



Horsham District Neighbourhood Watch Association

Minutes of the Fifth Annual General Meeting

Monday 4th September

The Capitol, North Street

Horsham. RH12 1RG

Attendees:

*Andrew Moffat– Chairman	*Ken Broomfield – Street Coordinator
*Tony George – Junior NHW	*Shirley Mitchell- Area Coordinator
*Arthur Carden – Secretary	*Barrie Lane – Area Coordinator/JNHW
*Michael Neale- Vice Chair	*Steve Guzy - Treasurer
*Trisha Lane – Area Coordinator/JNHW	*Martin Bruton – Street Coordinator
James Oxenham- County Times	Paul Freegard- Magistrate
Sgt. Adam Ferries – Sussex Police	Nicky Fuller – Minutes Secretary
Vivienne Davis- Street Coordinator	Rory Dickinson- Street Coordinator
Derek Pratt – Deputy Chair of the Sussex Federation	Lindsey Wine- Sussex Police
Valerie Comper- (aka Pugh) Area Coordinator	Jackie Reader- Street Coordinator
Denise Acraman- Street Coordinator	Jan Walshe- Street Coordinator
Andy Duport- Magistrate	Miles Davis- Street Coordinator
Chief Inspector Miles Ockwell- Sussex Police (District commander -Horsham, Worthing and Adur)	

***Committee Members**

Apologies: John Wright, Mark Rendall, A/Insp Sarah Leadbeatter, *Marc Bryant, *Diane Morrison, Penny Groome, *Pauline Kentell, Gill Muncey, Sue Jahan, Roger Clarke, Chris Warren, Brian Jacobs, Mike Taylor, Maggie Clews, Jim Adams, Richard Kent, Simon Copsey.

Agenda Items and Summary Minutes

1. Chairman Andrew Moffat's welcome and opening remarks, list of apologies and absences

- Minutes of the previous AGM Minutes were accepted and signed by Andrew Moffat (Proposed: Tony George, Seconded: Michael Neale)
- Special opening remarks and welcome to: District Commander for Worthing, Adur and Horsham, Miles Ockwell; Mr Paul Freegard, Magistrate and Mr Andy Duport, Magistrate.

2. Sussex Police update- District Commander Miles Ockwell

- Miles, who has been in the DC position for approximately 6 months thanked the NHW group on behalf of himself and Sussex Police. He stressed how important the work of NHW is to the police.

- The County Times attended the AGM meeting and quoted Miles: 'It's vital for the police and the Horsham district community to work more closely as the force goes through 'extremely challenging times'.
- Between 2010 and 2015 the police were asked to save 50 million pounds. In 2015 they were asked to save an additional 56 million by 2020.
- With the spending cuts the police have had to re think how they operate and a Prevention Policy has been introduced to support this way of working.
- The last part of the public focussed prevention policing model is currently being introduced. Prevention is the key.
- Because of these cuts the partnership that the police have with NHW and other partners is of the upmost importance. He stressed the importance of all groups working together to help reduce the threat caused in particular by: terrorism, sexual abuse and cyber-crime.
- New Community Engagement officer Lindsey Wine will act as a link between the public and the police.
- Miles is keen to keep police in smaller communities in order to promote visible police presence but the idea is to be more proactive and to prevent issues rather than dealing with issues. He said- 'I am really passionate about my officers patrolling on foot. They are doing it and hopefully we will increase that more.'

The role of the Magistrate- Paul Freegard and Andy Duport

- Anyone can be a magistrate as long as they: haven't been found guilty of a serious crime; are not a serving police officer or have been declared bankrupt. You need: common sense, integrity, intelligence and to act fairly. It can be frustrating, testing, amusing, interesting and sad but it is enjoyable because it's about people.
- Have to commit to a minimum of 26 days and a maximum of 70 days per year and a magistrate has to retire at 70.
- It is an unpaid position but can claim for expenses.
- To be one: observe several court sessions; make a written application; attend 2 interviews and be sworn in before a judge. Training is included.
- Guilt or innocence is determined only from evidence given in court.
- Issues dealt with include; assault, animal cruelty, harassment, theft, driving offences, drug offences and fraud. All cases start in a magistrate's court and 95% of cases finish in a magistrate's court. In a typical year, some 1.5 million cases are dealt with by magistrates.
- Sentences are determined using guidelines from the sentencing council of England and Wales. It comes down to seriousness based on culpability and harm. If the offence has intention, the sentence will be more than if an offence is reckless.
- More serious issues are; when the victim is more vulnerable than the average person; when weapons are involved; when it is a group offence; when it is racially motivated and when there has been a breach of trust.

3. Questions to Miles Ockwell- District Commander

Q - Valerie Comper - "Do you look at old ways and new ways to weigh up which way is working best for the community?" Valerie stressed her concerns with regards not having police present in the community as in the past police knew their patches and the local trouble makers.

A –“Reviews are built in to the policy and some changes have already been made based on new things that haven’t been working.” Miles said that the information on the ground is so important and this is why the police need good communication with groups such as NHW.

Q – Steve Guzy commented that lots of people are losing patience with the 101 service. What did Miles think about the 101 service?

A- Miles accepts that there have been problems and that the police don’t want to lose the support from the community. He knows that things are being done to improve the 101 service. He suggested that the police can also be contacted on line. He asked NHW to support the thinking process as to how we can improve the communication.

Q- Michael Neale highlighted the problems that Southwater has been having. He said that in the past when the problem was targeted, it was controlled.

A- Miles stressed that the police will go wherever there is a need.

4. Update Andrew Moffat

- Andrew Moffat thanked the committee for everything they do for NHW. He thanked some members individually. Steve Guzy thanked Andrew for his commitment and dedication to the position of Chair.
- He stressed that in the next year there is lots of work to be done. In particular we need to recruit more Area Coordinators.
- Arthur Carden said that NHW is the largest voluntary organisation in the UK with, in the Horsham District, over 600 schemes and 20,000 members. It is free to join.

5. Accounts and Approval- Steve Guzy

- Steve Guzy presented an overview of the HDNHW accounts for the period 01 September 2016 to 31 August 2017. Current bottom-line balance is £2,126.45
- The proposal to formally approve the audited and signed-off accounts was accepted (Proposed: Barry Lane, Seconded: Trisha Lane).
- Stan Clarke has audited the accounts. He was proposed as auditor for the accounts 2017-2018. (Proposed: Ken Broomfield, Seconded: Michael Neale).
- SG expressed his concern with regards funds and suggests NHW target large companies.
- Stock value is currently included in the account totals. This needs to be taken out.
- Trisha Lane suggested that stock is not selling because it is too expensive. This issue will be added to the agenda for the NHW committee meeting in November with raffles and tombola’s suggested as discussion points.

6. Nominations for 2017/2018 NHW committee.

- The proposal to elect Committee Members and Officers for another year en-masse was accepted (Proposed: Steve Guzy, Seconded: Michael Neale). (Michael Neale said that although he is re-elected as vice- chair if anyone comes forward with an interest in the position he will step down)

- New nominations:

- Brian Jacobs (Proposed: Arthur Carden, Seconded: Ken Broomfield).
- Nicky Fuller (Proposed: Tony George, Seconded: Trisha Lane).

7. AOB

- NHW needs more support. The committee need to get this message out to all areas.
- Michael Neale sent his apologies for the Federation Meeting.
- Ken Broomfield will attend the JAG meeting instead of Andrew Moffat.
- Arthur will send phone contacts to Nicky Fuller and Ken Broomfield so they can contact Street coordinators to generate support to promote Area Coordinator positions.
- Tricia Lane thanked Arthur Carden for the letter sent to people from Bennett's Field.
- Ken Broomfield has 33 new street signs and is waiting for the new overlays for the existing signs. He will start working on the application process for more.

Next Committee Meeting of HDNHWA – Monday 6th November, Southwater Leisure Centre, 7.15pm

Meeting closed at 10.07pm