



WILTSHIRE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ASSOCIATION



MINUTES OF THE WILTSHIRE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ASSOCIATION AGM HELD AT

WILTSHIRE POLICE HEADQUARTERS DEVIZES ON SATURDAY 25th June 2016

Present

Gavin Ketchen (GK)	Chair (for meeting)
Reg Halsall (RH)	Treasurer
Mike Davidson (MD)	Admin Body
Evelyn Halsall (EH)	Admin Body
Angus Macpherson	PCC
Mike Veal	Chief Constable
Amanda Clarke (AC)	Wilts Police Liaison Officer - minute taker.

Vivian Comley, Cllr Albert Wooldridge, Geoff Lupton, William Holmes (Fovant PC), Charles Smith, Kenneth Brough (Chippenham TC), Sonja Harris, Penelope Birnstingl, Geoff Parrott, Barbara Parrott, Kizzy Kukreja, Ben Myerscough (Easterton PC), Bill Clarke (Durrington), Pam Robinson (WinterPC), Stephen Mundy, Pete Szczesiak (Compton Bassett PC), Ian Bullitude, Debbie Bullitude, Bob Campbell-Montgomery (Charlton & Wilsford PC), David Hill (Chiseldon PC), Ann Marie Cooper, Paul Sunners, Michael Matthews, Hazel Matthews, Roger Clarke, Hazel Yates-Jones, Trevor Barker, Lesley Barker, Bryan Morris, Ashley Kemp, Elizabeth Kemp, Sylvia Butcher, Anne Brooker, Anna Cuthbert, Kate Goodenough, Julie Locks (Victim Support), Ivor Stephen, Derek Scott-Kelly, David Williams (Royal Wootton Bassett TC), Phyllis Thorne (Monkton Farleigh PC), Julia Ford (West Lavington PC), Jill Petchey & Simon Petchey (Berwick Bassett and Winterbourne Monkton), Philip Holihead (Chapmaslade PC), Dennis Gill (Kington Langley PC), Jeanette Vonberg (Roundway PC), Mike Sharp (Lydiard Millicent PC), Vernon Montgomery

Please note some of the above will be both NHW and Parish/Town Council members.

1.H&S AC – Fire/phones/toilets

2. Welcome

GK welcomed all and advised that as WNH was currently being run by an Administrative Body there would need to be a Chair elected for the meeting. RH proposed GK, MD seconded and GK was appointed Chair for the meeting.

3. Apologies

Members

Sue Stoker, Michael Neal, Stella Hopkins, Richard Barrie, Steve Clarke, Nigel Lewis, Sarah Olnier, Frank Soden, Andrew Surridge, David Dunseath, Chris Ward, Les Brown, Elaine Hartford, Polly Jordan, Carolyn Whistler, Jack Iason, Caroline Fowke, Elaine Hartford, Ian Mace, Grant Dunkley, Maureen Wells, Jane Wheeler, Roy Sims, Elaine Savage, Barry Luffman, John Guy, Peter Ager, John Crossland, David Whetton, John Telland, , Sian Thomas Neale, Dave Butler, Christopher Williams, Colin Froud, Karen Bosell, Robin Gibbons, Mike Goalby, Briget Beattie, Brian Hook, Sylvia Corday, John Hawkins

Parish/Town Councils

Coombe Bissett & Homington, Corsham, Cricklade, Firsdown, Heddington, Malmesbury, Seend, Sherston, Stratford Tony, Trowbridge, Bulford

4. Previous Minutes (AGM 2014)

The Minutes were agreed. RH proposed, Dennis Gill seconded. There were no matters arising

5. Proposal 1 – Name Change of Association

The proposal had been circulated in advance with requests for questions or comments prior to meeting. None had been received.

Proposal was put forward to formally amend the original name of the association to 'Wiltshire Neighbourhood Watch Association' and the use of WNHWA as an abbreviation.

The reasoning was that previously the association has been known as the Wiltshire and Swindon NHTA. The change to Wiltshire NHTA simplifies issues and allows NHTA to ensure we remain politically neutral by referencing our boundaries and responsibilities geographically whole rather than by separate boroughs. The change also benefits the electronic administration.

The change was put to the vote. There were 6 previously cast votes in favour with none against. From the floor there were 20 hands in favour with 1 against. Proposal adopted.

6. Proposal 2 – Adoption of Constitution Document

The proposal had been circulated in advance with requests for questions or comments prior to meeting. 1 comment had been received relating to paragraph 4.2 which has been amended to read "If a Deputy has been appointed for a Coordinator who is also an Association Officer, that person may not deputise for that Officer's role on the committee"

Proposal was put forward to formally accept the proposed constitution document (2nd Edition) as the working constitution of the Wiltshire NHWA.

The reasoning was that the previous constitution document (1st Edition) was no longer fit for purpose and is not recognised as an official governing document by Neighbourhood Watch National.

The change was put to the vote. There were 6 previously cast votes in favour with none against. From the floor there were 25 hands in favour with none against. Proposal adopted.

7. WNHWA Report by GK

An outline of all that the administrative body had been doing since the officers of the last committee resigned was given which included; assisting set up of new schemes; working with Wiltshire Council to get new contractors agreement on sign installation; liaison with NHW National and working towards being formally recognised as a Force Area Group; Held the first open forum in Warminster; continued to develop Our Watch side of Community Messaging; arrange the AGM to include parish and town councils; liaising with Wiltshire Police to keep informed about the changes in the policing model and how it affects NHW members.

GK urged NHW members to get more involved and ask what they could do to help with communication between the police and themselves. He also asked Parish and Town councils to support NHW more – perhaps with assistance in providing signs, access to office supplies etc. WNHWA will be looking to create a Community Messaging group specifically for local councils and asked parish clerks to sign up – this way many more people could be reached with important information which could keep them safe and free from crime. GK also asked councils to invite NHW coordinators to meetings to reports which could assist with better understanding of local issues and areas of concern. GK reiterated that Community Messaging has not replaced coordinators and that now more than ever NHW coordinators had a role to play in keeping their communities safe. GK also thanked Amanda Clarke, the police liaison, for all her hard work and giving the admin body the benefit of her knowledge. GK ended by saying that there would be the election of a new committee later in the proceedings and for members to please think about putting themselves forward.

8. Police and Crime Commissioners Report.

The PCC Mr Macpherson gave an outline of how the office of PCC works and his responsibilities and accountability. He gave an outline of the Policing Crime Plan and the priorities contained within it and how NHW could assist with these to support the police. The PCC gave an outline of the steps being taken to assist those with mental health issues who came into contact with police and detailed the joint working with mental health professionals going on in the force contact centre. The PCC outlined his belief that victims and witnesses should receive better care and his response

to this in the creation of Horizons which contacted all victims and offered support either from the police or other agencies where needed. The restorative justice system was detailed, again with an emphasis in listening to the victim of an offence. The sharing of premises with other agencies meant that information was better disseminated, and this assisted in a holistic approach to dealing with crime and individuals. Mr Macpherson thanked NHW for all they do, especially the Administrative body who had kept things going, and extended an invitation to the new committee to meet with him on a quarterly basis to discuss any support needed. Mr Macpherson also thanked Amanda for all her hard work.

9. Chief Constables Report

The Chief Constable gave a breakdown of his work over the last 24 hrs in order for NHW members to understand the complexities of his role. This involved many meetings and discussions, together with active operational duty on the streets of Salisbury. Mr Veale outlined the amount of cuts the force had made, and needed to make over the next 18 months – 2 years and gave details of the staff cuts that had had to be made. The Chief Constable said he was very proud to lead the remarkable group of men and women who made up Wiltshire Police and who worked very hard in often very difficult situations and he gave credit to their resilience. Mr Veale talked about the restructure of the organisation and the changes that the community may see – more staff, fewer officers – as this is more cost effective and not every call to police necessitates a warranted officers attendance. The need for local people to assist the police was more important than ever as numbers fall and the Chief Constable emphasised the need to have trust and confidence in the police. Mr Veale paid tribute to NHW and the all volunteers.

Due to time constraints it was decided for Q&A for the CC only to take place at this point.

Q – What one single thing needs to change to get communities working together?

A (CC) – Leaders need to remove personal agendas and join up services to give the best community safety across the board. Each service has its own protocols and these need to be coordinated to develop integrated services and make it less complicated for the public.

Q – ASB is a problem in Devizes where old people don't like to be out in the evening – what can you do?

A (CC) – Need to understand what is driving the behaviour. There needs to be more engagement with young people to understand needs and any services that can be supplied. However, I cannot discuss individual case as don't know the background. Please speak after the meeting.

Q – Agree need a robust approach to those who will not respond to being spoken to but with more PCSO's they don't have the powers to do this. People want Police Officers on the street and I am concerned about the continued reduction in resources, even Police officers don't know what's going on.

A (CC) – As said previously, don't always need an officer and PCSOs do a brilliant job. There are examples in every department where staff are doing work officers used to do, for instance in the major incident team some of the investigators and interviewers are better than officers. Just one example. We have no choice but to change the way we do things if we are to continue to give a service in the present financial climate and I would be doing the public a disservice if I kept an officer in a post a staff member could do more cheaply. The CPT model will align staff to demand. I acknowledge there is more work to do to get the officers and staff to understand the need for change.

The Chief Constable stated that he really needed the ability to have regular meetings with a large number of members of the public - was NHW the way to do this?

Q – Pure mathematics show that there is an increasing demand but the resources are going down so no matter what you say there is more to do and less to do it with.

A (CC) – I agree with you but that is what we are faced with and we have to find a way to make it work.

The CC left the meeting at this point.

Due to the overrunning of the meeting and the fact that members were leaving, it was decided to skip forward on the agenda to the election of a committee.

12. Election of Committee

Gk stated that there was only one officer currently in place and that no nominations had been submitted prior to the meeting so it was thrown open to the meeting for nominations for officers starting with the chair.

Kenneth Brough put himself forward for Chair, but a point of order by AC showed him not to be a NHW member, but a parish council representative and therefore he was not eligible.

Another point of order resulted in nominations being asked for committee members, with the allocation of officer roles to be done at the first committee meeting.

The following were put forward for the committee:-

Paul Sunners – proposed by GK, seconded by MD

Sonja Harries – proposed by RH seconded by Penelope Birnstingle

Mike Davidson – proposed by EH seconded by GK

Gavin Ketchen – proposed by MD, seconded by RH

Reg Halsall – proposed by MD seconded by EH

Penelope Birnstingle – proposed by Sonja Harris seconded by MD

Roger Clarke – proposed by Charles Smith seconded by RH

Kenneth Brough expressed a wish to join NHW and be included as a co-opted member of the committee.

Reverting to Agenda Item 11 – Reports. As the meeting was running late it was decided for the financial report only to be given with the other reports to be attached to the minutes when distributed.

The financial report had been circulated and hard copies distributed. The treasurer RH outlined the associations expenses and income over the last year and invited questions. There were none. Acceptance of the financial report was proposed by RH and seconded by MD

13. AOB

There was no AOB.

The Chair thanked the speakers. The meeting closed at 12.16

An informal Q&A session was held after the meeting.