

Clerk to Council: Elizabeth Martin

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PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Minutes of the Full Meeting of Lyneham & Bradenstoke Parish Council held at
Bradenstoke Village Hall on Tuesday 12th March 2024 commencing at 7:00pm.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Frank Ball [FB], Stuart Barnard [SB], Shendie Green [SG], Rod Gill [RG1]

OFFICER PRESENT: Elizabeth Martin [EM], Clerk to the Council

CHAIR: Frank Ball [FB]

APOLOGIES: John Williams [JW]

ABSENT: Ron Glover [RG2], David Leuty [DL]

Meeting Commenced: 19:25

CM23/412 TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from Cllr. John Williams.

Proposed FB. Seconded SG. Agreed.

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT The Absence Of Cllr John Williams Be Approved.

CM23/413 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION

None

CM23/414 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING, 13TH FEBRUARY 2024

Proposed SB. Seconded FB. Agreed.

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT The Minutes Of The Parish Council Meeting Held On 13th February 2024 Be Accepted As Written.

CM23/415 CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

CM23/416 TO RECEIVE, FOR INFORMATION, THE CLERK'S REPORT

- Received bus stop maintenance approval
- Reviewing land deeds for driveway issues

- Still working on acquiring the metal pole for the SID machine in Bradenstoke.
- The Clerk continues to work on D2 Land at Pound Farm with Developers and Council's Solicitors. Also discussing the CIL funding with Wiltshire Council and agreeing next steps for the Council to consider.
- The Council is reviewing the website for updates on non-Council items.
- The Parish Clerk will be focusing on completing all required information for the internal audit in preparation to hand over the books to the auditor at the end of April.
- The Year-end account shut down is formally scheduled for the 19th April 2024 with Rialtas.
- The Council is still working to get the licence in place with Wiltshire for a small area of grass cutting in Bradenstoke by the notice board to be managed by the Parish Council. License has been sent to Wiltshire Council.
- Wiltshire Council has now agreed to grant the Parish Council permissions to clean and maintain various bus shelters in Lyneham and Bradenstoke.
- The Parish Clerk will be reviewing various documents regarding potential issues of encroachment on the Village Green.

CM23/417 **TO REVIEW OUTSTANDING ACTIONS FROM PRIOR MEETINGS**
Reviewed and attached as part of the minutes.

CM23/418 **PLANNING**

CM23/419 **To Consider The Following Planning Requests**
No applications for consideration

CM23/420 **TO REVIEW THE FOLLOWING FOOTPATH DIVERSION: -**

Proposal

To divert LYNE30 from point A to point B shown with a bold continuous line a distance of approximately 48 metres with no recorded width, to a route from A to C shown with a dashed line a distance of approximately 37 metres with a recorded width of 2 metres.

Site Address

Footpath 30 (part) (LYNE30)

Outcome

The Parish Council strongly objects to this proposal. A letter of objection will be submitted to Wiltshire Council.

- CM23/421 **REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS & UPDATES FROM COUNCILLORS**
- CM23/422 **Allotment Working Group**
- CM23/423 **To Receive And Discuss The Update And Next Steps On The Local Flooding In Bradenstoke**
Proposed SB. Seconded SG. Agreed.
IT WAS RESOLVED THAT Lillybrook Will Carry Out All Groundworks At Their Expense, The Parish Council Will Purchase The Pipe At A Cost Of £326.52 Inc VAT.
- CM23/424 **To Consider And Agree Tree Work At Bradenstoke Allotments**
Proposed SB. Seconded FB. Agreed.
IT WAS RESOLVED THAT The Tree Work In The Bradenstoke Allotments Be Agreed, And Tree Stump Removal On Lyneham Green Be Completed At A Cost Of £3900 Inc VAT.
- CM23/425 **Open Spaces & Play Areas Working Group**
- CM23/426 **To Receive And Discuss Next Steps For The Recent Fly Tipping Behind The Spice Of Asia**
The Council reviewed photographs and discussed the issues of continued fly tipping and acknowledging that similar items were found fly tipped two months ago and were removed by the adjoining property. The Council has agreed to draft a letter to the adjoining business to Lyneham House, report the fly tipping to the police, Wiltshire Council, and the Environmental Agency as a matter of priority. The Parish Council recognises with thanks to the residents of Lyneham House who have continued to try to keep the ditches free of debris at their own cost to aid in the inclement amount of rain Wiltshire has received this year.
Action: EM to draft a letter for the Council.
- CM23/427 **To Consider & Agree To Purchase Additional Seating To Be Placed On The Green In Lyneham To Encourage The Local Residents To “Walk And Talk” (Requested By Villagers)**
The Council agreed to this request in principle pending a walk around the Village to agree location and appropriate costings for the project to be brought back to the Council for review. **Action** SG to organise a Village walk around to agree location and EM to start enquiries on costs for the project.

- CM23/428 **Royal Wootton Bassett & Cricklade Area Community Safety Forum Update**
SG and RG2 attended the March meeting. See Supporting Documents.
The Next meeting is on the 12th April 2024.
- CM23/429 **Royal Wootton Bassett & Cricklade Area Board Update**
Next Meeting: 26th March 2024, Clyffe Pypard and Bushton Village Hall, Bushton, Swindon, SN4 7PX, 18:30
<https://cms.wiltshire.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=174>
It was confirmed that SG will be attending the next meeting in March 2024 in Lyneham where road and highways will be a main topic of discussion.
- CM23/430 **Public Relations and Communications Working Group**
SB suggested that the Council look at summarising works done with photos for the public to be aware of the Councils activities and to show where the money is being spent and planned to be spent over the year with the Council. SB has circulated a document outlining accomplished items to date and has asked for this to be updated.
- CM23/431 **Parish Steward**
The Parish Council discussed the alignment of the work that the Parish Steward and the Parish Handyman would be asked to undertake. It was decided that SG would be the main contact for the Council.
Any issues may continue to be reported on the Mywiltsapp
<https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/mywilts-online-reporting>
- CM23/432 **Defibrillator Working Group**
SG and EM met on 24th of January 2024. Action points from that meeting are being brought forward and a formal report will be provided to the Council.
- CM23/433 **Local Highways and Footpath Improvement Group (LHFIG, formally, CATG)**
The Next meeting is scheduled for 18th May 2024. The Parish Council has been asked to prioritise any projects and submit to the LHFIG by 8th May 2024 so that all works for the next Council year will be reviewed by Wiltshire Council.
- CM23/434 **To Note The Major Maintenance (Surfacing) Plan For The RWB And Cricklade Area, Covering The Period 2024/25 – 2029/30**
Maintenance Notice Noted.

- CM23/435 **To Discuss And Agree To Ask Wiltshire Council For A Safety Review Of The Roundabout At Preston Lane**
The Council Agreed To Ask Wiltshire Council For A Safety Review Of The Roundabout At Preston Lane. Action EM To Contact Wiltshire Council
- CM23/436 **To Discuss And Agree The Application To LHFIG For A Pedestrian Crossing At The Zebra Crossing At The Camp Entrance**
Proposed SB. Seconded FB. Agreed.
IT WAS RESOLVED THAT The Parish Council Will Complete An LHFIG Request For A Pedestrian Crossing at The Zebra Crossing At The Camp Entrance.
- CM23/437 **TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON VOLUNTEER WORK IN THE COMMUNITY**
The Council discussed local volunteer opportunities. SG to follow up on the information discussed and bring back information to the next meeting.
- CM23/438 **FINANCE MATTERS**
- CM23/439 **To Receive For Information, Actions Taken By The Clerk Since The Last Meeting In Accordance With FR4.1.3**
None
- CM23/440 **To Receive For Information, Disbursements Made Since The Last Meeting**
Disbursements received as presented and will be attached as part of the minutes.
- CM23/441 **To Consider And Approve The Schedule Of Forthcoming Payments**
Proposed SB. Seconded FB.
IT WAS RESOLVED THAT The Schedule Of Forthcoming Payments Be Accepted.
- CM23/442 **To Receive The Bank Reconciliations As Presented**
Reconciliations received.
- CM23/443 **TO CONSIDER AND AGREE THE COUNCILS RISK ASSESSMENT**
Proposed SB. Seconded SG.
IT WAS RESOLVED THAT The Councils Risk Assessment Be Accepted As Presented.
- CM23/444 **TO RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION, CORRESPONDENCE AND CIRCULARS RECEIVED**
Letter received regarding the Lyneham Banks Update.

CM23/445

TO CONSIDER ITEMS OF MAINTENANCE

The bollard at the Bradenstoke play area is not functioning. **Action: EM to ask KI to quote for the work.**

The ditch on the Calne Road still needs to be dug out. **Action: EM to write to KI to follow up on the quote for the work.**

Ditch on the Green needs clearing out. **Action: EM to write to KI to follow up on the quote for the work.**

The brush and garden waste from the Village Green needs clearing and the Council would like to look at the creating of a dead hedge to aid in a wildlife diversity programme. **Action: EM to write to KI to follow up on the quote for the work.**

RG1 has offered to replace the bent fencing bar across from Piggy's. The Council agreed and thanked RG1 for his help. **Action: EM to write to RG1 for clarity on the quote for the work.**

CM23/446

TO REVIEW A SUMMARY OF THE MEETING'S KEY POINTS & MESSAGES TO THE PUBLIC

- The Parish Council has planted 8 new trees in Lyneham and 40 new trees in Bradenstoke to replace trees that have died or been removed.
- The Wildflower area has been fenced in Bradenstoke.
- The Parish Council has welcomed a new handyman to work within both Lyneham and Bradenstoke. He will be doing work weekly. If members of the public have an item that requires attention, please contact the Parish Clerk at: Parish.Clerk@lynehamandbradenstoke-pc.gov.uk
- Costs for updating specific planters for the villages are being sought.
- The fence by the public toilets will be repaired.
- The wood for the public toilet flower beds requires fresh paint.
- The Council will be seeking costs and design for a dead hedge to be placed on the Green to encourage wildlife diversity.
- The Green will be tidied up from numerous fallen branches.
- The bus stops will be cleaned, and needed repairs priced for the Council to agree.

CM23/447

NEXT MEETING

The next Full Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 9th April 2024 at 7pm, at Bradenstoke Village Hall.

Meeting closed 20:25

CM23/448 **IN VIEW OF THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS, TO CONSIDER A RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC FROM THE MEETING IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960, IN ORDER TO DISCUSS THE ITEMS IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDING ORDER 3(D)**

Proposed SB. Seconded SG. Agreed.

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT In View Of The Confidentiality Of The Following Items, That The Press And Public Be Excluded From The Meeting In Accordance With The Public Bodies (Admission To Meetings) Act 1960, In Order To Discuss The Items In Accordance With Standing Order 3(D)

CM23/449 **TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE AND TO DISCUSS AND AGREE NEXT STEPS REGARDING THE SECTION 38 APPLICATION, GREEN FARM**

The Council met in conference to discuss correspondence received from the Councils Solicitor and agree a formal response.

All Council Solicitors queries put forward were discussed with a proper Council response to be drafted by EM.

Items regarding access still being reviewed.

No updates on the Section 38 due to a backlog with the Secretary of State. Most items are now on hold pending the S38 decision.

Action: EM to research having the area fenced as part of the contract.

CM23/450 **TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE D2 LAND AT POUND FARM**

D2 Land at Pound Close: Solicitors are engaged and communicating with the developer. EM is also discussing with Wiltshire Council.

Items to be considered in the future, should a defibrillator be installed at the site. The developer could be asked to fund an electrical and/or water connection to the site. No changes.

Clarity of who will fence the area to be determined. Still under discussion.

Legal costs are being queried.

Two Councillors will need to be selected to sign the contracts.

EM confirmed that the Council intends to take ownership of the D2 Land and will require access from Pound Farm estate. The Council will then be able to access the existing Pound Close play area from this access.

Meeting Ended: 20:43

Summary of Public Participation Section

Parish Council Chairman, Cllr. Frank Ball opened the meeting and invited participation from the public.

Report from Wiltshire Council

Report attached to these minutes.

MOD Lyneham Report

The Council welcomed a new MOD representative Lt Col Billy Jordan. The MOD also notified the Council of another appointee Col Tim Gillies. The MOD is undergoing demolition and construction toward the Bradenstoke area. The noise is being monitored, and work is being done in “friendly” hours of the day. The work will continue in the near future as other buildings on the site are being demolished to bring the land back to a suitable environmental standard. There is more infrastructure work planned going forward. Number four school RAF has now moved to Lyneham from St Athen. Their Headquarters component has already moved, and the main body will be moving to the site up to mid 2025 thus increasing the construction and traffic to the site going forward.

The MOD are reviewing the recent request surrounding the Swales, the Solar Farm, and the access to the boundary of the MOD to address the re-attachment of the ditch to the Lillybrook at the join of the MOD to the allotments. SB to meet and discuss options to move the project forward with the MOD.

The Land Warfare Centre has changed some policies on how the troops are trained on site. There will be a more militaristic training element on site along with the recognised technical element of training present now. There is likely to be additional exercises taking place toward the Bradenstoke side of the site which could entail blank firing during the day. The MOD will stay engaged with the local community as information becomes available. Noise levels will remain closely monitored.

MOD Lyneham is currently under additional interest from wider MOD establishments and organisations to use the estate for other training serials in-line with national security events now and secondly storage.

The MOD are attempting to curtail the traffic as much as possible at the inlet of the MOD. Several contractors are arriving on site to obtain passes to the site and the normal inflow of work traffic may be backed up on the 3102 does get congested. The MOD is attempting to stagger the contractor traffic and reviewing the opening of an additional site. The MOD provided apologies for any inconvenience caused to the public whilst a solution is being sought.

The following queries were put to the MOD from members of the public:

The lights on the Calne Road toward Melsome Rd. The MOD were firstly asked to report these to the Council to seek repair. The request for work is now shown closed on the Wiltshire app. The lights are behind the line and not for Wiltshire to solution. The MOD is looking into the solution for this.

There are brambles coming over the fence between St Michaels Church and number forty-seven off Calne Road. They are at eye hight that are looking to root. MOD to speak to the grounds team to have them removed from the MOD side of the fencing.

PCSO

Apologies for attendance provided, the Police and Crime Commissioner report from Phillip Wilkinson attached dated 16 February 2024 as part of these minute.

Other Public Items Discussed.

No comments

These minutes are accepted as a true and accurate record: -

Signed _____ Date _____



Reference or Cheque No.	Date	Payee	Invoice No	Purpose	Amount*	VAT
Receipts						
Unbanked Receipts						
Expected Receipts						
Payments Made Since Last Meeting						
2010536		S/O to: RKM Construction		CLEANING CONTRACT	£ 456.00	N
2010545		Direct Debit (NEST)	February	Pension		N
2010532		Direct Debit (CHARLTON BAKER LTD)		4KX6KHH	£ 17.00	Y
2010539		B/P to: Elizabeth Martin		Expenses - Trees Direct	£ 1,580.75	Y
2010538		B/P to: Elizabeth Martin		Expenses - Tree Stakes	£ 172.80	Y
2010534		Direct Debit (E.ON NEXT)		A-E0A0479E-001	£ 91.49	P
2010535		Direct Debit (GOCARDLESS)		HUGOFOX LTD-KSARKFV	£ 11.99	Y
2010537		B/P to: Elizabeth Martin		JAN PAY		N
2010533		B/P to: Castle Water		WATER COMPANY	£ 36.49	N
2010540		B/P to: Cole Easdon		Flood Survey	£ 913.20	Y
2010541		B/P to: Elizabeth Martin	January	Microsoft Expenses	£ 67.67	Y
2010542		B/P to: Elizabeth Martin	February	Microsoft Expenses	£ 67.67	Y
2010543		B/P to: Elizabeth Martin	January	Virtual Landline	£ 9.80	Y
2010544		B/P to: Elizabeth Martin	February	Virtual Landline	£ 9.80	Y
Forthcoming Approved Payments (not included on Reconciliation)						
		B/P to: Lyneham VH		Hall Hire	£ 24.00	N
		B/P to: Cllr Frank Ball		Tree Straps - Expenses	£ 51.04	Y
		B/P to: Bradenstoke VH		Hall Hire	£ 24.00	N
		B/P to: Rise Trust	CM23/315	GRANT	£ 720.00	N
		B/P to: SLCC		Annual Membership For Clerk		Y
		B/P to: Charlton		Payroll	£ 17.00	Y
		B/P to: Castle Water		WATER COMPANY	£ 16.12	N
		B/P to: Hugofox		Internet	£ 11.99	Y
		B/P to: Eon		Electric	£ 129.80	P
		B/P to: RKM Construction	April	Toilets	£ 456.00	N
		B/P to: Elizabeth Martin	March	Pension		N
		B/P to: Elizabeth Martin	March	Salary		N
		B/P to: Elizabeth Martin	March	Microsoft Expenses	£ 67.67	Y
		B/P to: Elizabeth Martin	April	Microsoft Expenses	£ 67.67	Y
Internal Banking Transfers - To Savings						

* Amounts include VAT



Update for Lyneham and Bradenstoke Parish Council March 2024

Wiltshire Council

Area Boards Meeting

The next Area Board meeting will be Wednesday 13th March 2024 at Lyneham Primary School. This is the final Area Board of this financial year.

We will be hosting the Highways Matters event, so would encourage people to come along to gain a better understanding of the challenges and opportunities faced by the Highways Team at Wiltshire. This will be followed by a short business meeting primarily to determine grant funding applications.

Local Highway and Footway Improvement Group (LHFIG).

The next meeting will be **22nd May 2024**, location to be determined (please note change of date).

All LHFIG requests for the next Council Year to be in by May 8th please.

Community Safety Forum

The meeting on March 8th was scheduled to be a speaker from the Burglary Unit who did not turn up. Instead there was a presentation from CrimeStoppers Wiltshire. Notes to be circulated separately.

Next virtual meeting will be Friday 12th April 2024 - speaker to be confirmed

Banking Hub

The temporary banking hub in RWB Library has closed. The permanent hub, which is in the front of the former Post Office, is scheduled to open any day now..

A3102 Safety Works

A number of residents have contacted me with questions about the tree removal along the A3102. Details of the project may be found here:-

<https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/article/8458/A3102-Safer-Road-Scheme#:~:text=We%20have%20been%20granted%20nearly,been%20awarded%20%C2%A36.98m.>

This is ring-fenced money. The Council is responsible through it's Highways Maintenance budget for road maintenance outside this project. The Bobcat has been around filling a few potholes on the A3102. Plenty more to go though!

In response to a resident query regarding the amount of litter along the road, I managed to get an additional litter pick carried out so it looked beautiful for a short time (until the Costa Coffee cups were chucked out of a car window).



Local

Lyneham Banks

Tree clearance work has commenced on the Banks. The project tender date closed on March 7th and 9 tenders were received.

A planning application is due to be submitted in March. A short meeting was held with the lead officer and local parish representatives to update. Further information is on the Lyneham Banks web page. Once a contractor has been selected there will be a further public webinar and “meet the contractor” events.

Clack Hill road surface has taken a battering with the recent bad weather. I am awaiting further information as to what Highways can do to improve. Unfortunately the whole county highways system is affected and all councillors are demanding that their roads are high priority. Some patching works are to be carried out on March 14th with a temporary road closure.

Please use the email address lynehambanks@wiltshire.gov.uk for all correspondence..

Bradenstoke Solar Farm Community Benefit Fund

Details of all grants and the application process can be found on the website <https://www.bradenstokesolarfund.org/>

Flooding

Wiltshire Council Drainage team is working its way through all the flooding reports recently submitted. On site meetings will be arranged for local people to explain their flooding issues directly to the team. This is being done on a priority basis based on the number of properties flooded.

**Councillor Allison Bucknell
14th January 2024**



WILTSHIRE POLICE

Police and Crime Commissioner
Philip Wilkinson.

Catherine Roper
Chief Constable
Wiltshire Police Headquarters
London Road
Devizes
Wiltshire
SN10 2DN

16 February 2024.

Dear Police and Crime Commissioner Philip Wilkinson,

Over the last couple of weeks we have had some excellent operational successes I wish to share with you, which will have contributed to my mission of Keeping Wiltshire Safe.

- Two people were sentenced to more than five years for modern slavery and human trafficking offences after bringing female victims to Swindon and exploiting them to work in brothels. This is further to an investigation which commenced in 2018 with our Serious and Organised Crime Unit (SOCU) working alongside partners and the National Crime Agency, which focused on an organised crime group (OCG) trafficking young women from Romania to the UK to work as sex workers, with the proceeds of the crime then laundered. This justice outcome is a fantastic piece of work across multiple Crime and Justice partners who have collectively disrupted an exploitative gang, removed them from our streets and protected vulnerable people.
- The Regional Organised Crime Unit have also seen an excellent result recently in relation to another investigation involving an organised crime group (OCG), with a sentence of 37 and a half years in total for four men, one of whom is from Swindon. These men acted as drugs and money couriers, enabling £3million worth of cocaine to be supplied to the South West, including in Swindon. This follows on from eight other members of the same OCG having previously been sentenced to 87 years – meaning the total custodial sentences handed down to these offenders amounts to 124 years. This gang have clearly caused massive harm in our communities and this justice outcome I hope emphasises our position on this type of crime and makes our message clear – the Southwest is no place for drugs.
- A man was sentenced to four months in custody, 60 days of rehabilitation and ordered to pay a £154 victim surcharge (which is a penalty applied to people convicted of offences to provide compensation for the victims of crime) after pleading guilty to sexual assault following two incidents in Pewsey at the end of 2023. This was an incident that was understandably terrifying for the victim, and the outcome I hope helps reassure people that violence against women and girls is a top priority for the Force. Last week was 'It's Not Ok' week – a national week to raise awareness of sexual abuse and sexual violence which was supported by Wiltshire Police. During the week, we explained the different ways to report an incident, what someone can expect during the process, and described the support that would be provided. I would like to use this letter as an opportunity to reinforce a really important message to our communities – if you have been a

Keeping Wiltshire Safe

victim of sexual assault, please come forward and tell us – you will be listened to and you will be treated with compassion and understanding, with the support of specially trained officers.

- A man has been convicted with sending, by a public communications network, an offensive/indecent/obscene or menacing message or matter. This was in relation to a case where this man took a video of himself having consensual sex with the victim, a woman in her 20s, without her knowledge, which he then shared across social media. This is a disgraceful and shocking crime which has, undoubtedly, had a long lasting and significant impact on the victim who has bravely reported this. He will be sentenced in early March.
- Last week, a man was arrested and charged with possession of a firearm further to a firearm being located in Toothill, Swindon and he will next appear in court 8 March. Well done to all my teams who were involved in the arresting of this offender, which has meant we have removed a lethal weapon from our streets.
- A man who had a Criminal Behaviour Order in place following release from prison on license has been put back in prison further to breaching the order, and given an additional 12-month custodial sentence as a result of the breach. This is an example where positive action has been taken to prevent a prolific shoplifter re-offending.

I know that shoplifting is a significant blight on our retail communities and can cause real misery, not to mention significant financial impact. In the year 2022 – 2023, we saw 4,056 shoplifting offences reported across our county – an increase of 39% from the previous year, many of which are taking place within our town centres. For the 12 months ending January 2024, we have seen positive outcomes for 25.7% of crimes in this area (an increase from 23.6% the previous year) and in the same period our volume of arrests for theft from a shop offences have increased by 25.6% (meaning we have arrested an additional 100 suspects).

Whilst we already regularly work with our business communities, next month is Business Crime Awareness Month and my teams, including the Neighbourhood Policing Teams and our Neighbourhood Harm Reduction Unit, will be actively engaging with our Town Centre partnership in Swindon as well as Salisbury Business Improvement District (BID), to ensure we tighten our approach to business crime, providing crime prevention advice and support, delivering robust activity and exploring sustainable problem solving. We know there is more we need to do, in partnership, to tackle this really damaging crime.

- On the subject of high impact crime, two 16-year-old boys have recently been sentenced, following a break in at a home in Devizes where they took the keys to the homeowner's vehicle, stole the vehicle and drove it dangerously. Both boys were given a Youth Referral Order for two years, an electronic tag for six months and a curfew for six months, with one also being subject to a two-year supervision order in addition, due to the level of offending. We know that residential burglary of a home or an unconnected building has seen a decrease of around 15% over the last year, alongside Wiltshire having the lowest number of home burglaries per 1,000 population compared to our similar forces. However, we are absolutely not complacent. The impact of burglary cannot be underestimated - it is an abhorrent and invasive crime which has long lasting impacts on its victims. As I have mentioned in a previous letter to you, I have introduced a dedicated Burglary Team to really focus on burglary trends and we are starting to see increases in our positive outcome rate for burglaries within the home, which stands at 8.3% on average over the last ten months, but rose to 14% for the month of January alone. With clear focus and the work of the dedicated team, I know we will increase this further.

I hope all the above reassures our communities that we are absolutely focused on arresting and charging those who cause misery and harm on our streets, and that we are taking positive action to robustly bring offenders to justice. In the 12 months to December 2023, positive outcomes have occurred in 14.8% of incidents reported, an increase of 2.5% points from the previous year. We are striving to improve this further, with the best performing forces seeing a rate of around 17%. We will ensure we do all we can, working with the Crown Prosecution Service, to bring about justice for victims.

This week, I was personally delighted to feature on Chippenham Hospital Radio with Sgt Jamie Ball. This is part of a regular programme of monthly radio appearances Sgt Ball does on the show to answer questions about local policing and, on Monday, I was privileged to be invited along to take part in the Q&A. This is yet another example of the fantastic work our Neighbourhood Policing Team officers and staff do, day in, day out, to engage with all our diverse communities across the county.

I, alongside other Wiltshire Police representatives, have also been honoured over the last couple of weeks to have had the pleasure of welcoming two members of our Royal Family when they have visited our wonderful county.

Firstly, we had the honour of welcoming HRH The Princess Royal to the county where she firstly visited the brilliant Dressability charity in Swindon, a charity that amends and alters clothing for people with disabilities, limited dexterity or who have suffered strokes, followed by a visit to St John's Ambulance in Devizes to celebrate the launch of a new Wiltshire Community Response Unit in the presence of donors and volunteers. I was also delighted to be part of the civic line up for HM Queen Camilla as she attended a concert at Salisbury Cathedral in support of several Wiltshire based charities for whom she is Patron, including the Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust, Community First and the Wiltshire Air Ambulance, together with the Grenadier and Rifles Regimental Charities. The concert, also attended by yourself and Chief of Corporate Services for the Force, John Derryman, was a truly incredible evening and testament to all who worked so hard to create such a memorable event.

These Royal visits to Wiltshire are so special and really do pay huge tribute to the work of all those involved in community safety across our county and enables such meaningful engagement with our communities.

Kindest regards,



Catherine Roper
Chief Constable, Wiltshire Police