

119th BHNW meeting at St. Augustine's Church Hall 29th November 2012

Bill Crocker Chair	Richard Old, Church
Julie Windsor Secretary	Rose Cane Newsletter Editor
Mark Garland Website and Social Media Editor	Julie Gould Quakers
Chris Stone Oakdale	Ron Coleman Treasurer
Lynda Stone Oakdale	Malcolm Coles Heathfields
Mark Venables Sandringham	

Item 1 Greetings to everyone

Introductions:-

Maureen Jennings & Martin Poole (observers from Boscombe Crescent NW), Graham Ball (observer from Overhill Road NW)

Apologies: Lesley Ashley, Martyn Thomas, Peter Tucker (Badminton), Becky Catley, Tim Davies (Heath Lower), Graeme Dundas (Queensholm), Mike Baker (clash with Parish meeting), Bridget Whittle, Stephanie Green acting Sergeant for our patch as Deryck Rees is acting up to another position at the moment, Jamie Padden, Cleeve (in India). Other surrounding Neighbourhood Watches were also invited.

Item 2 Copy of last minutes reviewed for accuracy and matters arising were signed off by Bill.

Julie Gould's husband has done some research on the Camera we have funding for and has narrowed it down to three possible suggestions. He kindly provided details of all these cameras for our perusal. **Agreed:** To authorise the chair, newsletter and social media editors to decide the best option and proceed with the purchase.

Ron said street lights are to be switched off at Heath Court, he had spoken to Angela Hocking, Secretary of Downend & Bromley Heath Parish Council as part of the consultations.

Malcolm confirmed that on Heathfields, where roads narrow due to traffic calming will not have the lights turned off.

There were to be 3 consultations with S. Glos. Council (S. G.) and the Parish present too, regarding which lights should be switched off, (at Baptist Church, Badminton Road Methodist Church and Co-op). S. G. paid for the venues, but 'pulled the plug' on these

meetings. As we had speculated, decisions have already been made and it is a 'fait accompli'. Elizabeth Shepherd from the Parish championed this and was disappointed with the S. G. Council's actions.

Malcolm Smith said several years ago Downend was awarded money to spend on 'niceties'. The Police suggested at the time that the money should be spent on extra lighting which would deter teenagers from gathering in shopping area. Christmas Lights were to be included in the spending of this money.

Ron suggested we put this information in a letter to S. G. and commented that any normal consultation would be allowed to take place, conclusions would be reached and amendments made. **Action:** Julie. The issue of Night buses and whether footpaths used would be lit for people getting off them was also discussed.

Item 3: As the Police were not present there was no report from them.

Speed Watch – Bill confirmed the position, the need for further Parish and BHNW articles to recruit more volunteers and has asked for someone lead on it as he can't take anything else on. Katrina will get back to training people soon once she has recovered from an operation. The committee wished her well. **Action:** Rose for newsletter article.

Raffle Tickets - Ron told us that if we have a raffle we can charge for tickets unless alcohol is involved. We need to contact the council for a license and that is printed on the tickets.

Graeme Dundas proposed that young people be involved in distribution of newsletters, as his own children and known others are. **Action:** Rose for a newsletter article.

Rose arrived!

Graham Ball from Overhill Road spoke about the attack, the evening before, when someone was stabbed nearby. There were 5 police cars on the scene soon after and extensive presence in the area. Further information is awaited.

Bill told us how impressed he was with Yate Magistrates' witness support system with the use of a separate entrance, etc. A curfew had already been imposed on the ring leader for previous wrong doing, before of the trouble at the Methodist Church – he wanted this shortened. It didn't work and he had to pay £100 legal costs and received a 6 month suspended sentence. Ron has been involved in the Witness Support scheme too.

Bikes – Mark Garland brought the meeting up to date with a recent recovery success. Discussion took place about the recent information about targeting of expensive kit, including tailing home from popular riding venues.

Distraction burglaries – at 8.00 pm on a Thursday night, Jason King and Malcolm reported that there was a smashed window at Queensholm Drive and a young man (who was wet through due to the heavy rain) was surprised by neighbours whilst breaking in. Through our

network the resident was traced to return home and meet the Police. It was noted our letter had been delivered and thanks for it received.

Julie Gould told us about someone using their garden to try to access other houses in the road.

The issue of blocked pavements rumbles on. An article in our newsletter and the Parish newsletter covered the issue of which Bill was joint author. It was titled: 'Paving the Way for Politeness'. Feedback has been coming in from residents. Margaret of Sandringham Avenue is not happy with parents parking badly to pick children up from Bromley Heath School. Other examples were also raised. The community plan sub-committee called THaT has to look at the issue. Bill had made a suggestion about painting a white line outside his house to demark the pavement, releasing the additional space for car parking. Chris & Lynda Stone said people in the houses of Badminton Road at the top of Oakdale Road are using the very wide pavements to drive their vehicles onto, which blocks the view for car driver exiting Oakdale Road and makes passing these vehicles on foot very awkward.

Bill mentioned the election of the Police Crime Commissioner, Sue Mountstevens and the position of Chief Constable. He also mentioned recent content in the National Neighbourhood Watch newsletter and possible copy for ours. Lynda quipped she was 'only in it for the dough!'

The next meeting at which the traffic issues can be raised is on the 6th December with new S. G. Officer Brian Gashes at the 'Safer' meeting. Bill is sending his apologies for this one and agreed to liaise with those who could attend.

When Bill attended the Chief Superintendent's meeting some interesting statistics were revealed which are to be rolled out via Inspectors. Bill made a plea to do it via existing and not extra meetings. He had picked up a leaflet and other materials and circulated them.

Modernisation - Bill brought the meeting up to date with the feedback from the Parish indicating that they did not wish to proceed in the way discussed at our last meeting. Feedback is that it would take up too much time and it was dismissed as an idea. The Police would have to turn up at fewer meetings. It was noted that, at least the NWs are making an effort. He also explained he was still awaiting a reply from the Heathfest committee regarding the proposal for our annual meeting at the event. **Agreed:** Bill to follow up with those concerned.

Item 4: Mission Statement

Bill had circulated the existing Watch document and had added his suggested amendments to aid modernisation. The committee worked through them and **Agreed:** that the new version be put on the web site and mentioned in the newsletter to allow community feedback. The annual meeting would then ratify a final document.

Discussion also covered ABI: If an Insurance Company used is registered with them, a member of the N.W. is entitled to a minimum of 5%, possibly 10% discount. Towergate was mentioned as they sponsor the national NW. Their website has details.

Item 5: Rose updated the meeting on doorstep control zones. The S. G. Officer is back in post and can progress new areas. Julie G. immediately suggested Quakers Road and the meeting **Agreed** that would be the next target.

Martyn told us that legislation has changed – more people are setting up their own business and cold calling. Sometimes stickers and signs aren't effective.

There is a new Zone scheme for S. G. council who can now only do so much, but then money must be raised. **Action:** ROSE to pick out the 'pithy points' of this approach for the next meeting.

Item 6 Reports: Newsletter - Everything to be branded with blue and gold – newsletter – new banner to be the same and adjustments to the old banner.

Target for next newsletter – Rose going to put in comments and web content too for Mark.

Mark Garland – Social media Editor – spoke about a graph of usage with a spike of recent hits following a communication initiative.

Google plus at the time of the meeting had – 1 follower.

Facebook – had 37 followers

Twitter – 3 followers

Bill said that Mrs. Athay-Hunt is involved in promoting ours plus a new 'We love the Park', Heathboard and Heath Booty, a Buying/Selling area all on Facebook.

PRO – no one at the moment

Treasurer's report - Committee Members Expenses - no direct expenses at the moment, Ron said, but people taking over in the future may expect to be paid for any expenses incurred during work for BHNW. Ron will accept expenses claims if we put them in. **Action:** Tim to bring draft protocol to next meeting. He is to be the third signatory for our bank account. The usual update on the financial position was provided and thanks tendered to Ron by the meeting.

Mark Garland suggested that we could look at buying a printer which was left for members to ponder.

The £1000 for the GONE initiative getting rid of graffiti is in now in the bank for action.

Action: Julie Windsor to look at Speed Visors data and report to the next meeting.

Bill briefed the meeting about upsetting feedback regarding the THaT sub group proposal for joined up activity with the Parish, As part of a conversation with a Parish councillor an offer for the group was made to survey potholes. The concept of Partnership working was discussed and concerns expressed about the Parish's varying stance.

Common interest items.

Chris Stone suggested issuing one of BHNW letters to people who have been broken into and issued a Crime Report number.

Richard Old – anything to raise at SAFER STRONGER meeting, issues around school parking, drug dealing in his patch and the cold calling zone were mentioned.

Mark Garland brought us up to date on the Traffic Island and Frome Bridge Crossing – it is in another consultation phase at the moment.

Item 6: Alley Gates schemes were asked about – the only known ones are in Bristol. 20 MPH zones are a problem with a lack of enforcement. It was noted the subject comes up at SAFER meetings.

Item 7: The meeting closed At 10.00 pm noting the next one is on the 28th Feb 2013.