



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ASSOCIATION



Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting. The Park Hotel, Diss. 12.30pm. 15th January 2018

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

1. **Apologies:** Bob Gooch, (Treasurer.) (BG)
2. **Minutes of meeting** held on 23rd November 2017. Approved.
3. **Matters arising.** Items arising from previous meeting covered by Agenda items.
4. **Chairman's Report:**
 - a. **Street signs** – There had not been any movement. TS considered that he had done everything requested by SCC but there had been no response. **Agreed that TS would once again seek help of Peter Aldous M.P. for Waveney to try and get movement from Suffolk Highways Dept.** The situation was embarrassing for us as we are unable to assist new schemes with signage.
 - b. **County Emergency Planning Committee** - This matter had been dealt with. TS had been in touch with various parties regarding our position on this as discussed at previous meetings.
 - c. **SafeKey: TS would ask BG to send bank details to Leigh Jenkins** as per discussion at meeting held prior to Executive Committee Meeting.
 - d. **European Directives on Data Protection:** TS still awaiting information from National NWN.
 - e. **Networking with other County Associations.** TS has had a conversation with Essex Chairman as result of receiving a letter from him. TS was surprised to learn about the amount of help Essex NWA received from their Police. He had no contact with Norfolk NWA. BS stated that the last contact he had was not encouraging. Norfolk Police did not appear to be at all supportive and appeared only to pay lip service to the organisation. BS said he would attempt to get further information from a contact he had.
 - f. **GD asked about a Twitter site** with information about SNWA. This was being run by an individual who refused to have any communication with SNWA despite repeated attempts to engage. The individual also ran a website purporting to represent Suffolk NW Schemes. The Twitter site had a number of followers.
 - g. **Contact with NW Schemes.** TS reported that only 60% of SNWA newsletters were actually opened by recipients. This was worrying as this was our main form of connection with Coordinators. It was agreed that a 'Reply' feature would be added to the next newsletter and those who did not respond would be followed up by a telephone call to ascertain any problems.
 - h. **NWN Sign Survey:** It was decided that Coordinators would be asked to participate in a survey of NW signs within their scheme. It was agreed that many signs seemed to be in a poor condition and that if we were attempt to raise money to help replace them it was necessary to gain evidence. Coordinators are to be asked to inspect the signs for their scheme and report on condition. This would assist in assessing the situation and planning what to do next.
 - i. **Good Neighbour Schemes.** There were thought to be a handful of such schemes in Suffolk. It was agreed that we would encourage any contact with any that are interested. We were not wishing to try and convert them into NWN schemes.
5. **Contact with Parish Councils:** Dealt with under Treasurer's report as it involved fund raising issues.

6. **Area Networks.** GD gave a comprehensive report on his work towards establishing Networks of Schemes in the County. It was felt important to try and get groups of schemes to work together and have an overall Coordinator. The Committee felt that not only would this aid communication but help schemes to support each other. It was important that schemes remain in their SNT areas. Limited success had been achieved so far. It was recognised by the Committee that this was a very time-consuming job and GD was thanked for his work and perseverance with this task.
7. **A.G.M.:** It was agreed that the AGM would again be held at Woolpit, subject to suitable dates being available. **BS to make enquiries and booking.** The meeting would take place in either June or early July in accordance with changes made to the constitution at the last AGM.
8. **NWN week.** It was hoped that the sector meetings could be fitted into this week. BS suggested that Coordinators might wish to consider also linking events with Suffolk Day on 21st June as being promoted by BBC Radio Suffolk.
9. **Treasurer's report.:** A written report had been received from BG. The current account held £1083.88p.

At this point Item 5 on the Agenda - Contact with Parish Councils was discussed. TS suggested that we ask all the Parish Councils in Suffolk for a one-off contribution of £50. While the PCC had also been asked for contribution towards our running costs, the money being asked of Parish Councils was required to further our development and support for individual schemes and the development of NWN in Suffolk. After some debate about this strategy it was agreed that **TS should send a letter to parish councils** as he had proposed. It was also hoped that Parishes could find space on their websites to offer crime prevention advice to their residents and to promote NW.

10. **Meetings with PCC and Senior Police Officers:** The Committee was keen to maintain links and access to both parties. Currently, it was felt that we had insufficient material to engage with face to face meetings that couldn't be dealt with by other means of communication. The 101 systems was still a cause for concern, with members still reporting anecdotal problems of long delays in operators responding to their calls. It has proved difficult in getting members to give a date, time and reason for the call so that a log can be built up to take to the Constabulary to prove members concerns.
11. **Publicity:** Time was once again against the committee to have a full discussion on this. BBC Radio Suffolk was a very likely candidate for approaching. It was hoped that Parishes would be supportive by putting on relevant material. A few already did this. This item would be added to the next agenda. There was a brief discussion about the website and whether the design needed tweaking. **TS said he would look at the design to see if what could be changed. He requested suggestions.**
12. **A.O.B.** No matters brought up under this heading.
13. **Date of next meeting:** To be arranged.

The meeting closed at 4pm.

Brian Sivyer
Hon. Secretary
SNWA
19th January 2018