To receive the monthly crime figures and consider any actions

The Administration Department requested additional clarification to better understand the figures and reporting categories presented at future meetings.

The question was asked for further details on which crimes are classified under each reporting category and further information on how crimes might initially be recorded under one category but later reclassified during investigations.

Admin also requested clarification for how long it typically takes for such changes to be reflected in the reported figures.

The response from PC Smith:

Attached is a document that breaks down the crime headings into their individual classifications. These are the notifiable crimes, a notifiable crime being any offence under United Kingdom law where the police must inform the Home Office, who use the report to compile crime statistics.

'Non notifiable crimes' are excluded. Non notifiable crimes include such things as offences related to driving a vehicle without insurance and driving licence offences.

Regarding your query on how crimes might be changed and reclassified, there is no set period or typical time frame. When a crime is recorded it will be on the basis that the circumstances as reported amount to a crime defined by law (the police will determine this, based on their knowledge of the law and counting rules) and there is no credible evidence to the contrary.

Once it has been recorded typically an investigation will start. Depending on the nature and severity of the offence, this could be anything from hours or days to weeks, months or years.

At any time during that process information may come to light that changes our understanding of the circumstances of what has occurred and or even a realisation that what occurred never amounted to an offence.

This may see crimes then reclassified or "no crimed", sometimes many months after being first reported. This leads to discrepancies in crime figures provided.

End of report
Office Manager / Assistant to the Town Clerk