



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ASSOCIATION



Minutes of Suffolk NWA Executive Meeting held at Park Hotel, Diss 10am Thursday 8th March 2018

Present: Tony Spall (TS)(Chairman), Brian Sivyer (BS)(Secretary), Bob Gooch (BG) (Treasurer) George Dix (GD) (Networks).

1. All present.

2. Minutes of meeting held 15th January 2018. Agreed.

3. Matters arising.

a. Memorandum of Understanding with Constabulary.

While the contents had been agreed by the Executive Committee and the Constabulary Community Safety Team the document has still not been signed off by the Constabulary.

b. Street Signs

There has been no movement by Suffolk Highways Department to resolve this matter despite the amount of work done for them by the Chairman. TS will send further requests for a conclusion of this matter explaining the difficult position it places us in regarding signage.

c. Sector meetings

No further information was available though it was still anticipated that these would go ahead.

d. SafeKey

TS had had a further conversation with Constabulary Business Manager Leigh Jenkins regarding income from SafeKey. This was an ongoing matter.

e. Suffolk Show

No further information available.

f. New Constabulary crime prevention initiative 'First Principals'.

No further information as yet. Tool Smart was being promoted as a pilot scheme in Halesworth SNT area. Alan Keeley CRO was unable to attend this meeting but would still like to do so.

g. Contact with Parish Councils

The request for financial assistance from parish councils had raised in the order of £500 so far which was appreciated. See also Agenda Item 5.

4. Chairman's Report:

a. Communication with Constabulary and PCC

TS expressed his concern over the varying channels of communication the Association has experienced with the Constabulary and PCC. Despite the Community Safety Dept being deemed as the main point of contact, It was apparent that they are not necessarily kept informed of changes which may have impact on the Association. It is also understood that there was yet another review underway regarding the Community Safety Dept as further financial cuts were still required.

b. Eyes and Ears Initiative

TS still had not had an in-depth response from the PCC regarding the community 'eyes and ears' initiative which the PCC had promoted without any consultation with the Association. There was a discussion about the current level of support the Association was getting from the Constabulary. Despite 'words' there appeared to be little substance.



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c. **New Chair for National NWN**

TS had received a letter from the new Chairman of the National NWN which he circulated. TS had expressed concern regarding the signing up to the national reporting system which we did not support, and also which Suffolk Constabulary had also not supported in the past. Further discussions were required to resolve the situation.

d. **Data Protection**

New guide lines are expected in May.

e. **Project 2025**

TS has been contacted by Inspector Hill regarding NWA involvement with a new police initiative called Project 2025. Part of this would involving a new role called 'Community Engagement Officers'. He had had a brief discussion with Inspector Hill and as a result TS and BS would be attending a seminar at Landmark House at the end of April.

f. **Response to newsletter**

This had been an attempt by TS to engage with Scheme Coordinators by asking them to respond to receiving the newsletter. Not quite 10% of coordinators responded which was very disappointing. It was important that there was some form regular dialogue with Coordinators. A discussion took place regarding the problem. Facebook, twitter and Police Connect were discussed. The website had been refreshed by TS which was approved.

5. Area Network Update:

a. **Mapping out network areas**

GD produced work he had completed on the distribution (or lack) of Neighbourhood Watch Schemes around the County. This gave a valuable overview of the situation in the County. While there were already groups of schemes being overseen by an Association or Network Coordinator, GD had provisionally drawn up list of further potential groups. These were not set in stone but a working platform on which to try and get an area input into Schemes. Any Area Network Coordinator would be invited to meetings with the Executive Committee once or twice a year as required. It was hoped that this would encourage Coordinators to be involved with the work and development of the Association. GD was thanked for the work and the research he had done.

b. **Parish Council meetings.**

TS emphasised the need for any Committee members giving presentations to give a positive message about NWN in Suffolk, rather than just doing a plea for money. BG had already been to Lakenheath and BS was soon to attend Ashworth. Parish websites could be an ideal vehicle for promoting NWN in the Community. This already happens on a handful websites in the County. A few Parish Councils were already NWN schemes in their own right and this was to be encouraged.

6. AGM

Arrangements for the AGM on 6th July were discussed. **BS to check booking had been accepted for Woolpit Village Hall.** Refreshments will be provided. The Four Towns CP. Panel would be invited to attend and display their CP goods for sale. **BS to enquire re availability.** No speaker has been decided on. Nominations would be invited in due course in line with our constitution. BS would be standing down as Secretary which will create a vacancy. TS, and BG are prepared to stand for their respective positions.



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7. NHW week

We were still waiting for the dates to be officially confirmed, but it was being assumed that it would be the week commencing 25th June.

8. Treasurer's report

BG reported that our funds stood at £952.12p. However, there were cheques to be cashed as result of our appeal to Parish Councils and there were still expenses to be paid.

TS raised the possibility of setting up a system similar to that of the Four Towns CP Panel to have security products available for members. This was a long-term aim which was currently not possible to do due to lack of strength on the committee. A brief discussion took place. **BS was asked to speak with the Chair of the Four Towns CP Panel to enquire about how their scheme was run.**

9. Promotion of NHW in Suffolk

It was agreed that there was a need for the Association to look at future development and what ways schemes and communication might evolve. The promotion of NHW with Parish Councils was an option given that it was zero cost financially. Wider scheme participation by greater use of social media such as Facebook, twitter etc. was discussed. This item would remain on future agendas as part of future development of the Association.

10. A.O.B.

BS suggested some additional items for future agendas to highlight work within the Minutes that was being done in each of the Constabulary areas. Accepted.

The Meeting was completed at 12.30pm.

Brian Sivyer, Secretary.
10th March 2018