



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ASSOCIATION



Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on WEDNESDAY 17th July 2019 at Woolpit Village Hall 7.30pm.

Crime prevention products were made available courtesy of Four Towns Crime Prevention Panel. The Chairman thanked Eric Sewell for attending and providing the display for members.

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting and after giving housekeeping notices, he introduced Tim Passmore, Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner.

Mr Passmore provided an overview of the current policing position, both financially and statistically, and offered a projected view of the year ahead.

- Suffolk still remains one of the safest counties in the country, but comes with challenges - influenced by both local and national issues.
- there is major investment planned for cyber security systems, to tackle the increasing digital footprint, which accounts for approx 94% of reported crime in Suffolk. Within the Eastern Region there is a special operations unit..
- The budget been increased by around £9M to £133.7M, which although sounds a lot, it has to take into account inflation and pay increases. The budget is always well scrutinised, but the money is spent wisely to serve Suffolk's policing requirement.
- Positive steps have seen the development of the new operational sentinel team, which provides 21 new officers to the force, and will support response and local policing teams.
- Acknowledgement of work still required to improve the 101 telephone system
- Police Connect messaging system now facilitates communications from engagement officers in addition to the usual message alerts

Tim was supported by Sergeant Steve Wright, and some members of the Community Engagement Team, to help answer questions offered from the floor.

The Chair thanked Mr Passmore and the Community Engagement Officers who had attended

The business of the AGM continued at 8:30



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ASSOCIATION



Annual General Meeting

1 Apologies for absence

There were 13 apologies noted

2 Minutes of AG.M. 2017

These were accepted unanimously

3 Matters arising

Bob Gooch (treasurer reported he had not been able to have the accounts audited)

There were no other matters arising. Matters contained in the minutes would be covered by the Chairman's Report.

4 Chairman's Report

You may recall that at our last AGM in 2018, the Executive Committee was reduced to just two people being re-elected at the meeting, leaving the committee short of the minimum three people required to form a quorum.

It was agreed at that meeting to allow up to the end of August to co-opt additional members on to the committee so as to meet the requirements of the constitution, and to prevent the need to call for an extra ordinary general meeting to consider the dissolution of the Association.

I am pleased to confirm that we did indeed secure the services of three more people, making five members in all, which put the Association into a more healthier position - and removed the need to call an extra ordinary meeting.



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And so I would like to start by thanking all of our current executive team, in helping provide some consolidation for the association over the last 12 months. In no particular order, I would like to mention them individually, to make our members aware of their contribution:

- Linda Smith - who has been focusing on the planning process for Neighbourhood Watch Street signs
- Mark Lillie - who has taken on the task of co-ordinating an event programme and the use of our new branded gazebos and flags
- Graham Holmes - who has been spending hours of his time coding a new membership database for us to use in the coming months
- Bob Gooch - looking after the pennies and keeping us in good financial shape.

Good progress has been made across three key task areas - and this is a reflection of the effort and dedication of the executive team:

The membership database is still in beta mode, but will hopefully not be too long before we can make it “live”. This means that the system will be able to provide secure online access for the likes of area co-ordinators and the community engagement team - which should be a much more efficient process to get contact details for NW co-ordinators.

The event programme is now in operation, and already, all the gazebos and flag kits have been used a number of times across the county at various meetings, fayres and other engagement events. The prominent display of the Neighbourhood Watch logo and brand is proving to be a good attraction at these events, (not only for people, but also the bees and insects who have an undoubted attraction to see whats on offer)! I can only re-iterate the message we send out in our newsletters - and that is that schemes are encouraged to take up the free use of the kit as a means to support the ideas or initiatives for holding their own local events.

Our dealings with Suffolk County Council, regarding the planning process for erecting new Neighbourhood Watch Signs has at last moved forward from the otherwise previous “stalemate” position. We are now engaged with Peter Ingram, Head of Network Regulation for Suffolk Highways, following a positive exchange with Mary Evans, Portfolio Holder for Highways and Transport and the Deputy Leader of SCC.



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Since the previous AGM we have:

- held 4 Executive Committee meetings
- met with Sergeant Steve Wright of the Community Engagement Team
- presented at 2 parish council requests showing an interest in setting up NW schemes, alongside CEO's from the engagement team
- supported a general meeting presentation at the Needham Market NW association.
- met with Suffolk Crime-stoppers and Suffolk Association of Local Councils, to discuss potential partnership working opportunities
- continued to send out electronic newsletters and other news bulletins to our membership
- continued to develop our online Coordinators "Toolkit" by adding new elements
- attended a number of workshops and seminars organised at national level - focused on NWN development and growth, fundraising, and social media

In terms of membership, the number of registered schemes on our database is now 956, with 23 new schemes having registered since our last AGM. Over the same period 5 schemes became inactive, and have closed.

We have also made some small progress towards our strategy of fulfilling all 52 Area Co-ordinator roles across the county. There are now 22 people in the role, so still some work to do. Area co-ordinators have a significant role to play, as they enable representation of local areas by linking up with the Community Engagement Officer in their locality, and therefore proving a far more efficient channel of communication between Neighbourhood Watch and Suffolk Constabulary.

So all in all, another very busy year. But we cannot take our foot off the pedal yet.

The executive team is still very stretched and we are missing some key roles, most noticeably the lack of a secretary, a vice chairman, and now with Bob Gooch standing down from his role, as Treasurer.

To help make this Association more efficient and effective, I urge you to all consider taking up a role on the Executive Committee, to help spread the load of the tasks that we undertake. Even 3 to 4 hours a week is enough to help.

Thank you for listening, and I wish you all another successful year ahead.



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5 Treasurers Report

Bob Gooch delivered his final report for the group

It was agreed these need auditing asap.

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|--------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Assets | HSBC - Current Account | 8th May 2018 | £1964.23 | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| Income | Cheques, BAC's & Cash paid in | | £4039.10 | |
| | Cheques, cash not yet paid in | | £127.50 | |
| | | | | £6130.83 |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| Expense | Travel Claims | | £585.53 | |
| | Purchases | | £3570.06 | |
| | Uncashed cheques | | £410.82 | |
| | | | | £4155.59 |
| | | | | |
| Available Balance | 17th July 2019 | | | £1,975.24 |



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ASSOCIATION



6.Election of Officers.

Chair Tony Spall

Deputy Chair Vacant

Secretary Vacant

A nomination from the floor to fill the role of Treasurer was duly accepted, and we are pleased to welcome Angie Barnetson to the Executive Team.

Treasurer Angie Barnetson

Communications Covered by Tony Spall

Sign Planning Process Linda Smith

Events Programme Mark Lillie

Database Graham Holmes

Executives

A nomination from the floor to accept a role as executive member was accepted, and we are pleased to welcome John Sparks to the Executive Team.

Bob Gooch was also elected as an Executive member.

AOB.

The chair raised the option of changing to online banking. After a short discussion it was decided that the new clause could not be passed until it had been looked into with more depth. The newly elected treasurer will investigate further to get more information

No further business the meeting closed at 9:00pm.

Minutes taken by

Tony Spall & Sue Strutt, Ipswich West Area Coordinator.