

BROADSTONE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH (BNW)

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT 7:30pm ON THURSDAY 16TH MAY, 2024 AT THE RESTAURANT, RBL CLUB BROADSTONE

Committee Members Present		Apologies
Vikki Slade (VS) Chairman	David Williams(DW)	Chris Walton (CW) Vice-Chairman
Richard Hudson (RH) Treasurer	Louise Dalrymple(LD)	John Lodge(JL) Media Officer
Chris Burt (CB) Secretary	Peter Sidaway (PS)	Allan Jeans (AJ)
Colin Merrett (CM) Editor		8 x BNW Contacts
Wendy Perry (WP) Membership Secretary		

1	<p>Welcome and Housekeeping</p> <p>VS welcomed everybody to the meeting commenting that it was encouraging and rewarding to see such a fine turnout, and delighted to see Inspector Nick Lee – who had been on duty since 8am- as the Committee had been told there would be no police presence this evening due to shift patterns and deployment on Operation Track.</p> <p>As with last year there would be no Committee Officers reports as these had been rolled up into the Chairman/Treasurer reports for expediency.</p> <p>Housekeeping matters were dealt with. No fire drills were scheduled so if there was an alarm the building should be evacuated as directed.</p> <p>VS thanked the RBL Club for providing their excellent hospitality, facilities and provision of light refreshments.</p> <p>Apologies</p> <p>See above.</p>	
2	<p>Minutes of the 2023 AGM</p> <p>The minutes of the 2023 AGM were on the BNW website and Facebook. The minutes were accepted and approved.</p> <p>Proposed: VS Seconded: WP Vote: Unanimous</p>	

3.	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p>There were no matters nor actions arising.</p>	
4	<p>Treasurer's Report</p>	
4.1	<p>Accounts</p>	
	<p>RH told the meeting that Paul Day, BNW's Honorary Examiner, has signed his report (at the foot of the accounts) stating that he has examined BNW's books and records for the year, and certified that the accounts are in accordance with these.</p>	
4.2	<p>Donations</p> <p>Spring 2023 was the first time members were asked for financial support since Spring 2019, owing to Covid and other factors. Members donated £5,491 to the Watch, which was almost 50% more than receipts in 2019; the main factor behind this was the increase in the minimum requested donation from £1 to £2. RH thanked members for their support, and also Coordinators and Contacts for their hard work in collecting these funds.</p>	
4.3	<p>Collection of Donations</p> <p>During 2023, several Coordinators and Contacts declined to collect donations, or collected less than the amount projected for their patch. There are very understandable reasons for this. The age profile of our network team is getting older, and some of the younger members of this team are busy with work and family responsibilities. Although BNW is still very reliant on Coordinators and Contacts for the collection of donations, a new arrangement in 2023 was that members were able to make a donation by direct payment to BNW's bank account, which accounted for roughly 20% of total receipts.</p>	
4.4	<p>Expenses</p> <p>Administrative expenses amounted to £1,675. The printing and paper cost of the monthly newsletters was £1,484, which represented 89% of administrative expenses. Other expenditure comprised £98 for AGM and other meeting costs, and £93 for sundries. Including a donation of £50 to the Royal British Legion, total expenses came to £1,725; with income of £5,491, the surplus for the year was £3,766.</p>	
4.5	<p>Surplus</p> <p>The surplus has restored BNW to financial health, after three years with little or no income. The bank account balance was £6,324 at 31st March 2024, compared with £2,614 in March last year: this constitutes a very adequate reserve, on the basis of current expenditure projections for the next two years or so. Equally significant, changing from monthly to quarterly publication of the newsletter is a major cost saving, which releases resources for potential new activities and engagement with members in more outward facing events, in furtherance of our objectives as a flourishing neighbourhood watch.</p>	

	RH told the meeting that financial strategy supports business strategy.	
5	<p>Approval of the Annual Accounts</p> <p>The meeting was asked to approve the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2024</p> <p>Proposed: RH Seconded: CB Vote: Unanimous</p>	
6	<p>Changes to Constitution – Approval of Version 8 – Draft 1</p> <p>RH pointed out that the draft amendments had been put out on the website and Facebook. He explained that the proposed amended Constitution incorporated three main changes which were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the rights of members • the Committee’s discretionary powers • fixed terms of office for Committee officers, <p>These amendments allowed for membership of BNW not being dependent upon the payment of a subscription or donation; the Committee having the power to make such arrangements for the governance of BNW as it deems necessary and for officers of the Committee to serve an initial term of three years after which they may opt to serve a second term of three years. Officers would be expected to stand down at the end of the second term , but may opt to remain in post until a successor with the appropriate skills set and experience is able to be appointed. The fixed terms of office were a prompt to succession planning and removed the possibility of an officer signing up for ‘a life sentence’.</p> <p>VS asked about the applicability of the new fixed term provisions to existing officers who had already served one or two terms, or longer, and RH confirmed that this issue had yet to be fully decided upon by the Committee.</p> <p>RH requested the meeting approve the amended Constitution.</p> <p>Proposed: PS Seconded: LD Vote Unanimous</p>	
7.	Chairman’s Address/Q&A Session	
7.1	<p>Action Log</p> <p>VS said the Committee had introduced an Action Log on a spreadsheet for all actions agreed at Committee meetings. Each action is assigned to the appropriate Committee member with a target date for completion. The log is reviewed and updated accordingly at each meeting.</p> <p>Attached to the Log is a Tracker spreadsheet which records communications received from members, the Committee member who dealt with it and the outcome. This spreadsheet is managed and updated by our Media Officer.</p>	

	<p>The Action Log is a means of making sure the Committee does not go over ‘old ground.’</p>	
7.2	<p>Minutes</p> <p>Both Committee meeting and AGM minutes are placed on the BNW website and our other media shortly after meetings to enable members to view anytime throughout the year.</p>	
7.3	<p>Police Attendance</p> <p>There’s been no police attendance at our Committee meetings throughout the year as a result of their limited resources, urgent priorities and changes in modern policing methods. In the broader scheme of things the Committee accepts it is more important police are fighting crime in the high priority areas than sitting in a room with a committee. As an adjunct the police do hold a series of surgeries locally which are well advertised and are open to anybody to attend.</p>	
7.4	<p>Committee Meeting Dates</p> <p>Owing to my BCP and other commitments Committee meeting dates have changed from the first Tuesday to the second Tuesday of the relevant month.</p>	
7.5	<p>Methodist Church</p> <p>The Committee enjoy a good working relationship with the church and use the David Jones meeting room for Committee meetings. It used the larger Sharlands Hall for meetings immediately post COVID to ensure the required distances were met. It moved back into the David Jones Room in March this year. Although smaller it is much cosier.</p> <p>The Church Trustees have changed car parking arrangements. Now only authorised pass and Blue Badge holders may use the car park.</p> <p>The Committee would like to thank Clare Edrington for all her help in accommodating the Watch’s meetings throughout the year.</p>	
7.6	<p>Co-ordinators and Contacts</p> <p>BNW now has 40 Co-ordinators and 203 Contacts and it would not be possible for BNW to function in the way it does without their support. Over the course of last year 7 Co-ordinators and 18 Contacts have resigned for a variety of reasons. Replacing them all has been challenging. The spaces for Co-ordinators and Contacts are getting wider. Fortunately, new people have come forward and some existing Contacts have taken on more deliveries . VS thanked them and, indeed, to all who help with “keeping the wheels turning.”</p>	
7.7	<p>Membership</p> <p>Current membership is 3,480 with e-mail members at 448.</p>	
7.8	<p>Broadstone Neighbourhood Watch</p>	

	<p>Those of you who have attended before will probably be aware that Broadstone is one of Dorset's largest Neighbourhood Watches.</p> <p>With representation in every road in Broadstone and covering over 70% of homes it reaches into homes in a way few other organisations do. The majority of members receive the Newsletter through their door thanks to the legion of volunteers, but with a growing minority preferring to receive it through their e-mail inbox instead.</p> <p>As we move more clearly into the digital age as referenced in the membership report around 10% have the Newsletter in their inbox. There is some resistance to this from many people because traditionally the Contact acts as a human contact for their street or part of the street. E-Mail delivery saves money for the Watch, but nevertheless BNW does welcome people who want to continue receiving it through the door.</p>	
7.9	<p>Levels of Crime</p> <p>Broadstone is also one of the safest communities in Dorset with fewer crimes than Creekmoor, despite a larger population, and around half the level of Canford Heath. Some of the data is difficult to extrapolate due to boundary issues but VS thinks we know from our own lived experience that the incidents of crime and ASB here is not only low, but lower than it was several years ago.</p>	
7.10	<p>Types of Crime</p> <p>VS said that we cannot get away from the fact though that crimes that are not recorded by local police like fraud and scams along with digital crimes like cyber bullying and stalking and those involving indecent or explicit images are increasing and young and old people are most at risk of crimes like this.</p> <p>Both those crime types – and both those groups of people - are less likely to disclose and it is possible that there is unreported crime. VS would, therefore, encourage all of our residents to report any crime , whilst acknowledging that this does not feel easy.</p>	
7.11	<p>Anti Social Behaviour (ASB)</p> <p>The levels of ASB in the Broadstone area suggests that in the main our young people are law abiding and decent. When there is ASB it tends to come in spates and it is particularly important that these are reported and recorded as they are often committed by the same person or group. Currently, there is an issue with damage to fencing and benches in the park, which on three occasions have been vandalised in the space of a couple of weeks. They have now been reported by the Council as a crime.</p>	
7.12	<p>Business Crime</p> <p>The other area of crime to be aware of is retail and business crime. These include both shoplifting and issues like illegal and underage vapes, which is an area that the police work closely with BCP Council. With retail crime there is a brilliant new scheme that is being part funded by the PCC. VS revealed that BCP is to undertake a mystery shopper exercise particularly focusing on shops selling vapes.</p>	
7.13	<p>BNW Newsletter</p>	

	<p>The world is changing and so are we. As much as some of our members enjoy reading the monthly Newsletter, with low levels of crime, difficulty recruiting new volunteers to the Committee and police focusing on other ways of communicating it has made it more difficult to keep the Newsletter relevant. The Committee also realised that BNW was out of kilter with other groups and with more of our volunteers not wishing to collect annual subscriptions the Committee decided that it was time to move to a new model.</p> <p>Consequently, it moved to a quarterly Newsletter earlier this year and hopes this will ensure that the police will be able to contribute. The Newsletter can still show trends of crimes and make sure that information is seasonally relevant. The Watch will use its social media sites to convey more immediate information and as the Chair VS will still write monthly in The Link which is delivered to households and also available in the library and other places to pick up.</p>	
7.14	<p>Information Events</p> <p>BNW is also keen to have a more active presence by running information events such as digital safety and home safety sessions which it can advertise in the Newsletter. However, in order to do this it is looking for someone to join the Committee and organise them, find speakers and generally spread the load.</p>	
7.15	<p>Chairmanship</p> <p>VS advised last year that it would be her last year as Chair. Within weeks she was being lobbied to stay on, but it really is time for her to move onto other priorities and projects, but she will not leave the Watch without a Chair to replace her. Therefore, if anyone is interested in being co-opted onto the Committee with a view to moving into the Chair in the coming months do come and see her.</p>	
7.16	<p>BNW Committee</p> <p>VS wanted the members to know that the Committee is a friendly bunch and meets every other month. She urged members to find people to serve on the Committee. The Committee would really welcome some additional members who can help take BNW to the next level.</p> <p>As usual VS said she must make special reference to the current Committee without whom tonight would not be possible or indeed any of what BNW does. She called for a round of applause for them all.</p>	
7.17	<p>Other Helpers and Contributors</p> <p>Not on the committee, but key to the Watch's success are Alan and Stella who mastermind the distribution of the Newsletter. VS hopes that the move to a quarterly Newsletter will see them agree to carry on, but their fantastic work is recognised and all concerned want to thank them both for their continued support.</p> <p>Next a thank you to the printers, and to all of the contributors to the Newsletter, especially the police.</p>	
7.18	<p>Elaine Frew</p> <p>Finally, VS needed to express the Watch's thanks to someone who is no longer with</p>	

7.19	<p>us. Elaine was a long time member of the Committee and was its Secretary. She also worked on the Stepping Stones memory project with Dame Annette Brooke. She retired from the Committee last year, partly to help support her husband, and was then taken ill and passed away just a short while after the AGM. She was always a tower of strength and organisation on the Committee and VS wanted to put on record her sadness at Elaine's passing.</p> <p>Q&A Session</p> <p>There were no questions from the floor for the Chair.</p>	
8.	<p>Election of Chairman</p> <p>Treasurer, Richard Hudson, took the Chair for the motion that Vikki Slade be re-elected as Chairman of the Watch.</p> <p>Proposed: PS Seconded: CB Vote: Unanimous</p> <p>Therefore, Vikki Slade was re-elected unopposed as Chair of BNW.</p>	
9.	<p>Election of Officers and Committee Members for the year 2024/25</p> <p>All Officers and existing Committee members were willing to continue for another year. The meeting was informed that this willingness also included Peter Sidaway and David Hunt both of whom had recently been co-opted onto the Committee.</p> <p>Proposed: VS Seconded: WP Vote: Unanimous</p>	

10	Police Guest Speaker – Inspector Nick Lee (NL)	
10.1	<p>Responsibility</p> <p>NL told the meeting that he had policing responsibility for the whole of Poole which was the largest geographical area of BCP comprising many diverse communities.</p>	
10.2	<p>Community</p> <p>NL was amazed to hear of the number of people signed up to the Committee. It was good to see people supporting and helping the community. He was pleased to tell the meeting that PCSO, Pete Raymond knows the Broadstone community inside out and can often be seen around the area on his bike.</p>	
10.3	<p>Heath Fires</p> <p>It has been a great disappointment that there had been a large fire behind Corfe Hills school. The police were carrying out a number of interviews with persons suspected of being involved in this and are seeing what the evidence looks like. The police work collaboratively with other organisations and anyone linked with heath fires is referred for prevention courses with Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue. They also go into schools to talk to the young people showing them the risks associated with fire. As a way of putting this across to young people they will use a courtroom drama scenario to emphasize the consequences of starting fires.</p>	
10.4	<p>Shoplifting</p> <p>Focus has been concentrated on prolific shoplifters in Broadstone based on a data run operation and three main targets were identified and caught red-handed. Details of shoplifters identified and targetted are run to retailers over the area to help prevent offenders going from store to store – an initiative welcomed by stores.</p>	
10.5	<p>Anti Social Behaviour (ASB)</p> <p>NL assured the meeting that ASB is low in Broadstone compared to other areas of Poole. Nevertheless, he knows how it impacts on people’s way of life and is, therefore, aware that it is not to be underestimated. The police look at where there are pockets of incidents and often the data correlates to domestic disputes. Five cases are currently under the Community Consequences Scheme , primarily targetted at young people, but can also include older individuals. A further two people have been put on the Community Protection Scheme. For offenders to be brought to justice the police have to show the Courts that due process has been gone through.</p> <p>ASB will always be a priority for neighbourhood policing and to this end the police work with other agencies and carry out targetted patrols. Much is heard often about police visibility and they are aiming to improve this. The police do need to be visible in areas where there are problems and when they are occurring. There has been some good work when dealing with ASB like begging and knocking on doors asking for money. Tackling ASB needs to have a positive interaction between the police and members of the public, therefore, the public must report cases of ASB.</p>	

10.6	<p>Other Agencies</p> <p>The police constantly work with other agencies, for example, HMRC and Trading Standards with whom they have jointly worked on the illegal selling of vapes. Four stores, not in Broadstone, were targeted and one shop elsewhere was charged for closure.</p> <p>NL holds bi-monthly meetings with BCP councillors, chairs ASB meetings that include schools and housing associations. The objective is to take actions and to hold others to account – not just the police.</p>	
10.7	<p>Drugs</p> <p>Targetted work under Operation Viper helps to safeguard vulnerable people, stop exploitation and disrupt drug dealing. Majority of crime is down to drug addiction which is responsible for 70% of shoplifting, for 50% of murders and for 50% of violent crime.</p>	
10.8	<p>Cyber Fraud</p> <p>NL illustrated a current case totalling a £1.2 million fraud for which a special officer had been assigned to the case. The problem with frauds of this kind is that the victim is severely embarrassed by the loss, but they shouldn't be. Incidents of online fraud must be reported to the relevant body eg banks and Action Fraud.</p>	
10.9	<p>Trauma Model</p> <p>NL shared an update on the trauma informed policing model which seeks to support victims in a more holistic way and recognise when a crime has been committed by someone due to extreme poverty or where they have been a victim of exploitation.</p> <p>Further to this the police will be working with the NHS, social care providers and other partnership agencies to ensure people in crisis are responded to and supported by the appropriate agency in a timely manner so they receive the best care.</p>	
10.10	<p>Information Sources</p>	
10.10.1	<p>QR Code</p> <p>Police publications print a QR code in the bottom left hand corner of the front page, which members of the public can scan onto their mobile phones, and contains advice on how to avoid crimes.</p>	
10.10.2	<p>Dorset Alert</p> <p>A two-way community messaging system operated by the police which allows them to exchange information with the public by e-mail (or telephone) at no cost. The public can make it bespoke to them because it is designed to let people who register, choose the type of information they would like to receive concerning crime, ASB, witness appeals, crime prevention, community events and local good news. The public are notified about every crime and incident that happens in their</p>	

	neighbourhood.	
10.10.3	<p>Monthly Report</p> <p>A police monthly report is issued which gives details about everything going on in individual police inspectors areas.</p>	
10.11	<p>Police Officers</p> <p>Finally, NL would like it put on record that he is very proud of the officers out there actually doing the work. They are doing a cracking job.</p>	
11	<p>Q & A Session</p> <p>Inspector Nick Lee then took the following questions from the floor.</p>	
11.1	<p>Car Crime</p> <p>Q. In one neighbourhood three cars had been broken into by a keyless device booster, which increases the signal from car key fobs, and possessions taken. The incidents were reported to the police, but nothing was done and the owners were told to claim through their insurance.</p> <p>A. The police are aware of such incidents and triage sessions are held every Monday whereby a preliminary assessment is made and a response approach adopted prioritising the urgency and nature of response. This will not necessarily result in deployment to the incident(s), but doesn't mean they will be ignored. The police recognise that there is a spike in car crime at the moment. Stolen cars are being abandoned and found in other areas. NL suggested that measures to prevent such crimes include use of a Faraday box, which blocks the signal from a car's key fob, and/or placing tin foil around a box in which car keys are kept in.</p>	
11.2	<p>Shoplifting</p> <p>Q. Was the shoplifting epidemic being carried out by gangs or local individuals?</p> <p>A. The one gang that NL knew about was not local. However, there may be exploitation of individuals around shoplifting so there was a need to look at the bigger picture.</p> <p>Q. VS wanted to know what proportion of shoplifting was down to need or greed?</p> <p>A. The majority are due to organised crime or drug addiction. However, police officers are trained to look at exactly the reasons behind the offence. Offenders may be desperate because the individual cannot feed their family. Sometimes issue of a Public Protection Notice may be necessary and details shared with other bodies, for example, schools where a child, who is in trauma from their domestic situation, may be involved.</p>	
11.3	<p>Car Parking</p> <p>Q. A resident wanted to know the the difference between parking on someone's driveway and parking on the road, where there is a dropped pavement and blocking their exit from their property.</p>	

	<p>A. Whilst there is no law specifically against parking on someone else’s driveway without consent, the driveway is part of the property. When somebody drives onto it they are committing an act of trespassing. This is considered a civil offence, not a criminal one, so the police cannot make an arrest for it. If a car is blocking a resident’s driveway whilst parked on a public road, the local council has the authority to act, but when on private property the council cannot remove the offending vehicle. Pursuing legal action for trespassing can be time consuming and expensive.</p>	
12	<p>Guest Speaker – David Sidwick (DS) – Police & Crime Commissioner</p>	
12.1	<p>Role of the Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC)</p> <p>After having been congratulated by VS for having been re-elected to the post DS explained that the PCC is the voice of the people and holds the police to account. The PCC is responsible for appointing and dismissing the Chief Constable of the police force, overseeing the performance, community safety and the budget of the police and consulting with local people and organisations. A PCC aims to cut crime and deliver an efficient and effective police service, but cannot intervene in operational policing.</p>	
12.2	<p>Police and Crime Plan</p> <p>Surveys had shown what the public wanted. They wanted the police force to be engaged in reducing crime and ASB. The result was the Police and Crime Plan which was in the fourth year of its 8 year target. The Plan has a priority to make policing more engaged and connected to the people and communities of Dorset. The police had to change the way they operated.</p> <p>DS handed out a leaflet to the meeting which tells people more about who to contact and how, and he hoped people would keep the information close at hand and help him make Dorset a safer place to be.</p>	
12.3	<p>Police and Crime Updates</p> <p>The leaflet updates all of the 6 key priorities of the Plan, namely</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Crime and ASB 2. Making Policing more visible and connected 3. Fighting Crime and High Harm 4. Fighting Rural Crime 5. Putting Victims and Communities First 6. Making every Penny Count <p>Full details are contained in the leaflet.</p>	
12.4	<p>Measures Taken</p> <p>DS talked through some of the individual measures taken and their impact. These were designed to meet what the public had said they wanted.</p>	
12.4.1	<p>Police Recruitment</p>	

12.4.2	<p>Currently 1441 officers, but training cycle inhibits doing more operationally.</p> <p>ASB</p> <p>Since 2019, there has been a 25% reduction in ASB across Dorset with a year to date drop of 14%. Measures included operations against boy racers in hot hatch backs, blocking cubby holes in public toilet facilities (a favourite haunt for drug dealing), for which the local residents were very grateful, using the Get Consequence Scheme to work better in areas of Dorset where youngsters hold residents to ransom and holding discussions on how police and other organisations can do better.</p>	

12.4.3	<p>Grants</p> <p>Along with Operation Relentless funding is available for grants to encourage children away from county lines activity, and working with other organisation like AFC Bournemouth and farms to give them something else to focus on.</p>	
12.4.4	<p>Initiatives and Successes</p> <p>DS gave details of some of the things that have been achieved to deliver his priorities.</p>	
12.4.5	<p>Front Offices</p> <p>Three police station front offices have been re-opened.</p>	
12.4.6	<p>Mobile Police Stations</p> <p>Plans are underway to bring in mobile police stations.</p>	
12.4.7	<p>Missing Persons</p> <p>Much Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) time is taken up with missing persons work which is very time consuming and resource intensive. DS wants to see a specialist missing persons team set up.</p>	
12.4.8	<p>Calling 999</p> <p>DS told the meeting that reporting “crimes” by calling 999 fall into ‘mad and bad’ categories. Though the incident may be important to the caller it is not necessarily a 999 case. He went on to quote an article in the March 2024 edition of the Daily Echo alleging that Dorset Police response times to 999 cases was the worst in the country. The report actually related to the previous October. In reality dealing with 999 calls hit 85% of target last summer and was now achieving 90%. Under a revised system police were now reacting to 999 incidents 10% faster than before.</p>	
12.4.9	<p>Drug Offences</p> <p>Figures showed that Bournemouth was the ninth highest place in the country for heroin and cocaine addiction. Tough enforcement is required. Both Operation Scorpion and Operation Viper have had huge success across Dorset in targetting drug gangs and closing 45% of county lines. Significantly tackling street drug dealing has been targetted. Also offenders in domestic abuse incidents are tested for drugs when arrested and prove positive for cocaine use in most cases.</p>	
13	<p>Q&A Session</p> <p>David Sidwick then took questions from the floor</p>	
13.1	<p>Road Safety</p> <p>Q. The questioner wanted to know what was happening about improving road safety.</p> <p>A. DS explained that road safety is owned by Dorset Road Safe who work with</p>	

13.2	<p>a number of partner agencies. The aim is to significantly reduce road traffic offences by 2050 which is currently on target. The police have launched Operation Dragoon to look into known offenders and a mobile van is being brought in to help catch offenders. He said the best deterrent is Community Speedwatch which reduces speeding, but does not prosecute speedsters. Additionally, DS wants to equip Speedwatch volunteers with body video cameras to record the increasing number of abusive gestures they receive.</p> <p>Racing Cars</p> <p>Q. What can be done about the car races taking place at night in the Lower Blandford Road?</p> <p>A. It is a matter for the NPT. Residents must report such incidents so that police can capture the data and set up speed checks. DS said most speedsters are local residents. 12 automatic speedwatch (ASW) cameras are to be installed in Dorset. A 6 month pilot project is underway to assess the level of administration required to service ASW cameras and police enforcement subsequent to their use. DS is hoping to drop the length of the pilot to 3 months.</p>	
13.3	<p>Fraud</p> <p>Q. Residents are concerned about the number of incidents of fraud, especially the high level involving older, vulnerable people.</p> <p>A. The main issue is understanding the underlying matters that lead people to become victims of fraud. There is a project with Age UK and the Dorset Police Fraud Prevention Officer to help and educate older people about how to recognise, prevent and report it. A number of cases concern powers of attorney whereby old people are conned by their relatives. Romance fraud is considered the most wicked kind of fraud.</p>	
13.4	<p>Shoplifting</p> <p>Q. Questioner wanted to know that after having visited Boots on The Broadway and seen all the empty shelves what were the big stores doing to combat shoplifting.</p> <p>A. Unfortunately, stores do not report 80% of shoplifting cases. Police are working with BIDS and Chambers of Commerce to address situation and tackle perpetual offenders under Operation Shoplifter. It is hoped the effect will see no more organised stealing to order. Police are targetting large retailers to set up a system to share information between stores to assist in catching shoplifters. At the moment large store senior management is putting the responsibility on the local manager which DS considers unfair. This attitude is a big frustration for the police. It is important that incidents seen by shoppers are reported though it is accepted that currently the reporting system within the police is rather clunky. Stores should also securely tag goods to stop re-selling by perpetrators.</p> <p>However, things are to change. Police will prioritise urgently attending the scene of shoplifting instances based on an assessment of risk; prolific or juvenile offenders will be treated with a raised priority. Police will be deployed definitely in instances involving violence against a shop worker and where security staff have detained an offender in store or where attendance is necessary to secure evidence. The Government wants to make assault on a retail worker a</p>	

	<p>standalone criminal offence punishable by a six-month prison sentence, an unlimited fine and banned from going back to the shop where they committed their offences.</p>	
13.5	<p>Chief Constable</p> <p>Q. Question from the floor concerned the PCC's powers to hire and fire the Chief Constable.</p> <p>A. Yes there is that power. DS he is happy with the current Chief Constable who is getting on with tackling the culture within the force and ensuring that they are fighting crime in the county.</p>	
13.6	<p>Fly tipping</p> <p>Q. What was being done about fly-tipping in the county?</p> <p>A. Fly tipping occurs everywhere. Sanction under the law allows for a £1000 fine to be imposed and makes it easier for the police, Environment Agency and local council to seize the offender's vehicle.</p> <p>Fly tipping on private land must be reported, but the owner is responsible for clearing it. If the owner removes it to the roadside they will be committing an offence of fly tipping and can undermine any prosecution. So it has to stay while under investigation. Similarly, with abandoned vehicles the rules must be followed.</p>	
13.7	<p>E-Scooters and Bikes</p> <p>Q. Residents are worried about e-scooters and bikes speeding and riding on pavements.</p> <p>A. E-Scooters and bikes are classified as motor vehicles and it is illegal to ride them on roads without tax, insurance, lights and number plates. It is also illegal to use them on footpaths, cycle lanes and bridleways. Police can seize the vehicles, but only if they are on the road. Unfortunately, legislation has not yet caught up and there are too many of them around to enforce. Additionally, the police cannot give chase in case, as a result, the rider falls off, or crashes, and injures themselves. It is notable that e-scooters and bikes are more and more being used by drug dealers.</p> <p>One countermeasure would be to stop retailers selling e-bikes and scooters, but retailers on Amazon may not be within UK police reach to ask for more advice to be given regarding legality to purchasers. Beryl e-scooters could do more with larger registration plates and more obvious publicity to increase the ability to</p>	

13.8	<p>complain, where necessary.</p> <p>Bournemouth Incident</p> <p>Q. VS asked why when she had witnessed a drug deal in the town centre and telephoned 999 she was told 999 is not a life or death line and was diverted to 101. She protested that it was a crime in progress - a drug deal – and was informed that there are so many of them.</p> <p>A. The person in the police force’s control room got it wrong communication-wise and was now undergoing re-training. The control room are good at doing their job, but exercised poor communication in this instance. The police are rolling up drug dealers due to the public reporting crimes and it is hoped that this incident does not undermine the excellent public confidence the public have in the police.</p>	
14.	<p>Speedwatch</p> <p>The Broadstone Community Speedwatch made an appeal for volunteers, informing the meeting that they were down to just 3 people who can regularly undertake their checks which are all supported by the police. They would like the word spread that they want help. A good volunteer source, for example, might be mothers who could spare an hour or so after doing the school run. VS agreed that for both BNW and Speedwatch an item asking people to get in touch if they can help in either capacity would be included in the next BNW newsletter.</p>	

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 21.55 hours

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