

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

1	<p>Chairman</p> <p>Owing to holidays and commitments elsewhere VS and CW were unable to attend the meeting. Therefore, as the senior ranking officer RH took the chair for this meeting.</p>	
2	<p>Co-Opting</p> <p>PS and DH agreed to be co-opted onto the Committee</p>	
3	<p>Minutes of the last Meeting</p> <p>The minutes of the last meeting were accepted and approved.</p> <p>Proposed: RH Seconded: PS Vote: Unanimous</p>	
4	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p>There were no matters arising</p>	
5.	<p>Action Log</p> <p>Open actions were reviewed and status/progress updates applied</p>	
6.	<p>Secretary's Report</p> <p>CB had confirmed this morning with the RBL Club that the agreed arrangements were in place for Thursday's AGM.</p>	
6.1	<p>Reserved Car Parking</p> <p>CB said the request for a reserved parking place for the PCC on Thursday was refused as RBL did not operate this arrangement. It was a case of first come/first served. He was confident there would be sufficient parking for all attendees.</p>	
6.2	<p>IT Requirements</p> <p>If needed for presentations, slide shows etc, at the AGM direct input into a TV</p>	

screen via an HDMI cable from a laptop was available at the venue.

7 Treasurer's Report

7.1 Accounts

A copy of BNW's accounts for the year ended 31st March 2024 was presented to the Committee. 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. Key points arising from the accounts are set out below.

7.2 Donations

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.

7.3 Collection of Donations

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.

7.4 Expenses

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.

7.5

Surplus

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 furtherance of our objectives as a flourishing neighbourhood watch.

7.6	<p>Approval</p> <p>Committee members were asked to approve the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2024, prior to the submission of them for the approval of members attending the AGM on Thursday 16th May.</p> <p>Proposed: RH Seconded: CB Vote: Unanimous</p>	
8	<p>Amendments to Constitution</p> <p>The proposed amended Constitution, which incorporated three main changes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the rights of members • the Committee’s discretionary powers • fixed terms of office for Committee officers, <p>had been circulated to the Committee who were now asked to approve Constitution Issue 8, Draft 1.</p> <p>Proposed: RH Seconded: PS Vote Unanimous</p>	
9	<p>Membership Officer’s Report</p>	
9.1	<p>Coordinators and Contacts</p>	
9.2	<p>The had been no more resignations over the last two months.</p>	
9.3	<p>New Members Packs</p>	
10	<p>Five new members’ pack had been given out to where properties had changed hands</p> <p>E-Mail Newsletter</p> <p>An increase of 18 has resulted in e-mail membership now standing at 448. WP pointed out that the “Open Rate” ie those members who received the e-mail newsletter and actually opened it; was still only 68%. However, some members eg Coordinators and Contacts have access to both e-mail and the paper copy anyway.</p>	
10.1	<p>Editor’s Report</p> <p>Quarterly Newsletter</p>	
11	<p>CM said the first issue of the quarterly newsletter had bedded in well and issued on time. No problems with the change had been encountered. Much of the content related to the forthcoming AGM.</p>	

11.1	<p>Media Officer's Report</p> <p>Facebook and Instagram</p>	
11.2	<p>There's been no change in numbers of followers, but a slight upturn in reactions to Posts.</p>	
11.3	<p>Mail Chimp</p> <p>An increase in requests for Email Newsletters has been noted coming through on the website server. This means that BNW really need to engage with MailChimp and upgrade its package to start moving ahead with proposed changes.</p>	
11.4	<p>BNW Website</p> <p>The Website has started going through a change on the servers and JL will need to look into a continuity plan in the event he is not available as the Website hosts are expecting photo ID confirmation if anything goes wrong. JL will contact them and see how it can be done. This is all part of a Cyber Security plan that our Website Hosts have to now do.</p>	
12	<p>Business Continuity</p> <p>Business Continuity and Resilience are still on JL's list to do, the Committee need to discuss and start implementing.</p>	
12.1	<p>Outward Facing</p> <p>Joint Events</p> <p>BNW needed to be more outward looking in its actions and as part of this process it was suggested conducting events with Corfe Mullen Home Watch and doing things on behalf of one another (see Action Point 0324/11).</p>	
13	<p>Additionally, BNW should be involved in this year's Fun Day in July not only having a stall, but also volunteering to help with stewarding and car parking etc.</p>	
13.1	<p>Crime Graph</p> <p>Feedback</p>	
13.2	<p>Following the introduction of a graph in the Spring Newsletter instead of the usual table of crime stats CW had received from one member feedback saying they preferred the latter. CW had suggested canvassing members at the AGM to see if there was any reports favourable to the Crime Graph. Generally, the Committee thought it would not be representative although if there was time at the AGM attendees might be asked informally for feedback.</p> <p>Crime Statistics</p> <p>PS wondered what purpose the statistics served and what members did with the data. He questioned whether much store could be placed on the stats, for example</p>	

14	<p>did they provide trends and were any increases/decreases there by accident or an actual crime 'wave'. It was necessary to know what was behind the figures. The 'blurring of the lines' of some of the categories eg Violence and sexual offences needed to be sorted out. CW had spent a considerable amount of his time in the past trying to get such clarity from the police, but to no avail. PS would take this on board and seek answers from the police.</p> <p>Action: To contact police for fuller definitions of crime stats categories</p> <p>AGM</p> <p>The Committee agreed the AGM agenda, subjects and order of business. The target finishing time for the meeting would be 21:30 hours to allow leeway for the Q&A sessions. Copies of the agenda would be sent to Committee members only.</p> <p>Action: Send copies of AGM agenda to Committee members</p>	<p>PS 0524/01</p> <p>CB 0524/02</p>

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 2055 hours

Date of Next Meeting:	9 th July 2024
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Minutes taken by:	Chris Burt
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Minutes issued on:	22 May 2024
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