AGM</b>  The minutes of the 2022 AGM were on the website and Facebook; a few hard copies were available if required. There were no matters nor actions arising so the minutes were accepted and approved.  Proposed: JL Seconded: VS Vote: Unanimous	
<b>3.</b>	<b>Chairman’s Report</b>	
<b>3.1</b>	<b>Welcome &amp; Housekeeping</b>  VS welcomed everybody to the meeting commenting it was rewarding to see such a fine turnout and she hoped the very different format this year would be a success. There would not be the usual Committee Officers’ reports; these have been rolled into the Chairman/Treasurers reports for expediency.  Housekeeping matters were dealt with. No fire drills were scheduled so if there was an alarm the building should be evacuated as directed.	

3.2	<p><b>Organisation</b></p> <p>VS started by extending her thanks as usual to the Committee for their hard work throughout the last year and to the Watch's wider group of Volunteers, Co-ordinators and Contacts who do sterling work distributing the newsletter to members. VS also mentioned the fantastic job Alan and Stella Lewis do every month batching the newsletters and then delivering them to every Co-ordinator This amounts to over 250 roles undertaken by over 200 people which must make BNW one of the biggest volunteer organisations in the area. The Watch also currently has over 3500 households as members of which about 10% receive their newsletter by email rather than on paper.</p>	
3.3	<p><b>Elaine Frew</b></p> <p>Before going any further VS wanted to share some sad news. This time last year she announced that Elaine Frew was retiring from the committee. Last week Elaine passed away and our deepest condolences go to Robert and her wider family. Elaine had been a stalwart of the Watch for as long as anyone can remember, and her organisation of our meetings and paperwork was always brilliant.</p>	
3.4	<p><b>Reflections</b></p> <p>Reflecting on the last year, there has been considerable improvements in the way BNW has engaged digitally, and it knows that members are now seeking information in a wider range of ways.</p>	
3.5	<p><b>Cybercrime/Scams</b></p> <p>The choice of Cybercrime for tonight's talk reflects the anxiety of residents about the changes to the way the Watch needs to engage and the increased risk of being affected by fraud and scams. The Committee remain concerned that these are not included within the crime statistics, and this is apparently related to the fact that the crimes are often being perpetrated from other areas, or other countries, and so there is a view that it would be unfair to include them in Dorset Police statistics.</p> <p>What is true is that victims of these scams in Dorset feel forgotten and when BNW talks about it being a safe place to live, they have a different view. These crimes, like other negative issues linked to social media can get inside your home even when the doors and windows are locked and can really shake your confidence, as well as cause great financial and emotional damage. The Committee hope that the Police and Crime Commissioner will hear these concerns.</p>	
3.6	<p><b>Crime Figures</b></p> <p>The Crime figures for the Broadstone area are a regular feature of the Newsletter, and the May edition trialled a graphical representation to try and show a broader picture over the last twenty years. It pleasingly showed a significant downward trend over the last 4 years. Looking back over 8 years the Broadstone figures are about 30 to 40 percent lower than the whole of Dorset, strongly supporting the belief that Broadstone is a good place to live.</p> <p>The Committee are always open to new ideas about how best to show the Crime Statistics. VS asked members to let their Committee know if there were something members would like to see.</p>	

<p>3.7</p> <p>3.8</p> <p>4</p> <p>4.1</p>	<p><b>Recent Broadstone Crimes</b></p> <p>The last few weeks have seen several really unpleasant incidents including the bag snatch in Broadstone, the break in to a local restaurant and the terrible awful arson attack on 12 cars in Broadstone and Wimborne this month. This is a most unusual departure from the trend, and it is reassuring that two of the three incidents have already seen arrests made. The Watch will continue to remind residents to report crimes and antisocial behaviour as they can often enable police to establish patterns of movement that can help with the solving of other crimes.</p> <p><b>Chairman's Future</b></p> <p>Last year VS told the Committee that she would like to step down as Chair of Broadstone Neighbourhood Watch. She has been persuaded to continue for now, but BNW always welcomes new members on the Committee who could consider becoming Chairman in future. The Committee is also keen to be out in the community so it would like someone to join as its Events Officer. The current team are really friendly and welcoming, but have been in place for a very long time and as our community evolves it would be great to widen the Committee to be more representative of local residents.</p> <p><b>Treasurer's Report</b></p> <p><b>Accounts</b></p> <p>RH said his report this evening is nice and short, members would be pleased to hear. He wanted to quickly deal with BNW's financial results for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023, and then deal with its approach to raising funds for the Watch.</p> <p>RH said some of the meeting may have seen the accounts for the last year on BNW's website. Members were notified of their availability in the April and May newsletters. But for the purpose of this meeting, the main details are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BNW income for the year was only £273. This comprised £23 from members and a donation of £250 from Tapper Funeral Service. At last year's AGM, RH said the Committee were going to try to fund BNW by asking local businesses and other bodies to sponsor it. He contacted about 30 organisations, and many didn't even have the courtesy to reply. Tappers did</li> </ul>	

<p>4.2</p> <p>4.3</p> <p>4.4</p>	<p>reply and they were the only one to give us a donation. That's hugely to their credit. The meeting applauded Tappers for their donation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total expenditure was £1,723, which is analysed as £1,461 for printing and stationery, £262 for meeting and sundry expenses and £50 for a donation.</li> <li>• Income of £273 and expenditure of £1,773 meant that BNW had a deficit for the year of £1,500. The deficit reduced the accumulated fund and the bank account, which fell to £2,614 at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023.</li> </ul> <p>RH asked for any questions about last year's accounts explaining that the Committee had approved the accounts at its May meeting. To comply with the Constitution, the meeting needed to vote on a motion for the approval of the accounts.</p> <p>There being no questions from the floor RH proposed approval of the annual accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023.</p> <p>Proposed: RH  Seconded: CB  Vote: Unanimous</p> <p><b>Funding</b></p> <p>The second thing RH wanted to talk about was raising funds for BNW. As the members know, the Committee is asking all members to make a contribution of £2 or more towards BNW's expenses this year. BNW has not asked members for funds since 2019. As already mentioned, efforts to find corporate sponsors have been disappointing. Minimal funding over the last four years has resulted in a sharp fall in BNW's resources. Its pre-Covid bank balance in 2019 was roughly £9,000: it was £2,600 in March 2023, a fall of about 70%. BNW's budgeted operational expenses for the current financial year are about £1,900: this includes expenditure on IT, and meetings and sundries, but by far the biggest expense is the printing cost of the newsletter at just over £130 a month, £1,560 for the full year. So as RH had said in recent newsletters, BNW are asking members for contributions, in order to sustain its activities going forward to 2024 and beyond. And depending on the inflow of funds, BNW may then be able to afford other major items of expenditure that it has paid for in the past, notably new neighbourhood watch signs, as and when necessary, donations in support of local bodies and initiatives whose objectives are broadly aligned with BNW's.</p> <p><b>Collection of Contributions</b></p> <p>BNW has taken steps to streamline the collection of contributions from members. RH is going to provide a commentary on this in the June newsletter, but the early indications are that the new arrangements are working well. RH would be happy to take any questions on these arrangements during the Q&amp;A session – to save time now. BNW are also acquiring a card reader to take credit and debit card payments, and plan to have a donations button on the website.</p> <p><b>Financial Position</b></p> <p>In conclusion, RH confirmed that BNW is in a healthy financial position. It has cover for at least a year's expenditure in the bank, and with the great goodwill there is towards BNW, he is confident that members will be very willing to contribute towards BNW's expenses. He thanked all of the membership for their financial support.</p>
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5	<p><b>Election of Officers and Committee Members for the year 2023/24</b></p> <p>Vice Chairman, Chris Walton, took the Chair for the motion that Vikki Slade be re-elected as Chairman of the Watch.</p> <p>Proposed: CB  Seconded: Alan Beales  Vote: Unanimous</p> <p>All members of the existing Committee were willing to continue for another year.</p> <p>Proposed: VS  Seconded: Alan Baker  Vote: Unanimous</p>	
6	<p><b>Police Team</b></p> <p>VS introduced Inspector Nick Lee(NL) and his accompanying team to the meeting. NL gave a short update on the current incidents concerning a break-in at one of Broadstone’s restaurants, a bag snatch along a street in the centre of Broadstone and the arson attacks involving 12 vehicles in Broadstone, Merley and Wimborne. He explained that Dorset Police are preparing a full update of incidents that have taken place in the area over the last six months so that they can review the visibility and timing of police cover in the community. He affirmed that Broadstone remains one of the safest parts of Dorset and is very aware that the fear of crime can have a significant impact on people’s lives and re-assured the meeting that he wants to keep Broadstone safe for everyone.</p>	
7	<p><b>Question &amp; Answer Session of BNW Committee and Police</b></p> <p>VS introduced a Q&amp;A session in which members from the floor could put their question and concerns to officers of the Committee and Police.</p>	
7.1	<p><b>Electronic Newsletters</b></p> <p>Alan Baker asked the Treasurer as to what were the plans for electronic newsletters since if the need for publication of the newsletter- the primary cost- decreases costs will inevitably fall.</p> <p>RH explained that members who receive the newsletter by e-mail should still contribute/donate to funding the Watch. The Committee has advertised online newsletters for many years and continues to do so in the paper newsletter, but publication is the Watch’s default position. Nevertheless the Committee keeps this under review, but it is a wider and key policy issue.</p> <p>VS added that there is a fundamental core here about the BNW’s Contacts being the link between members and the Watch and a recognition that its population is much older than average and that population enjoys a paper newsletter. It also provides the opportunity for members to engage with their Contacts which would be lost without that physical presence on the street.</p> <p>Fundamentally, BNW is asking for £2 to run the organisation. That organisation has consistently had people telling it that they love the newsletter. Only 10% of members</p>	

7.2	<p>have so far chosen to take up e-mail newsletters which admittedly has reduced costs to some extent, but online does bring other costs. Personally, VS reads the paper version whereas something online is likely to be scan read or worse just deleted!</p> <p><b>Visual Presence</b></p> <p>One resident wanted to know why the police are not out on the streets and roads. They are always in their cars and communicating digitally. A visual presence on the streets is re-assuring for residents.</p> <p>NL replied that residents have to realise that the “Dixon of Dock Green” days of policing are long gone. Police nowadays have very limited resources so have to prioritise their efforts according to the highest risk, but it is right and proper that the police are accountable to the public. He said that patrols are based on targetted intelligence. When you do see the police out and about they will be acting on crimes resulting from targetted intelligence.</p> <p>The PCC,added that Dorset police complement was 1441 officers – more than ever before - 170 had recently been recruited, but not all would be out on the streets because they had to be trained. Officers had to be deployed to the highest criminal activities such as child abuse which had trebled. He did accept that officers had to be visible, and there will be more visible patrolling when needed, connecting and engaging with the community.</p>	
7.3	<p><b>Child Abuse</b></p> <p>A resident asked what is meant by child abuse. The PCC replied that it came in many forms including 12/13 year olds involved in the supply of drugs, threats of sex &amp; violence, domestic abuse and exploitation. It takes a lot of work for the police to bring successful prosecutions and help the victims because the whole activity is controlled by mobile phone and is made more difficult to engage with the teenagers who by having money and being seen as part of the gangster community provides them with street credibility and reputation. National initiatives such as Operation Viper are aimed at combatting county lines crime and getting to the masterminds behind it.</p>	
7.4	<p><b>Break – In</b></p> <p>A gentleman told the meeting that his property had been invaded and it had taken 3 days for the police to turn up. He and his neighbours knew who the perpetrators were because they had been captured on door bell cameras. In his view residents were paying for the police and getting nothing in return. He had put all the evidence on Facebook, but had got no reaction from the police.</p> <p>VS checked with the resident concerned that forensics had attended immediately confirming that a police presence had appeared promptly. She also advised him that the police are not on Facebook and that is why it is most important that crimes are reported to the police so they can build a picture and establish patterns of movement of crimes.</p> <p>NL assured the resident that he had spoken with the sergeant involved in this incident and that the police will be revisiting this case.</p>	

7.5	<p><b>Arson Attacks</b></p> <p>LD, whose husband regularly plays cricket, asked the police about the recent incidents of the cricket nets at Winton and Poole Park having been set on fire. She wondered if residents in Broadstone were in danger from such crimes.</p> <p>NL said that arson attacks are generally unusual occurrences, but they can be a sign of boredom. Such incidents would be subject to a joint agency response involving police, fire and rescue and the Council.</p>	
7.6	<p><b>Cycle Lanes</b></p> <p>June Webber wanted to know why after all the expense and effort in creating cycle lanes the police aren't making cyclists use them. She said cyclists are on pavements, roads and frequently go through red lights.</p> <p>NL responded that the police can take enforcement action against cyclists jumping red lights, but they have no power to force them to use cycle lanes.</p> <p>Somebody else wanted to know why the police don't use their cars or chase the offenders on foot to apprehend them. NL said there were inherent risks eg broken arms and other injuries from falling off and crashing especially if the cyclist was not wearing a helmet. Where possible, sending any dashcam footage would help to build a case for enforcement action.</p>	
7.7	<p><b>E-Scooters</b></p> <p>A question was raised regarding the dangers from misuse of e-scooters and why there is no registration system for them. NL said they were used mainly by youngsters and e-scooters per se are illegal and so cannot be registered. Dorset police have seized lots of e-scooters. The PCC said that, unfortunately, legislation has not yet caught up with the proliferation of e-scooter sales. He was campaigning government, with others, to introduce an appropriate registration system.</p> <p>Another question from the floor concerned whether anything could be done to cap the speed e-scooters can do. If made legal their speed could be limited to 5mph.</p> <p>It was explained that once sold e- scooters fall under laws and regulations that apply to all motor vehicles meaning they can only be used on private land, with the owners permission, not on public roads and pavements. Beryl Bikes, subject to rental schemes, are limited to between 12mph to 15mph and insured for use on cycle ways, but not public roads.</p> <p>VS closed the session and thanked members for their questions.</p>	
8	<p><b>Break</b></p> <p>A short break followed during which members were urged to make the most of the range of services on hand.</p>	
9	<p><b>Cybercrime</b></p> <p>Chris Conroy(CC) of the Cybercrime Prevention Unit, Dorset Police was introduced</p>	

9.1	<p>to the meeting and explained that cybercrime is a criminal activity that involves the use of computers or networks. It is an umbrella term used to describe two closely linked, but distinct ranges of criminal activity.</p> <p><b>Cyber-Dependent Crimes</b></p> <p>These crimes can only be committed using a computer such as hacking and malware which includes viruses, worms, trojans, spyware and ransomware.</p>	
9.2	<p><b>Cyber-Enabled Crimes</b></p> <p>These are traditional crimes that can be increased in scale or reach by using a computer, the internet and communications technology. They include, fraud, piracy, counterfeiting, forgery, online market places for illegal items, communications sent via social media, cyber bullying, trolling and indecent images of children.</p>	
9.3	<p><b>Countermeasures</b></p> <p>CC gave a range of actions and bodies members can take/refer to if they identify or are a victim of cybercrime. These include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Action Fraud which is the UK's national reporting centre for fraud and cybercrime to whom individuals should report if they spot or been subjected to a scam or a fraud.</li> <li>• Citizens Advice Service who offer support to anyone who has been scammed</li> <li>• SERS are the body to go to if an e-mail is received of which the recipient is unsure. The online address is <a href="mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk">report@phishing.gov.uk</a></li> <li>• Spam text messages can be reported to the mobile phone provider free of charge by forwarding the text message to 7726</li> </ul>	
9.4	<p><b>Secure E-Mail Accounts</b></p> <p>CC gave details for protecting e-mail accounts by using a combination of 3 random words that are long and strong enough by avoiding words that can be guessed such as pet's name or date of birth. Also adding numbers and symbols make passwords harder to guess.</p> <p>Additionally, two step verification gives twice the protection so even if cybercriminals have your password, they cannot access your e-mail. It works by asking for more information to prove your identity and won't be asked for every time you check your e-mail.</p>	
9.5	<p><b>Stop and Think</b></p>	



	<p>Safeguards that members were advised to remember were</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a genuine bank or organisation will never contact you out of the blue to ask for your PIN, full password or to move money to another account</li> <li>• avoid being tricked into giving a fraudster access to personal or financial details.</li> <li>• never automatically click on a link in an unexpected e-mail or text</li> <li>• always question uninvited approaches in case it is a scam. Instead contact the company directly using a known e-mail or phone number eg the number on the back of your credit/debit card.</li> </ul> <p>CC warned that people should always be on their guard because the fraudsters are very clever and forever developing new ways of tricking people into parting with their money.</p>	
10	<b>Q&amp;A</b>	
10.1	<b>Signal/WhatsAPP</b>	
	LD asked CC if Signal was a safe and reasonable alternative to WhatsApp. He said there was no contrary evidence to it being a satisfactory option.	
10.2	<b>Pursuing Cybercriminals</b>	
	CB said that whilst all these preventative measures were commendable what was actually being done to target the cybercriminals to bring them to justice. The assumption was that pursuit is impossible because they operated from overseas. CC said the police worked jointly with other forces and Interpol and Europol, but the difficulty was that unfortunately criminals used VPN's and VPN's are used globally for legal activity.	
11	<b>Vote of Thanks</b>	
	On behalf of BNW thanks were expressed to CC for his excellent presentation, and to Dorset & Wiltshire Fire & Rescue, Community Speedwatch, Dorset Roadsafe and the Road Safety Camera Team, BCP Community Safety Officer and Tappers Funeral Service for their stalls. Also thanked were given to the PCC and Dorset Police and finally The Junction Leisure Centre for hosting the event so successfully.	

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 22.15 hours	

<b>Minutes prepared by:</b>	Chris Burt
<b>Minutes issued on:</b>	4 June 2023

