

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

1	<p>Apologies</p> <p>As Above</p>	
2	<p>Chairman</p> <p>Vikki Slade had now formally tendered her resignation as Chair of BNW as it is simply not going to be possible to maintain her position with her new role in Westminster.</p> <p>Consequently, she had spoken to PS and he is content, subject to Committee approval, to be co-opted into the Chair in the short term .</p> <p>The Committee unanimously agreed to PS's co-option and welcomed him on board as Chairman.</p> <p>PS wanted to look at the Chairman's role, understand it and perhaps have a discussion about it at a future meeting. Also he wanted the Committee to think about what the Watch wants to achieve, the purpose of the group and how it adds value to the community. It definitely has a role, but do we think it must go beyond the newsletter now in the digital age.</p> <p>Action: Committee to consider the future role of the Watch</p>	<p>Committee 0924/01</p>
3	<p>Co-Opting</p> <p>The Committee welcomed Jude Chapman (JC) who has moved to Broadstone from Luton and brings to the Committee her wide experience as a leading member of their NW together with her service to the local community as a LibDem councillor.</p>	
4	<p>Minutes of the last Meeting</p> <p>The minutes of the last meeting were accepted and approved.</p> <p>Proposed: CW Seconded: RH Vote: Unanimous</p>	

5	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p>There were no matters arising</p>	
6	<p>Action Log</p> <p>Open actions were reviewed and status/progress updates applied</p>	
7	<p>Secretary's Report</p>	
7.1	<p>Telephone Preference Service (TPS)</p> <p>CB drew the Committee's attention to the recently issued, via Dorset Alert, leaflet for TPS which is absolutely free to join. Its focus is on fraud protect and in pictorial and easy to read format explains how to sign up, reporting calls that come through on TPS, why reporting matters and the more people reporting the easier it is for the authorities to act and safeguard our community's well being. To sign up visit www.tpsonline.org.uk or call 0345 070 0707.</p>	
7.2	<p>Tracker</p> <p>CB reminded Committee members of the Tracker spreadsheet attached to the Action Log via the third Tab. The spreadsheet gives details of enquiries and complaints received by the Watch and the action(s) taken to resolve them. Tracker is currently administered by JL. Two complaints had been received this time and related to pavement parking and the number of driving schools using Broadstone roads for learning. Although pavement parking had been discussed before when VS was in the Chair PS re-iterated the point that it is not illegal. The police will only get involved if the road is blocked. He had written an article in the E-News recently about this very problem. A 'black spot' in this respect was Wentworth Drive, but PS has spoken to BCP and a resolution is imminent. The Watch will reproduce PS's article in its media.</p> <p>DVLA are responsible for the allocation of roads for driving lessons.</p> <p>Action: Reproduce PS's article on pavement parking in BNW media</p>	<p>JL 0924/02</p>
7.3	<p>Dorset Alert</p> <p>CB had noticed that local NPT's had issued a survey via Dorset Alert asking residents what they see as their community priorities.</p>	
7.4	<p>Burglaries</p> <p>In this last week there had been two house burglaries in Fontmell and Lower Blandford roads respectively and a theft from a vehicle also in Fontmell Road. The burglars all wore balaclavas or hoodies.</p> <p>PS thought the police had responded quickly to these offences, but prevention of the theft from the vehicle had not been helped by it being left unlocked.</p>	
8	<p>Chairman's Report</p>	

<p>9</p> <p>9.1</p> <p>9.2</p> <p>9.3</p> <p>9.4</p> <p>10</p> <p>10.1</p> <p>10.2</p> <p>10.3</p>	<p>As PS had only taken up the post this evening there was no Chairman's report for this meeting.</p> <p>Treasurer's Report</p> <p>Bankings</p> <p>There have been far fewer BNW bank account transactions so far this financial year, compared with last year, which is an outcome of our decision not to ask members for donations in 2024 and to move to quarterly newsletters. As a consequence, BNW's financial results for the five months to 31st August are little changed from those for the three months to 30th June, which were reported to the Committee in July.</p> <p>Donations</p> <p>BNW received donations totalling £163 in the five months to 31st August. Roughly half of this comprised the late submission of donations collected by Coordinators and Contacts in the previous financial year ended 31st March.</p> <p>Expenses</p> <p>Administrative expenses totalled £331, analysed as £254 for printing and stationery, £53 for AGM and other meeting expenses, and £24 for sundries.</p> <p>Deficit</p> <p>The deficit for the five months was £168. The bank account balance was £6,180 on 31st August, which equates to current annual budgeted expenditure by more than seven times. So BNW can certainly afford to 'diversify' its activities, as Vikki Slade had proposed, but first needs to recruit new, younger, enterprising Committee members, who are willing to pick up the baton from those of us who have already done a lot for the Watch over the years.</p> <p>Membership Officer's Report</p> <p>Membership</p> <p>Membership remains stable. When WP has been asked for New Member's Packs it's because houses have changed hands. There are often changes of ownership within Broadstone where the householders are already members.</p> <p>Coordinators and Contacts</p> <p>There are three vacancies for Contacts - two retirements (West Way and Renault Drive) plus one house move (Merrifield Avenue)</p> <p>E-Mail Newsletter</p> <p>Email membership currently stands at 453.</p>	

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11.1	Editor's Report	
	Quarterly Newsletter	
11.2	The deadline for contributions to the Autumn newsletter is 7 th October.	
	Valediction	
	The Committee decided it would be right and proper to include a valediction article in the Autumn newsletter in recognition of VS's 9 years of loyal and valuable service to BNW and her unceasing efforts as Chair of the Watch.	
11.3	Action: Produce a valediction in honour of Vikki Slade's service to the Watch in the Autumn newsletter	CW 0924/03
	Newsletter Future	
	CM asked for the meeting's opinion on whether the newsletter's current format and content was no longer fit for purpose in view of the Watch's move to a more community focussed approach towards its activities.	
	Currently, it contains the Chairman's report, police report, Trading Standards report, cyber fraud and protective measures and the monthly crime statistics. It was accepted that content tends to be advisory rather than positive news.	
	There was a need to look at how members find it and how they pick it up.	
	A number of ideas were considered and discussed ranging from changing the colour of the newsletter each quarter and being more focussed about using it to appeal for volunteers from the membership to promoting a more joined up approach to community issues and appointing a publicity officer.	
	It was thought the best way to progress this would be to break the tasks up as separate projects to be debated by small sub-groups. It would be necessary to determine their objectives, how many persons each group would comprise and a timetable for when they report back to the Committee. JL could be asked if he might like to be the publicity officer and take the lead on publicity due to his expertise with social media which would no doubt play a significant part in BNW's diversity of activities.	
	PS asked for Committee members to formulate some ideas to send to him which he will co-ordinate for the next Committee meeting.	Committee 0924/04
	Action: Committee members to have some ideas to send to PS	PS 0924/05
12	Action: Co-ordinate ideas submitted for next meeting	
12.1	The Link	

13	<p>Chairman's Article</p> <p>PS was asked if he is continuing with the BNW article VS used to do for the Link. Not at the moment, but if he does he doesn't know when that will be, but he would try and keep any article fresh rather than repeating what is in the newsletter. He thought a monthly Link item was a good idea, but with more people contributing making it a more joined up approach.</p>	
13.1	<p>Chitter Chatter Club</p> <p>Publicity</p> <p>To publicise it more LD was going to get the Club highlighted in the Link.</p>	
13.2	<p>Chairman/Chitter Chatter Club</p> <p>PS would attend a Club meeting to meet the people there and obtain their views/ comments etc about the Watch and how they see it's role in the community as a whole.</p>	
14	<p>AGM</p> <p>Venue</p> <p>The Committee agreed that The Junction was the ideal venue for the Watch's AGM. As it was unavailable this year, due to booking too late it was agreed booking for the 2025 AGM should be made in November.</p>	
14.1	<p>Action: Book The Junction in November 2024 for the 2025 AGM</p> <p>Flyer</p> <p>As well as announcing the AGM in the newsletter it was considered to publicise it more, in the hope of reaching more people and better highlighting it, by producing an extra a flyer about the event.</p>	
14.2	<p>Media Officer's Report</p> <p>Social Media</p> <p>It is still growing at a steady pace, particularly on Facebook with more interactions from followers and members. JL believes that as BNW continues with an increase of e-mail newsletters, and with its ability to enable click able links, an increase in BNW's social media accounts will be seen.</p> <p>Trawling the Dorset police sites JL has been able to publish more information, either from Dorset Alerts or the Poole North Facebook site, which is proving very informative for him and BNW members.</p>	
15	<p>Mail Chimp</p>	
15.1		
15.2		

**JL
0924/06**

15.3	<p>At the moment the Watch is on the Free Application which is limited to 500 contacts. The latest membership report shows the number of contacts standing at 453 meaning it is only 47 short of the limit.</p> <p>The next package which would fit BNW requirements is Standard which starts at 500, but can be increased up to 10,000. BNW requirement for full membership is 3,500, which is doubtful it would ever reach, therefore, the next band is 1500 coming in at a cost of £34 and with a lot more add-ons than at the moment.</p> <p>One other package that is available is the Essential at a cost of £20.36 giving BNW three seats. This would meet BNW requirements and is, therefore, recommended.</p> <p>Microsoft Office 365</p>	
15.4	<p>After research JL has found that the Business Option costs £6 a month, for a Web based option only, per person. For a Web and Desktop Option it is £12 a month per person with both having the full suite of Microsoft Office programs. If the Committee decided to go for this it would mean all its members would be using the same software. However, JL thinks that at this point things should stay as they are concentrating on storage and access.</p> <p>Website</p> <p>JL has tweaked the website, taking into account comments raised by Committee members, and further comments would still be most welcome.</p> <p>With the package BNW is on it has the ability to expand what the Watch does eg more content can be added, provide more information and generally achieve more interaction.</p>	
15.5	<p>JL has received an e-mail from BNW's internet provider, TSOHOST, that they are merging with 123.reg. He has received clarification that nothing will change after the merger, assuring business as usual. JL will keep the Committee informed as it progresses and the merger is expected to be completed by the end of 2024.</p> <p>Digital Switchover</p> <p>Nationally, the country is heading for a Digital Switchover meaning loss of copper lines to the standard landline telephone system. This has brought a plethora of questions and problems, particularly for the more senior members of the community who rely on emergency help via the phone, emergency assistance with call buttons etc.</p> <p>To try and help spread the word and offer advice JL has become a volunteer for Our Watch and BT, organising and running presentations in Dorset. He has BT training on 10th October and with Our Watch on 31st October. His first venue is in Wareham around the 14th November. JL hopes by doing this he will be able to help with BNW's own transition providing advice and some support to members.</p> <p>On reading JL's report the Committee would want him to give them a presentation at some point</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">JL 0924/07</p>

16	<p>Action: Media Officer to give presentation to Committee at some point</p> <p>Possible Co-Operation with Corfe Mullen Homewatch (CMH)</p> <p>CW had delivered his paper to the Committee to consider if there was any scope for sharing ideas. CMH is much smaller than BNW with approximately 850 members who pay an annual subscription of £1. Their newsletter has been upgraded to a glossy format, costing around £400 for printing, and its content is more or less the same as BNW's, but also contains information on parish events and facilities with business advertisements and details of local trades.</p> <p>There were some more significant differences between BNW and CMH in that they have more regular and effective co-operation with their local police sergeant and help from a local funeral directors who provide a free venue for their meetings . They have an idea to try and engage with with young people by setting up some sort of Youth Watch.</p> <p>The Committee had a lengthy and detailed discussion on the pros and cons of engaging with CMH concluding that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • their newsletter may be better presented; • however, it has the appearance of a mini-Link; • its format would be difficult to justify as a similar format for the BNW newsletter which is an A4 sheet; • BNW newsletter is valued by members for its range and quality of reports and contributions; • significantly the BNW newsletter's printing cost is 4p per copy; • their attempt at a Youth Watch is interesting; • Youth Watch would be of limited benefit to BNW as the police already go into Broadstone schools and engage with young people; • Broadstone has a thriving youth club; • comparison shows that BNW is much larger than CMH with over 3000 members; and • BNW has an 11 member Committee whereas CMH has only one person running the 'whole show'. <p>Consequently, it was decided that as BNW is exploring its current situation, activities and sorting out its future course and community role, all of which is going to take some considerable time, it will need to be addressed before BNW is able to look at any external co-operation.</p> <p>This item is also covered in the Action Log under 0324/11.</p>	
17	<p>Action: Letter of reply to be sent to Geoff Harris, Chairman of CMH, informing him of the Committee's decision</p> <p>Any Other Business</p> <p>There were no AOB items.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">CW 0324/11</p>

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 2150 hours

Date of Next Meeting:	12 November 2024
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Minutes taken by:	Chris Burt
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Minutes issued on:	28 th September 2024
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