



## Annual General Meeting

Friday 15 April 2016 at Woolpit Village Hall at 7.15pm

### **Initials used in this document.**

CWLO – Community Watch Liaison Officer  
PCSO – Police Community Support Officer  
SNWA – Suffolk Neighbourhood Watch Association  
NHW – Neighbourhood Watch  
PCC – Police and Crime Commissioner

### **Present**

Brian Sivyer [BS] (Chairman), Tony Spall [TS] (Communications/webmaster), Bob Gooch [BG] (Treasurer), Diane Sivyer [DS] (Secretary) plus 30 members. 24 apologies for absence had also been received.

1. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the AGM. He then introduced Alan Osborne [AO], Suffolk Constabulary, Community Safety Manager.

AO began by showing a short video outlining some of the changes which will occur as a result of the Constabulary cut backs. The role of CWLO has been redesigned and PCSOs will now work “normal hours” i.e. 8am-5pm with no evening work. Their roles have been amended within Safer Neighbourhood Teams and some have now specific areas of responsibility as well as associated police work.

Suffolk Police will no longer maintain the data base relating to SNHW. Suffolk Neighbourhood Watch Association will be taking on the role of running NHW in Suffolk. Soon, letters from the Police will be sent to all those registered NHW Coordinators advising them to re-register with SNHW. This is necessary due to Data protection laws. A registration form and return of post envelope will be included. Forms should be returned by 31<sup>st</sup> May. Shortly after that date the existing database will be deleted and any Scheme not re-registered will be deemed ‘as ceasing to exist’.

Individuals were also encouraged to sign up to Police Connect to receive up to date information if a serious issue arises within their specific area. It was pointed out that this was a separate process and was not in any way connected with the registration process for SNHW schemes and not a substitute for registering with SNWA.

AO took questions from the floor mainly regarding information from the Police once they had relinquished data base addresses. AO emphasised that information would still be sent out via Police Connect, the Police web page and through SNTs. People wondered how they could contact their PCSOs and were advised to contact SNT inspectors (or dial 101) to contact their local Safer Neighbourhood Team and the appropriate PCSO.

BS thanked AO for attending the meeting. He then opened the 2016 AGM at 7.55pm by introducing the committee and explained that the sudden resignation of Gary Gascoyne necessitated a revamp of personnel.

**2. Minutes of the previous AGM on 14 March 2015.**

These had been distributed and deemed to be a true record of the meeting.

**3. Matters arising -**

With regard to issue 3.8 concerning NHW street signs and the £3000 grant from the PCC. BS stated that some signs were still available. If areas needed to replace existing signs in existing places then they could apply via the "contact" page on the SNWA website. Individuals could only replace the signs themselves as long as they took appropriate precautions when erecting them, and can only replace them in exactly the same place. They would then be covered by the NHW Public Liability Insurance. The committee will check the cost of signs for new schemes and their erection costs. New Schemes starting up would have to have their signs put up using the County Council's agents, (Kier) for which there was a charge.

**4. Chairman's report**

BS reported that the NHW Conference organised in conjunction with the Constabulary at Martlesham police HQ in autumn of 2014 had been well attended, showing that NHW was alive and well in the County. Despite this good start by our then Chairman Gay Gascoyne, a second Conference was not forthcoming as had been intended due to his resignation. A meeting at Landmark House in the autumn of 2015 had also been well attended.

The changes brought about by the cuts with the introduction of the new policing model in Suffolk caused a great deal of difficulties for SNHW. Until one week ago SNWA didn't know what changes were going to take place with the re-organisation of the constabulary. Talks have only just got underway to negotiate the changeover between the Constabulary and SNWA. BS emphasised the importance of signing up to register with the Suffolk NHW database in order to receive ongoing support.

BS also talked about the new policing plan for Suffolk. The structure was very new having only come into force from the beginning of April. He stated he was concerned at the levels of support in the community, particularly rural areas, but the members should remember that the Police can only work with what they are given. There has been a reduction in the number of PCSO's and police officers in the County caused by the financial restrictions placed on them by the Government cutbacks.

**5. Treasurer's report -**

BG reminded the floor that SNWA had no source of income at present. In the current account there is £2301.98 with £263.20 in cheques outstanding for payment. Expenditure per year is about £650. Thus obtaining an income or applying for grants is imperative to the sustaining of SNHW. In the past the Police had run NHW and absorbed potential expenses by using police station as meeting places. This has not been possible for some while. SNWA had also been given £1 from each Safe Key project sale to support day to day running costs. This was withdrawn a few years ago and the money now goes into the Suffolk Community Foundation Fund and nothing into NHW funds. Grants generally can only be obtained for specific projects and not for general running expenses. Ways of

funding the Association need to be found. He recommended members to take a look at the NHW Patlock project for protecting their patios as SNWA would receive a bonus for each one sold in Suffolk. Members were reminded County Councillors each have a locality budget for local funding for specific local projects – e.g. hiring of halls for meetings or printing if local groups or Associations had need of financial support.

#### **6. Election of Officers –**

BS asked whether there were any nominations/volunteers for committee posts from the floor. There were none.

Tony Spall put himself forward for post of Chairman – accepted unanimously

Brian Sivyver put himself forward as Secretary and was accepted unanimously

Bob Gooch put himself forward as Treasurer and was accepted unanimously

Tony Spall agreed to carry on with his role as Web Master.

There were no offers for post of Deputy Chairman.

It was stated that the auditing of the finances are carried out “in house”

#### **7. Any other Business –**

A request was made from the floor that the PCC come to any future meetings of SNWA.

Members were advised that the PCC could be invited to any area NHW meetings.

It was asked where one could go for specific advice and support for friends/relatives regarding elderly people involved in scams. BS mentioned that he thought a local fund called ‘Jessica’s Fund’ was set up specifically to deal with such an issue. Individuals can also call “Action Fraud” or “Suffolk Trading Standards” or Victim Support if they became aware of anyone becoming a victim or need help and advice.

\* (Please note that the fund is actually called\* ‘**THINK JESSICA**’. [www.thinkjessica.com](http://www.thinkjessica.com)

Individual co-ordinators said they need support if they are working on their own. It was quite debilitating and lonely. They were encouraged to use the web page to keep up to date with events and information. It was also useful to involve neighbours with the Scheme by having the occasional coffee morning. This gives coordinators the chance to meet with members and each other and given time, builds up a sense of community.

New door roundels and an up dated booklet have been funded and ready for distribution from National NHW. Information as to where these can be collected by co-ordinators will be on the web page.

BS thanked everyone for their hard work in their communities and for attending the meeting.

**The meeting closed at 8.50pm.**

**Diane Sivyver**

**Secretary**

**Suffolk NHW Association**