



## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ASSOCIATION



### **Minutes of 2021 Annual General Meeting**

The 2021 Annual General Meeting [AGM] was conducted through a series of email communications and an online voting platform.

The process consisted of three key stages.

- **FIRST STAGE** - Sent by email on 28th May 2021  
*Purpose:* circulation of documents (minutes of the previous [2020] AGM with a request for any matters arising to be raised, along with the submission of any nominations for election as an officer of the Executive Committee.
- **SECOND STAGE** - Sent by email on 2nd July 2021  
*Purpose:* circulation of Chairman's Report, Treasurer's Report, and a link to an online response form containing issues or queries raised from the first stage of the process, together with all nominations for election of officers.
- **THIRD STAGE** - Sent by email on 23rd July 2021  
*Purpose:* circulation of the minutes of the 2021 Annual General Meeting, including all the election of Officers results and any matters arising.

**The minutes of the meeting are now presented on the following pages, as a true record of the proceedings.**

#### **Note**

As the AGM has been held using online communication protocol, there were no attendees, therefore no requirement for notice of apologies for non attendance.



# NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ASSOCIATION



## Minutes of 2021 Annual General Meeting

### 1 Minutes of AG.M. 2020

These were accepted without comment.

### 2 Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

### 3 Chairman's Report

You may be aware that, during March this year, I stood down from the role as Chair of the Suffolk Neighbourhood Watch Association due to family commitments.

My intention is to continue to offer support to the Association, by means of maintaining the SNWA website, general email notifications, and social media communications.

I would like to thank all the Executive Committee for their wonderful support during my term "in office", and to you, our scheme members, whom are the real driving force behind raising awareness of crime issues and helping prevent neighbours from being a victim of crime. Your support of Neighbourhood Watch truly helps bring communities closer together in support of one another.

Like last year, our membership has been fairly stable, which is encouraging given the constraints put in place due to COVID19 restrictions and our lack of attendance at community engagement events.

Since the last AGM, 25 schemes have closed and 22 new schemes joining, meaning overall that there are just over 900 NW schemes registered with our Association.

Projects undertaken by the Executive Committee during the year have been focused on recruiting new area network coordinators, creating a stronger relationship with Town and Parish councils, and to continue developing the event programme.

Naturally, these projects have been limited due to the restrictions caused by the pandemic, but to date, we have made some progress:

- Following an appeal through our website and newsletters, we have had small successes in "recruiting" Area Network Coordinators to fill the number of vacant roles. The role of the Network Area Coordinator is so important for the way in which

schemes can engage at a local level, as they can act as a point of contact, and this in turn provides an efficient and effective way to communicate with the Community Engagement Officers. Members can view Area Network Coordinators from the “Network” page of our website. If your Network Area has a vacant Area Coordinator role, and you are interested in the role, please get in touch with us.

- We have established a connection with the Suffolk Association of Local Councils (SALC) in conjunction with support from the Police and Crime Commissioner - that will now enable us to engage more effectively with councils across Suffolk, and especially those areas currently with no representation of NW.
- To enhance the Event programme, we have been successful in securing funding from NWN to purchase Roller Banners - which can be used by the Association to help promote and support events across the county. It is likely that we will resume attendance at engagement events later in the summer, subject to lifting of restrictions of course.

At National level, the Neighbourhood Watch Network continues to develop its strategy, with the aim that by 2025 the NWN is seen as the authoritative voice on community based crime prevention, is the most popular gateway for people to engage in their locality, and is a recognised contributor to community health and wellbeing. In order to support these ambitions, Suffolk, along with all other Area associations, will develop the way in which it works with NWN to help achieve these goals.

Since the previous AGM we have taken part in numerous online meetings:

- Executive Committee meetings - [2020] Sept 28th, [2021] 11th Jan, 5th Mar, 19th April, May 17th
- Parish/town Council Project planning meetings - 22nd Sept, 26th Oct [2020] and 1st Feb [2021]
- Bury St Edmunds Network Area group meeting - 18th Nov
- NWN Association Lead Quarterly meetings - 19th October, 26th January,
- NWN AGM 2020 - 24th Nov
- NWN Rural Crime Working Group - 8th Jan 2021
- Suffolk Crimestoppers Partnership meeting - 26th January 2021

Thank you all for your continued support and contribution.

Tony Spall

Chair

5th May 2021

## Notes

The following items were recorded online in response to the Chairmans report:

1. A huge thanks to Tony for all he has done during his time as chairman; it is great news that he feels able to continue supporting NW even though he has stepped down as Chair. — *Adrian Beatty*
2. A huge thank you to Tony Spall for his tremendous support as Chair of SNWA - much appreciated! — *Andrew Tucker*
3. Our thanks to Tony for all the hard work he has done and continues to do in a supporting role. — *Celia Lawrence*
4. Thanks Tony Spall for your work supporting the Association. — *David Bennett*
5. Please accept my acceptance of the minuets of the AGM. and thank you Tony for your report as we were not allowed to meet anywhere, this year has to be one of the worst ever for any association but hopefully we can resume full function soon. Thank you for all your work last year and I wish you all the best for 2021/2 years. Please stay well and see you soonish — *Ian Crocker*
6. Thank you for your work as chair. — *John Sones*
7. Excellent report from the then chairman — *John Sparks*
8. Sorry to see you step down. You had grown into the role well in these changing times - your IT skills proving vital - and you dug SNHW out of a very big hole that almost swallowed the organisation. — *Peter Newlands*
9. Please when you communicate with the Needham Market Town Council as Chairman of NMNW could you copy me in Many thanks Trevor Gibbons — *Trevor Gibbons*

### **Chairman's response:**

In regard to item 9, the Association shall endeavour to copy in NW representatives on council matters where appropriate.

## 4 Treasurers Report

Angela Barnetson provided the following report:

### Suffolk Neighbourhood Watch Association

#### Annual Financial Report - 17 July 2020 - 16 June 2021 for AGM

Income		Expenses	
Gt Waldingfield PC	£50.00	9 Roller Banners	£497.78
Whepstead PC	£50.00	Zoom account	£143.88
Rendlesham PC	£50.00	Expenses claim - T Spall	£167.55
Community Grant	£479.00		
Chelmondiston PC	£40.00		
Total income received	<b>£669.00</b>	Total expenditure	<b>£809.21</b>
		Opening balance	£2,392.89
		Deficit	<b>-£140.21</b>
Statement balance as at 16 June 2021	<b>£2,252.68</b>	Closing balance at 16 June 2021	<b>£2,252.68</b>
One cheque to pay in received 18 June			
Barking PC	£75.00		

### Note

The following items were recorded online in response to the Treasurer's report:

1. Looks healthy - thank you — *Adrian Beatty*
2. Thank you for doing that well done despite the corona virus — *Ian Crocker*
3. The £75.00 cheque to be paid in - is this another Parish Council donation? — *Peter Newlands*

### **Treasurer's response:**

With regard to item 3. Yes, the £75 cheque to be paid in is from a Parish Council donation.

## 5 Election of Officers

No new nominations were received from the membership. The following officers were re-elected (approved and seconded by voting members).\*

<b>Chair</b>	Mark Lillie
<b>Vice Chair</b>	Bob Gooch
<b>Secretary</b>	Sue Strutt
<b>Treasurer</b>	Angie Barnetson
<b>Communications</b>	Tony Spall
<b>Events</b>	Mark Lillie
<b>Database</b>	Graham Holmes
<b>Funding</b>	John Sparks

## 6 Any Other Business.

The following comments were recorded online under A.O.B:

1. It is recognised that the Police UK crime categories have limitations and introduce unhelpful grey areas. In particular, the category of 'violence and sexual offences' is a huge category of course and includes a broad range of all sorts of sexual offences and the full range of 'violence against the person' from very minor offences to very serious (incl. murder). Included (and 'hidden') in violence and sexual offences are the very sad incidents of domestic abuse. In my rural Bury St Edmunds Area B 2020 saw a 64% increase in violence and sexual crimes on the previous year and it accounted for 43% of recorded crimes in Area B in 2020; a similar story across the County and Nationally of course with the Covid-19 pandemic being a factor in the huge increase in incidents of domestic violence. To that end, it would help enormously if we could continue to try and influence the Constabulary to in turn influence Police UK to generate a separate Domestic Abuse category if at all possible so that we can present the public with a clearer picture; the current all-encompassing category presents a misleading and arguably overly alarming picture. I appreciate it is a Police UK matter with any input from Suffolk Constabulary but I believe it is in our (SNWA) interest to continue to try and influence improvements to the crime categorisation system. — *Andrew Tucker*
2. I would like to express my appreciation to all who have served on the committee of SNWA over the last year. Your efforts over the year have made it possible for the rest of us to use the NW 'umbrella' to carry out the diverse activities that we have variously undertaken for our communities. Thank you. — *Bob Steel*
3. May I express on behalf of Beccles area coordinators our thanks for all the work the committee do to support Neighbourhood Watch in Suffolk. — *David Bennett*
4. Thank you for all your work. I know from my committee dealings how hard things are. — *David Briggs*

5. Thank you all, Stay well and see you next time — *Ian Crocker*

6. Thanks to all for what they do — *John Sones*

\* A report of the AGM voting undertaken by members of the Association is available upon request.