



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ASSOCIATION



Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on TUESDAY 3rd July 2018 at Woolpit Village Hall
7.30pm

Crime prevention products were made available courtesy of Four Towns Crime Prevention Panel.

The Chairman thanked Eric Sewell for attending and providing the display for members.

The chairman welcomed members to the meeting and after giving safety notices introduced Police Sgt. Steve Wright, lead officer for the newly introduced Community Engagement Officer Team in the County.

Sgt Wright explained that the new initiative by the Constabulary was in response to problem of lack of face to face contact with the public. An issue which had been raised on many occasions at public meetings. While it was appreciated it was never going to be replicating past systems of contact when there had been more officers and PCSO's available it was hoped that having dedicated officers around the County to whom the public could relate to would go some way towards addressing the problem of contact between police and the public. He explained that while he was based in Lowestoft he had a countywide responsibility for managing the team. There were nine officers based around the County and their purpose and role can be found on the Police website at: <https://www.suffolk.police.uk/news/latest-news/18-06-2018/community-engagement-officers-begin-work>

Sgt. Wright introduced three of the team who were present at the meeting and invited members to ask question about the team and their role. The discussion was closed at 8pm by the chairman with a vote of thanks to Sgt. Wright and his team.

Annual General Meeting

1. Apologies for absence.

21 apologies had been received. (It was noted that England's world Cup match against Columbia had probably affected attendance!)

2. Minutes of A.G.M. 2017

These were accepted unanimously.

3. Matters arising.

There were no matters arising. Matters contained in the Minutes would be covered by the Chairman's report.

4. Chairman's Report

Chairman Tony Spall gave a comprehensive report of the work of the Association:

This past year has in fact been 14 months, following the amendment of our constitution from the last AGM.

Over this period we have:

- Held 6 Executive Committee meetings
- Held 3 Area presentation meetings
- Sent out 12 electronic newsletters and other news bulletins
- Established Coordinators online "Toolkit"
- We continue to have long drawn out but ongoing discussions with Suffolk County Council and now, local MP's in our bid to agree a future planning consent process for installing new NW street signs - although we are the party continually having to push for answers
- We have had Face to face meeting with the PCC and the ACC- to discuss our working agreement and other initiatives
- We have a signed Memorandum of Understanding with the Constabulary and the National Neighbourhood Watch Network organisation, and are working towards a similar document with the PCC's office
- We have written to all 438 parish and town councils to request a review of the position of NW in their community
- we have given talks to local organisations and potential new schemes across Suffolk
- We have Improved our financial position through donations from some parish/town councils
- We continue to circulate local targeted appeals for information or crime prevention matters in conjunction with the police as part of our working relationship
- We have redesigned the SNWA website
- 7 schemes became inactive, whilst 11 new schemes registered - meaning we are still at around 1000 schemes in Suffolk
- We have attended workshops and seminars organised at national level - focused on NWN development and growth
- We continue to carry out significant work relating to the roll out of an Area Coordinator network across Suffolk
- We have secured grant funding from Suffolk Community Foundation (from the PCC community fund) - to purchase branded gazebos and flags for our future engagement programme
- Held meetings with the Constabulary Community Safety Team, and, since the latest constabulary reorganisation, the Neighbourhood & Partnerships team, including members from the Project 2025 programme, which has seen the recent introduction for the Community Engagement Officers, who are helping make working close with Neighbourhood Watch much more personal

And it doesn't stop there.

Traditional crimes such as burglary and car theft are now much less prevalent than they once were. But we hear more and more of new types of criminal activity that have sprung up as well. Domestic Abuse, Serious violence and knife crime, Modern slavery are all examples, and these type crimes require solutions if they are to be tackled effectively.

Prevention is key, and strong communities where people know and look out for their neighbours is an excellent route to crime prevention. So we still have an important role to play. **It's a new dawn for Neighbourhood Watch**, and one that I am sure we can embrace and help make our communities better informed and aware on how to deal with these type of new crimes.

All in all a very busy year.

But from the positives to the negatives.

Unfortunately the Executive Committee has shrunk from four positions to three, and as you will know through the communications we have sent out, we are also losing our current secretary after tonight - which potentially puts us in a difficult position.

Over the last two years, and more so this year, we have called for help to fill posts, to help make the association efficient and even more effective. As a reminder, our constitution states that at all Executive meetings, three executive officers constitutes a quorum.

We understand the disappointment that NW schemes across Suffolk have experienced over the last couple of years, since the 2016 policing review and the noticeable reduction of visible policing on our streets, and lack of presence at meetings.

However, we must look forward and work with what is available. The problems have not been created locally but are the result of the financial squeeze that has been placed on all police forces.

We believe that following the 2016 review, this was the opportunity for us to become stronger as a community, when we had to rely on our own initiatives to continue to help ourselves and to look out for our neighbours.

Some NW schemes may wish for the past, but it is to the future we need to work for.

Neighbourhood Watch is still as relevant today as it ever was, and our members' help we can still be a force for strong, safer and caring communities.

So, the reality is that If members want our Association to continue to support them and all the schemes across Suffolk, then some of our members time is needed for that to happen.

The future as always is in the hands of the membership and therefore they need to give this serious consideration.

Should it not happen then over 30 years of work by many people could be placed in jeopardy and Suffolk could become a less safer place to live in.

Soon on the agenda is the Election of Officers, so I would just like to offer you this thought:

your existing executive officers are very passionate about supporting the NW scheme membership across Suffolk, and if re-elected we will continue to work hard on behalf of its members. But the harsh reality is that a lack of response and limited feedback from our membership really does make us question the viability of our Association, and whether indeed the membership need us and the support we try to offer. This is the choice that you, the members will have to make.

5. Treasurer's report.

Treasurer Bob Gooch gave an overview of the income and expenses incurred by the Association during the past year.

Treasurer's Report

Balance Sheet 2017/2018



Assets	HSBC Current Account	08/04/17	£2,300.20	
Income	Cheques , BAC's & Cash paid in		£1,348.41	
		Total		£3,648.61
Expenses	Travel Claims		£810.30	
	Purchases		£874.08	
		Total		£1,684.38
Available Balance 8th May 2018			£1,964.23	

6. Election of Officers

The Chairman had prefaced the election of officers with an outline of problems if no nominations were received. The committee would not be quorate which would make it difficult running the Association. He pointed out that if members did not come forward to assist the Association the remaining committee members would have to consider calling and Extraordinary General Meeting to consider the dissolution of the Association.

He appreciated that those members present were committed to Neighbourhood Watch as were others in the County, but it was essential for the continuance of the Association that positions were filled not only for survival but to take the work of the Association forward.

The Secretary took the meeting through the process of election of Officers. There had been no nominations and therefore nomination were accepted from the floor in accordance with the Association's constitution.

Chair: Tony Spall was prepared to stand. There was no other nomination so was elected unanimously.

Deputy Chair: There was already a vacancy and no nominations were made. VACANT

Secretary: Brian Sivyer was standing down. There were no nominations to fill the post. VACANT

Treasurer: Bob Gooch was prepared to stand. He was elected unanimously.

Communications: This role was handled by the Chairman. There no other nominations. He was confirmed unanimously.

Appointment of Auditors:

The Secretary pointed that this was a requirement. The Treasurer would arrange for the Accounts to be audited by a third person. Committee members were not allowed to audit the accounts. No nominations received.

There were questions from the floor regarding various roles and what was involved. The Chair asked people who wanted to know more of what our work was about and possibly taking up a role to get in touch with him. A vote of thanks was made to Brian Sivyer, the outgoing Secretary for his work on behalf of the Association.

Any other Business.

a) Member from Wkepsted brought up the benefits of having a 'No Cold Calling Zone' covering their scheme and recommended other Coordinators should consider doing the same. The Chair said that there were criteria for setting up such Zones and members should seek advice from Suffolk Trading Standards.

b) Data Protection. The new regulations were aimed primarily at companies and big organisation. Nonetheless Coordinators should have permission particularly from new members in their schemes if they held any data on them. The Chair could advise if there were any queries regarding this.

c) A vote of thanks for the work of the committee was made from the floor.

Date of next Meeting

This would be decided by the Committee as per normal.

The meeting was closed by the Chairman at 8.50pm.

Brian Sivyer

Secretary

5th July 2018