

**MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
HELD ON TUESDAY, 16 OCTOBER 2007  
AT HARROGATE COLLEGE, HORNBEAM PARK**

The Chairman opened the Annual General Meeting by welcoming all guests, co-ordinators, members of the Safer Communities Partnership and the Police. He then introduced our guest speaker, Mr. Jim Fender JP.

Mr. Fender gave us a fascinating insight into the role of a Magistrate and the growth of the judicial system through the ages to the present day, mentioning Harrogate in particular where we now have 79 Magistrates. Following an interesting, humorous and thought provoking conclusion, Mr. Fender was pleased to take questions from the audience.

1. **Apologies for Absence.** Apologies were received from John Parker, Tom Lywood, Mrs. Jane Naylor, Malcolm McCartney and Mr & Mrs Atkinson.
2. **Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 7 October 2006.** The Minutes of the AGM held on 7 October 2006 were accepted as a true record. Proposed by: Mike Sims. Seconded by: Brian Carroll.
3. **Matters Arising.** We continue to increase the number of NHW schemes in Harrogate & District. It is noticeable that areas covered by such schemes show a reduction in crime and antisocial behaviour.
4. **Chairman's Report.** The Chairman, Ron Sneddon, reported that, nationally, NHW celebrates its silver anniversary; Harrogate & District has existed for 20 of those 25 years. The Chairman encouraged us all to take a fresh look at NHW and its relevance in today's crime and disorder agenda. Although it can be difficult for groups to sustain the level of commitment, drive and enthusiasm the Chairman was pleased to announce steady progress in increasing numbers of schemes. We now have 832 schemes in Harrogate & District and we are in sight of our 1000<sup>th</sup> scheme.
  - (a) Our profile was increased in the community last year with help from the Police and PCSOs. The Mobile Police Unit has been used frequently to promote the sale of handbag alarms and other security devices and to generally spread the message of NHW.
  - (b) Our website flourishes and new items are added regularly. The RM system continues to improve and those still receiving messages by telephone but having access to the internet, were encouraged to use e-mail if possible. This would create savings on telephone bills.
  - (d) The introduction of Neighbourhood Policing teams is under consideration although Chief Constable Maxwell has placed a moratorium on any changes until completion of the review of his forces.
  - (e) The Police supported product Smart Water, a liquid DNA, is to be recommended. Co-ordinators were encouraged to promote sales of Smart Water within their Schemes.
  - (f) Charlotte Elcock was congratulated on her success in the North Yorkshire Crimebeaters Competition where she earned second place with her website directed at young people.
  - (g) Our newsletter 'LookOut' is to have a makeover and will be produced 4 times per year. An e-mail version of the newsletter is planned.
  - (h) The Chairman recorded his personal thanks for the work done by the Committee.
  - (j) Sgt Geoff Crocker and Sue Hucknall, our new Police contacts, received special mention

- when the Chairman welcomed their input and enthusiasm in connection with NHW
- (k) In conclusion the Chairman requested volunteers from Co-ordinators who would be willing to help man the Mobile Police Unit to promote NHW and to assist the Safer Communities Partnership in any initiatives they undertake. The problem of under age drinking and antisocial behaviour is currently being addressed. Volunteers were able to record their details on a sheet being circulated. Volunteers were also approached for help to maintain the RingMaster/NHW Database.

The Chairman then invited questions from the floor.

5. **Treasurer's Report, 2006/2007 and Election of Inspector of Accounts.** Keith Roberts presented his Receipts & Payments Account and Statement of Assets for the year ended 31 August 2007, copies of which were circulated and guided us through the detail. The accounts were accepted, unquestioned. Proposed: Tina Oates, Seconded: Chris Oates. Terry Harrison, our independent Auditor since 2000, was once again elected unanimously as our Inspector of Accounts. Proposed: David Leuty, Seconded: Shirley Parker-Wright.
6. **Election of Committee 2007/2008.** The Chairman: Ron Sneddon, Treasurer: Keith Roberts, and Secretary: John Parker were re-elected unopposed. Proposed: Anne Wilkinson Seconded: Andrew Pinder.
7. **Any Other Business.** The Chairman introduced Sgt Geoff Crocker (Community Safety Sgt - Western Area) who in turn introduced Inspector Craig Linton (Nidderdale), and Sue Hucknall (Community Volunteer Officer - Western Area).

Sgt Crocker expressed his pleasure at the improved liaison with NHW. He went on to say that NHW is helping to reduce crime and that we must continue to work together. Safer Neighbourhood Teams, led by Inspectors, will welcome help from communities; the teams need to know what is wrong in their areas and how the Police can help. Re-engagement with the Police is important.

Mel Greaves (Safer Communities Partnership) was welcomed by the Chairman and during a brief presentation he addressed the problem of antisocial behaviour. He drew our attention to helpful leaflets on the subject, which were available for distribution and which would be of interest to our Co-ordinators and NHW Schemes. Mr. Greaves also announced an initiative to control the availability of alcohol to young people. Under age drinking is of great concern and volunteers are required to help mark bottles with stickers which are traceable to point of sale.

Before the end of the meeting, time allowed a further Question and Answer session when points of interest and concern were raised and addressed.

There being no further business the 2007 Annual General Meeting closed at 21.10 hrs.