

Police attendance at Parish Council meetings

The Clerk to Wraxall and Failand Parish Council emailed the Police and Crime Commissioner, Sue Mountstevens, to ask why there is rarely a Police attendance at Parish Council meetings and also why a Police report is often not received.

A reply was received by phone from her staff officer, DS Ashley Jones, who gave the following answers to the queries:

- Police Officers and PCSOs will no longer attend Parish Council meetings as a matter of course. The local Beat Manager should be informed that a meeting will be taking place, and someone may attend if they are free, but it certainly cannot be guaranteed, and should not be expected.
- Police reports take a disproportionate amount of Police time to prepare – time that could be better spent operationally. Crime figures for each neighbourhood can easily be found on-line, and so if anyone wishes to know what crime has occurred in their area then they can do so that way.
- If there is a specific problem which a Parish Council wishes to discuss with a local officer e.g. a specific crime trend in the area, then an officer may be able to attend if given sufficient notice.

DS Jones said that police resources are now spread so thinly that they cannot give the commitment to Parish Council meetings that has happened in the past.

DS Jones said that Ms Mountstevens is of the belief that as this gives the public access to the crime figures in their area, Police attendance at Parish Council meetings is no longer routinely required.

To find out the crime figures, here is a guide:

<https://www.police.uk/>

Click on 'Find Your Neighbourhood, and then enter your postcode or place name.

Select your particular area from the drop down list.

Click on 'Explore the Crime Map' then click on one of the black circles with a number which appear. Click on a black circle again, and that will show you the number of crimes which have occurred in that street, and the type of crime.

It normally takes between one and three months for the information to be uploaded. Currently the November crimes are displayed. There are two drop down lists at the top of the map, where you can select a different month, or a particular crime.