



**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF ELECTORS
OF THE PARISH OF NORTH HORSHAM
HELD ON MONDAY 25th APRIL 2022 AT 7.30pm
AT ROFFEY MILLENIUM HALL, CRAWLEY ROAD, HORSHAM**

The Annual Parish Meeting started at 7.00pm with refreshments and an opportunity to talk to members of the Parish Council. The main meeting started at 7.30pm.

Present at the Meeting were three members of the public, Parish Councillors Britten, Davidson, Knight, Millington, Rickets, Searle, Smithurst, Turner and Mrs. Wilton, guest speaker Sgt. Chris Moloney of Sussex Police, District Councillor John Milne, Sarah Norman (Clerk to the Council) and Viv Edwards (Deputy Clerk)

MINUTES

In the chair: Cllr A Britten - Chairman of North Horsham Parish Council.

1. The Chairman welcomed everyone in attendance, especially the guest speaker and accepted apologies from Cllrs. Mrs. Burgess, Burgess, Mrs. Ginn, Mrs. Gough, Mahon, Shine, and Wassell. District and County Councillor Andrew Baldwin asked that his apologies be recorded.
2. The Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Electors of the Parish held on 24th April 2019 were signed by the Chairman as being a true record of the meeting. It was noted that there had been no Annual Parish Meeting since that time due to the Coronavirus pandemic.
3. The Chairman presented the Annual Report of the Parish Council for 2021/22 which was available in hard copy and on the Parish Council website www.northhorsham-pc.gov.uk.
4. The Chairman welcomed Sgt. Moloney, who was stepping in for Inspector Ben Starns who had sent his apologies.

Sgt. Moloney introduced himself as part of the Horsham Neighbourhood Policing Team and referred to the local PCSO Officers Andy Reed (Roffey) and Karen Denness (Holbrook) with whom he had liaised before the meeting to provide the following reports.

Holbrook

Cook Road and Amundsen Road were identified as areas of note, although there had not been a great deal of reports over the last few months.

One of the main areas of concern was from reports of a very loud motorcycle including at nights and weekends. Sgt. Moloney reported that there is intelligence to suggest who the rider is, and further investigations are underway to identify

whether the vehicle has been modified or rather is a very powerful and therefore noisy machine.

The main public house in Holbrook is the Sussex Barn which has no major issues and is more of a family establishment.

There is no intelligence to suggest that County Lines are operating in the area.

A member of the public referred to other vehicles with loud exhausts and Sgt. Moloney asked for any details to be emailed to him for further consideration.

Roffey

A drugs warrant had been executed at an address in Furzefield Road very recently and it was hoped that this will have a positive impact by reducing crime connected to the activities at the property.

The two main areas that drive the calls received were South Holmes Road and Honeysuckle Walk.

The area had also been dealing with three identified problem tenants that it had not been possible to evict due to COVID. However, all three groups had now been evicted or moved on. Communications were working well with the new Social Housing provider in the Town, Southdown Homes.

The main public house for the area was the Star at which there had been a few incidents reported over recent months, but there were no major issues connected to the establishment.

There was no intelligence to suggest any County Lines or Cuckooing activity in the areas and the CADS did not suggest a large amount of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB).

In other areas, Sgt. Moloney reported that there was a significant problem with a group of up to 15 young people from Southwater who were causing problems not only in their own village but also travelling to Broadbridge Heath which was therefore suffering with an increase in ASB. The issue was a priority for the Police, but it was a long process as they were dealing with young offenders and the youth justice system. However, with some of the identified individuals, they would end up being charged as all other possible avenues will have been exhausted.

Sgt. Moloney highlighted the Police's campaign regarding violence against women and specifically, the Safe Space Scheme, a new app aimed at helping people should they feel unsafe outside of their homes. On first downloading the app, users will be asked to enter their own name and phone number and the name and phone number for a preferred contact. They will then be directed to a map showing their location and a number of red pins indicating Safe Spaces near them. Tapping on a Safe Space will show opening times and the option to see directions from their current location.

The Meeting was also informed about a new initiative that has been used in Worthing and Bognor Regis and will be expanded to Horsham. The aim of the scheme is to prevent young women who have difficulty getting home from using unlicensed taxis which could put them in danger.

Speeding continued to be an issue particularly on the A24 but also racing around car parks of large supermarkets. An Operation named South Downs will be taking place in May/June and will utilise speed guns to stop speeders.

Unfortunately, it was noted that burglaries were on the increase across the District, but these were primarily focused on the southern section i.e. Pulborough, West Chiltington. Patrols have been increased in response to the increase.

Sgt. Moloney updated the meeting on electric scooters, a matter that had been raised by a member of the public and confirmed that there would be a specific operation in the summer to target the illegal use of these on public land and roads. Whilst the operation would not be able to remove every electric scooter, it would raise awareness of the legal position which would hopefully reduce their usage.

Following a comment from a Councillor, discussion took place regarding the use of mobility scooters by individuals with no requirements regarding license, training etc. However, it was acknowledged that the electric scooters tend to be ridden at faster speeds than mobility scooters.

Sgt. Moloney referred to another operation called Signature which would be looking to increase awareness of and reduce victims of telephone scams. There would be pop ups in local garden centres to raise awareness and provide literature and advice.

With regard to resources, the meeting welcomed the news that 3 new PCSOs had taken up posts in Horsham District; 1 in Pulborough, 1 in Horsham Town Centre and a third at Ruster, which would also cross over into the NHPC area.

With the report from Sgt. Moloney completed, the Chairman thanked him for his time and offered that he may withdraw from the meeting if duties required. Sgt. Moloney kindly agreed to stay on as long as possible and would be available should any questions arise that he could input to.

5. The Chairman then opened the floor for any questions from the attendees.

Concern was expressed by a lack of road safety awareness amongst schoolchildren, and the question asked whether the Police did visit schools to speak about these issues.

Sgt. Moloney reported that there were two dedicated Officers who did go into schools but this was mainly into secondary schools and often at the request of the school to deal with a specific issue, or if at primary school level it would only be in year 6, before the transition to secondary education. However, he would relay the

comment back to the Officers concerned to see if it was something that could be built into the programme.

A discussion took place regarding the increase in shoplifting and the question of whether shopping centres such as Swan Walk have sufficient surveillance.

Sgt. Moloney was aware that at Swan Walk the previously known Security Team was now titled Customers Services Team. The Police were aware of an increase in ASB and shoplifting in Swan Walk which could be down to the change from Security Team. There have been a couple of prolific offenders who are due to be in Court but their sentence if found guilty will be in the hands of the Justice system.

Those present debated the role of staff when dealing with shoplifters and the risks involved in challenging people with an acknowledgement that many retailers now consider losses due to shoplifting as inevitable.

The relationship between Police and the public was raised and how there seems to be a lack of communication after the event which can make people reluctant to report crimes. Sgt. Moloney informed the meeting that victims of crime now get a "contract" to outline the next steps and what can be expected. However, it was acknowledged that there is nothing similar to feedback to witnesses or those reporting crimes where they are not the victim.

Sgt. Moloney urged everyone to continue to call 999 if they witness or can see a crime in progress and the Police response team will attend.

A District Councillor present referred to the recent arson attack in Horsham Park. Sgt. Moloney reported that there was a possibility that this was linked to a similar Crawley incident later the same day and again, whilst Police had a name of a potential perpetrator, more work was being done to gather evidence.

Discussion turned to safety on trains, specifically the Thameslink Trains that were no longer staffed. Sgt. Moloney stated that Sussex Police did not have jurisdiction on the rail network and that this lay with British Transport Police.

A Parish Councillor raised the issue of parking on pavements and the obstruction this causes, especially for pushchairs, wheelchairs or mobility scooters. Whilst it was noted that this could be reported on 101 if witnessed, it was acknowledged that the local Council's resources to deal with such issues was limited. It was also reported that parking on pavements is already illegal in London and there is a countrywide consultation on extending this. However, it had to be acknowledged that for many there was simply no where else to park. There was also discussion about vans and some cars using the car park of the youth centre in Godwin Way, particularly overnight. However, it was noted that the building is due for disposal by WSCC on the open market and after it is sold the parking will no longer be available.

A Member of the public asked what the Council could do to assist with overflowing litter and dog poo bins, that were emptied regularly but that filled up long before the next empty was due. The Clerk to the Council asked the member of the public to email them with details and the concerns would be relayed to the Cleansing Team at HDC with a suggestion that the frequency of emptying be increased. The District Councillor present stated that he would also take this matter forward on behalf of the member of the public.

Finally, the District Councillor sought any information the Parish Council may hold in relation to the land ownership around Lower Barn Close and the allotments. The Clerk to the Council informed that the Parish Council would hold no information in this regard. It was also reported that the planning application for the change from commercial to residential for 1-7 Littlehaven Lane would possibly be called in to the Committee on the grounds of a loss of commercial space.

After thanking all those who had attended, and there being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.30pm.

..... Signed

..... Date