

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 14 OCTOBER 2008
AT HARROGATE COLLEGE, HORNBEAM PARK

The Meeting was opened by the Chairman who thanked all those present for turning out in such unpleasant weather, he went on to welcome our guest speaker Kevin Mosley, representatives from the Police, Co-coordinators and guests.

DC Mosley, Crimestoppers Regional Crime Co-coordinator, was invited to address the audience and gave us a most comprehensive account of the work of Crimestoppers which is an independent registered charity helping to solve crime with the direct involvement of the general public. Crimestoppers allows anyone to call and give information about crime and who is committing it. The caller remains completely anonymous. DC Mosley pointed out that in the North Yorkshire area 1 in 5 messages to Crimestoppers results in an arrest compared with 1 in 13 nationally.

Following a lively Question and Answer session useful leaflets were circulated. The Chairman thanked DC Mosley and promised that we will publicise the work of Crimestoppers through NHW.

1. **Apologies for Absence.** Apologies were received from D. Wright, M. Farnley, Mr. Coombe, Carole Parker, Jack Stancombe and Maureen Asher.
2. **Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 16 October 2007.** The Minutes of last year's AGM were accepted as a true record. Proposed by: Brian Carroll. Seconded by: Peter Dallas.
3. **Matters Arising.** There were no matters arising.
4. **Chairman's Report.** Our Chairman, Ron Sneddon, gave the following report:

'The most disappointing statistic for me this year is that we have made little progress in increasing the number of schemes over the year. We had 832 schemes at this time last year and we now have about 850, well short of my target of 1,000 schemes.'

- a. We have continued to increase our profile in the community with the aid of the mobile police station, the sale of handbag alarms and other security devices and in general, spread the message that Neighbourhood Watch works.
- b. Our website continues to flourish with new information being added on a regular basis.
- c. Neighbourhood policing teams continue to settle down and now hope that the changes made by the Chief Constable will enable us to have a more stable force for us to work with in the future.
- d. Smart Water has been a success but we still need to spread the word on how useful a crime prevention tool this is.
- e. Our newsletter 'Look Out' is now established on a quarterly basis throughout the year and we now produce an e-mail which has a good success. We would still like to hear from you about the content of the newsletter especially any good things that are happening in your Watches.
- f. We continue to publish in the Harrogate Advertiser, and sometimes in other local publications, a monthly article which can also be downloaded from our website.
- g. This will be the last opportunity to speak to you before I hand over the Chairmanship. I would firstly like to thank my Committee for all the hard work they do on your behalf and secondly to thank all the Scheme Co-ordinators for, at times, the thankless task you do in preventing crime and the fear of crime within your own neighbourhoods.

During my time as Chairman I have made many friendships which I will value over the years to come. Finally, I wish to thank you for the opportunity to serve you.'

5. **Treasurer's Report and election of Inspector of Accounts, 2007/2008.**

Our Treasurer, Keith Roberts, presented his report for the financial year 2007/2008 and Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31 August 08, copies of which were circulated. The report was accepted. Proposed: Anne Wilkinson Seconded: Chris Oates. Our independent auditor since 2000, Terry Harrison declared himself pleased to continue and was again elected as our Inspector of Accounts. Proposed: Tina Oates Seconded: Peter Dallas

6. **Election of Committee 2008/2009.** Keith Roberts vacates his post as Treasurer to become our new Chairman. No Vice Chairman was elected. Katy Piazza takes over the duties of Treasurer and John Parker remains as Secretary. These unopposed elections were accepted by a show of hands.

New Committee members are always welcome and an invitation was extended to anyone who may wish to come along to a Committee Meeting. John Parker will forward a copy of the Agenda to those interested.

Our new Chairman, Keith Roberts, took the opportunity to thank Ron Sneddon for his very active input during his 20 year membership of NHW and particularly his 6 years as our Chairman:

Ron has been the driving force and has managed and motivated a responsive Team. He has successfully lifted the Harrogate and District NHW and brought about real change.

In November 2004 we celebrated our 500th Scheme and in his 3 Year Plan presented in January 2005 Ron stated his wish to increase the number of schemes by 150 during this period. Today we have 800 plus schemes. Great credit must be given to Ron. This is a definite achievement and certainly not a 'disappointing statistic.

Keith passed messages of thanks for his hard work and best wishes for the future to Ron from several agencies, and was then pleased to present Ron with a NHW Certificate of Thanks.

7. **Any Other Business.**

- a. A form inviting a list of priorities to be addressed in the future was circulated and resulting information will be summarized and appropriate action proposed.
- b. Members of the audience raised several issues of concern and Sgt Geoff Crocker, our Police representative, having expressed his personal thanks and good wishes to Ron, told us that the Police have several initiatives in place relating to: disruptive behaviour at Halloween, fireworks, dangers of cycling and skateboarding on pavements etc. Sgt Crocker further encouraged us to approach local authorities and councils who wish to be made aware of our concerns and who, in conjunction with local police and other agencies, will be better able to address the worries felt by many citizens. Sgt Crocker repeated his message of thanks to NHW who, he repeated, play a very important role in the community.
- c. Safer Neighbourhood teams are pleased to arrange talks etc by local police.
- d. NHW meetings in individual homes are covered by public liability insurance and we were reminded to take advantage of our NHW membership when taking out our own home insurance etc.
- e. Training Session: To be held at St George's Social Club on Wednesday November 12 at 7pm.

There being no further business the Annual General Meeting closed at 20.55 hrs.