



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH  
ASSOCIATION



## Minutes of Suffolk NWA Executive Committee meeting

**Monday 11:01:2021 via Zoom**

Present: Tony Spall- Chairman (TS.) Linda Smith – NW Street Signage (LS) Graham Holmes – Data Base Manager (GH) Angie Barnetson Treasurer (AB) John Sparks -Fundraising (JS) Sue Strutt-Secretary (SS)

1. **Apologies** Bob Gooch

2. **Minutes of the previous meeting** 28:09:2020

Agreed unanimously

3. **Matters arising**/Actions from previous meeting

None. Action completed

4. **Events programming update ML.**

Very little event programming available due to the present situation. All meetings being put on hold. The line was open with the fire service to go forward as and when is possible.

**Action point: ML to revisit in the Spring to see if there is any interested**

TS wondered whether it would be a good idea to create a template ready for when we are back on the Road at events to encourage people to engage. This would include our main aims.

**Action point: ML was asked to see if he could put some ideas together.** These could possibly go out on other media channels. TS said we need to embrace Social Media but not in place of face to face.

5. **Chairs Report TS**

NWN Business - (National) Level

National Lottery Funding NWN have recently been awarded a National Lottery Community Fund Covid-19 Grant of £40,000 to develop a structured and engaging Neighbourhood Watch Volunteer Programme. The funding is for six months and will be used to employ an experienced Volunteer Development Manager to work with Associations and members to develop roles, training and support to enable local groups and Associations to become more active. This is in response to requests from Associations and members for more support with recruitment and training of volunteers and coordinators, as well as feedback from new members about ways to become increasingly active in their communities. We will be sending out more information for Associations who want to help shape this work in the new year.

NWN Online AGM took place 24th Nov. The key speaker was Kit Malthouse – Minister of State for Crime, Policing and the Fire Service and MP for North West Hampshire, followed by a presentation from John Hayward-Cripps, CEO of NWN, on the planned 5-Year Strategy, and then another presentation from Jayne Pascoe, Head of Partnerships and Projects, showing the early findings from their recent Crime and Community Survey which was conducted in August 2020. The formal minutes from the AGM have yet to be issued.

5 year strategy Post AGM, the strategy has now been finalised (a copy attached) for which the central aim is to re-invigorate the charity to be more relevant and diverse, by being active in all communities and clearly demonstrating the positive impact of Neighbourhood Watch across England and Wales.

NWN now hold quarterly meetings with Association leads. The first online meeting took place on October 19th 2020, with Ian Bretman, the new chair of NWN. For most part, the meeting focused on the development of the 5-Year strategy, and a discussion on the Governance Paper, in advance of the AGM. The next meeting is on 26th January 2021

### SNWA Business

Since October, 10 schemes close, 3 new schemes

BSE Area Coordinator meeting 18th Nov - set up by BSE Sergeant Angela Puiy, following recruitment campaign. TS represented SNWA Exec team in support.

One additional coordinator volunteered. (Sandie Taylor - now representing Area E). Regular meetings for BSE area coordinators and CEO team to be set up by the group.

### **6. Treasurers Financial report 28th Sept 2020 -11th Jan 2021 AB**

Balance carried forward from 28th September 2020.				£2,392.89
Income				
30/09/2020	Donation	Gt Waldringfield PC	BACS	£50.00
15/10/2020	Donation	Whepstead PC	CHQ	£50.00
17/11/2020	Donation	Rendlesham PC	BACS	£50.00
		<b>INCOME TOTAL</b>		<b>£150.00</b>
Expenses				
				£0.00
		<b>EXPENSES TOTAL</b>		<b>£0.00</b>
		<b>Statement balance</b>		<b>£2,542.89</b>

### **No outstanding Cheques**

**7. Membership Database GH** An application on the public-domain SNWA website was described in the last minutes which allowed a user to enter their postcode and find any nearby Neighbourhood Watch schemes, which were highlighted with markers on a map. By clicking on the marker, the user could send an email to the scheme coordinator. However, it was recently reported that some markers appeared to point to the wrong scheme. The mapping software is known to place markers according to the postcode of the schemes' coordinators, translated into latitude and longitude using a locally-based subset of a national database. Checks on the data submitted to the map software showed that there were a number of disparate schemes whose coordinators shared the same postcode, so the associated markers would appear on top of each other, and the one "underneath" couldn't be selected. In order to rectify this, an extra piece of data was added to the scheme database allowing separate postcodes to be recorded for the coordinator and the scheme, and the mapping software was amended to place markers on the schemes' postcodes rather than the coordinators' postcodes – this successfully resolved the issue. The handful of schemes with non-unique postcodes was dealt with manually, and a check was also added to ensure that new schemes entered into the database can't have a postcode which is the same as an existing scheme

### **8. Fundraising JS**

JS reported that even though our finances are currently "in the black", when we start the new "normal" (hopefully in the summer), the committee will be requiring some new expenses probably for marketing, "brand promotions", displays etc. so I cannot afford to be complacent. However, regarding Item 9) the subcommittee decided that we should in the short term, concentrate on Town/Parish council NW membership communications to which the next agenda item refers.

A Funding application for just under £500 to purchase a number of Roller banners, was submitted to the NWN Grant Committee on 26th November 2020. Still waiting to hear if the application has been successful.

## 9. Town and Parish Council Liaison

Following on from the first meeting on 22nd September 2020, a second Project meeting took place on 26th October, where it was decided that rather than approach T&P councils directly, it could be more beneficial if we contacted SALC (Suffolk Associations of local councils) first and sought their support. To this end, TS drafted out a letter which he sent first to Tim Passmore asking he if would add a supporting message which he has since done.

**Action point:** JS will now circulate some early dates to subcommittee members for us to discuss the final letter for TS to send to SALC. ML suggested a questionnaire /survey to go with it.

## 10.AOB

- AB attended an online Rural Crime Working Group held by NWN, as representative for SNWA on the 8th January 2021

Main points of meeting: - Total of 14 Attendees from across the country. Headed by Cheryl Spruce, Head of Membership and Community engagement for Neighbourhood Watch. Cheryl stated that there will be a Rural Crime section on the website by end of next week.

### Several people gave reports on topics that were prevalent in their areas.

Andy Bliss for Historic England said they were particularly focused on lead thefts from churches, illicit metal detecting and ASB of teenagers which they were trying to promote a program of positive action. Libby Bateman in her area they had problems with scams and other fraudulent activities. Sam Durham of NFU they had been involved with serious problems of hare coursers throughout his region. So much so that they are in talks with DEFRA to get the law changed. Also farm machinery being stolen, particularly quad bikes, livestock (mainly sheep) worrying by dogs and also cybercrime. Joe Murray (Cumbria) suggested fitting trackers to farm machinery something he had been involved with in his area.

Everyone there had issues with dog attacks on livestock and dog walkers leaving dog poo bags strewn around areas. This is a problem because of disease and hazards from the plastic bags, both being a danger to the livestock. Everyone also had issues with fly tipping and farm machinery thefts.

Julie Dowton (Devon & Cornwall) had quite considerable experience of livestock problems and will be writing an article on it.

Targeted causes for concern to feature on the website: - Fly tipping, Heritage crime, Rural hate crime, Livestock related crimes, Machinery and fuel theft.

Alan Earle (Northants) suggested there should be links on support websites such as NFU and Heritage England and others, which take you directly to the Neighbourhood Watch website. Everyone thought this was a good idea, Cheryl will look into it with the relevant support groups.

Next Rural group meeting Feb 12 at 12noon by zoom.

**Action Point.** Report submitted by Angie Barnetson and will be added to the Agenda for future meetings

- Linda invited Tony to attend her local AGM May 28th
- TS is keen to raise awareness of the important role of an area coordinator, and the need to fill the current shortfall of these roles across Suffolk.

**Next meeting date April 19th, 2021 @10:30 on ZOOM**

Minutes were taken by Sue Strutt with added reports from members of the executive.