

## 1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair, Lawrie Phipps, opened the meeting at 7.00pm and welcomed all those present, and suggested that at future meetings people might wish to consider the queue at the bar in planning their attendance. 57 people attended the meeting.

- **Apologies:** Received from Roberta Sandbrook, John Tiernan, Diana Davies, Cllr Marian Humphreys, Cllr David Humphreys, and Cllr Brynne Ririe.

### 1a. Update from PC Simeon Hodson

- PC Hodson provided a brief update on local policing matters.
- He directed the meetings attention to an increase in car crime in adjacent villages and reiterated the importance of the CCTV as a deterrent to crime.
- He also stated that the police can access the CCTV system without going through the Parish Council and that he would make local police officers aware of the process for doing that.

**Action:** No specific actions at this stage. PC Hodson left the meeting following his update due to other policing duties.

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## 2. Richborough Proposal for “Land North of Orton Road”

- The meeting discussed Richborough’s preliminary consultation regarding proposed housing on the land north of Orton Road.
- It was noted that **Richborough has not yet formally submitted a planning application**, so there is currently no official proposal to object to.
- Concern was raised that the **developer’s online consultation form** could be interpreted as securing tacit agreement to the project’s features. One resident, who sent apologies, felt it was misleading to answer feature-related questions after rejecting the entire proposal.
- **Linda Roberts** gave an excellent speech outlining the work of the residents in stopping the Curlew Close development, the meeting recognised Linda and Ian’s hard work in doing this and helping to frame the task we will have to stop the Richborough proposal.
- **Key points:**
  - Residents were asked to keep their objections to Richborough’s own proposal very brief (not to solve their problems for them)
  - Once the council consultation period begins (if Richborough proceeds), residents will have an opportunity to respond formally through council channels.
- **Neighbourhood Plan:** Emphasis was placed on progressing the Neighbourhood Plan; its adoption would help define the village boundary and potentially provide firmer grounds for objections to unsuitable developments.

**Action:**

1. Continue to monitor Richborough's progress and wait for any formal planning application.
  2. Encourage residents to participate in any official council consultation.
  3. Villagers were urged to vote **YES** for the Neighbourhood Plan, and encourage friends and neighbours to also vote yes, to strengthen the village's ability to shape development.
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### **3. Section 106 Monies and Warton Recreation Ground**

- The meeting briefly revisited the use of Section 106 contributions from previous developments.
- A proposal to allocate remaining funds towards improvements in the village recreation ground was discussed. The Parish and Borough Council have agreed to revisit the decision to only spend S106 money on Warton Rec, updates will be sent out when available

**Action:**

- The Residents Association will try and identify what S106 money has been allocated to what work, and what work has been completed for the previous developments in Warton.
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### **4. Neighbourhood Watch Update**

- The Chair handed over to **Julie Holden for the Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) update** who thanked participants who have signed up to the Neighbourhood Watch, and Street Watch schemes.
- The Residents Association exists as a result of matters that were brought to NHW but were not crime or safety related.
- Standing agenda items are:
  - Police Update - already done
  - Road Safety Update - flooding at Church Rd continues to be investigated and Cllr Andy Wright advised more activity next financial year (April 25). New signage at Barn End crossroads seems to have worked in reducing incidents.
  - CCTV Update - a question was raised to Polesworth Parish Council which was taken to private session (is it being used/how often?). Awaiting update from PPC.
  - Street Watch Update - Hill Crest Farm close has ongoing issues with ball games - looking at improved signage, Hatters Close has issues with cannabis usage - new intervention by police about to launch, Red Marl - no reported issues, Austrey Rd/Willis Croft/Croft area - no reported issues.

- There are just under 1,000 residents on the Facebook Group and 114 on the Our Watch portal. An administrators meeting will be held next week for those able to attend.

**Action:**

- Seek volunteers to expand coverage of the Street Watch scheme across outlying streets.
  - Encourage sign-ups to the NHW 'Our Watch' platform:  
<https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/joinNW>
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## 5. Speed Watch Update

- The Chair handed over to **Lisa Joslin for the Speed Watch update**
- Speed Watch volunteers reported that the data collected since the start of the year and describe how the data will be used by the local police.
- The initiative has a role to play in all matters concerning Road Safety within the village and not just speed awareness.
- The data collected by the speedwatch team on an ongoing basis regarding traffic volume and speed at the various points around the village should be seen as essential data and evidence which may be used to present arguments against further development projects (including the recent Richborough proposal).

**Action:**

- Speed Watch are looking for more volunteers - A commitment to join X1 hour long session each month is the only requirement.

Please contact [wartoncommunityspeedwatch@gmail.com](mailto:wartoncommunityspeedwatch@gmail.com)

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## 6. Any Other Business

- **Heather Phipps** requested volunteers to assist with the ***Welcome to Warton Project***. This is an initiative aiming to support the growing community by introducing and integrating new residents. It includes:
  - Two drop-in events in Spring and Summer at Warton Village Hall, linking residents with local groups such as the Neighbourhood Watch and Women's Institute.
  - **Heather asked for Volunteers to help with the events and to do leaflet drops please email [warton.residents@gmail.com](mailto:warton.residents@gmail.com)**

- **Chris Ball** announced that the *Village Carnival* will take place on **14 June 2025**, with **road closures between 12.00pm and 2.00pm**. The Carnival team are also looking for volunteers to help on the day.
- Cllr David Humphreys requests ideas for small grants (total pot is £3000). If people have ideas they can share them with residents association who will forward on to David ([Warton.Residents@gmail.com](mailto:Warton.Residents@gmail.com))
- Finally we may be trying to get a leaflet out before 20th March to flag up the importance of voting to adopt the Neighbourhood Plan? Volunteers to help with a leaflet drop please get in touch ([Warton.Residents@gmail.com](mailto:Warton.Residents@gmail.com))

**The chair thanked everyone for a good turnout and closed the meeting at approximately 9:15pm**