



BUNGAY TOWN COUNCIL Police Liaison Committee



Minutes of the Police Liaison Committee Meeting held on Thursday 5th November 2020 at 6.00 pm.

As permitted by the Local Authorities (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 No.392 this meeting was conducted “online

Town Council Members:

Cllr. A. Dawes (AD), Cllr. K. Lodge (KL), Cllr. D. O’Neill (DO’N), Cllr. L. Richardson (LR).

Also present:

J. Burton, (JB) Clerk/ RFO Bungay Town Council and 1 member of the public. (Cllr. B. Prior (BP).

PLC 001 To appoint a Committee Chair: For consideration
2020/2021

It was proposed by AD, seconded by KL, and RESOLVED that DO’N be appointed as Chair of the Police Liaison Committee.

For	3
Against	0
Abstain	0

PLC 002 To appoint a Sub – Committee Vice Chair – For consideration
2020/2021

It was proposed by KL, seconded by DO’N, and RESOLVED that AD be appointed as Vice Chair of the Police Liaison Committee.

For	3
Against	0
Abstain	0

PLC 003 Apologies for Absence: To receive any apologies for absence
2020/2021

Apologies were received from LR - **Noted.**

PLC 004 Declaration of Interest & Requests for Dispensations: Councillors to declare any Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary Interests. Notwithstanding this item, Members may subsequently declare an interest at any point in the meeting.

No declarations of interest were declared or requests for dispensations requested - **Noted.**

PLC 005 Public Forum:
2020/2021 Members of the public are invited to give their views on issues on this agenda, or raise issues for future consideration, at the discretion of the Chair, for no more than 15 minutes. Members of the public may not take part in the Committee meeting itself.

Signed _____

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The member of public present at the meeting (BP) discussed the meeting that he had had with the Suffolk Police & Crime Commissioner, Tim Passmore and Peter Aldous MP on 16th October 2020. See Appendix 1 for meeting notes. BP has had a further subsequent meeting with Tim Passmore and is currently waiting for these meeting notes. BP reported that Tim Passmore is happy to have a meeting with Town Councillors to discuss Policing in Bungay and JB to arrange this meeting – **Noted**

PLC 006 **To adopt the Police Liaison Committee Terms of Reference:** for consideration
2020/2021

The attached Draft Terms of Reference for the Police Liaison Committee (Appendix 2) were discussed and it was agreed that this to be brought to the next Committee Meeting to be signed off by the Chair (DO'N) – **Noted.**

PLC 007 **Meeting schedule** – for consideration.
2020/2021

It was agreed to request a Meeting with Tim Passmore and other Bungay Town Councillors to be asked for items to be discussed at this meeting.

For the next Police Liaison Committee meeting JB to ask for Senior Police representation, Town Councillors and members of the public to attend. – **Noted.**

Provisional date for next Police Liaison Committee Meeting – Thursday 4th February 2021 – **Noted.**

The meeting closed at 6.32 pm

Dated: 6th November 2020

Jeremy Burton
Clerk to Bungay Town Council,
1a, Broad Street, Bungay NR35 1EE
clerk@bungaytowncouncil.gov.uk

Signed _____

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Appendix 1

Report from Policing Matters Zoom Meeting held on Friday 16th October 2020

Present: PCC - Tim Passmore, Peter Aldous MP, County Councillor - Mark Bee, Bungay Town Mayor - Bob Prior + representatives for Beccles TC, Ringsfield PC, Worlingham PC, Carlton Colville PC

This was a fact finding/strategic meeting for Tim Passmore (TP) to take up any deficiencies in the policing service provided with the people responsible. A wide range of issues were discussed, and as you would expect, I took full advantage of the opportunity to speak frankly about many of the issues concerning Bungay.

TP acknowledged the problems still associated with the 101 number, and he will continue to seek improvements. He said that it was vital that people continue to report all levels of crime as these figures help secure funding. He said that Suffolk Constabulary is still underfunded, approx. £5 less per head of population compared to Norfolk. He is working with all MPs across the County to get the 'Funding Formula' changed. I pointed out that many people had lost faith in the 101 system and major changes need to occur quickly to restore confidence, and they may even need to scrap the system altogether and start again with a new number.

I said that because Lowestoft is at least half-an-hour from Bungay, it would make more sense if the police logged on for duty, where they get into uniform, collect weapons, etc., from Beccles or Halesworth. This could be a minimum saving of one hour per officer per day (over 15 weeks per year). I suggested that it would be relatively low cost to provide a suitable area in the Beccles facility, and that Halesworth is already equipped. TP said that he also thought that made sense and that it would probably be better from Halesworth and that he will raise this with the Chief Inspector for an explanation. I also highlighted the fact that this would also improve response times.

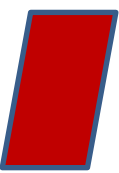
I expressed my concern that whilst we're pleased with the police coverage during the so-called 'Bungay Mafia' issues, which probably brought the policing levels up to where they should be, we have been disappointed that those levels dropped back since the Covid-19 outbreak and have not returned. I continued that the patrols by cars seemed to have decreased with no foot patrols whatsoever. This is particularly noticeable during the hours of darkness. I said that it seems that we get more coverage when we 'make a fuss' which should not be the way things work. After all we Councillors are all volunteers and we have many other things to deal with apart from constantly chasing the police. TP agreed and that he would be taking it up with the operational side (uniformed division). He did say that they are currently recruiting 58 more officers this year and the same again next year and the year after. He also thanked the Councillors to all the work they do.

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I said that we, along with other areas, had experienced a rise in ASB during the summer months and the police did attend some of the incidents. I explained that we were using outreach youth workers, provided CCTV throughout the town and beginning other social initiatives, but we also need the police to step up to the mark and help us where needed. TP applauded the efforts of the Town Council and has said that again he will be having discussions with 'operations'

TP said that they are entering discussions with the Fire Service to have the use of an office in the Fire Station. I explained that they have free 24/7 access to our Town Hall which officers can use to undertake interviews, take statements or for their breaks. TP was unaware of this valuable resource option, and seemed genuinely surprised that he wasn't informed of this. He again thanked Bungay TC for their help and support offered.

TP said problem of 'boy racers' is similar across all areas across the County which seems to have increased during lock-down, probably as a way for youngsters releasing tension. However, he and the whole force take these issues very seriously and will prosecute every case they catch. I have said that the police are very welcome to see the data from our SIDS if this would help. TP thanked me for the offer.

Beccles TC, in particular, have experienced a high level of cyber bullying and TP said that it is very hard to find the perpetrators because they change their identity and devices to avoid detection. TP said that this does not detract from the efforts they put in to trying to catch these criminals.

TP said that the Magistrates Courts were two or three years behind in dealing with cases. This has been exasperated by the closures of local courts which both he and local MPs fought against. To help alleviate the problem, the Judicial system are considering using pop-up courts to minor cases. I said that we have two locations, Riverside Centre and Council Chambers, that may be used for such purposes and provide BTC with an income which we are losing under current restrictions.

I expressed my disappointment that we were unsuccessful in applying for the 'Youth Fund' some time ago and that we only received a two-line letter from one of TP's assistants saying we were unsuccessful. TP said that we should reapply and make sure that we put on the application, and/or covering letter "Please make sure that this is seen by PCC Tim Passmore"

Bob Prior

Signed _____

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Appendix 2

Police Liaison Committee

Terms of Reference

- The membership of this committee to consist of Bungay Town Councillors, representatives of Suffolk Police and members of the Public
- The Bungay Town Council Clerk or Assistant Clerk will arrange and be present at these Committee Meetings.
- This Committee will report directly to the Full Bungay Town Council.
- Regular meetings to be held a minimum of every 3 months.
- The purpose of this Committee is to liaise and discuss with the Police relevant issues to Bungay concerning all Policing matters. These issues to initially include Police coverage of Bungay, speeding in the Town and usage of SID information, anti-social behaviour.

Signed

Dated

Signed _____

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Date _____