

Nailsea Neighbourhood Watch Public Meeting

Minutes of meeting on Wednesday 4 July 2012 at 19.30 at United Reform Church Hall, Nailsea

Present or Apologies

Name	Pres	Apols
Peter Smith – Chairperson	Yes	
Mike Smith – Vice-Chairperson	Yes	
Gill McConachie – Treasurer	Yes	
Sue Whiteley - Meetings Secretary	Yes	
Ian Mottram – Distribution Support	Yes	
Don Plevy	No	Yes
Terry Thompson	No	
Trevor Lyons	Yes	
Adam Clarke – Community Beat Officer	Yes	

Watch Members – Joyce Tapping, Tony Madden, David Evans, Tom Woodridge, C Wain, J Woods, Sue Lomax, Tony Grigg, Olive Grigg, L Starkey, R Young, Pauline Hill, Janet Turner, J Rennolds, P Barclay, Mavis Stannard, Ruth Davies, Veronica Fox, Ken Mackay, Val Mackay, Audrey Scott, BA Gilbert, Pat Simmonds, Trevor Simmonds

Appologies – Peter Whitford, Ann Bebbington

Announcements

Our NHW is 21 years old and we have a birthday cake for everyone to enjoy with their coffee tonight.

Minutes of 2011 AGM agreed as correct. Proposed by Mike West, seconded by Ian Mottram.

No matters arising

Chairperson's Report

This year marks 21 years of a successful Neighbourhood Watch in Nailsea. We plan to publish an article in our newsletter to mark the occasion later in the year. We would like to include any early memories or pictures you may have of Nailsea Neighbourhood Watch, so please let us know as soon as possible. We have continued to produce five colour newsletters during the year, and as always we would be grateful of any suggestions you may have for new content. Since Matthew left us in January, we have not always managed to get the newsletter out on time and I thank you for bearing with us. However, we have now have volunteers to collate each edition of the newsletter ready for distribution, and our printers, Adroit, continue to provide a good service.

Last year members voted for an increase in annual subscription to £1 (after being set at 50p for the previous 15 years). This means that we are no longer operating at a loss – but more about this in the Treasurer's report. We gave our Nailsea Neighbourhood Watch promotional leaflet a complete make-over this year and it has now been re-printed.

Our Open meetings have featured guest speakers Terry Stephens (National Trust Tyntesfield), Julian Moss (District Commander), Kim Morrissey (Great Western Ambulance Service) and Mike Wedlock (Senior Citizens Liaison Team). We like to cover a wide range of subjects, mainly on Crime and the Community, and try to introduce new ones to avoid too much repetition. If there is a particular subject you would like for a future meeting please us know and we will do our best to include it.

We continue to enjoy a good presence across the Town with 165 Schemes covering 3,800 households, and the new Information Pack for Contact Persons has been well received. I would like to thank all our existing Contact Persons, and those who have retired recently, for doing such a splendid job as without them Neighbourhood Watch would not be able to operate. I would also like to thank Terry Thompson and Barry, the Bobby Van man, for continuing to provide and erect our street signs. Currently, we need replacement Contact Persons for schemes in The Uplands, Dunster Gardens, White Oak Way and Ridgeway, so if you would like to volunteer or know of anyone please let us know.

During the last couple of years our Committee numbers have declined. We now have only 7 members. In the last few months we have had several offers of part time help from members for which we are

extremely grateful. Unfortunately, we have had no offers to join the Committee or for the post of Secretary. If we are to continue to be successful, it is important for a 'Watch' of this size to have a larger Committee to organize our programme of events and generate fresh new ideas.

We are still 'twinned' with STURT Watch in Adelaide Australia, although we have not had much contact with them this past year. We hope to out this right going forward, giving you news updates at Open meetings and in the newsletter.

Our Christmas Social was again well attended with local exhibitors, Bingo, quiz and a raffle. We kept the same format as in 2010 and this seemed to work well. I have to give a big thank you to all our Exhibitors and the Police who attended, and to our ladies Audrey, Margaret and Pauline who provide the refreshments for this event and all our Open meetings. I hope everyone who attended enjoyed themselves and I am looking forward to our next Social on Wednesday December 5th.

We have just completed a web site for Nailsea NHW which will hopefully appeal to residents and potential residents of all ages. There will be content about public meetings, AGMs, the newsletter, News, Stop Press and much more. The basic web site is now 'live' and we will be working to provide much 'richer' content over time. We plan for the site to be accessible from the Nailsea People, Nailsea Town Council and Nailsea Life web sites and our site name – "nailseanhw.org.uk" will be registered with the main Search Engines like Google etc.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere thanks to Adam and the local Police team, to Mike for his help with the newsletter and being our photographer, to Gill for her continued diligence with the finances, to my other Committee members for their help and support throughout the year and to all of you, the membership, for helping to maintain Neighbourhood Watch in our town.

Matthew Mulvenna who left the Committee when he moved to Littlehampton sends his best wishes to everyone.

Questions – (1) Should those members who have not paid their subscription get a Newsletter? The decision is left with the Contact Person. (2) Should we put Newsletter on website? Only part of it as many more may not pay subscription if it was available in full.

Treasurers Report

We have a much healthier balance this year. Gained £200 by selling advertising space but unfortunately they will not be renewing. Most of rise is due to increase in subscription rate. Have lost about 100 people due to increase. Some Contact People have been putting in missing subscriptions from their own pocket this should not be happening. Application for a grant was unsuccessful for the second year in a row. Christmas social costs up as had to buy more prizes. One speaker asked for a fee to cover expenses and this may well become more common in the months to come. Liability has another 2 years to run. Thanks to Mr Gilbert for auditing the accounts. Accounts accepted. Proposed by John, seconded by Ruth Davies.

Election of Officers

No new nominations have been received. All existing officers and members are prepared to stand again with the exception of Don Plevey who wishes to stand down. All were accepted so Committee is as follows:

Chairperson	Peter Smith
Vice Chairperson	Mike West
Treasurer	Gill McConachie
Secretary	Vacancy
Committee members	Terry Thompson, Trevor Lyons, Ian Mottram, Sue Whiteley

Police Report

Crime figures for May/June.

	2012	2011
Burglary House	1	1
Burglary Shed/Garage/Business	0	2
Theft	22	19
Theft of Vehicle	0	1

Theft from Vehicle	7	5
Theft of Cycle	2	1
Robbery	0	0
Possession of Drugs	2	1
Criminal Damage	14	19
Assault	10	10
Other	2	5
Total	60	64

Has been an increase in theft of power tools. Please contact police for advice on keeping them safe. New Crime Prevention Officer is Katie. New Police Inspector is Tim Coombe.

PACT meeting agreed to target anti-social behaviour for next period. Also ran a speed watch gala where people from Nailsea, Yatton, Tickenham, Wraxall and Failand tracked speeding vehicles on same day and for same period of time. Next meeting is 17 July at 7.30.

Question – Any difference in crime rate with street lighting being turned off? No

Report on Tonight's Speaker

Isabelle Gelder from BRACE. BRACE started in Bristol in 1987 and has raised more than £10 million. In UK we spend £289 per person per annum on cancer treatment and £11 per person per annum on Alzheimer. BRACE wants to raise awareness and continue with their research.

Alzheimer can start in people as young as 40 but it usually effects the over 65s. 1 in 20 people over 65 will get dementia and 1 in 5 over 80. Avon have 15,000 people diagnosed with Alzheimer. Look out for these signs:

- Loss of interest in life and food
- Loss of memory
- Confusion
- Poor co-ordination
- Loss of confidence
- Loss of sense of time
- Rapid mood changes

If you have cause for concern try to persuade the person to see their doctor.

At present there is no cure but early diagnosis means drugs can plateau symptoms. The drugs help to clear the pathways to let blood get to the brain and so prevent it from dying. There are various possible causes such as environmental pollution, virus, aluminium, heredity, and brain damage.

Try to keep physically fit, exercise the brain and eat a healthy diet.

BRACE HQ is at Frenchay and you can volunteer to be part of their research programme. You can also bequeath your brain to them for research.

On Sunday 23 September at 6.30 at Tobacco Factory in Bedminster BRACE are holding "Sparkling Evening" with champagne, canapés and entertainment. Tickets are £25. Please come and join us.

Next meeting Wednesday 3 October at URCH.

Meeting closed 21.00