

Present		Apologies
Vikki Slade (VS) Chair	Wendy Perry (WP)	Chris Walton (CW) Vice Chair
Richard Hudson (RH) Treasurer	John Lodge (JL)	Peter Sidaway (PS) Guest
Chris Burt (CB) Secretary	Allan Jeans (AJ)	
Louise Dalrymple (LD)	Colin Merrett (CM)	
David Williams (DW)		

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<b>1</b>	<p><b>Minutes of the last Meeting</b></p> <p>The minutes of the last meeting were accepted and approved.</p> <p>Proposed: RH                      Seconded: AJ                      Vote: Unanimous</p>	
<b>2</b>	<p><b>Matters arising</b></p> <p>Item 5.4 – See Action Log 1123/04</p>	
<b>3</b>	<p><b>Action Log Review</b></p> <p>Open actions were reviewed and status/progress updates applied.</p>	
<b>4</b>	<p><b>The Way Forward - Future of the Newsletter</b></p>	
4.1	<p><b>Background</b></p> <p>The future of the newsletter is part of BNW's Way Forward project, but is nevertheless a standalone matter that requires urgent consideration. CB's two submissions to the Committee, together with items 4.3 and 7.3 of the previous minutes, set the scene and covers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• volunteer leakage</li> <li>• some Contacts heavier workloads</li> <li>• membership numbers</li> <li>• production and publishing cost effectiveness</li> <li>• succession planning</li> <li>• frequency and content</li> <li>• website and social media.</li> </ul> <p>Additionally, there is considerable pressure for a variety of reasons on contributors, particularly the Chair, in meeting the monthly deadline.</p>	
4.2	<p><b>Other Neighbourhood Watches</b></p> <p>WP had conducted a quick survey of other Watches to see what they do in respect of a newsletter. All those identified seem to rely on an online presence – either from a website or a Facebook page. Some searches were just referred to Ourwatch. Ourwatch is information only; there is no factual data nor police reporting. A</p>	

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number were linked to community organisations such as the local Community Office, Town Council website and Crime Prevention Panel.

### **Content**

It was recognised that much of the newsletter content is readily available in online media as well as other publications such as The Link and is often repetitive . Indeed the police report consists of the same generic piece and is sent to all recipients each month. This means that invariably The Link publishes it before BNW. The same applies to the Chair's BNW report which also appears in The Link, but VS confirms that the content of both articles is different.

Consequently, the Committee agreed that there are question marks over the future of the newsletter, at least in its current guise. There is a lot of basic security advice, but relatively little news about the Watch and its activities. Whatever the outcome content must be relevant to the Watch's role and model and not be a substitute for a resident's association publication.

4.4

### **Contacts**

VS was concerned that the significant population of senior residents in Broadstone who were not IT literate and/or were not online would be neglected in the absence of a hard copy newsletter. She pointed out that this population was higher in number than in other areas and for that reason a primary purpose of the newsletter was to provide BNW Contacts with a reason to call upon people and that with stopping production of a hard copy newsletter there was a danger that the Contact network might collapse. However, she did accept that Contacts do see themselves these days more as deliverers of the newsletter and would only knock on a resident's door if there was a need to.

4.5

### **Rationale**

The Committee considered the rationale for the Watch and wondered in the light of the current situation relating to both changes in police priorities and the nature of crimes, together with those in the modern forms of communication, that the BNW model needed to change in addition to the newsletter.

After a lengthy discussion the Committee decided BNW did need to change its rationale. It must move on a journey to

- be more focused around Broadstone
- hold coffee mornings in Broadstone venues such as St. John's new church hall
- enlist local guest contributors eg Rev Helen Bailey
- be events orientated
- gather information about events carried out by other Watch's
- change the ways it did its work
- provide information and communication more on a face to face basis
- give feedback to members in subsequent newsletters on crimes, police operations and deployment etc
- newsletter content must be relevant
- increase its number of e-mail members.

Membership input for The Way Forward was necessary and it was proposed to do this at the AGM in May.

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4.6	<p><b>Change of Newsletter Frequency</b></p> <p>After due consideration the Committee agreed that immediate action was required, for the reasons detailed, regarding the newsletter’s frequency. Consequently, it was proposed to move to a quarterly production, publication and delivery commencing on 1 April 2024.</p> <p>Proposed: VS  Seconded: CB  Vote: Unanimous</p> <p>The mechanics for the changeover would be</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a normal edition of the newsletter in February</li> <li>• February newsletter to contain in VS’s report an announcement that future newsletters would be produced quarterly</li> <li>• there would be no newsletter issued in March</li> <li>• the first quarterly issue would be in April</li> <li>• the Chair would make a similar announcement in The Link</li> </ul> <p><b>Action: Announce changeover to quarterly newsletter in February Chairman’s report</b></p> <p><b>Action: Announce changeover to quarterly newsletter in The Link</b></p> <p><b>Action: No newsletter to be issued in March</b></p> <p><b>Action: Issue first quarterly newsletter on 1 April</b></p>	<p>VS 0124/01</p> <p>VS 0124/02</p> <p>CM/RH 0124/03</p> <p>CM/RH 0124/04</p>
4.7	<p><b>AGM Dates</b></p> <p>Owing to commitments, holidays etc it was proposed to hold the AGM on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May. The venue will be The Junction – subject to availability. AGM to be preceded by a Committee meeting on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May.</p> <p><b>Action: Check availability of The Junction for AGM</b></p>	<p>JL 0124/05</p>
5	<p><b>Secretary’s Report</b></p> <p>CB had nothing further to report to his updates in the Action Log .</p>	
6	<p><b>Chairman’s Report</b></p> <p>Owing to other work and time constraints VS was unable to produce a report in time for the meeting. VS updated her actions under the Action Log.</p>	
7	<p><b>Treasurer’s Report</b></p>	
7.1	<p><b>Accounts</b></p>	

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BNW's accounts are for the nine months ended 31st December 2023. The key points are:

1. Members have donated £5,387 towards the Watch's expenses, an increase of almost 50% on full year receipts of £3,617 in 2019, the last year in which we collected funds. The main driver behind this result has been the increase in the requested donation from £1 to £2.

2. Total administrative expenses were £1,363, of which £1,187 (87%) was for printing the monthly newsletters. Together with a donation of £50 to the Royal British Legion, total expenses were £1,413, resulting in a surplus for the nine months of £3,974.

3. The Watch had £6,628 in its bank account at 31st December, compared with £2,614 at its financial year end 31st March 2023.

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### **Donations**

However, a major downside this year, in contrast to previous years, is that for a variety of reasons, a significant number of Coordinators and Contacts have declined to collect donations, or have collected less than the amount expected from their patch. In some cases, a disinclination to collect donations has been the prompt for resignation from post.

As a consequence of this fall off in network performance, RH estimates that, at the very least, 750 members (22% of a total of about 3,400) have not made a donation to BNW this year, which has resulted in an opportunity income loss to BNW of around £1,500. Generally speaking, it's not that these members are unwilling to donate £2; but that nobody has knocked on the door to ask them for the money.

7.3

### **Bank Account**

BNW's bank account balance of £6,628 at 31st December equates to roughly three years' administrative expenses. The newsletter is BNW's only major expense and its publication seems likely to remain the Watch's only substantive activity. On this basis, BNW is more than adequately resourced. There is no case for asking members for donations towards expenses in 2024, nor asking Coordinators and Contacts to collect them.

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### **Membership Officer's Report**

#### **E-Mail Membership**

3,465 households currently receive the monthly newsletter. 399 of these have signed up for the email version. The "open" rate for the emails is just over 60%.

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#### **Coverage**

Although the Watch can now cover most deliveries of the print version there are some very large groups eg 100 households in Areas Green 3&4 where two groups have merged.

8.3

#### **Co-ordinators and Contacts**

<p>8.4</p> <p>8.5</p> <p>9</p> <p>10</p> <p>10.1</p> <p>10.2</p> <p>10.3</p> <p>11</p> <p>11.1</p>	<p>]</p> <p>A new Contact has been recruited who has volunteered to take on two groups (totalling 30 households) in an area some distance away from the new Contact's own home.</p> <p><b>Structure</b></p> <p>It is evident that the structure of the Watch is changing. People already tend to phone or email Committee Officers directly - rather than going through the route of talking to their Contact or Coordinator.</p> <p><b>New Member Packs</b></p> <p>It was decided to take a look at the Packs and review and update as necessary especially in the light of the newsletter changes. This would be done in July after the first quarterly issue of the newsletter.</p> <p><b>Action: New Member Packs to be reviewed and updated as necessary in July</b></p> <p><b>Editor's Report</b></p> <p>CM had nothing to report. He was awaiting the outcome of the 'Future of the Newsletter' discussions to assess the impact on his editorship.</p> <p><b>Media Officer's Report</b></p> <p><b>Change</b></p> <p>JL reported that there had been no changes since his November report</p> <p><b>Facebook</b></p> <p>Facebook continues to be a go to place for information with a number of posts being shared.</p> <p><b>Continuity</b></p> <p>JL's main focus since the last meeting has been looking into continuity in the event that committee members are not available. The optimum number required is three.</p> <p>Stages that need to be gone through are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Storage of the Register and other information and protection of such information.</li> <li>• Website use and maintenance linked with storage.</li> <li>• Facebook as a communication tool.</li> <li>• Use of MailChimp and the cost of additional member 'seats' (these are the available number of individual users who have access to the account)</li> <li>• Whether the newsletter should be web-based or not.</li> </ul> <p>Once the Newsletter format is decided then a move to the other stages can be made. However, the Watch still needs to have a continuity plan.</p> <p><b>AOB</b></p>	<p><b>WP 0124/06</b></p>
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**Speedwatch**

JL asked if Speedwatch was continuing to carry out its speeding checks. It was confirmed that sessions had recently taken place on both Lower Blandford and Dunyeats Roads with a resulting 16 vehicles caught exceeding the legal speed limit.


There being no further business, the meeting closed at 21.25 hours

<b>Date of Next Meeting:</b>	12 <sup>th</sup> March 2024
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<b>Minutes taken by:</b>	Chris Burt
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<b>Minutes issued on:</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> February 2024
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