

SOUTH NORTHANTS NHW AREA SUPPORT TEAM

Minutes to AGM Meeting Nether Heyford Youth Club Hall, Roberts Field (off Furnace Lane), Nether Heyford, NN7 3BE.

Thursday 13th October 2016.

Attendees

Nick King	Chair	Towcester nickking567@btinternet.com
Linda Hemming	Secretary	Pattishall linda_hemming@hotmail.com
Tina Adey	Treasurer	Yardley Gobion tadey51@btinternet.com
Jean Glanville		Grafton Regis
Barry Glanville		Grafton Regis
Peter Edwards		Roade
John Hunter		Towcester
Richard Houghton		Yardley Hastings
David Dungate		Bugbrooke
Ian Hill		Cogenhoe
Vernon Ilott		Nether Heyford
Julia Raven		Nether Heyford
David Connolly		Evenley
Shirley Watson		Hinton in the Hedges
Christy Nolan		Rothersthorpe
Deni Topliss		Kislingbury
David Smith		Cosgrove
Gareth Meech		Bugbrooke
Francis Vickery		Towcester
Sergeant Claire Paul		Towcester Police
PCSO Jen Harrison		

Apologies

Phil Renshaw	Piddington
Simon Clifford	Grange Park
Mike Crouch	Quinton
Wayne Smith	Cosgrove
Alison Jones	Stoke Bruerne
Rebecca White	Milton Malsor
Craig Coppin	Potterspury
John Roberts	Pimlico
Sue Oswell	Wicken
Maggie Down	Paulerspury
Maggie Merris	Cold Higham
Sarah Sharpe	Blisworth
PCSO Charlotte Morris	

Welcome

Nick welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked everyone for attending. Nick thanked Sergeant Claire Paul and PCSO Jen Harrison for attending and for the use of Nether Heyford Youth Club Hall.

All present introduced themselves.

3. Approve Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting (8th October 2015)

The minutes of the last AGM had been emailed to all NHW Coordinators with the agenda.

Matters Arising from the Minutes:

Nick mentioned the Service Delivery Review and also Inspector Phil Kings had highlighted that crime statistics for our district are easily accessible via Police website and encouraged NHW Coordinators to have a look. See

<https://www.police.uk/northamptonshire/SCT162/crime/>

Everything else to be dealt with as items on the agenda.

The minutes were then agreed and signed as correct.

4. Chair's Report

Everyone attending was given a copy of the Chair's report.

- We still have a major communication problem; we need more Community Messages and better handling of 101.
- Service Delivery Review not yet been resolved.
- Helping to sustain new NHW groups. Nick mentioned Nether Heyford NHW which now has 140 members.
- Greens Norton is one of a number of villages with no NHW Scheme.
- Nick gave credit to the police and PCSO's and their valuable link with NHW groups.

5. Police Update: Sergeant Claire Paul and PCSO Jen Harrison - an update on local crime issues and matters that affect Neighbourhood Watch.

Sergeant Paul informed us there had been a significant decrease in Crime. The latest figures are only up to July 2016. There has however been an increase in Theft from motor vehicles (mainly in hotel areas) - Harpole, Grange Park, Towcester and Daventry. This is hard to target but the Police are working on it. This affects crime figures, can be seasonal and coming up to Christmas. Lorries are targeted for diesel.

- Thefts - decrease
- Criminal Damage - decrease.
- Domestic Violence – the Police are working on keeping people safe. Risk is high and there are hotspots especially in Northampton.
- Inspector Kings is leaving in December.
- Sergeant Claire Paul is leaving in January.
- Sergeant Micki Simons will be looking after Towcester and Brackley.

Staffing is under review. There is 1 PC leaving next week (Jan Powell of traffic) so there will only be 2 PC's left.

The new strategy is that Police staff working is much more fluid. No longer will a PCSO have a defined area which gives the freedom that anyone can answer an incident within a 5-shift working pattern.

The police highlighted the 3 ways we should contact them for non-emergencies: via 101; emailing that SCT email address, or a report online via the Northants police website.

The control room works on a grading and queuing system on calls.

Someone is dedicated to reading the incidents online so will be picked up. Not for crime in progress.

It was mentioned that an automatic forwarding of personal emails to the SCT email address could be considered if an issue (technical solution).

Accessibility - improve communication. Twitter run by media staff.

Police & Crime Commissioner Consultation – this is an important consultation recently issued to the police, organisations (inc. NHW) and the general public. **Please have your say.**

- PCSO Jen stated they don't have specific beats now. The Team focuses on certain incidents. PCSOs will still retain their own email addresses for specific one-to-one emailing.
- Good to use the SCT email addresses: enables several people to look at.

Discussion on social media. PCSO Jen informed everyone present that each NHW Scheme works in a different way - there isn't a right or wrong way. Some will get the message out straight away, others not.

- Northamptonshire NHW encourages us and our members to use the website. Ian Hill commented he thinks the system some schemes use is not efficient, not secure, and not sustainable. Although it seems to work for a lot of NHW Schemes.
- On the website, any communication from a registered member (i.e. changing their email address) will be communicated to the Coordinator.

Nick asked for Coordinators present to go to the website and have a look and invite their members to use it. Each member can select what messages they want to receive and in what format. In the future messages can be issued as text or voicemail but not yet.

NK to email his draft A5 guide to everyone.

6. 2016 AGM

i) **Chairman's report** - Copy at the end of the minutes.

ii) Treasurer's Report

Tina provided her report which was approved:

- There has been little activity on SNAST's bank account and the balance at the bank as at 30th September 2016 is £1,964.41
- £360 has been received in subscriptions from 36 Parish Councils. This was in response to our first communication which was an excellent result. Tina to send reminders.
- Tina has a large stock of alarms that SNAST purchases in bulk and offers to NHW members at reduced prices.
- Smartwater kits are purchased directly from Smartwater but a unique code is required for the special price of £25. Tina has the code.

Nick opened a discussion on how SNAST uses the money received in subscriptions. Leaflets/Signs/Marketing equipment was mentioned. Perhaps a pool of equipment that NHW coordinators can borrow (via a booking system). Info to follow.

- Yellow lanyards are on order for NHW Coordinators. Polo shirts? A-frame?
- There is a new logo which is on SNAST Agenda - everyone tried to spot the difference (the old logo is very dated). At the moment the logo can only be produced commercially via 4 national suppliers.
- County NHW has bought some marketing equipment to help support NHW schemes being more visible – info to follow.
- The police have a mobile police unit that can be used to support large events.

iii). Election of Officers

- Chairman: Nick King was proposed by Linda Hemming and seconded by Ian Hill.
- Deputy Chair: Phil Renshaw was proposed by Nick King and seconded by Tina Adey.
- Treasurer: Tina Adey was proposed by David Smith and seconded by Barry Glanville.
- Secretary: Linda Hemming was proposed by Nick King and seconded by Jean Glanville.

7. Neighbourhood Watch: matters of concern and exchange of ideas

Speedwatch:

A survey was emailed to all 66 NHW Scheme coordinators at beginning of September. We had 20 replies which is 30% of NHW Schemes in South Northants.

In summary, 18 said they had no Speedwatch and 2 said they did (Towcester and Evenley) Evenley is hoping to get a fixed camera. Some schemes recognised they couldn't operate Speedwatch anyway as roads too windy.

However, 8 NHW coordinators thought there might be an interest in SW in their village and Nick will follow this up with the relevant contact information to progress

In the discussion which followed Christy (Rothersthorpe) mentioned very hard to get people to help and a lot of verbal abuse. People are shocked. Nick mentioned that in the Training session people are told you will get abuse.

David Smith (Cosgrove) managed to get 2 automated signs but said that Speedwatch should be done by professional people. They need something to stop the speeding before they get to the signs. Should be better use of technology so people do not have the abuse. If you get abused take the Registration number and pass to the Police.

Speedwatch is done in 6 week slots shared between 2 villages and there are circa 45 Speed-watches active in the county.

The speed van does publicise where it will be in Chronicle and Echo.

Parking issues are now passed to County Council.

8. Any Other Business

Cosgrove has a NHW facebook group. They have trouble getting information received from the Police copied onto this page. Nick mentioned Simon Clifford (Grange Park) and Ian Hill of Cogenhoe could possibly help.

Nick thanked Jean and Barry for sorting the refreshments.

Peter of Roade mentioned contactless creditcards. There is a growing concern about the contactless cards we carry on our person or in a handbag or wallet. SNAST has ordered some contactless wallets which claim that thieves cannot get the digital information from cards. More information once received.

9. Dates and Venues of next meetings

Nick asked for any suggestions for venues for the open SNAST meetings. Please email Nick or Linda with ideas. Rothershorpe, Kislingbury and Yardley Gobion were suggested.

It was also mentioned that we are a large area and need to hold meetings at different ends of South Northants.

To be confirmed.

SNAST Annual General Meeting 13th October 2016 – Chair's Report

Over the last 12 months there has remained the concern over the communication gap between the Police and Neighbourhood Watch. The shift by the Police to virtually exclusively use social media at the expense of our established route of emails and community messages is disappointing. I know from the messages I've received this remains a big concern to many NHW coordinators. On top of this, there is criticism from some our groups of the response rates and expected follow-up to reported crimes and incidents – the efficiency of the non-emergency number 101 is consistently questioned.

I can't say the last 12 months has been a period of problem-solving but I do see encouragement for the next year:

- (1) Community Messages: there is a growing impetus and recognition by the Police and other agencies to use this system and send out more messages by more staff. This I see as fundamental to the effectiveness of NHW and on our part I'm keen that many more of us (coordinators, deputies and members) are registered directly on to the system via www.northamptonshireneighbourhoodwatch.co.uk so we can play an efficient role in disseminating messages.
- (2) *Service Delivery Review* - this strategic review by the Police into staffing and their roles seems to be taking ages. However, the news I hear so far is that the role of PCSOs and neighbourhood policing is important *and* will continue to play a part.

(3) Sustaining NHW groups in our villages – we have a small but growing list of villages that need help in setting up NHW schemes or finding new coordinators for an existing scheme. The SNAST officers would value some help from you on this so we will keep you posted.

I'd like to give credit to our local PCSOs and Police officers for their continued liaison and support to Neighbourhood Watch especially at these challenging times when resources and work levels are restricted.

Finally, a big thank you to the SNAST committee for their continued hard work and dedication: this is greatly appreciated.

Nick King