

Four Marks Street Watch Constitution

Article 1: Name

Four Marks Street Watch

Article 2: Purpose

Four Marks Street Watch is a Hampshire Police (the Police) and community partnership initiative that supports Four Marks residents engaging in community civilian street patrols: -

1. To prevent crime by improving security, increasing vigilance, creating and maintaining a caring and cohesive community and reducing opportunities for crime by increasing crime prevention awareness.
2. To assist the Police by promoting effective communication and the prompt reporting of activity that gives rise to concern.
3. To increase feelings of safety by providing reassurance and promoting good citizenship.

Article 3: Membership

Section 1: Eligibility

Street Watch is an inclusive community organization. The following restrictions to joining Street Watch apply:

1. Members must be older than 18 and no more than 75 years of age. Members over the age of 75 are welcome to continue patrolling as long as they accept the insurance limitation.
2. Members must be either residents, professionals working or being educated in Four Marks.
3. When applying, Members will be vetted by the Police to a volunteer status level. In respect of previous convictions, the insurance will cover Members where convictions are 'spent' under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974. Anything outside of that and where the Police have accepted it, the Insurers will consider this with supporting evidence from the Police.

4. Members must have read and agree to comply with this Constitution. These will be made available to all members on joining and when these are amended from time to time.
5. Members must follow advice given by the Police.
6. Members agree to patrol for a minimum average of 2 hours per month. Members who are not engaging in a proportional number of patrols may be required to relinquish their membership.
7. Members are required to regularly attend Street Watch meetings.

The active membership of Street watch is limited in order to realize:

1. A manageable size for the Committee to oversee.
2. Each scheme is restricted to a maximum of 15 members patrolling at one time.
3. Realistic and sustainable insurance costs. Insurance is provided for the numbers patrolling within Street Watch up a prescribed number; but not to named individuals, which allows for flexibility as to a pool of volunteers.

Section 2: Selection.

There is no formal selection process to join Street Watch; except, as already stated, Members are police vetted. Interested individuals seeking to become a member should either contact the Chair or the Police.

Section 3: Revoking membership & Suspension.

1. Membership status can be revoked if a Member fails to comply with the Constitution, operational guidelines, codes of conduct and risk assessments. Membership is automatically revoked if a member's vetting status changes to being unsuitable.
2. The ethos of Street Watch is a partnership between the community and the Police. If there are urgent issues caused by a Member (or Members) that may undermine or cause embarrassment to that partnership, then the Street Watch Chair, in consultation with the Police, may revoke or suspend a person's membership with immediate effect. Issues requiring immediate action include: - suspected criminal conduct, inappropriate public or media comment, the expression of inappropriate or offensive personal views and inappropriate public behavior. This list is not exhaustive. Issues will be assessed on a common sense basis and reasonable judgment of the suitability of a Member being entitled to wear the crest of the Police force.

3. Nothing in the above prevents the Police from immediately withdrawing the authority of a Member from wearing or being associated with the Police crest. In this situation the Chair is to be informed as soon as possible.
4. On any dismissal, an appeal can be lodged to the Chair. The final decision will be made by the Committee. This may be in consultation with the Police depending on the nature of any alleged issue.

Section 4: Non-discrimination

Street Watch does not discriminate against any person due to race, creed, colour, national origin, gender, age, faith, or disability. That is except for age where, as a previously detailed there are restrictions as a result of necessary operational requirements, safety and insurance.

Article 4: Offices

Section 1: Committee

Four Marks Street Watch is currently a developing organization. During this period, the committee is of an 'ad hoc' nature.

Section 2: Listing of offices

The Committee

1. Chair
2. Secretary
3. Up to 2 co-opted Members

The Committee shall meet at least once every 6 months

Section 3: Terms of office

The Chair is elected by the Members for a 2 year term and is responsible for:

1. Arranging and chairing meetings, managing patrols, ensuring that the operating guidance is being adhered to, promoting the scheme locally and managing new membership.
2. Providing reports to the Police. This is to include any incidents recorded in the Accident Report Book (kept up to date by the Chair).
3. Ensuring that membership of Street Watch does not exceed any insurance limit and that the insurance is current.

The Secretary is elected by the Members for a 2 year term and is responsible for:

Providing administrative support

The Police Representative will attend meetings (is appointed by the Police for a 2 year term and is to):

1. To Advise and support the work of Street Watch.
2. To ensure there is police framework to support Street Watch.
3. To support and ensure the signing of a Service Level Agreement / Memorandum of Understanding.

(The Police Representative is a named police officer and is the point of contact to the Police and is appointed by it.)

Police Representation will be in the form of a member of the local Safer Neighbourhood Team.

Section 4: Election procedures

The Officers are elected by the membership on a majority basis with one vote for each Member. In the case of a tie in voting the Chair will have a second and casting vote. The Police representative is not entitled to vote.

Section 5: Best practice guidance to Councillors for Membership of Street Watch.

- 1 It is necessary that Street Watch remains independent of any party or local political group. No political gain or advantage is to be received through membership of Street Watch.
- 2 Councils have a statutory requirement to operate under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. Any support by councils for Street Watch should be recognised as part of the wider local crime and disorder partnership.
- 3 Street Watch is a police and community partnership initiative and there is an inferred understanding that councils can be represented on it with guest membership if they wish. The role of any Councillors within Street Watch is as a representative of the council.

- 4 In the case of the Town Council, the Chair has to agree to any particular council representative within Street Watch. This guest membership should be for an agreed reasonable period, after which the representative can be rotated to provide an equal opportunity for other councillors.
- 5 Councillors are not permitted to stand for or hold Chair or other committee positions.
- 6 Councillors must abide with the full codes of conduct and also show the highest standards of representation as expected within the council's partnership protocols.
- 7 There should be no more than two Councillors in Street Watch at a time.
- 8 Street Watch will not support Councillors who stand for, or hold political views that may be considered as offensive against any particular group or does not meet with the interests of Street Watch.

Section 7: Resignations.

- 1 A Member's resignation will commence with immediate effect, except for committee offices, where, a handover period of up to 28 days is required. This period can be extended under special circumstances.
- 2 Once a resignation has been submitted either verbally or in writing, it may only be withdrawn with the authority of the Committee.

Article 7: Finance

Section 1: Oversight

The Committee will manage any funds.

Section 2: Source of funding

1. Street Watch is a non-profit organization.
2. Funding can be obtained from any or all of such organization as community groups, police, councils and businesses provided funds are provided without any conditions attached except that they are used for the proper purposes of Street Watch.

Article 8: Operating Guidance, Codes of Conduct and Risk Assessments.

Section 1: Documents

See associated papers 'Risk Assessment' and 'Full Guide'

Section 2: Meetings

1. Meetings will be held as and when considered necessary but at least every 8 weeks.
2. Where appropriate minutes should be made and circulated.

Article 9: Diversity Policy

1. Street Watch is inclusive of the whole community. Its members will not show prejudice or discriminate against any Street Watch Member or members of the public on the grounds of Faith, Ethnicity, Race, Gender, Culture, Nationality or Sexual Orientation.
2. Street Watch 'Faith Groups' may not engage in any form of 'preaching' or promoting of their faith.

Article 10: Amendments

- 1 This constitution may be amended and updated through the Committee.
- 2 The Constitution will be regularly reviewed as the organization develops.
- 3 Amendments have to be passed by a majority vote of the Committee.

Article 11: Ratification

The ratification of the Constitution and any amendments should be proposed and agreed on a majority basis by the Committee.

Article 12: Winding Up

In the event that Four Marks Streewatch is to be wound up, any money or property remaining after payment of debts must be given to an organization / charity with similar purposes to our organization.

SignedPrint name and addressC. CheasleyCELIA CHEASLEY 3 GLOUCESTER CLOSE GL4 34SHXT. Burch.TREVOR BURCH HILL COUNTRY, ST. AUBINS CLOSE
FOUR MARKS GU34 5DS.DAVID JONES, 7 BRAMBLES CLOSE FOUR MARKS
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