

Meeting: Nutbourne Residents' Association
Date and Time: Monday 18th April 2011 at 7.15pm
Venue: The Rising Sun Pub

Committee Members

Brian White (Chairman)
David Seaton

Frank Riddle
Andrew Moffat

Apologies

Diane Smith (Sec)
Bob Allison (Treasurer)

Residents/Attendees

Charlotte Howard
Andrea Lawson
Jeanette Brickell
Chris Brickell
Audrey Rose
Stephen Osborne
Lorraine Osborne
Barry & Heather Davis

Jim Shaw
John & Pam Wellard
Maureen Wilson
Ruth & Philip Migdale
Roger Curtis
Sgt. Bob Trevis
PC Paul Rolland

1. Welcome & Apologies

The Chairman welcomed members and residents to the meeting of the Nutbourne Residents' Association. He also welcomed PC Bob Trevis and PC Paul Rolland who had kindly agreed to attend a 'Question & Answer' session regarding local policing and recent thefts from outbuildings.

The meeting was advised that Diane Smith had been taken ill recently, but was now recovering well, the meeting wished her a speedy recovery.

2. Minutes of the last meeting (24th JAN 11)

Minutes were AGREED as an accurate record of the meeting.

3. Q & A on Local Policing

It was suggested by the Chairman that we should commence the meeting with this session since it would then release Bob and Paul to return to duty. This was agreed and Andrew Moffat gave a short introduction.

Andrew also thanked Bob and Paul for attending and then outlined a recent spate of outbuilding burglaries and the concerns that had been raised regarding these incidents and police processes.

Sgt. Bob Trevis opened the discussion by outlining his background (26 years service, 8 years locally) and current role as head of the Neighbourhood Response Team. This team consists of 11 people covering the North and South Horsham district. He explained that the team aims to provide " Satisfaction and Confidence in the Police Service" and that despite recent incidents we enjoy a very low crime rate, the lowest in the Horsham area and Sussex as a whole. He also explained that the Police Service operate a 5 Level 'priority' of response process based on the severity of the crime being reported where Violent/Sexual Crimes have the highest priority response

This does not mean that other criminal activity is considered less important, just that at a given moment resources are allocated to the most serious offences.

Questions were raised by those attending regarding the most recent thefts and our history of break –ins and thefts. Sgt. Trevis went on to explain that 5 crimes were reported in the Nutbourne area in the past 12 months, which is low, but he acknowledged that Rural Crime is on the increase. He explained that this may be connected to the current economic situation where the cost of fuel ,motorised equipment, etc makes theft of such things more attractive.

A question was asked specifically about a recent incident and apparent failures in Police processes. Sgt. Trevis acknowledged that the incident and follow up could have been handled better. Several residents stated that they were disappointed that arrangements made with the police were not followed through and no notification was given of changed plans. Sgt. Trevis took this 'onboard'.

A question was asked regarding whether or not Sgt. Trevis's Team had a pro-active role. He explained that this was certainly the case and that patrolling is considered to be essential. However he explained that many rural thefts occur some distance from the public highway limiting the effectiveness of patrolling.

After a lengthy and healthy discussion we asked what we could do to assist the police. Sgt. Trevis explained the aims of 'Farm Watch' to alert farmers to criminal activity, Andrea Lawson stated that this is helpful. He also reminded those present to be 'Security Aware' regarding their homes and possessions and to always report suspicious activity. He stated that wherever possible vehicle registration should be taken and that this has alerted police on a number of occasions, often in different counties, to stop vehicles subsequently found to contain stolen goods. He also indicated that our local PCSO's will be asked to come through Nutbourne a little more often.

Andrew and the Chairman thanked Bob and Paul for their time and they both responded that they considered it a very usual meeting.

4. Matters Arising from last meeting minutes :-

- Nutbourne Digital Photograph – After some effort and delay FR stated that he now has a photograph that provides useful detail of the local area. After some discussion it was agreed that FR would provide this on a CD to David Seaton who will upload it to our website www.nutbourne.org .
Action :
Frank/Diane
- Grit Boxes in Nutbourne - BW explained that following the minuted item from our AGM he has asked PPC to consider the provision of a Grit Box specifically for Nutbourne. To date no response had been received. This item was discussed again and received mixed support/dissent. We will update at next meeting.
- 4 x 4 Snow Response Team – This was discussed again as part of the 'Grit Box' issue and received general support, but to be effective we need a list of owners prepared to provide assistance if needed. CH gave her full support to this 'scheme' and will assist DS to compile a list as per the minuted item from AGM meeting.
Action: **Charlotte/Diane**
- 20 mph Action Plan – BW explained that he had made contact with Joel Sykes of West Sussex Highways Agency, and that a meeting has been scheduled for Wed 20th April in the village to view and discuss local concerns. To be progressed. BW also stated that he has obtained a small

number of "20 MPH" bin stickers that are available for £2.50 ea. Please call or email if you would like one/some. Action: **Brian/ALL**

- Localism Bill Update – BW explained this item in the context of more powers being handed down to Parish Councils. AL was asked for her views on the likely impact on Nutbourne. She explained that it is still 'early days' and that the item is subject to ongoing discussions at PPC. Andrea was requested to keep us abreast of developments. Action: **Andrea**
- Easter Walk Spring Clean - It had previously been suggested that we might organise a litter Spring Clean of the village. It was suggested we might do this during the forthcoming Easter Egg Hunt. After some debate it was agreed not to mix up the two events. The Chairman urged that we all keep an eye out for 'litter louts' and continue to keep our village and local lanes tidy. Action: **All**
- Royal Wedding Event – CH explained that the only 'event' being organised was the all day BBQ at The Rising Sun, and she encouraged all to attend.

5. New Items

- Dog Fouling – A number of residents have highlighted an increase in the incidences of 'dog fouling', this has occurred in driveways, on gardens/verges and footpaths. This is viewed very seriously by all residents and must be addressed. FR also identified that he has been contacted by Nyetimber Vineyards expressing their concerns about 'dog fouling' on or close to vineyard land. After some discussion where all agreed that dog owners MUST be responsible for their dogs 'mess', it was agreed that we must all be vigilant and challenge owners not taking appropriate action and that we will propose to Nyetimber that we design and erect notices to warn/remind dog owners of their responsibilities. Action: **Brian/Frank (Frank my notes say something about a 'Newsletter' and Andrew Whitfield, can you remind me what that was please/anybody.....??)**

- **BT Phone Box** – PPC have advised NRA that BT plans to disconnect the Phone Box in the village and eventually remove it. However PPC also state that they, PPC, may be prepared to 'adopt' the box and thereby preserve it providing that Nutbourne residents agree to contribute to future/ongoing maintenance. This was discussed at some length with proposals being submitted for the box to be preserved and used to provide the village with some form of amenity, perhaps a free 'lending library'. However it was made clear by those residents living closest to the phone box that their preference was for the box to be adopted by PPC and preserved solely as a 'historical' artifact.

By general consensus it was agreed that we, NRA, would request PPC to 'adopt' the phone box and agreed to making a contribution towards all future ongoing maintenance costs. The chairman to advise PPC of this wish.

Action: **Brian**

6. AOB

- **HGV's in Nutbourne** – Several residents raised concern about recent HGV activity in the village. After a short discussion it was agreed that this was to be discouraged and that BW would raise the matter with Joel Sykes at the forthcoming meeting. Action : **Brian**

Next meeting to be held on Monday 18th July April 2011 7.15pm at The Rising Sun.