



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH
ASSOCIATION



Minutes of 2022 Annual General Meeting

The 2022 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 25th June 2022
Purpose: circulation of documents (minutes of the previous [2021] 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 25th July 2022
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 5th August 2022
Purpose: circulation of the minutes of the 2022 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.



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Minutes of 2022 Annual General Meeting

1. Minutes of AG.M. 2021

These were accepted without comment.

2. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

3. Chairman's Report

Following Tony Spall standing down from the role as Chair of the Suffolk Neighbourhood Watch Association last year after many years in the role, I was able to put myself forward for continuity and double hat with other duties on the committee.

I would like to thank Tony for his support and for continuing to play a key role in the background by means of maintaining the SNWA website, general email enquiries/ notifications, and social media communications.

I would also like to thank all the Executive Committee members for their excellent support during my term over the last year, in what has been very much a transitional year with everyone on the team juggling their roles with personal commitments. I am relinquishing my role this year as I have moved across the border to Essex and will be pursuing other volunteering opportunities.

Last, but not least, I would like to thank all of our scheme members, who are doing a fantastic job raising awareness of crime issues and helping prevent neighbours from being a victim of crime. Without the time you give as volunteers our communities would not have the same opportunities to support each other.

Since the last AGM, 19 schemes have closed and 12 new schemes have joined, meaning overall that there are 897 NW schemes registered with our Association. Some of the success to keeping the membership stable has been due to the excellent collaboration with the Suffolk Association of Local Councils (SALC) where engagement with councils across Suffolk has resulted in new members.



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The Pandemic was still a big factor in preventing the Executive Committee moving away from online meetings, just as it has been in the wider community, but I am pleased to say we held a planning meeting during March of this year. The main priorities agreed were:

- Fostering closer links with the Police and other partnerships i.e. Crimestoppers.
- Strengthening the NW network by increasing the number of Local Area Coordinators (currently only 21 out of 52 positions are filled).
- Funding needs and future approach.
- Encourage wider use of NW branded gazebos and roller banners for use at community member events now that the country is 'starting to live with Covid'.
- Broaden the Executive Committee team to reduce 'double hatting' and to increase capacity to fulfil initiatives and projects for future success.

The last point is particularly important as we are losing 3 members this year and it will be difficult to have momentum or make progress without more support. Where possible, we ask members to consider stepping forward or recommending contacts that may be able to get involved with the Executive Committee's important work.

At National level, it was interesting to hear at the Crime and Community Conference in May that an Affiliate Model and Community Charter have been created with the intention of widening membership through more flexible access. It was also good to witness examples of helping communities become more resilient and well-connected through the Eden Project and the Jo Cox Foundation.

Since the previous AGM, we have taken part in various meetings:

- Executive Committee meetings (online) - [2021] August 2nd, October 15th [2022] February 18th, June 10th.
- SNWA Executive Committee Planning Meeting (Ipswich – in person) March 21st, 2022.
- Neighbourhood Watch Crime and Community Conference (London – attended by Chair) May 31st, 2022.
- Suffolk Crimestoppers Partnership meeting (online) – 25th January 2022



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Lastly, I would like to finish with the words of Jo Cox who said “We have more in common than that which divides us” which I hope is something we all feel in the communities we live in.

Thank you all for your continued support and contribution.

Mark Lillie

Chair

18th July 2022

Notes

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

1. I also thank the whole team and in particular Tony Spall for his relentless support in helping me keep the Bury St Edmunds Area B page on the website up to date. Thank you! — *Andrew Tucker*
2. Thanks to Tony Spall and also to you for all the work you have put in. I hope your move to Essex goes well. As for me, I am looking for someone to take over my role at some point- time for a new face. Brian Wilson Plovers Way Bury St Edmunds — *Brian Wilson*
3. Thanks to Mark and the committee for their work in another difficult year. His report sets out some important aims some dependant on funding. I think the 'groundwork' needs to be consolidated before trying to widen awareness of NW. — *John Sones*
4. Keep up the good work — *Kevin Jefferson*
5. Only comment is that the declining number of people on the executive committee mirrors what is going on in many organisations run by volunteers. Is the present setup the best way forward or do we need another model? I have no answers or I would have implemented them already in groups of which am a committee member. — *Paul Gurbutt*
6. Accepted — William Mackintosh

Chairman's response:

In regard to item 5, where the AGM is unable to secure volunteers to fill the roles of Chairman and Secretary it will be necessary to call an Extraordinary General Meeting in order to discuss and agree the way forward with the membership.



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4. Treasurers Report

Angela Barnetson provided the following report:

Suffolk Neighbourhood Watch Association

Annual Financial Report - 17 June 2021 - 16 June 2022 for AGM

Income		Expenses	
Barking PC	£75.00	Bank charges	£5.00
Lowestoft Association closure	£848.50	Bank charges	£5.00
Scheme closure	£83.50	Bank charges	£5.00
Patlock sales	£80.00	Bank charges	£5.00
Chelmondiston PC	£40.00	Bank charges	£5.00
		Bank charges	£5.00
Total Income	£1,127.00	Total expenditure	£30.00
		Credit/Deficit	£1,097.00
		Opening balance	£2,252.68
Statement balance as at 16 June 2022	£3,349.68	Closing balance at 16 June 2022	£3,349.68
		Cleared payments c/f	
		Bank charges	£5.80
		Expenses claim A Spall	£124.85
		Balance total at 16 July 2022	£3,219.03

Notes

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

1. Thank you. — *Andrew Tucker*
2. OK — *Brian Wilson*
3. Good to see a healthy balance. — *John Sones*
4. Thank you — *Kevin Jefferson*
5. Appears the only way the association is surviving financially is by the closure of groups. It cannot go on for ever. — *Paul Gurbutt*



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6. Accepted — William Mackintosh
7. Is there a business plan to identify what activities are planned which may require expenditure, and what income should be expected. Are there really no administrative expenses such as a website? — *William Sargeant*

Treasurer's response:

With regard to item 5, the Association rarely benefits from funds gifted through closed schemes. We seek to obtain funding through donations from town/parish councils and consideration of appropriate sponsorship agreements.

Regarding item 7, the Association does not currently create a business plan, as the level of expenditure is minimal, with expenses mainly covering a monthly website hosting charge and occasional travelling expenses to committee members as appropriate. Any projects undertaken will require a financial consideration and plan in order to fulfill such tasks.

5. Election of Officers

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

Chair - No candidates

Vice Chair - Bob Gooch

Secretary - No candidates

Treasurer - Angela Barnetson

Communications - Tony Spall

Database - Graham Holmes

Funding - Nick King

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6. Any Other Business

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

1. Most will know that the Boundary Commission for England has been looking at changing the boundaries of constituencies to ensure that the number of electors in each constituency is more equal; in doing so, I understand the number of constituencies in England will increase from 533 to 543. The second round of consultations ended in April and I believe (I may be wrong) the Commission are required to present their recommendations to Parliament in July 2022 presumably with implementation sometime later.



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Time will tell but I wonder if changes in constituency boundaries will include changes in local council administration for some and if so will this trigger a review of police SNT boundaries and finally, could this lead to SNWA having to review Area Network Coordinator boundaries? Personally I am hoping constituency boundary changes will have no impact at all on current SNWA Area Network boundaries. — *Andrew Tucker*

2. Firstly, I would like to thank all members of the executive committee that have served over the last year and helped maintain the network which has enabled me as a local coordinator to undertake the activities relevant to our neighbourhood under the umbrella brand of Neighbourhood Watch. As well as the brand 'umbrella', I have found the monthly newsletter a useful source of ideas and contact information.

Secondly, Looking forward, would the committee consider trying to set up a three-times-a-year meeting with the PCC and/or Chief Constable. Contact with the PCC seems to have become more difficult over time (public meetings are less frequent and tend to deal with short term operational matters and do not provide for discussion based on facts and statistics). The performance reports from the constabulary to the PCC do not identify or address the underlying causes of long term declining police performance in the public eye and the loss of public access via a committee of councillors means that public perceptions of policing strategy and performance are more dependent on information channelled in both directions through the single PCC. The public needs to be able to comment in an orderly and rational way on the resourcing and priorities of the police and how such choices are affecting police performance. Without such a channel of communication the operational police force will continue to lose the confidence of the public to the detriment of police performance and the motivation of individual officers. Thank you. — *Bob Steel*

3. All I can say is thank you — *Kevin Jefferson*

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