

## Minutes of the

### PRESTON NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH MEETING

16th Feb 2015

Present: Jane Cole, Lynda Woodward, Sarah Gill, Alison Bierrum, Tim Justham, Carol Bowden, PCSO Heather Burrows, PCSO Debbie Parfitt, Ita Leaver

Apologies: Ken Murray, Dr James Bentall, Brenda Reintjes, Pat Loustau

The following points were discussed:

#### 1 **Committee**

The committee has been expanded to eleven members. Sarah has moved to Poynders End and now covers that area. Carol Bowden joined in April 2014 and covers The Green.

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

We have had a very quiet time in Preston during the past year and crime has been very low. Looking back over the previous 12 months or so, the most serious incident was a distraction burglary at a property near The Green. On Friday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2014, a resident was followed home from shopping at Waitrose. A male occupant of the car approached the victim and asked for directions whilst a female waited in the car. A handbag was taken from the front seat whilst the resident was taking shopping from the boot.

The previous April, a vehicle was used to ram the doors of a barn at PHC but the offenders did not gain access. Also in April a house in Back Lane was burgled, the offenders gained access from the back so could not be seen.

There were also a few reports of suspicious vehicles in the village. The most recent one on 2<sup>nd</sup> February this year at Poynders End. Two vehicles went up a farm drive – a white Transit-sized flat-bedded truck and a small white van. The farm dogs were alerted and both vehicles turned around and left. At about 6am the following morning, a white Transit van came up the drive and promptly left as the resident was tending horses.

These incidents are a reminder to be vigilant at all times.

According to Police reports, in the last two weeks there have been burglaries or attempted burglaries to out-buildings and especially on farms in Offley, Kimpton and Hexton. This seems to happen between 3 and 6am

and the people involved are after quad bikes, gardening equipment and Stihl power tools. The Police are patrolling these areas as a result of this.

3 **The OWL System + note distribution**

Ita and Brenda 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. Brenda has been deputising when Ita is on holiday but is quite often away so has now relinquished this role. Jane has kindly offered to take this on. PCSO Heather Burrows will set Jane up on the OWL system.

Brenda has agreed to continue distributing notes to households in School Lane and Crunnells Green.

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 go on holiday so your area can be covered.

4 **Police Surgeries**

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.

PCSO Heather Burrows will confirm the dates with Ita.

5. **Any Other Business**

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

Be vigilant at all times and always report suspicious activity. The non-emergency number to call is 101.

Heather receives a copy of the Village Newsletter each month.

Ita thanked Heather and the committee for their help and support.  
Special thanks to Brenda for being the OWL deputy since 2008.

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