HEDGE END TOWN COUNCIL - MINUTES OF A FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD 17 JULY 2024

Cllrs. Present: Cllr Maggie Allingham, Cllr Paul Carnell, Cllr Helen Corben, Cllr Ian Corben, Cllr Tonia Craig, Cllr Leigh Hadaway, Cllr Keith House, Cllr John Jupe, Cllr Rupert Kyrle, Cllr Jim Mitchell (Chair), Cllr Cliff Morris, Cllr Ron Nichols, Cllr John Shepherd Cllr Jane Welsh

1. **Apologies:** Cllr Cynthia Garton, Cllr Lucy Jurd, Cllr Derek Pretty

2. **In Attendance:** PCC Donna Jones, Terry Norton – Deputy PCC, Emily – PCC casework manager, PC Will Newell, member of the public.

3. **Public Questions not on the Agenda**
   A member of the public noted the drain in the car park gets blocked.

4. **Declarations of Interest**
   None were declared.

5. **To Receive a Report from PCC Donna Jones**
   The Police & Crime Commissioner Donna Jones thanked the committee for inviting her to attend the meeting. PCC Jones gave an update on the issues of car meets and speeding issues in the car parks. There are lots of these taking place across Hampshire which were previously been dealt with by the neighbourhood team and will now be picked up by the roads policing team. This is all being dealt with under Op Chromium. HE has not previously been on this list and has since been added. PCC Jones encourages anyone to report information online as the more reports there are the more likely resources get directed to dealing with it. The PCC office to send information on the best way to report issues. Where Police are in attendance there are instances of cars are being seized and tickets issued.

   Across HE area there were 11 calls into the Police, crime types are bike thefts and shoplifting with an increase in burglary. HE is not featuring as high dangerous areas or traffic collision issues, that is not to say they are not happening, but it may mean issues are going unreported.

   PCC Jones noted that the perception from Hedge End is that there is not visibility of PCSO's in the area and this is partly due to the wider boundary that the PCSO's cover and staff on maternity leave.

   Cllr Ian Corben noted that we have raised over several years the issues with speeding and offered thanks that the PCC was here to acknowledge the problem. There is good intelligence from the local speedwatch team who regularly send through reports and the SID's available in the area. Speedwatch has limited hours and it's after hours that most speeding and anti-social driving behaviour is happening. The question posed to the PCC is

how much can be done to address this. PCC Jones responded that officers will address this if they are in the right place at the right time, which can often be limited, the most effective management is the fixed cameras. The PCC is trying to work with the Highways Authority to try and reinstate some of these which were removed in the budget cuts. A longer-term option would be to engineer solutions such as chicanes, speed cushions etc. The PCC outlined that Hampshire police force cut deeply through austerity with 768 officers lost. These numbers have not been reinstated yet, even with the increasing numbers year on year which are now at approximately 725.

Cllr Rupert Kyrle asked about Woodhouse Lane since the new roundabout has been installed there is anti-social driving behaviour which has been reported but there are only 3 houses in the area so the reporting will always be limited. There is a feeling that there isn't a police response when people do report things, two examples were given. Cllr Rupert Kyrle noted that the SID's data used to be shared with the police which wasn't being used effectively and would there be any merit in this being shared again. Cllr Kyrle also asked if there was any intention to re-open Hedge End to the public. The PCC confirmed Police officers should be attending every residential burglary. In the ideal policing model PC Will Newell would be monitoring the SID's statistics looking for trends and identifying hot spots. The role of the local bobby was to be local and not have them extracted to other duties. There is a desire to open all the stations with front office staff and resources pending this programme will grow based on priority areas.

Cllr Jane Welsh noted that weight limit regulations are ignored throughout the village. Upper Northam Road is regularly used when they should be using Grange Road. The PCC noted that the Highways Authority do have the powers to address this and through partnership working with the relevant police team has been known to work. It requires the Highways Authority to request this of the police.

Cllr Maggie Allingham confirmed this is an issue on Upper Northam Road.

Cllr Ron Nichols added that he had also been made aware of two break ins where he lives which were not attended. Cllr Nichols also asked if Park Gate front desk had re-opened. The PCC confirmed this was now open.

Cllr Helen Corben noted that it was previously an option to go out with a team to see the Police in action. The PCC confirmed that Observation Shifts can be arranged.

Cllr Keith House asked about Eastleigh front counter opening. The PCC confirmed there is still a will to have an Eastleigh presence its about finding the right venue.

Cllr Tonia Craig noted that there are issues with working with Hampshire County Council for parking enforcement and this also presents issues with the weight restrictions so being able to work with the PCC would be helpful. Cllr Craig also asked if the 101 service had improved. The PCC noted that it had improved and the average call wait time was 3.5 mins and at peak times the worst it has been was 6 minutes. Any issues with longer waiting than this can be reported direct. Cllr Tonia Craig also noted the absence of reports and police officers at the meetings.

6. To Receive a Police Report

PC Will Newell was in attendance and gave a brief outline of the changes in the team structure with Acting Police Sargent Sarah Slater replacing Sgt Tom Hannam. The team is achieving a high outcome rate of 52%. The team are aiming to have 1-2 traffic ops per month. The let's talk surveys have identified speeding, vehicle nuisance and littering as the top 3 issues for residents. The stats for June 2024 compared with June 2023, overall, there is a slight reduction in reporting and issues.

Cllr John Shepherd asked about the recent spate of bike thefts highlighted on Facebook. PC Will Newell reported that they will follow up if they are reported into the police, there are sessions about bike marking and register the bikes. The Council are happy to advertise these.

Cllr Tonia Craig asked about the the number of cases that are presented and then fail at CPS. PC Will Newell noted that how case files are sent to court have changed over the years and the training being provided is highlighting what information needs to go to CPS.

Cllr Cliff Morris asked how much feedback the PCC received from the local teams. The PCC confirmed that there is regular contact with the Police Officers.

7. Speedwatch Report May 2024

The statistics were provided in advance. The PCC noted that Barnfield Way has the highest number of repeated issues. Cllrs noted that there is a need for 30mph repeater signs along the road and these have been requested previously. The PCC is happy to help lobby the Highways Authority and suggested that National Highways can amend speed limit information.

8. To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on Wednesday 19 June 2024.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 19 June be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

9. Chair's Remarks

Cllr Jim Mitchell had no updates.

10. Resolved Items for NOTING Only:

(a) Highways & Planning Committee – 5 June 2024 and 19 June 2024 (Minute H720, H721 and H725)
That the Minutes of the meeting of the 5 June and 19 June be received.

(b) Recreation & Amenities Committee – 11 July 2024. (Minute R498 and R500)
That the Minutes of the meeting of the 11 July be received.

11. Borough and County Reports

Cllr Ian Corben noted that most of the meetings were rearranged due to the general election and the next HEWEB meeting is 22 July at 7pm.

Cllr Rupert Kyrle reported that HCC cabinet have approved an uplift to the Botley Bypass budget to meet the shortfall due to rising costs. The Budget Consultation feedback meeting is likely to take place in September. Highways are doing reactive works in Kings Copse Avenue and Heath House Lane and Cllr Kyrle is still campaigning for Grange Road to be repaired.

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 20:56pm.