



**WILLINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

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**NOTES FROM THE PUBLIC MEETING HELD at 7:30pm ON THURSDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2018 IN  
WILLINGHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**THE MEETING WAS HELD TO DISCUSS CONCERNS WITH POLICING IN WILLINGHAM AND THE RECENT  
INCREASE IN 'LOW LEVEL' CRIMES**

**THE MEETING WAS FACILITATED AND INTRODUCED BY WILLINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL AT THE REQUEST  
OF THE POLICE AND WAS LED BY SGT PRIESTLY AND SGT HILSON**

**PRESENT:**

Parish Councillors: P King (Chair), J Anderson, S Croft, L King, D Law, R Manning, J Watson

Police: Sgt Emma Hilson, Sgt P Priestly, PCSO J Coppard, PCSO J Lynch, Crime Prevention officer R Carr,

County Council: Councillor Tim Wotherspoon, G Hay (enforcement team)

South Cambs District Council: Councillor Percival, Councillor Handley, R Lewis (Env Health)

Public: 182

**APOLOGIES:**

Apologies were received from:

Police and Crime Commissioner Jason Ablewhite

Lucy Frazer MP

Parish Councillors: Carlton, Cook, Croucher, Harris, Mansfield, Tassell, Smith

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Councillor King opened the meeting and introduced the representatives present.

The Police summarised the lead up to calling the meeting and congratulated residents of Willingham for such a strong turnout for the meeting, a clear indication that residents and local councillors were united in wanting to improve the situation within the village.

A summary of recent organisational changes within the Police Force was given explaining the remit of the three main teams, these being, neighbourhood teams, response teams and investigation teams.

The meeting moved to a question and answer session where parishioners voiced their concerns relating to the increase in anti-social behaviour, vandalism and car crime seen over recent months.

Parishioners repeatedly expressed their frustration at what they perceived as very little action being taken in response to these issues even though they had reported them continually. Some incidents had been reported as they were happening and although the Police responded they had still been unable to apprehend those involved.

Parishioners also expressed concerns that there was a lack of follow up on information provided by them to the police and there seemed to be a significant issue with communication within the Police themselves and also between the Police and the village as a whole.

In response to the concerns raised the Police confirmed that they wanted to work with parishioners to tackle the issues and encouraged everyone to continue liaising with them and reporting crimes so that a picture of the patterns of behaviour could be developed and acted upon.

Where priorities allowed the Police had increased patrols in the village of late but confirmed that this would not be sustainable long term . They had also visited various businesses, local schools and various groups and would continue to work to try and identify those involved.

In relation to speeding issues in the village the Police were keen to set up a speed watch group and invited anyone interested to speak to them after the meeting.

A list was drawn up covering the main areas that parishioners wanted addressing over the next month or so:

- More resources into the village
- Improvement in communication feedback
- Quality of response to incidents
- Unmarked police cars used in hot spot areas of ASB
- Mapping and collating of crimes reported for the village
- More faith in the Police
- Action against recognised prolific offender

Sgt Priestly agreed to organise a follow up meeting by the end of October , to report back to parishioners on progress with the above. As requested he would ensure the meeting was called at a time when the Police and Crime Commissioner and the local MP were both able to attend.

Councillor King closed the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.

*The meeting closed at 21:20*

*Notes taken by M Powell – Parish Clerk*