

## Minutes

### PRESTON NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH MEETING

7th Mar 2016

Present: PCSO Heather Burrows, PCSO Debbie Parfitt, Jane Cole, Sarah Gill, Carol Bowden, Alison Bierrum, Pat Loustau, Ita Leaver

Apologies: Ken Murray, Lynda Woodward, Tim Justham, Brenda Reintjes

The following points were discussed:

#### 1 **Committee**

The committee consists of eleven members. James Bentall has stepped down as the representative for PHC and Ian Robinson, the Facilities Manager has kindly taken his place.

#### 2 **Local crime update**

We are fortunate to have had a very quiet time in Preston during the past year and crime has been very low.

In July 2015 two wheels were taken from a residents car parked on School Lane In November a small storage "shed" was broken into but nothing was taken.

With regard to neighbouring villages, according to Police reports, Pirton has had several house burglaries including a robbery at the Post Office shop. Garages and sheds have also been targeted in Breachwood Green, Offley and Lilley. There has also been a spate of house burglaries in Hitchin.

Flytipping in the rural areas is still an ongoing problem.

#### 3 **The OWL System + note distribution**

Ita and Jane are set up on OWL (Online Watch Link) and receive messages via email. Ita sends any relevant information to committee members for distribution to households in their area. Jane deputises when Ita is on holiday.

Outlying households are kept informed of incidents by email.

A note is also posted on the notice board at the Green.

Everybody agreed to continue with the note distribution.

Please remember to let Ita know when you are away so your area can be covered.

PCSO Heather mentioned that the OWL System is also used for relaying information other than crime-related matters where links and attachments

can be accessed easily. It was agreed that all villagers should be given the option of signing up to receive the OWL emails. Heather will draft a letter for Ita to arrange distribution to all Preston residents.

#### 4 **Street Meets**

As part of the Safer Streets Campaign, PCSO Heather Burrows carried out two sessions in Preston last summer - in Chequers Lane and Back Lane. This consisted of knocking on doors to discuss any concerns and offering crime prevention advice. Residents who weren't at home had a letter put in their door explaining how the campaign worked.

Villagers were also encouraged to sign up to the OWL system. This resulted in some residents taking up the offer.

Heather hopes to have further Street Meets during the summer.

#### 5 **Village Matters**

Last summer the Parish Council was contacted by villagers with concerns about speeding in Butchers Lane and Chequers Lane.

PCSO Heather was asked about the possibility of speed monitoring strips to give an indication of actual speeds but this was not feasible.

Residents were issued with wheelie bin stickers as another means of making people aware of speed limits.

#### 6 **Police Surgeries with Heather**

These are held on **Saturday mornings from 10am - 12pm** in the **Village Hall**. Dates are published in the Newsletter, village website and on the notice board at the Green. The Primary School and PHC are also notified. The next one will be on April 23rd.

#### **Any Other Business**

7 Local area meetings are held in Lilley every 3 months or so. PCSO Heather Burrows also attends and recent crimes in the area and examples of policing successes are discussed.

Heather receives a copy of the Village Newsletter each month.

We welcome PC Matt Jenkins back on our Safer Neighbourhood Team next month. He had been seconded to another role by HQ.

Be vigilant at all times and always report suspicious activity.

The non-emergency number to call is 101.

Ita thanked Heather and the committee for their help and support.

*CC. John Healey, Chairman Preston Parish Council  
Richard Coles, Chairman Preston Trust*