

Yatton PACT
Partners and Communities Together
with
Neighbourhood Watch and SpeedWatch



Minutes of the PACT Meeting held at 7.30pm on Thursday 12th December 2019
at Hangstones Pavilion, Stowey Road, Yatton

Present: Pam Armitage (PM), Steve Bridger, North Somerset Councillor (SB), Jacqui Curwood (JC), Anna Curvan (AC), Sue Doherty, WI (SD), Jonathan Edwards, Chair Parish Council, (JE), David Ford, NW (DF), Carole Gould WI, (CG), Mavis Monahan, SW (MM), Nikita Phippen, WI (CP), Steve Phippen, Parish Councillor, (SP), Bill Sales, NW (BS), Caroline Sheard, Parish Councillor & SW, (CS), Tom Shepherd, SW (TS), Karen Taylor, WI, (KT), Tricia Tout, WI (TT).

Apologies: Keith Dodd, Simon Reakes, Wendy Griggs, Rev. Tim Scott, Ian Pullar, Jean Stevenson, Bill Hartland.

DF, acting as Chairman introduced himself and welcomed everyone.

SD immediately noticed the lack of a police representative. MM explained her correspondence with the acting Beat Manager, Jenny Clark. She had asked for the usual commentary on the statistics that PC Clark had sent.

I am not able to provide an 'explanation'. We don't routinely send statistics anymore either as members of the public are able to access figures on the Police.org website anyway. As you can see from the figures there has not been a large amount of crime in the last 2 months.

Just to let you know that the team have been doing a lot of work with the community including the schools over the last couple of months which includes a positive response on Halloween from residents that we came into contact with.

I presume you're aware that a meeting was held a couple of weeks ago with the Parish Councillors and representatives from the PACT team? We discussed our availability for meetings and I did have to point out to the majority of the attendees that PACT isn't a Police-led meeting, more one that we support whenever we can. It was agreed that we will do our best to attend every meeting where we are scheduled to work subject to operational demand. The attendees took our email addresses down and we agreed that using email and the 101 number is a good way of keeping communication between the Parishes and the Police as our presence at meetings can't be relied upon.

Jen Clark
PC 2974 - Beat Manager

DF explained the history of the PACT and its relationship with local policing.

TT (WI member with affiliations to the police) said there had been a change of policy at the end of 2018.

JE confirmed the meeting with the Parish Council 9.12.19 but they had had to ask them to attend as they had missed several meetings.

SB asked if we know if other PACTs are having the same experience. We do not currently have contacts with any other PACTs. DF said that we had been held up as one of the best in the past.

TT stressed that reporting of incidents as they happen is paramount as this could lead to extra manpower being assigned to Yatton. TS pointed out that it takes too long to report so that it is usually too late for the police to intervene once one gets through on the phone.

Minutes of meeting held 23rd October 2019

It was pointed out that SB is not a Parish Councillor and neither is Randi Curvan. The Secretary will amend the Minutes.

Matters Arising:

Wakedean Gardens

SB saw Keith Brooks 29.11.19 and gave him a letter to update him. SB had attended a meeting with the Chief Executive, the Director of Development and the Environment and the Director of Finance of NSC to discuss the Council taking on an “Enabling” role and the ways in which the residents can repay any loan. There will be another meeting next week. He will ask Liam Fox to write to the Council asking them how we can solve this issue.

AC said she had been out with the Lions’ Christmas Float last week and the road there was dark and extremely dangerous.

CSh pointed out that several properties are owned by landlords living abroad.

Titan Ladders

TS said he thought that there was a regulation against building on land treated for Knotweed for five years. Several buildings are already up. JE said that he hoped NSC Officers are monitoring the situation. The encasement has a 10 year guarantee underwritten by Lloyds of London. AC said that mortgages and insurance would be almost impossible to obtain. SB said the Guarantee probably trumps other objections.

Buses

SB thought there would be no news until next April but MM said there was an item in the NS Times this week saying that the First Bus timetables including those for the X2 would change from January 5th.

Changes would be posted online.

CCTV

Some arguments from the last meeting were repeated. The use of doorbell cameras and dash-cams could supersede CCTV. SP said that as a village we should be looking for a greater neighbourhood police presence rather than CCTV.

TT said that, unfortunately, in North Somerset the larger towns have greater demands so the resources are drawn away from the village communities. They are reporting more crime so get more resources. SP said that if black spots of crime/ASB are identified, we are better to have a police response than just CCTV footage: our population is fast approaching that of a small town.

There is a new, interactive website for Community Policing making it easier to report.

DF asked if a representative from Community Policing could attend a meeting and explain their policies.

Hi North Somerset, We are your Safer & Stronger Communities Team at North Somerset Council. We're just dropping you a quick message to let you know that we are using North Somerset Council's new Nextdoor account. Over the coming weeks you can expect to see community safety updates, advice, details...

HG Checks

SB said he was satisfied with answers given at the last meeting.

Police Report:

**Crimes for Beat AN003 Yatton, Claverham, Kingston Seymour and Kenn
21st October to the 11th of December 2019**

Crimes	
Burglary Dwelling (Attempt)	2
Burglary Non Dwelling shed/garage commercial	0
Criminal Damage	1
Theft Other	3
Theft from a person	1
Public Order	3
Vehicle theft	1
Vehicle Crime	1
Possession of drugs	1
Anti-social behaviour	16

SGT 2337 Mark Raby
PC 2974 Jen Clark
PCSO 7308 Rachel Sellars
PCSO 8826 Rebecca Budd

Mark.raby@avonandsomerset.police.uk
Jenny.clark@avonandsomerset.police.uk
rachel.sellars@avonandsomerset.police.uk
Rebecca.budd@avonandsomerset.police.uk

Clevedon Police station
Castlewood
Tickenham Road,
Clevedon.

Non emergency Tel. No. 101

DF said he had had a report for November through NW which is different. (see p.3)

AN003

Yatton - NOVEMBER

Current Offence Description	Count of Crime Occurrences
Assault occasioning actual bodily harm	1
Burglary - Residential	2
Causing intentional harassment, alarm or distress	2
Common assault and battery	3
Harassment	2
Having possession of a controlled drug - Cannabis	1
Other Criminal Damage to a Dwelling - valued under £5000	1
Pursue course of conduct in breach of Sec 1 (1) which amounts to stalking	1
Sending letters etc with intent to cause distress or anxiety (Mal Comms)	3
Theft from a motor vehicle	3
Theft from shops and stalls	2
Theft if not classified elsewhere	1
Theft of a pedal cycle	1
Threats to destroy or damage property	1
Use threatening / abusive words / behaviour or disorderly behaviour likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress (recordable)	1

AC said it was important to spread the information to all the local organisations and SD pointed out that the WI disseminated the salient points of the police report to their members. TT asked if the PCSO's help when the children go into school in the mornings. They have been seen there at the end of the school day. No-one was sure if they attended in the mornings.

Police Priority:

It was agreed that this should remain the same until the next meeting. Reporting of incidents was again underlined.

SpeedWatch Report:

MM told the meeting about a session with a class from Yatton School. The children were enthusiastic and shocked at the fact that almost all the vehicles passed them at over 30 mph. Most were not exceeding the limit by much but they should have been doing 30mph or less.

Jean Stevenson had asked the question as to whether the sewer collapse in the High Street could be attributed to the increase in heavy lorries using the route.

She also reported an incident where young girls had been backed up to a garden wall by a lorry mounting the pavement to pass another large vehicle and not having seen them.

SP asked if anyone knew the cause of the sewer collapse. JE said he had enquired but no-one knew at the moment. It would be interesting to find out and if weight was the cause.

Neighbourhood Watch Report

DF said there was little to report. The usual scams continue with the latest being fake invoices.

BS read out the following reports by NW:

04/12/19 9788, Force Area Fraudster Warning.

Bath Trading Standards have alerted us to a number of incidents where residents have been telephoned by someone falsely claiming to be from the 'credit investigation' or 'debt advice' departments of the Citizens Advice Bureau.

This can be an expensive and worrying time of year for many people, so it can be easy for them to fall prey to scammers, particularly if they appear to be offering some relief from debt. It is also a concern that the scammers are using the Citizens Advice name as that is where consumers are signposted for most problems.

Although these reports have come from Bath, the calls are not likely to be area specific. If anyone has been affected by a similar telephone call, the advice from Trading Standards is to call the Citizens Advice Consumer Service on 03454 04 05 06 or report it online at <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/about-us/contact-us/contact-us/consumer-service/>

Another suspicious incident occurred in Canterbury Road, Bath. At approximately 3pm on Friday 29 November, a male has called at the home of an elderly female claiming to be from BBC Market Research. He wanted to go inside the property to complete the survey, despite the resident saying she would send it on. The male also suggested he could pay £1,000 towards the TV licence. As he neither wore or showed any form of ID the resident became suspicious and shut the door on him. Remember that you don't have to answer the door to anyone you don't know or weren't expecting. Always use a door chain if possible.

We want to remind residents to be wary of any unexpected callers at your door, especially those offering unwanted services or selling items that may be of poor quality and over-priced. Always use a trader who has been recommended to you by a trusted source. All items must come with a 14-day cooling off period, and any quote should be on company stationery containing the seller's address and phone number

The Police Commissioner, Sue Mountstevens and Neighbourhood Watch have a campaign this Christmas to encourage people to send cards to anyone they know who is on their own in an attempt to counteract loneliness.

06/12/19 9788 Forcwide, Help us keep everyone safe this Christmas

We're supporting the latest Counter Terrorism Policing campaign to help keep crowded places secure over the festive period.

The campaign calls on the public and those who work in our busy towns and cities to remain vigilant and report any concerns to staff, security or – in confidence – to Counter Terrorism police at

gov.uk/ACT. It also asks everyone to be the extra eyes and ears of the police, so we can work together to tackle terrorism.

Assistant Chief Constable Stephen Cullen said:
“We’re asking everyone out and about enjoying the festive season to look after each other and if they see something which doesn’t look right, to report it. Neighbourhood officers will be patrolling our communities throughout the Christmas period, including Christmas Day itself, just as they are on every other day of the year.

“Project Servator deployments will also be carried out across the force area – these are unpredictable deployments involving specially trained officers who turn up announced at various locations to provide the public with reassurance and to disrupt a wide range of criminal activity, including terrorism.”

ACC Cullen added: “The chances of being caught up in a terrorist incident are extremely low. But sadly, as we saw just last week in London, attacks can be carried out anywhere and anytime. “The national threat level remains Substantial, meaning an attack is likely, so we need to remain vigilant.

“Our message to people across the Avon and Somerset force area is not to worry that you might be wasting our time. If you see something suspicious – ACT. Speak to a police officer or report it to local security or staff or via gov.uk/ACT and let us check it out.

“A few minutes of your time could help save lives.”

Somerset, Festive Period Crime Prevention

With just 23 days to go until Christmas, I want to share with you some top tips to protect yourselves during this festive period so you can all enjoy the festivities & have a happy new year. We all know there are so many scams around at the moment and these appear to change on an almost daily basis, but please do not be alarmed. Common sense always prevails and as they always say “if it seems too good”.

The Golden Rules:

Never give out your bank details (Pin / Password) EVER.

Not sure don’t answer the door, it’s your home!

Be very wary of following links you are sent via email, go through your own trusted sites.

Don’t be bullied on the phone, HANG UP

Please do not advertise what's in your home, only put waste out on collection day.

Leaving your home unattended? Put the lights on a timer or ask a friend to visit or park on your drive.

(And please check on your neighbours, if you see papers / post building up on the doorstep, just check)

Above all, have a great festive break and thank you for all your efforts. Neighbourhood Watch continues to grow and develop, none of this would be possible without your support.

CHRISTMAS SECURITY

As everyone is busy over the Christmas period, it's easy to forget about the security of your home and property – and even your own personal safety! Here are some tips help protect yourself:

AT HOME

Keep all unattended doors and windows locked at all times – you'd be surprised at how many "walk in" burglaries there are. Remove any keys and keep them out of sight, but ensure all residents know where they are in case of emergency. Close internal doors at night to help prevent the spread of fire and smoke.

Put lights on timer switches whenever you go out, and tune a radio into a talk station to give the impression that someone is at home. As all the neighbours will probably have their Christmas lights on, a dark house will stand out as being unoccupied.

Close the curtains or blinds at dusk to make sure thieves can't see through your windows and see what you've got to steal or that you're on your own.

Avoid advertising that you're going to be away on Facebook or other social media – people other than your friends could be seeing your posts.

After Christmas, don't leave the boxes from your presents where people can see them - you'll be advertising what's in the house!

VEHICLES

Keep your vehicles locked and alarmed (if you have one) at all times. Ensure you leave nothing on show, tempting thieves to break in and see what else is in there! Keep any shopping in the boot out of sight, and remove the items as soon as you can.

SHOPPING ONLINE

Make sure you check the web address. Criminals can set up fake website that have a similar look and web address to the genuine site.

Check that it is a secure site when buying anything online. If you are entering your personal or financial details, look out for a locked padlock sign (usually in the top right-hand corner). The web address should start with **https** – this means your connection to the site is secure.

Don't pay for goods or services by bank transfer unless you know and trust the person. 65% of reported frauds were linked to online auction sites.

GOING OUT

It's always busy when you're shopping or going out at Christmas, so watch out for pickpockets. Keep any wallets and purses in a zipped up pocket if possible.

Get some cash before you go out, so you don't need to use a cash machine. If you have to get more money, never keep your PIN number in your purse or wallet, and always make sure no-one can see your number.

If you think you'll drink – get a taxi! Police stops and breath tests will be increased at this time of year.

Guard your drink – don't leave any drinks unattended to prevent the risk of drink spiking.

Look out for each other! Stay with your friends and don't go off alone, especially if you have overindulged!

TAXIS

Try to book a taxi before you go out and agree a price for the journey. Use a recognised taxi rank if you haven't planned your journey, and look out for a taxi badge and a meter. Taxis that don't have a For Hire light are not allowed to pick up passengers that haven't booked and hail them from the street. Any passenger that does travel with them after hailing them will be uninsured. Don't let a drunk friend take a taxi on their own - having a sober friend with them protects both the passenger and the driver.

Remember, **DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE!**

AOB

1)CG said she had lived in Ystton for 3 years now and she would like to know who is responsible for the Christmas lights in the High Street and Precinct as they are terrible. JE said that it was partially up to the PC and to the Traders. The PC is very aware that they are bad and hope to do better next year. CG said that Pill has a rag week to raise funds for the lights and could Yatton do something similar? There used to be a box out on Traders' counters asking for contributions but that seems to have stopped.

SB pointed out that the Christmas market at the Tree light switch-on had been a great success and the Traders contribute to the cost of the Christmas Tree.

2) DF mentioned the state of the street lights some of which have been replaced and several that are not functioning.

JE said that some are owned by NSC and some by the PC, the latter being the older ones. If the lights turn off at midnight, they belong to NSC. The PC cannot afford the timers. SB asked how one distinguishes between the two and was told that there is a number on each post and the Parish Clerk can look these up. As the lights are replaced, they are using LEDs which will use less power. Some are solar powered.

3) SD mentioned again a large hole in the bridge over the railway. This is extremely dangerous. Can it be repaired as soon as possible.

DONM

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 15th January at Horsecastle Chapel at 7.30pm.

NB This is the only date that the PCSO's are on a late enough shift to attend in January.