



# NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ASSOCIATION



Minutes of Executive Meeting. The Park Hotel, Diss. 10am. Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2017

**Present:**

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

**1. Apologies for absence**

None.

**2. Minutes of meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> September:**

Agreed.

**3. Matters arising.**

Subjects arising under this item included below.

**4. Chairman's Report**

a) Suffolk Streetwatch.

Nothing further contact to report on at the moment.

b) Area Meetings.

There had been a good response to the Ipswich meeting with about 50 people attending. The support at the Western (18) and Eastern (12) meetings had been much smaller which was disappointing. However, it was a start and we would hope for better attendances in the future. The support of Alan Osborne and his team in arranging the meetings was appreciated. It was noted that there had been eight people signed up to SafeKey at Ipswich. Leigh Jenkins, who was present said that there would be a contribution made to SNWA from each new signing. This would be followed up if there was no payment made.

c) Street Signs

There had been no further progress on this matter which was very frustrating. TS said he would again invoke the help of Peter Aldous M.P. for Waveney to try and obtain further response from SCC Highways. He had provided all the paperwork that Highways had required which included re-writing some of the documents yet nothing further had occurred. They had suggested a Memorandum of Understanding would be a possibility to overcome the issues of erecting signs.

## **Chairman's Report (continued)**

### **d) Executive Committee roles**

The need to promote the roles and tasks of the executive committee is increasingly important – as the core team of four people are already fully engaged with the day to day running of the association. Important tasks such as (but not limited to) publicity, funding and event co-ordination, need to be addressed, and support is required to do so. Further communication will be sent out to seek volunteers.

### **e) Coordinators and the Police Connect**

It appeared from anecdotal evidence that there were still coordinators who had not signed up. While it was voluntary to do so we would continue to encourage coordinators and their members to do so. This was an obvious way of maintaining contact with the police and receiving targeted information about their area.

## **5. Treasurer's Report**

BG reported that our funds stood at £1127.18p. There were outstanding expenses to be paid from this. BG would again send out copies of the claims form which could be completed on-line and returned to him. TS to contact PCC regarding future income streams.

## **6. Area Network Coordinators**

GD reported that he had allotted all schemes into provisional areas, mapped them and had written to all coordinators. There had only been 133 responses. There were areas of the County where Networks already existed, and these had been noted and mapped. It was now a case of identifying individuals that would be prepared to communicate with other nearby schemes and offer support and form a network.

There was a discussion on how to try to improve responses. GD would focus on known network coordinators to see whether they could service more schemes. He had had no response from the Southwold/Wrentham area. BS would contact David Bennett in the Beccles area as he appeared to be communicating with more schemes than we had officially registered. This may be a situation in other areas. Was this a result of Coordinators not responding to the need to re-register? There was a discussion on the National registration website and validating Suffolk schemes held on that database. TS had previously had confirmation from NHWN suggesting 142 registrations had been recorded from Suffolk, most of which were individuals and not recognised by us. There is a need for more work on the whole area of communication with Schemes.

A discussion took place regarding general communication with Coordinators, which was proving a problem. Emails that had been sent out only appeared to be read by barely half the coordinators and responses were limited. We believe the need to recruit Area Network Coordinators to provide a local connection is the solution. It was felt that the many years of contact mainly through the Constabulary may be a possible cause. Coordinators had yet to get use to SNWA being the main focus for their contact.

## 7. Emergency County Planning

This subject had come as result of communication from David Card, a member of the County Emergency Steering Group regarding the potential involvement of SNWA in the response to any major incident in the County. Historically, BG and BS had been involved in initial contacts carried out in the County in 2009. This had come nothing. However, Parish, District and County Council were required to provide an action plan for any major disaster that might occur within their area of jurisdiction. BS had been sent a number of documents from Sue Herne, Emergency Planning Officer, for the Suffolk Joint Emergency Planning Unit which he had distributed to the Committee. A discussion ensued regarding Coordinators possible involvement. It was decided that while it may be possible for local coordinators to be involved in their local plan if asked it was not something that the Committee felt they could currently be involved in.. The Committee's current work load required us to concentrate on strengthening NWA within the County which needed to be the committees' prime objective. BS agreed to draft a response to David Card and Sue Herne for TS.

## 8. Publicity

Promotion of NWA within the County was mainly limited to our website. BS had recently been interviewed on BBC Radio Suffolk on a specific issue, but this had come about because they had his number to call. There had also been occasional mentions within a regular weekly police slot. There was some discussion regarding the possibility of a regular slot on a monthly basis. This would need direct discussions with the BBC. TS has previous contact with presenter Mark Murphy and this could be a means of achieving this. No firm conclusion was reached. The subject would be added to future agendas.

## 9. A.O.B.

- TS reported that we were still awaiting guidance on updates to the European Directives on data Protection.
- TS requested update from BG on a scheme application. BG to follow up.
- TS reported that apparently some regional meetings still exist though he understood that nationally such meeting were not supported. He had not had any contact from anyone within the region that any such meetings were being held.
- TS reported that due to the registration of the national body as a charity(?) Suffolk would become a voting member.
- BS reported that as chairman of Lowestoft NWA he had purchase a quantity of credit card protection sleeves which were being sold to members. OWL sold them in packs of 5 for £5. However, as a NWA group it was possible to purchase them at 40p each with a minimum purchase of 100.
- TS requested that the next meeting should include Alan Osborne from Community Safety.

## 10. Date of next meeting

To be arranged. TS requested it be in January if possible as wished to hold meetings every two months.

Brian Sivyer

Secretary

Date: 1/12/2017